Birchip P-12 School
A Mindful School

Address: (PO Box 9)
Campbell Street
BIRCHIP 3483

School Council members: Wendy Watts, Angela Liston, David Smith, Louise Lee, Cameron Flowers, Kevin Reid, Margaret O’Keefe, Leigh Hogan, Cathy Bales, Andrew Sayle, John Richmond, Russell Christie, Eileen Smith, Merrilyn Kelly

Forthcoming Events

September
Thursday 17th
School Council
Front garden makeover - JT, volunteers & horticulture students
Friday 18th
Last Day Term 3 - 2.30pm finish

October
Monday 5th
First Day Term 4
Tuesday 6th
Physical Resources Meeting
Primary Zone Athletics - Horsham
Wednesday 7th → Grade 3 & 4 Camp to Pental Island
Friday 9th

Thursday 8th
Parents’ Club Meeting at O’Donnell’s Tea Rooms
Northern Zone Athletics - Bendigo
Thursday 15th
School Council
Monday 19th
Yr 6-7 Transition Meeting 7pm
Thursday 22nd
Yr 12 Valedictory Dinner
Friday 23rd
Last Day Year 12 students
Birchip Hospital Flower Show
Monday 26th → Year 12 Swot Vac
Thursday 29th

November
Tuesday 3rd
Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Thursday 5th
Transition Day 3 for Grade 6 → Year 7
Monday 9th → Grade 5 Camp to Lake Cullulleraine
Thursday 12th

WHAT A WEEK!

Our students really shone on the athletics track over the past week. Last Friday 4th September 2009 our primary students were declared champions in both junior and senior divisions. Competing schools included St Mary’s Donald, Donald Primary School, St Patrick’s St Arnaud, St Arnaud Primary School. Although various showers tried to stop proceedings on the day our students did us proud. Then, on Tuesday 8th September 2009, it was the secondary section’s turn to shine and shine they did. We were fortunate to gain 8 of the 12 individual championships and went on to take the shield for the grand aggregate.

The Birchip students, both primary and secondary, were all prepared to ‘have a go’. Even students who did not win, displayed their determination to succeed. I am very proud of every student’s efforts.

Many thanks to Mr Greg Welton and Mr Andrew Sayle for their co-ordination and to all staff and parents for their efforts and interest in our students.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to the many parents for their interest and willingness to attend the parent teacher evening last Monday to discuss their sons and daughters progress. We were very pleased with the 90% attendance. If you did not receive your son’s or daughter’s interim reports, please call at the office to collect them.

Year 11 → 12 Transition Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

A successful Parent information evening was held on Wednesday. The evening for parents and students in Year 11 was designed to give an insight into the programs offered at the Year 12 level. VCE, VET, VCAL & ASBA options were discussed.

Parents were informed that career/course discussions would begin in the third week of Term 4.
Student Attendance for Term 4, 2009

The following attendance rules are stipulated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

All students are required to attend and fully participate in school activities throughout Term 4. This includes participation in elective programs.

- Year 11 students are expected to be at school until Friday 27th November 2009 and then must attend compulsory course planning meetings during Mon 30th November 2009 – Fri 4th December 2009. Times for these meetings will be communicated by Mr Christie and Mrs Barb Smith.
- Year 10 students are required to be at school until Friday 4th December 2009.
- Students up to and including Year 9 are required to attend school until the end of the school year on Friday, 18th December 2009.
- Reports to all students will be distributed on Thursday 17th December 2009.

Please contact Mr Richmond at the school should you wish further clarification of these dates.

Building progress

Colour bond cladding has been fastened to the new ICT facility, the new 2 metre high fence has been erected and the steel posts and cantilever beams in place for the covered way.

The new automatic opening library door and ramp is now in use and the area between the library and administration wing is clear of garden beds.

The Library will be closed to all library users from Friday 18th September 2009 until Tuesday 6th October 2009.

Athletics Sports

Primary

Last Friday proved to be a very successful day for Birchip P – 12 School when we participated in the North Central District Primary Athletics Sports held at Donald. Although there were some rain interruptions throughout the day, and at times conditions were a little testing, the program was managed to be completed and the overall results were most pleasing. Birchip managed to record victories in both the senior and junior sections and thus received the shields.

