Forthcoming Events

September

Monday 15th Parent/Teacher Interviews 4 - 7pm
Tuesday 16th 7-12 Personal Safety Talk
Tuesday 16th → Grade 4 & 5 Camp to Wesley Point - Lake
Thursday 18th  Eppalock
Friday 19th  Term 3 ends at 2.30pm
Monday 22nd → Driver Education Year 10, 11 & 12 students
Tuesday 23rd

October

Monday 6th  Term 4 commences
Tuesday 7th → Grade 3 Echuca Camp
Thursday 9th
Tuesday 14th Kinder → Prep Transition Meeting
Wednesday 15th Keys Please
Friday 17th  Hospital Flower Show
Tuesday 21st  Year 6 Environmental Festival Charlton
Thursday 23rd  VCE Valedictory Dinner
Monday 27th  VCE Swat Vac commences
Tuesday 28th Questacon - Year Prep - 8

Rock Eisteddfod – Grand Final

We said goodbye and wished our performers well yesterday at 9:00 a.m. They travelled down to Melbourne with parent John Bales driving ready for their practice at 3:00 p.m. at Hisense Arena. The cast and crew stayed at the Miami Hotel following their performance last night. Miss Johnson was very impressed with and proud of our students’ performance. Many parents and interested people were again impressed with their performance last night. Comments such as ‘They were awesome’ and they ‘left the best to last’ were heard in the office this morning. The school community is very proud of Miss Johnson and our performers. Thanks to the parent crew who are so supportive of our team including Simone Christie, Noeline Hogan, Sarah Doran and John Bales.

Mallee Secondary School Sports Association – Athletics Sports

I was incredibly proud of our students last Tuesday at Rainbow where our students competed in the Mallee Secondary School Sports Association – Athletics Sports. Every student tried their best, was prepared to ‘have a go’. They also volunteered to fill in when students were sick or injured. It was very evident that Birchip students were there to compete and ‘put in’ to the best of their ability. Birchip P-12 School won the Grand Aggregate. Of 132 events Birchip students won 86 of them. Of the 12 relays sprints, Birchip won 11 and came second in the other. However it wasn’t only the winners but all students who produced great efforts to gain as many points for Birchip as possible. It was a fantastic team effort.

Many thanks to Mr Sayle and Miss Langley for their organization and to staff and parents for their work, support and barracking on the day.

Age group Champions

U13B: 1st Tim Phelan
       2nd David Casey
U14B  2nd Jake Hogan
U14G: 2nd Laura Lee
U15B: 1st Tim Walder
U15G: 2nd Chantel Emmonson
U16B: 1st Nathan Witherow
       2nd Nathan Bennett
U16G  2nd Kate Watts
U17B: 1st Jamie Lovett
U21B: 1st Steven Reid
U21G: 2nd Kirby Smith
BirchipP-12 School Newsletter

Grand Aggregate
Birchip: 1171 points
Rainbow: 848 points
Hopetoun: 804.5 points
New Records: Tim Walder U15B discus and U15B shot put

Age Champions – David Casey, Jaimie Lovett, Nathan Witherow, Tim Walder and Steven Reid.

Northern Zone Selection
The Northern Zone Athletics will be held in Bendigo on Thursday 9th October 2008.
Because our schools are only small, we traditionally do not send all of our interschool winners. Mr Sayle discusses times and distances with the students to see if the Northern Zone experience will be a positive one. Also considered are other interruptions and time out of school.
Entries will be sent electronically on Tuesday 16th September 2008. If any parents would like to discuss selections they should contact Mr Sayle at the school before 3:30pm next Tuesday.

School Jumper Missing
Brand new size 22 school jumper missing. Please check you have the right jumper.
Tim Walder

Birchip P-12 Celebrate Generational Links

During the course of term three students in the Year 8 community program ‘Star8’ have been paired with elderly people around Birchip in an inter-generational program called ‘Generation A Go Go’.

Students developed friendships with the eight participants in a program that aims to bridge the generational divide. Students visited Mrs Rosie Rickard, Mr Cliff and Betty Pearce, Mr Harry Rickard, Mrs Edna Watson, Mrs Val Hogan, Mrs Margaret Glen, and Dr John and Dr Bev Horton.
East Wimmera Health Birchip Campus District Health Nurse, Mandy Maloney organised participants and matched them with students from the class with assistance from Star8 co-ordinator Mrs Megan Lord.

All involved enjoyed many activities; including card games and cooking and the students also assisted with cleaning and teaching their new friends how to use modern technology such as mobile phones and computers.

