Forthcoming Events

August
Monday 29th  Information Night Yr 12 Parents - 7pm
Wednesday 31st  Julius Caesar trip to Bendigo for VCE Theatre Studies

September
Wednesday 7th  Birchip Community Kitchen Gardens meeting 9.30am
Thursday 8th  Immunisations Yr 7
Sunday 11th  Najaf Mazari Talk 6pm Leisure Centre
Wednesday 14th  Grades 3 & 4 Camp at Koolamurt
Friday 16th  Grades 3 & 4 Camp at Koolamurt
Wednesday 14th  Grade 5 camp to Melbourne
Friday 16th  Secondary North Central District Golf Day
Friday 16th  School will finish at 3pm
Tuesday 20th  Parent-teacher Interviews - 3:15pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 21st  Disability Awareness Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
Friday 23rd  Spring Showcase

October
Sunday 2nd  Trip to France & Belgium
Tuesday 18th  First day of term four
Monday 10th  Loddon Mallee Regional Athletics in Bendigo
Thursday 13th  Parents’ Club Meeting at 7.30pm

Najaf Mazari

Year 12 English students have been studying the life of Afghani refugee, Najaf Mazari as part of their investigation on how people come to grips with encountering conflict in their lives. Our students were really excited to learn this week that Najaf and his family will be speaking in Birchip on Sunday 11 September 2011.

Najaf’s life has been a litany of clashes with conflict and thus far he has managed to conqueror every impediment placed in his way. Najaf’s biography, ‘The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif’, is a great read and can be borrowed from the Birchip P-12 School, Community Library.

Najaf’s story begins when he is a shepherd in Afghanistan. His family move to the north of Afghanistan and it is here in Mazar-e-Sharif that Najaf escapes from work in a factory to working as a rugmaker. However, Najaf’s life takes a turn for the worst when Taliban forces over run Mazar-e-Sharif and kill many of its inhabitants. The young Najaf is captured by the Taliban, beaten, tortured and threatened with death but eventually he makes his escape.

To escape, Najaf puts his faith in the hands of a people smuggler and from there makes his way to Ashmore Reef in the Timor Sea and eventually to the Woomera Detention Centre. Najaf tells of his life in detention and in Australia as a refugee. Najaf describes the many kind and charitable people who helped him make a new life in Melbourne and set up an Afghanistan rug shop in High Street, Prahran.

Najaf will be speaking at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre at 6:00 p.m. Sunday 11 September 2011 and the Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club are catering for the function. Bookings can be made at the office.
The talk is open to all the community. It is an excellent chance for Year 12 students to hone their knowledge before the exam and for Year 11 students to get a head start on next year’s studies.

**Technology**

Birchip P-12 School is well known for keeping abreast of technology but now we are using television monitors as a way of communicating up-coming events to students and visiting parents. As one walks in the front door of the office, a huge screen flips through up-coming events and student achievements. The monitor has been well received and students often stand, looking at the photographs.

**FAREWELL TO MOMOKA**

Thank you to Momoka Nishikawa who was with us for three weeks. She taught our students about Japanese Tea Ceremony, a frog song and the Japanese Summer Festival. She has really enjoyed her experiences in Birchip. Thank you to Emma, Rodney, Amy, Katie and Cameron Bennett for hosting Momoka. They gave her a wonderful farm experience.

**THIS IS YOUR LIFE**

Injected with new life, the School Board has thrived and become involved in curriculum development. At the end of last semester, the group designed a new subject called ‘This is Your Life’ and its many participants are very enthusiastic about what the subject has to offer. This week students decided that they should improve their cooking skills by using the abundance of lemons on the school tree. With this in mind, the group cooked lemon slices, preserved lemons, made lemonade, lemon cordial and lemon tarts.

**Hospitality**

The Hospitality course is one of the school’s most popular subjects and this week the focus was on preparing a selection of hot and cold desserts for a dinner party. For the sweet tooths in the group, it was a culinary fiesta as students cooked chocolate mud cakes, crêpe suzettes, custard tarts, brandy baskets and ice cream. The session was not just about putting these delights on the table; it was about presentation and creativity. Once raspberry coulis, dark and white chocolate was piped on to the various desserts, the food looked too good to eat but within half an hour, there was not a skerrick or crumb to be seen. Alas, it is always difficult reporting on what is happening in Home Economics but only the tough can take up the challenge.
Congratulations Emily

Last weekend Emily Smith won the 2011 Girls Victorian Junior Sandgreens Championship. The Championship was played over thirty six holes stroke play at Elmore Golf Club.

The Championship offers the opportunity to play a challenging sandgreen golf course. Elmore has many large trees with narrow fairways, long rough and small, undulating sandgreens.

Thirty nine juniors from throughout Victoria took to the Victorian Golf Foundation backed event that was also attended by the Golf Victoria junior development squads as well as junior squads from the Corangamite, Dalhousie, Ballarat and Bendigo districts. Fourteen girls played in the event.