Senior Division

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birchip P-12 School</td>
<td>76.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s St Arnaud</td>
<td>73.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Donald</td>
<td>71.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Primary</td>
<td>71.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Arnaud Primary</td>
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Junior Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Birchip P-12 School</td>
<td>76.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Donald</td>
<td>73.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Primary</td>
<td>72.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Arnaud Primary</td>
<td>71.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s St Arnaud</td>
<td>70.04</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Training beforehand really paid off and many children had also worked hard during our daily Huff ‘n Puff sessions.

Participants who received certificates in recognition of achieving perfect scores were: Bill Lee, Khiana Brooks, Nakita Turner, Joseph Reid, Sam Owa, Ben Milne and Georgia Lee.

Other notable performances throughout the day were:

1st placings: Luana Baird 200m, Joseph Reid 800m, Royce Bennett 800m
2nd placings Sarah Botheras 800m, Royce Bennett 200m, Sean Hogan 200m, Georgia Lee 200m, 10 Boys relay, 12 Boys relay.
3rd placings: Joe O’Donnell 800m & 200m, Tom Hogan 200m, Nakita Turner 800m, 10Girls relay, 11Girls relay, 11 Boys relay.

Many thanks to everyone who assisted prior to the sports and also on the day. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Mr Welton and all staff for their willingness to be involved in coaching sessions and their general organization.

Early Dismissal

Next Friday 18th September 2009

As it will be the last day of Term 3, school will dismiss students at 2:30 p.m. next Friday 18th September 2009. As such buses will drop students off at their respective bus stops approximately one hour earlier than normal.

WILKUR WATCHEM BUS

A new schedule for term 4 will be sent home next week. Parents and students are reminded that the clockwise route will be in operation.
Primary Zone Championships

The Zone Championships will be held on the first Tuesday next term at Horsham – Tuesday 6th September 2009. Eleven students have been chosen to compete.

They are:

10 girls
- Luana Baird: Hurdles, Triple Jump.
- Sarah Botheras: 1500m & 800m

10 Boys
- Sam Owa: 100m & Triple Jump
- Joseph Reid: 1500m & 800m

11 Girls
- Georgia Lee: 100m & 200m
- Dammy Owa: 100m & Hurdles

11 Boys
- Joe O’Donnell: 200m & Long Jump

12 Girls
- Megan McKinnon: Shot put

12 Boys
- Jake Gleeson: Hurdles
- Royce Bennett: 1500m & 800m
- Sean Hogan: 200m

More details will be issued once they become available. Parents could contact Greg Welton if they intend to transport their own children over to Horsham or whether they require a ride.
Secondary

The winds howled from the south at the track facility at Rainbow on Tuesday, making it difficult for the runners as they headed into the wind. In spite of this, the Birchip students really tried and gave their all throughout the day.

Of the 132 events performed on the day, Birchip won 74. But, it was not just about winning, it was about trying. This determination to give their best was noticeable and commented on by many at the track. It was evident that Birchip students ran their hearts out even when they were coming second and third. It was this desire to do their best that saw Birchip win the shield on 1200.5 points from Rainbow on 818 and Hopetoun on 744.5. There were some standout performances by the team; Birchip won all the 1500metre events, won five out of the six 800m events and came second and third in the other and worked hard to win nine out of the twelve relays. On an individual level, Tim Walder broke the 16 year old discus and shot put records.

Champion athletes were: Dean Lovett and Marnie Lehmann both who both won the 12-13 year old championships. Courtney Gleeson won the 14 year old event while Brenten Delaney was the champion of the 15 year old boys. The 16 year old championship winners were Tim Walder and Chantel Emonson while Jamie Lovett won the 17 year old boys championship. Tyler Lehmann was the boys 18-20 year champion.

Sports coordinator Andrew Sayle did a wonderful job organising the team and encouraging the athletes by keeping them aware of their personal best times, throws and jumps.
Frogs in Prep
Mrs Kelly’s Prep class is studying Australian animals and frog expert, Cameron Flowers talked to the class about how interesting frogs in the Mallee area are. Apart from informing students about the noises different frogs make, what they eat and where they live, Cameron informed the students that frogs don’t drink water because they take in liquid through their skin. It was an excellent talk and even the teachers learned lots. No-one knew that frogs and toads have different eye structures so that if you see what looks to be a frog and the eye lids are vertical then this is a toad.