Year 8 students then showed their appreciation to all those who participated by hosting as special celebratory lunch last Thursday 4 September. The staff room came alive with flower arrangements and carefully set tables for a lunch of soup, sandwiches, pastries and homemade biscuits and slices. Leading up to the lunch, year 8 students prepared brief digital life stories on their friends. Each group presented these over lunch which encouraged discussion about different periods of time. It was clear from the responses at the completion of the program that it was most worthwhile and participants encouraged students to keep contact to bridge what some see as a generational gap.
**CIRCUS CULTURE**

Monday afternoon was particularly entertaining with a performance from School Performance Tours called ‘It’s a mad world’. The show centred on twin brothers, one of whom was an unsure character in support of his self-assured performing brother. Tension developed as the stage brother failed to show. The shy, awkward brother was then forced by the director or ‘boss’ to perform a range of juggling tricks to entertain the crowd of Grade Prep to Year 11 students. Thankfully, the timid brother quickly gained confidence and skilfully juggled tennis ball sized balls as well as lawn bowls!

Half way through the show, the confident brother arrived on stage and the circus style acts continued to awe and amaze students and teachers. These included balancing golf sticks, chairs and strips of newspaper on his face. The show finished with the spinning of eight plates simultaneously on metal rods.

All three characters were played by just one man, Per, who started his performing arts career in the children’s Fruit Fly Circus before travelling the world with his own shows. As well as performing in schools, Per also teaches children in the Fruit Fly Circus in Albury. At the end of his act he explained his career path and stressed that the key to becoming an excellent performer is practice. Thanks to Mrs Kelly for her organization of this event.

---

**Mountains to Plains Culinary Challenge**

Best wishes to Isaac Noonan and Brianna Smith who travel to Braemar College, Woodend on Tuesday to compete in the Mountains to Plains Culinary Challenge. They will prepare Asparagus and Grapefruit Salad with Cashews and Mint, Chicken Petits Pois a la Francaise and Baked Apples within a set time limit. The students are grateful to Sue Hill (West Mallee Local Community Partnership, Career Advice Australia) and Julie Jane (Highlands LLEN) for supplying them with complete Chef’s Uniforms. The competition is supported by these organisations and the CVGT and NCLLEN.

The winners will receive a Master Class at the Sofitel Melbourne for 28th November 2008.

Thanks to Mrs Barb Smith for her enthusiasm and guidance of the food technology class.

---

**Missing** - One boys basketball singlet. It should only have been used by the boys basketball team but may possibly have been mixed up with someone else’s sports clothes. Could parents please check at home for a silky red singlet with white trimming and white numbers. It has ‘Parasport Sportsgear’ on the tag.

---

**Primary Sporting Update**

Hayley Hogan recently competed in the Primary Schools Golf Championships at Box Hill. She found the competition quite strong but she said that she really enjoyed the experience.

Last Sunday, Jacob Christie took part in the next stage of the Primary Hockey Team selection trials at Footscray. While not proceeding to the next stage Jacob also found the experience rewarding.

---

**Parent Teacher Evening**

The Parent Teacher Evening is scheduled for **Monday 15th September 2008** from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the school’s stadium. This will involve three (3) sessions:

- **Session One:** 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Session Two:** 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Session Three:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Senior SRC will provide tea, coffee, water, biscuits, etc., to staff and parents during the evening.

Letters were sent home to parents last week indicating the session times for your family. If you are unable to attend the parent teacher evening, I would appreciate you making contact so that interim reports can be collected and an alternative time made if needed.

---

**Handy Hints for Improving Learning**

Did you know that most learning doesn’t happen at school!

Children spend only 15% of their time at school. They spend more time asleep (33%) than they do at school. Most of their time (52%) is at home, awake, mucking around, playing, and learning about life and it’s what they do with that time that is important.

Most of their future learning also won’t occur in school. It is estimated that 70% of the jobs that will exist in the year 2020 do not exist now. We know that knowledge is doubling every three years. It is estimated that 50 years ago a high school graduate left school knowing about 75% of what they would need to know in their working life – today’s high school graduate will leave knowing about 2%!

Year Seven Global Warming Presentations
Family members and adult friends are invited.

P – 12 Principals’ Meeting at Birchip

Yesterday, Birchip was host to the Wimmera P – 12 Schools principals’ group and Nhill College visitors. Principals and Nhill College were impressed with our school especially our library facilities. Our students were very articulate and empowered - these were noticed by our visitors. The principals enjoyed a casserole luncheon capably prepared by Parents’ Club. This was followed by the consumption of Sharp’s Bakery award winning vanilla slices. Thank you very much to Trish Lehmann and her catering team of Belinda Randall, Mandy Braine and Sharlene Connelly for their efforts.