Emily played consistently over the two days on a wet Elmore course. Rain leading up to the event meant the course was extremely difficult with lengthy fairways and sparse sands. Consistent, long straight drives are a trademark of Emily’s game, hitting thirty two fairways off the tee to set up a winning score. Emily won by two strokes from Georgia Macklin from Wangaratta.

Emily and Georgia are two of six girls and six boys who will travel to Adelaide next week to represent Victoria in the School Sport Australia, Secondary Golf Championships. The teams are selected from Victorian Secondary School students. The Victorian team will play matches against the five other States at courses around Adelaide for the title of Australian National Champion.

Emily is a member of Birchip Golf Club and Murray Downs Golf Club and a scholarship holder at Huntingdale Golf Club. Her handicap is currently seven.

Congratulations Emily and good luck with the next level of golfing!

Australian Informatics Examination

Congratulations to Jesse Buteux who was awarded a credit for his performance in the recent Australian Informatics Examination. Well done Jesse.

2011 Parent Opinion Survey

The 2011 Parent Opinion Survey commenced on Monday 22 August 2011 and will conclude on Friday 2 September 2011. If your family was selected, please endeavour to complete the survey and return to the school prior to the closing date, Friday 2 September 2011. Surveys were posted home last week.

The survey will provide our school with reliable data about a range of issues that are important to parents. We will use this data to drive further improvements in our school.

Spring Showcase

Friday 23 September 2011

A Spring Showcase will be held on Friday 23 September 2011. This will be a day of celebration where students will be able to display their work and talents to parents and the school community.

During this showcase, students will perform their Rock Eisteddfod routine, VCE students will perform various theatre monologues, primary students will perform various musical items, music students will perform their items and students’ art and craft will be on display. It will also be an opportunity for the school community to view our new learning spaces and fantastic new facilities.

Year 10 & 11 Melbourne Camp

A $45.00 credit has been applied to the Family Accounts of the students who participated in the Year 10 & 11 Melbourne Camp due to two items in the initial itinerary not eventuating.

WANTED:  Old CDs

Last week the Prep/One class needed empty shoe boxes. Now they are looking for unwanted CDs. They intend to use the CDs for wheels. If you have any unwanted CDs, Mrs Kelly and the Prep/One class would be most appreciative. We await in anticipation for the wonderful creations which are being made at present by the students.
Parent Teacher Evening
Tuesday 20 September 2011

The semester three parent-teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 20 September 2011.

On this day, school will finish at 3:00 p.m. with school buses running 25 minutes earlier than usual.

We will commence the interviews slightly earlier at 3:15 p.m.

There will be three, one hour time slots: 3:15 – 4:15, 4:15 – 5:15 and then 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

Parent-teacher evening will conclude at 6:30 p.m.

Parents of three or more children at our school will be allotted two, one hour time slots to give them more chance of catching up with all their children’s teachers.

There will be three chairs in a line leading up to each teacher to allow for an ordered queue process.

A letter will be sent home a couple of weeks prior to the parent-teacher evening providing specific information to all parents. There will be a tear off receipt which will need to be returned to the office so that planning can occur.

Year 12 Information Night
VTAC Application Process

Information night for Year 12 parents on the VTAC application process.

WHEN: Monday 29th August at 7PM.
WHERE: Birchip P-12 School Staff Recreation Room.

Discussion will occur on the VTAC application process, scholarships and accommodation options. Hopefully Centre link will also be available to talk.

Basketball Rules
• Students must wear appropriate clothing and shoes always.
• Students need to be at the stadium five minutes before the start of play (if not they will not be able to take court)
• $5.00 subs need to be paid by Friday 9 September 2011 (or won’t be able to take court next game)
• Six(6) players for each team on the court at once
• All participants MUST respect umpires decisions at all times.
# Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P/1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Maths is Marvellous, Learn word list</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling test on Wednesday, prepare for debate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Prepare for Tuesdays Secret River SAC</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

## SACs Next Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Maths - Mechanics Analysis Task</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Week 7 - Monday 29th Aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English - Secret River SAC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 30th Aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality - Hot cold desserts, stocks soups sauces, plan &amp; prep food for buffets</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE - Evaluation of Training Program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting - AoS1: Recording &amp; Reporting Date &amp; Info</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 1st Sept.</td>
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## Birchip Angling Club Fishing Competition

The Birchip Angling Club will be holding a competition at Tchum Lake on Sunday 28 August 2011. Fishing times are between 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. with a barbecue and weigh-in to follow. The competition is a boat and bank competition with prize sections for junior and senior participants. All existing and new members welcome.

## North Central Hockey Association

The Underage, Women’s & Men’s Vote Count will be held on Tuesday 6th September 2011 commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Wedderburn Hall.

The cost is $25 which includes a two course meal.

Participants are requested to provide names to Simone Christie by tomorrow, Saturday 27 August 2011 at the Boort versus Birchip Watchem game at Boort.