The students were excited and appreciated the frog cards and frog-shaped stress balls that Cameron gave the students.

Driver Education
On Friday 28th August, the six VCAL students accompanied by Mrs Barb Smith went to the Charlton Driver Education Centre. This day was organised by Year 11 student, Nathan Witherow as a part of his VCAL Personal Development Project. The day began with a one hour theory session covering rules and the importance of being observant. Students were given three one hour sessions with two driving instructors; Brian Heenan and Bernadette Reeves. The group practised correct driving techniques, passing, parking and mirror checking. Nathan commented that, “We had a very good day and I would recommend the Driver Education Centre in Charlton to anyone who wants a day of structured driver training from very experienced tutors.”

The day was fully funded and sponsored by Career Advise Australia, an initiative of the Federal Government and the North Loddon/West Mallee Local Community Partnership.

Pasta & Ice Cream Day
On Thursday 17th September, the year 9 Advance class are having a pasta and ice-cream day. The pasta will be made by Advance students with assistance from Nuccia McLean. It will be a casual day and students are asked to bring a gold coin donation to wear casual clothes. All money raised will be donated to the Birchip Hospital. The ice-cream is available with either chocolate or strawberry topping that you can choose on the day. Prices for spaghetti bolognaise and carbonara are $3.00 each while ice-creams are $1.00 each. Parents are reminded that order forms must be back at school by Monday 14th September.
2009 Fairfax Festival
Nicholas Bales, Evelyn Reid, Emily Noonan, Emily Smith and Karleigh Weir have spent most of their lunchtimes creating a script for the 2009 Fairfax Festival. To participate in the festival students need to showcase a ten minute performance. So far the director of the festival has spent two hours with the students and will return on Monday 14th September to help polish our script. Although we have not decided on a title for our performance our ideas are starting to flow.
The 2009 Fairfax Festival Gala performance will take place on Thursday 29th October at 7:00 p.m. at the Swan Hill town hall. Everyone is welcome.
Many schools from around the area will be performing along with some city schools.
Bookings can be made through the Swan Hill Region Information Centre on 50362444.

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!
Target games: - All target games should be played several times for 4 players to see the strategies involved. In each case there are significant numbers that determine the result.

11 Down: - Clear a calculator and enter 11. Subtract 1 or 2 on each turn. The winner is the person to reach 0.

Spelling Words

1. allowed 2. aloud
3. because 4. wouldn’t have
5. disguise 6. height
7. doesn’t 8. estranged
9. dignified 10. stately
11. surgeon

Grade Five and Six Homework Questions – due Friday 29th September 2009
1. What is pachisi?
2. What do carpophagous creatures eat?
3. Where is your basilic vein?
4. Name Europe’s largest lake.
5. Where is Christopher Columbus buried?
6. In Greek mythology, who was Helen of Troy’s mother?
7. Which archangel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah?
8. From what language is the word robot derived?
9. What were German stalags?
10. What is the seventh letter of the Greek alphabet?

Answers to last week’s homework questions which were due Friday 12th September 2009
2. What sign of the Zodiac follows Aries? Taurus
3. How many stars are there on China’s flag? 5
4. What kind of creature is the Australian moloch? Spiny lizard
5. In what year was Prince Charles born? 1948
6. What are male geese called? Gander
7. Minerva is the Roman goddess of what? Wisdom
8. Oolong is a variety of what? Tea
9. How many players are there in a water polo team? 7
10. What kind of weapon was the arbalast? Crossbow

Congratulations Brett

The Golden Rivers League Vote Count was held at Club Barham on Monday night. Congratulations to Brett Barker who was the winner of the GRFL Under 17s Best and Fairest Award. Brett was a comfortable winner on 34 votes, 8 votes ahead of the runner up. He was voted ‘best on ground’ in 8 matches, and polled in every match.
Brett has been a key player in the Nullawil Under 17s team, playing in the ruck and centre. He also won the U17 GRFL Board of Management Award and the Club Barham Northern Times Award. Well done Brett.

Junior Golf Successes

Jesse Smith and Emily Smith have experienced success in tournaments recently.

Last Sunday Emily attend the Stuart Appleby Junior Golf Foundation “The Big Cohuna” and was Net runner-up with a score of 86-16-70. Earlier this week Emily played with the Northern District
Golf Association team at country week. She played two games at Peninsula and Patterson River courses finishing one up and six up with 5 to play. Emily’s handicap is currently 15.