Head Lice

There have been several cases of head lice reported in the past few days.

To assist us to eliminate these pests, please carefully check each child’s head. It is easier to see the nits (eggs) in sunlight. If located, students must not attend school until the first treatment has occurred.

The treatment must be repeated in exactly seven days.

If you do find lice or nits (eggs), please notify the school. We can then continue to alert the school community, while maintaining your confidentiality. If you need help with products or information please contact me at school.

Merrily Kelly

Farewell Miss Mika Yoshikawa and Mr Ko Kojima

Thank you to Emma, Rodney, Amy, Katie and Cameron Bennett Family for hosting Miss Mika Yoshikawa, and to Daryl, Gaye and Simon Bardell Family for hosting Ko Kojima.

We hope they had a wonderful time with us in Birchip and take back many good memories to Japan.

Home Work Questions
due 19th September 2008

This week’s questions
1. How many pairs of wings does a dragonfly have?
2. How many strokes does a golfer take if he eagles a par four hole?
3. Which side of the brain is usually responsible for speech?
4. What wind instrument produces a sound called a skirt?
5. How many years did it take Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
6. What animal appears in Ferrari’s emblem?
7. What river tumbles over Niagara Falls?
8. Which is furthest north – The Black Sea, the Red Sea or the White Sea?
9. What items of apparel does a cordwainer make?
10. How many years make up a lustrum?

Answers to last week’s questions
1. What is perjury? Telling lies under oath.
2. The disease anemia is caused by a lack of what? Iron
3. Which instrument did Franz Liszt play? Piano
4. How many carats make pure gold? 24
5. In darts, what is the lowest score from three different trebles? 18
6. Ermine is the fur from which animal? Stoat
7. Which war started with the capture of Fort Sumter? American Civil War
8. What did Charles van Depoele invent? Electric railway
9. In which country is the Matterhorn? Switzerland
10. Which Open was Jack Nicklaus’s first win? US Open
Congratulations Daniel

Daniel Watts has capped off a sensational season for the Nullawil Football Club this year by winning the Golden Rivers Football League under 17s league best and fairest.

Daniel has played in the midfield and across half back for the club this season and his hard work was rewarded on Monday night.

Daniel, the eldest and only son of David and Wendy Watts, went to the presentation with no expectations of winning the award but was astonished after polling a massive 30 votes to take home the trophy by three votes. Interestingly, these were Daniel’s first league votes of his career.

Daniel’s season consisted of nine best on ground performances out of 16 matches which is an outstanding achievement.

Daniel will be representing the Nullawil Reserves this weekend in the Grand Final and will no doubt prove why he was named the fairest and best Under 17 player this season.

The Birchip P-12 School would like to congratulate Daniel on his achievements and wish him all the best for the rest of his football career.

VISIT OF MR AND MRS RON LANE TEACHERS AT OUR SCHOOL 1957 – 1961

On Tuesday, 9th September 2008, our school was visited by Mr Ron Lane and his wife Jean who taught here 50 years ago. They came from Rainbow where they also used to teach and were most impressed with the progressive, positive look of Birchip and in particular, our school. In their time here the school population ranged from 36 in 1957 and had doubled to 72 by the time they left 5 years later at the end of 1961. Back then the school was still a Higher Elementary School and the classes were From 1, 2, 3 and 4 and sometimes 5. It was always a battle to supply enough staff, and teachers taught just about every subject. If teachers left during the year, which happened several times, they were not usually replaced and the remainder of the staff picked up the extra classes.

It was due to Mr. Lane’s initiative that the School Magazine ‘WIRRIM’ was introduced. It was very small by present standards, half foolscap size paper and was produced at the school on the trusty Gestetner. The name chosen, WIRRIM, is of course the first two syllables of the district’s original name WIRRIMBIRCHIP. It was thought fitting that the school should assist in seeing that this melodious sounding Aboriginal word should not fade into oblivion. Mr Alf Brereton congratulated Mr Lane and his student committee for remembering the school motto “DUTY FIRST”, in bringing the magazine into being.

I am not sure if there have been years without a magazine, since then, but I am very pleased as were the Lanes, to know that it continues and is still called WIRRIM.

There were secondary classes to year 10 at IHOM School then as well, with about 40 students in those classes, so there were often articles in the paper and newsletters asking students to stay in Birchip for secondary education and not go away to boarding schools as so many did. It was very hard to provide enough subjects and teachers.

Mrs Donnellon was able to take the Lanes on a tour of the school. The only buildings in existence in their time here were the old brick rooms, and some little country schools which were where the Science rooms are now.