## Netball Club Meeting

A meeting will be held next Wednesday 31 August 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre. Agenda items include BCG Field Days Catering discussion, finals and Presentation Night (Saturday 10 September 2011)

## Kindergarten 2012 Enrolments

Parents of Kindergarten children are encouraged to complete enrolments for 2012 by Wednesday 31 August 2011. This will allow us to commence planning for the provision of education in 2012.
For Sale:
One Fender electric guitar. Silver glitter covering with case and strap. Great quality, perfect for all those budding rockers! $400

One metallic rose DS with Brain Training, Harry Potter, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Spyro games. Barely used good as new quality, case included - $200

See Miss McKenzie

Birchip Watchem “Bulls” Rosters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR FOOTBALL</th>
<th>Under 16 Boundary</th>
<th>Reserves Waterboys</th>
<th>Reserves Boundary</th>
<th>Seniors Waterboys</th>
<th>Seniors Boundary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
<td>Jason Stevens</td>
<td>Ben Hogan</td>
<td>Sean Hogan</td>
<td>Jake Morris</td>
<td>Jackson Sayle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Trollope</td>
<td>Nick Martin</td>
<td>Riley Sayle</td>
<td>Jake Gleeson</td>
<td>David Casey</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUNIOR FOOTBALL</th>
<th>U 13 Timekeeper</th>
<th>U 13 interchange</th>
<th>U 13 Goal umpire</th>
<th>U16 Timekeeper</th>
<th>U 16 interchange</th>
<th>U 16 Goal Umpire</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
<td>McGinnis family/Russell Christie</td>
<td>Colm Kemp</td>
<td>Helen Casey</td>
<td>Morris family</td>
<td>James Boyle</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NETBALL</th>
<th>A Grade Scorers</th>
<th>B Grade Scorers</th>
<th>C Grade Scorers</th>
<th>Junior A Scorer</th>
<th>Junior B Scorer</th>
<th>13 A Scorer</th>
<th>Cleaning of rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
<td>Fiona Best</td>
<td>Jenny(P) Noonan</td>
<td>Jenny/Emily Noonan</td>
<td>Heather Hogan</td>
<td>De -Anne Price</td>
<td>Simone Christie</td>
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<tr>
<th>HOCKEY</th>
<th>Gate 11:00-1:30</th>
<th>Lining</th>
<th>Umpire Minkey</th>
<th>Umpire U 13</th>
<th>Write Up Mens</th>
<th>Write up Womens</th>
<th>Write up U 15</th>
<th>Write Up U 13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Julie McClelland</td>
<td>Kellie Matthews</td>
<td>Jacob Moresi</td>
<td>Jacob Moresi</td>
<td>Claudia Lee</td>
<td>Bill Lee</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENIOR FOOTBALL</th>
<th>Gate Keeper 9-11,11-1,1-3</th>
<th>Gate Raffle 9-10am</th>
<th>Gate Raffle 10-11,30am</th>
<th>Gate Raffle 11,30am-1pm</th>
<th>Gate Raffle 1-2pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
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<th>Water Boys Juniors</th>
<th>Interchange Stewards</th>
<th>Goal Umpires</th>
<th>Time Keepers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vs Boort @ Boort</td>
<td>U 13: Jarrod Hogan</td>
<td>Res:Nicholas Noonan</td>
<td>Res: Laurie Sands</td>
<td>Res: Cathy Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U 16: Brenten Delaney</td>
<td>Sen: Colin Hogan</td>
<td>Sen: James Sheahan</td>
<td>Sen: Leon Hogan</td>
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Why, the Habits of Mind?

In 2008 we began our journey with the Habits of Mind. Following are some extracts from Art Costa’s book “The School as a Home for the Mind”. These extracts summarise the reason for the existence of the habits of mind and the philosophy behind the reason we embrace them at Birchip P-12 School.

When we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work and when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one to sing.

Wendell Berry

By definition, a problem is any stimulus, question, task, phenomenon or discrepancy the explanation for which is not immediately known.

What behaviours are indicative of the efficient, effective problem solver?

What do human beings do when they approach and resolve problems intelligently?

Since 1997 much research has taken place to indicate that there are some identifiable characteristics of effective thinkers. These are not necessarily “geniuses” or the wealthy who demonstrate these attributes. These characteristics have been identified in successful artists, physicians, engineers, auto mechanics, teachers, entrepreneurs, salespeople and parents – people in all walks of life.

We call these characteristics “Habits of Mind” (Resnick 2001). They are patterns of thinking and behaving in intelligent ways and are displayed when confronted with life’s complexities and ambiguities.

These Habits of Mind transcend all subject matter commonly taught in school. They are characteristic of peak performers in homes, schools, athletic fields, organizations, the military, governments, churches, and corporations. They are what makes marriages successful, learning continual, work places productive and democracies enduring.

The goal of education, therefore, should be to support others and ourselves in liberating, developing and habituating these Habits of Mind more fully. Taken together, they are a force directing us towards increasingly authentic, congruent and ethical behaviour – the touchstones of integrity. They are the tools of disciplined choice making. They are the primary vehicles in the lifelong journey towards integration.