Jesse was successful in winning the Kara Kara Junior Boys Golf Championship. He also won the B grade handicap for the day.

Congratulations to both Emily and Jesse.

Congratulations Curtis & Mikaela

Congratulations to Curtis Smith and Mikaela Christie on being awarded runner-up best & fairest in the North Central Underage Hockey.

Forty Hour Famine

Over the last two weeks, 18 secondary students have been putting the school values into practice as they completed the 40 hour famine. The following students took on responsibility for completing the challenge and collecting donations: Courtney Gleeson, Brylie Emonson, Stephanie McClelland, David Casey, Matt Rickard, Kate Watts, Riley Doran, Emily Hogan, Laura Lee, Sophie Hogan, Demi Donnellon, Sarah Watts, Emily Smith, Bridget Hogan, Emma Forrester, Harry Christie, Shannon Southall and Claire Boyle.

While giving up food, furniture or technology for 40 hours they gained an insight into the lives of people less fortunate than themselves. Showing an understanding of the need to help others they aimed high, raising an amazing $920.00 in sponsorship. Thank you, also, to all those people who put their hands in their pockets and supported the efforts of our students.

Experiences like the 40 hour famine and other ‘volunteering’ activities encourage our students to respect others and take on responsibility for changing their world. Thanks you to Miss Digby for her organizations.
Fashion Week Excursion to Melbourne

On Friday 4th September the year nine textiles class Laura Lee, Sarah Watts, Demi Donnellon and Claire Boyle along with Mrs Barb Smith headed to Bendigo to catch the train to Melbourne for 2009 Fashion Week. We arrived at Spencer St Station and walked to the GPO to browse the wonderful designs of Lisa Ho, George Jenson, Max and Co, Sass and Bide, Hussy, Wayne Cooper, Veronika Maine and many more of Australia’s leading designers.

Next up was The Fashion Incubator located in Melbourne Central; we took a look at many abstract and unusual designs which gave us some ideas for our next project.

After having a look at the clothes and a quick look at the wonderful collection of Barbies that were on display at Melbourne Central we walked to Kevin Murphy’s salon. We were lucky enough to have Kevin Murphy himself because his stand in was sick, Kevin showed us how to do a few simple hairstyles; we got photos, purchased some products then headed to QV. We took our seats and watched the models display a variety of this years Spring fashion range from designers such as Glue, Fox, MNG, YWS, Mooks, Frat House and a few more. After having lunch, we walked to Glitzen, a small unique shop full of very unusual accessorises. There were bags made from shoes, necklaces made from icy pole sticks, metre long clutch bags and many more inspirational designs.

Hugo Boss was up next, we were shown the very beautiful Millinery designed by Louise McDonald. We tried a hat on each and took some photos. That was the last of our Fashion Week experience, we were then given free time in the city to go shopping. We caught the train back to Bendigo, had a little more shopping then headed home. Thanks must go to Mrs Barb Smith for taking the time to come along and enjoy the day with us, Wendy Watts for driving some of us to Bendigo and back and the four girls for making the day enjoyable.

Laura Lee and Sarah Watts
First Aid Course at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. $175.00 per person
Bookings are essential!
Birchip Business and Learning Centre
Telephone: 54 922 735
Facsimile: 54 922 863
eMail: birchipblc@bigpond.com
Web: www.birchip.vic.au

Birchip Watchem Hockey Club
Underage & women’s vote count & presentation day.
Sunday 13th September commencing at 12:30 p.m.
at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre
All players a dessert please
There will also be a $5.00 charge
Players, families, supporters & sponsors welcome

Birchip Junior Golf
Friday 18th September 2009 will be the finish day for Junior Golf. Each junior is asked to bring along an adult partner (perhaps mum, dad or a friend) when a Canadian Foursome event will be played. A sausage sizzle and presentation of Championship Trophies will follow. Any enquiries to Beryl Fietz on 54 922 636.