The present music room was the staffroom and office and Mr Lane used to heat up a can of food for his lunch on a piece of asbestos using Bunsen burner in the fireplace. He thought that was very progressive at the time. All subjects were taught in the classrooms and many letters were written to the authorities to obtain a cookery centre. Working bees were held to mend broken windows and paint desks at the beginning of the year. Inter-school swimming was a very new sport as the swimming pool had only been opened about a year.

To raise funds, students had stalls for each year level where they sold cakes and produce they had baked or grown and craft articles they had made. This helped to pay for the record player which was used for the school social instead of the piano. The social was held in the history room which opened into the computer room with folding doors. In 1957, the senior students from IHOM were invited which caused great excitement.

A motor mower was purchased which was a great improvement to keeping the grounds tidier. Cricket, tennis and softball was played against Donald, Wycheproof and Murtoa in 1957 and football, softball, hockey, netball against IHOM, Donald and Wycheproof.

On the 4th April 1957, all the boys were asked to wear old clothes and strong boots to school so the could help burn all the dry grass around the school. This was considered a “red letter” day by all the boys who came with lots of old bags and beaters and lots of enthusiasm. Meanwhile the girls had working bees with some mothers and teachers to sew curtains for the staff room and sewing room.
Religious Education was held for one period every week on a Tuesday morning. Hobbies classes were also held. Boys learnt woodwork and girls were taught to make cane baskets. All students were involved in tree planting of sugar gums around the perimeter of the school as well as the Hillgrove plantation on the edge of Birchip. Hundreds of trees were also planted at the golf course by the students. In September the re-wiring and re-plastering of the school buildings was done as the buildings were rather dilapidated. A lawn tennis court was planted at the front of the school at the end of where the stadium now stands. The hockey oval was where the primary play area is now. It was rough and many levels so Mr Lane organised a working bee with a large iron tractor wheel which was dragged up and down with chains and ropes by the boys. Mr AD Hillgrove then came to the rescue with a grader and finished the job.

Each year there was the dreaded visit of the school Inspector who inspected buildings, students and teachers and was a dreaded day for all.

An Inter-school sports carnival was held at Hopetoun.

There was an end of year social, a school picnic or break up party, speech night and presentation of prizes and final examinations. There was also an open night when parents came to the school to inspect the children’s books and speak to the teachers. Boys ran displays showing science experiments and girls showed their skill with the treadle sewing machines and manual typewriters.

Houses were still called Fraser and Young but students were also awarded points for tidy rooms, desks, garden plots examination results as well as for all sports events. Random checks were made on desks and lockers and students were very unpopular if precious points were lost by messy students.

The primary students and their staff in those times were still at the old wooden school on the land opposite the hospital where the flats are now situated.

*Thanks to Mrs Maureen Donnellon for this article.*

---

**Birchip Watchem Hockey Club**

**Presentation Night and Vote Count**

Monday 15th September 2008 commencing at 6:30 p.m. at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre

2 course Meal $10.00 per head, $5.00 primary aged children or below, $2 bowl chips

Counting of votes for underage and women’s, presentation of trophies

RSVP to Simone Christie or Claire Cook

---

**Birchip Men's Shed Meeting**

Tuesday 16th September 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at ‘The Shamrock’

Men of all ages encouraged to attend

---

**Stitchums Craft Group**

**Attention all crafties**

Please note the following dates for your diary.

8th October 2008    Stitchums meeting
12th November 2008  Stitchums meeting & Christmas breakup

Contact: Ros McCallum on 50 772218
Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practise Days of the Week and Months of the Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>General Knowledge questions, List words</td>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Math Mate</td>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Prepare for tree planting</td>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Crime &amp; Punish.</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Finish Bicycle Thief creative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Bungee Barbie</td>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Revision for exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Prepare for SAC on Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Prepare for SAC on Friday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Prepare for SAC – Tuesday and Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Parents Club Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008

AGENDA

1. Guest Speakers: Simone Christie & Marc Cox
2. Light supper to follow
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008
5. Business arising from minutes
6. Treasurers report – Deanne Botheras
7. Correspondence – Ros McCallum
8. School Council Report – Cathy Bales
9. Catering Report – Sam Kemp and Trish Lehmann
10. General Business
    a. Name of Parents’ Club
    b. Fathers’ Day Stall - response from students
    c. Fundraising
    d. Other
Habits of Mind

Year 8 Japanese – Thinking Flexibly

During class last week, year 8 students created their own Obento; Japanese style lunch box. They used origami techniques to make three dimensional food and drinks for their Obento. The students then explained in Japanese what they were having for lunch. The students had a lot of fun, learnt some new Japanese words and found out more information on Japanese Culture.