VET Options available to students at Birchip P-12 School for 2010

Birchip P-12 School
Cert II in Engineering Studies
Cert II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)

Longerenong College
Cert II in Agriculture
Cert II in Production Horticulture

Horsham College
Cert II in Furnishing

Wimmera HUB
Cert II in Community Services Work (including Children’s Services)
Cert II in Creative Industries (Media)
Cert II in Music Industry
Cert II in Retail

University of Ballarat
Cert II in Automotive
Partial completion of Cert II in Building and Construction
Cert II in Electrotechnology
Cert II in Engineering
Cert II in Sport and Recreation (Community Recreation and Outdoor Recreation)
Selected units from Cert II in Hairdressing and Beauty Services
Selected units from Diploma of Children’s Services – Early childhood education and care.
Cert II in Equine Industry

Important Dates
14th October
Students interested in attending VET Orientation day in Horsham must give their names to Mrs Barb Smith. We ask parents/guardians to attend with their child.

20th October
Information night for Year 9 and 10 Parents. Options for 2010 will be discussed including VCE, VET, VCAL and ASBA.

28th October
VET Orientation Day Horsham.

Barb Smith - VET Co-ordinator
Chocolate Banana Muffins

Ingredients:
3 large ripe bananas
1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons mixed spice
1/2 cup raw sugar
1/4 cup low-fat natural yoghurt
3 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons olive oil, for greasing baking tins

Method:
1. Preheat oven to 180C. Remove the skins from bananas and then puree bananas in a food processor.
2. Place all other ingredients in a mixing bowl, add banana and stir with wooden spoon.
3. Place 1-2 tablespoons of the mixture into greased muffin tins and then bake for 10min or until muffins are cooked when tested with a skewer.

SACs next week

- Chemistry Thursday
- Ag & Hort Monday
- PE Thursday
- Business Management
- Accounting Thursday
- English
- Maths Methods

Term Dates for 2010

So that parents can do some forward planning the following term dates for 2010 are listed.

Term 1
1 February (students start) to 26 March - teachers begin Term 1 on 27 January

Term 2
12 April to 25 June (26 April - ANZAC Day Public Holiday and 11 June will be a student free day)

Term 3
12 July to 17 September

Term 4
4 October to 17 December

The Birchip/Watchem Football Club Ladies Committee would like to thank all the people who worked or provided food on Sunday and for the Field Day. Your support was much appreciated.

Birchip Watchem Junior Football Club
Breakup and Vote Count
Monday 14th September
Birchip Leisure Centre
Start at 6.30pm
$5.00 per head for meal.

Tennis Coaching - Advance Notice
To commence Friday October 16th, 2009
Register your interest with Louise Lee, Heather Hogan or Julie Coffey

Birchip Basketball Competition

Last call for mens and womens names to play on Friday nights.
Names to Madde - 0427 981 216
GOOD LUCK TO ALL STUDENTS PLAYING IN THE END OF SEASON FOOTBALL, NETBALL AND HOCKEY FINALS

GOLDEN RIVERS LEAGUE - FOOTBALL & NETBALL – Grand Final
The GR Grand Final is to be held at Quambatook
Football
Reserves- Nullawil versus Wandella
Netball
A-Grade- Nullawil versus Ultima
B-Grade- Nullawil versus Murrabit
B-Reserve- Nullawil versus Murrabit

MALLEE LEAGUE - FOOTBALL AND NETBALL – Preliminary Final
The Preliminary Final is to be held at Hopetoun
Netball:
A Grade Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers versus Woomelang Lascelles
C Grade Woomelang Lascelles versus Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers
Junior B Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers versus Beulah

NORTH CENTRAL LEAGUE - FOOTBALL, NETBALL AND HOCKEY – Preliminary Final
The Preliminary Final is to be held at Wycheproof
Football:
Seniors: Birchip Watchem versus Charlton
Reserves: Birchip Watchem versus Donald

Netball:
A Grade Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers versus Woomelang Lascelles
C Grade Woomelang Lascelles versus Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers
Junior B Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers versus Beulah

HOCKEY:
Womens: Birchip Watchem versus Charlton

CENTRAL VICTORIAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
The grand finals are taking place this weekend.
Under 17: Senjuns/Eaglehawk versus Girton
Jesse Buteux, Jamie, Luke and Dean Lovett are in the Senjuns team.
B Grade Mens: Senjuns versus Sandhurst
Jesse Buteux & Luke Lovett are in the Senjuns team.

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>Prep</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Practise letters &amp; their names &amp; sounds. Next week al, oa, ie - with actions. Read stories together &amp; talk about them.</td>
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<td>Emonson/Weir</td>
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<td>Regular homework sheets, times tables, reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Class</td>
<td>Emonson/Weir</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homework questions</td>
<td>17th Sept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling test - words on newsletter, parts of speech</td>
<td>17th Sept.</td>
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<td>Miss Johnson</td>
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<td>Assignment activities x 6 (draft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Maths</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
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<td>Finish homework sheet</td>
<td>14th Sept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
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<td>Figurative writing task</td>
<td>16th Sept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Science</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prac write up</td>
<td>15th Sept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Maths</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Pythagoras sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10 Textiles</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
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<td>Fashion affair, fashion design, mosaic accessory</td>
<td>17th Sept.</td>
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<td>9/10 History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
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<td>Holocaust story book</td>
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<td>Mr Delaney</td>
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<td>Free trade questions</td>
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<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td></td>
<td>SAC preparation</td>
<td>14th Sept.</td>
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<td>12 Business Manag.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
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<td>Hicks/Smith</td>
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<td>SAC preparation for Friday</td>
<td>16th Sept.</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
2009 Victorian Landcare Awards
Nominee – Birchip Landcare

A healthier eco-system, sustainable sport and a happier community have been the remarkable and positive outcomes from the Birchip Urban Storm water Treatment Project.

The Mallee town of Birchip had taken a heavy toll from the drought, with the loss of its major local waterway and recreation area, Lake Tchum. Water restrictions then threatened to cost the town its important recreation and sporting grounds.

However a re-design of the town’s storm water system and storage has had far-reaching consequences by providing water to the town’s football, cricket, hockey, golf club and lawn tennis facilities, as well as the Birchip P-12 school grounds and the cemetery. The new system has allowed sporting activity to continue locally, rather than being forced into being moved or halted by the drought.

The storm water project was undertaken in 2008-09 by the Birchip Landcare Group, in conjunction with the Birchip Lions Club and with funding from the Australian Government’s Community Water Grants.

It built on a community project 15 years previously that collected water through a channel system and stored it in a former grain bunker (converted to a dam) for use on sports grounds. The 2008-09 project improved the efficiency of the original system and now treats the water through self-sustaining and natural methods for re-use. The project treats the storm water collected from streets and drains by directing it through rubbish collectors, silt traps, wetlands and a network of settling dams and ponds.

Three wetlands were created along the town’s existing storm water drainage and storage network and more work was carried out to improve the flow, water quality and the system’s environmental values. Works included the installation of concrete headwalls, bulk rubbish traps, and the placing of crushed rock and spool to reduce rubbish and silt from storm water flows. Thousands of wetland plants and grasses have been planted to further filter the water and remove nutrients. Silt traps and ponds have been created, and in some cases, modified, to make them more efficient.

The system is an example of best-practice management of storm water for re-use, but this project has also led to notable progress in biodiversity preservation – a key aim of the group. As a result of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline the Birchip district is being changed over from a channel-fed dam network for stock and domestic water to a pipeline supply. The Landcare group was concerned about the removal of dams and open water and how it might affect bird and wildlife populations. In addition to the community benefits, the silt ponds and wetlands of the storm water system are now successfully providing refuge and a water source for birds, amphibians and other wildlife.

Congratulations to Cameron Flowers and members of the Birchip Landcare Group. All the very best for success now at the National Award Level.
Parents’ Club News

Invitation to all parents to attend the next general Parents’ Club meeting

Date: Thursday 8th October 2009
Where: O’DONNELL’S TEA ROOMS
Time: 7.30 pm
BRING A FRIEND

THANK YOU

Thank you to Deanne Botheras, Amanda Reid and Maureen Trollope for helping with the Fathers’ Day Stall on Thursday 3rd September 2009. Also, thank you to Janine Paley for all her organizing/shopping of the gifts supplied for sale. Without such generosity from the members of our Parents’ Club, activities such as this would not be able to be held.

Lastly, a big thank you to all parents who have been involved with catering events for the past term. We could not do our catering without your support. There are still a small number of events to go until the end of the year. A big thank you to Trish Lehmann for all her organization of catering.
Birchip Watchem Netball Club Inc

ROSTER FOR 2009 NETBALL PRESENTATION EVENING

Saturday September 12th, 2009 at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre

All food to be at the hall by 6.00pm at the latest

Our last function for the year! Once again, we require your assistance with catering for the evening. We thank you once again for your support: should you have any queries or concerns, please contact Arnna on 5492 2942 or 0408390335.

CATERING

Salads (Seniors) (at least 4 litres each please)
- 2 large oven trays of Scalloped Potatoes: Heather Hogan, Michelle Lee
- Tossed: Laura Ryan, Claire Browne, Steph Scambler, Fiona Best, Chloe Jane, Sharon Flowers
- Pasta: Tara Lehmann, Louisa Ferrier, Lauren Sharp, Kerrie Walder, Elsie Coffey, Emily Thompson
- Changs Fried Noodles: Chelsea Thompson, Tanya Hogan, Brooke Morris, Arnna Pickering, Julie Coffey
- Own Choice: (not any of above please) Cody Connelly, Jo Lee, Maddelyne Footy, Nadine Frank, Laura Bales, Siobhan Jones, Eleisha Heyden, Jacinta Bourke, Mikaela Christie, Brenda Doran.

Juniors (Dessert) (enough to serve at least 8 people please)
- Pavlova: Hayley Hogan, Claire Boyle, Amy Bennett, Rebecca Botheras.
- Cheesecake: Georgia Lee, Emma Hogan, Zoe Weir, Tayla & Jay Connelly
- Chocolate Ripple Cake: Shae Colbert, Demi Donnellon, Laura & Claudia Lee, Madeline Paley
- Apple Pie: Emily Noonan, Renee McEwen, Evelyn Reid, Bridgette Sullivan
- Sticky Date Pudding: Sophie & Tahlia Noonan, Emily Smith, Maryanne Bell, Emma Forrester.
- Own Choice (not any of the above please): Courtney Gleeson, Sophie Hogan, Bridgette & Molly Hogan, Arnna Pickering
- 4 litres of ice cream: Stephanie Martin, Jacinta Connelly
- 1 large jar of cream: Dammy Owa, Cheryl Kemp
- 2 litres of milk: Leslee Cooper
- Slice (own choice): Darci & Ashlee Tierney, Stephanie McClelland, Chelsi Kemp

To help out in the kitchen throughout the night: If any parents or any family members would like to volunteer to help out in the kitchen at different intervals throughout the evening that would be fantastic. Please let me know when you can. Thanks

SET UP – Friday Night at Leisure Centre

If able, could junior netballers please meet Maddelyne and Laura B. at the Leisure Centre on Friday night after school to set up for the Saturday.
LAST CALL

INDIVIDUAL NAME PAVERS
We are refurbishing various buildings around the school at present. We will be lifting the present named pavers to make way for these works and will then re-pave these areas. This is an opportunity for other people and families to be part of the named paver project prior to the repaving taking place.

Purchase one or more pavers for $30.00 each and have your child/children’s or family’s name engraved into a paver as a lasting record of your valued support and time spent at Birchip P-12 School. The pavers will be permanently laid in the entrance between the library and administration wings of the school.

A unique and lasting record of your support and time spent at Birchip P-12 School.

Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (34 max)
‘AND’ is to be displayed as ‘&’.

For enquiries: please contact Birchip P-12 School on 03 54 922 287 - sample on view in school office.

To Order: Simply fill out this order form and return with full payment by cash or cheque (made out to Birchip P-12 School) to Birchip P-12 School, PO Box 9, BIRCHIP 3483.

Orders will be taken up until the end of term three, Friday 18th September 2009.

Contact Name:

Address: ........................................................................................................................................................................................................................................

Phone: ........................................................................................................................................................................................................................................

Offer closes on the 18th September 2009

Please photocopy and pass on to friends and all associated with Birchip P-12 School.
HABITS OF MIND

Literacy and Numeracy

As reported in last week’s newsletter we celebrated Literacy and Numeracy Week with a variety of activities. Students were practicing their Habits of Mind throughout the week.

Shane Barker is thinking and communicating with clarity and precision as he reads to Levi Andison and Daniel Braine.

Emily Totzenberger accurately and precisely measuring angles for her wooden project.

Students listen with empathy and understanding as Mr Whelan explains the process of measuring.

Jesse Smith and Cormac Wilson working interdependently as they read to each other.

Brenton Delaney applying past knowledge as he cuts the pieces of wood for the grade 5 and 6 students.