Forthcoming Events

October

Monday 6th  Term 4 commences
Monday 6th → ‘Save the polar bears week’ – energy saving activities
Friday 10th  Physical Resources Meeting
Tuesday 7th → Grade 3 Echuca Camp
Thursday 9th  Kinder → Prep Transition Meeting
Wednesday 15th  Keys Please
Thursday 16th  School Council Meeting
Friday 17th  Year 6 Environmental Festival Charlton
Tuesday 21st  VCE Valedictory Dinner
Monday 27th  Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 28th  Questacon - Year Prep – 8
Thursday 30th  Transition Day #2
Friday 31st  VCE English Exam

November

Tuesday 4th  Melbourne Cup Holiday
Thursday 6th  Prep extended stay & Grade 1&2 sleepover
Thursday 6th  Transition Day #3
Tuesday 11th  Physical Resources Meeting
Monday 17th  Primary swimming program commences
Wednesday 20th  Kool Skools CD launch in Charlton
Monday 27th → Year 11 exams
Friday 21st  Primary Report Writing Day – no school for Primary Students
Friday 28th  Last day for Year 11 students

December

Tuesday 2nd  Secondary report writing day – no school for Secondary Students
Friday 5th  Last day for Year 10 students with employment
Monday 8th  Grade 6 Celebration Dinner
Tuesday 9th  Year 9 Driver Education
Wednesday 10th  Transition Day #4 (One Up Day)

The end is nigh after a long and busy term!

Third has been a long and incredibly busy term for staff and students. There has been much happening including the Rock Eisteddfod, Culinary Challenge, Athletics Sports, camps and many other activities along with the exciting programs offered within our classrooms. Thank you to students for their excellent endeavours and willingness to ‘have a go’ during the term. Thanks to our enthusiastic and hard working staff for their efforts to ensure our students continue to enjoy excellent education opportunities. Thank you also to our parents and school community who continue to support our school in many and varied ways.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday.

Rock Eisteddfod – Grand Final – our student performers did us proud!

We are very proud of all performers and crew who featured in our Rock Eisteddfod performance - Gateway to the Mallee. Making it to the grand final has been such an honour and our students have done an amazing job.

We really did ROCK!

Many thanks to all who helped with the Rock Eisteddfod; especially to Simone Christie, Helen Digby, Noeline Hogan, John and Cathy Bales, Barb Smith, Cameron Whelan, Eleisha Heyden, Connelly Barclay, Sarah, Peter and Brenda Doran and Brock Lynch.
Thank-you also to our sponsors: Salvation Army, School Focused Youth Service, Commonwealth Bank (Birchip branch), Tyson Piping and Construction and Mallee Steel.

Thanks to all the many parents and community members who were always so supportive of our students and for travelling to and from Melbourne for our performances to cheer us on.

**Miss Elisha Johnson, our director, manager and Rock Eisteddfod ‘driver’ is deserving of our thanks for her boundless energies, time and effort put in to ensuring Birchip was put on the map. The school community thanks you sincerely Elisha for your inspiration.**

Grand final DVDs are on sale. Miss Johnson has given order forms to all Rock Eisteddfod performers.

Photos of the grand final can be ordered online through 'Winkipop'. The password to access our photos is 'magic'.

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**MOUNTAINS TO PLAINS CULINARY CHALLENGE**

VCE Food & Technology students, Isaac Noonan & Brianna Smith represented Birchip P-12 School in the ‘Mountain to Plains Culinary Challenge’ finals held on Tuesday 16th September at Braemar College.

Isaac & Brianna ‘slaved over a hot stove’ and competed against students from Macedon Ranges, Bendigo, Castlemaine and Ballarat. They wooed the judges from 10:00 a.m. with *Asparagus & Grapefruit Salad with Cashews & Mint, Chicken Petit Pois a la Françoise, and Baked Apples* until 1:15 p.m., when the judges, (Melissa Macfarlane from the Royal George Hotel in Kyneton, Robb Scott from Bendigo TAFE and Alla Wolfe-Tasker from the Lake House, Daylesford) made their final announcement.

Students had to plan their menu, and prepare each dish to a time frame and exact standards before presentation to the judges and clean up of their work area.

Isaac & Brianna have won a ‘Master Class’ at the Hotel Sofitel with Lee Atkinson (Head of the Culinary Academy) in November as well as being the inaugural winners of the ‘Mountain to Plains Culinary Challenge’.

The excitement of the students was nearly overshadowed by their teacher Mrs Barb Smith who was rewarded for her enthusiasm and guidance of the Food Technology Class throughout the year.

The aim of the Mountain to Plains Culinary Challenge is to promote the Hospitality Industry as an exciting career pathway to secondary school students, parents and the community. The Local Community Partnership in conjunction with secondary colleges across four regions facilitated this exciting event and Braemar College was a fitting environment for the testing of the students’ culinary skills.

The LCPS funded Isaac and Brianna’s chef uniforms. Many thanks to Sue Hill and Julie Jane from Career Advice Australia and the West Mallee & North Loddon LCPS.
Commencement Dates for 2009 School Year

Teachers commence on Wednesday 28th January 2009 and meet for three days to develop curriculum for the 2009 school year. Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th of January are state identified Pupil Free Days. Friday 12th June is also an identified Pupil Free Day.

Students commence on Monday 2nd February 2009.

Primary student pretesting is yet to be organized and will be communicated as soon as it is known.

School Uniform

Students are expected to wear summer uniform during fourth term. The uniform policy can be found under the information tab on the school’s webpage http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au

Please use the holiday time to organize your school uniform in readiness for term four.

Parent Teacher Evening

Thank you to the many parents who braved the cold wintry elements to come to the parent teacher evening on Monday 15th September 2008. Approximately 80% of parents attended. Interim reports were posted to parents who were unable to attend on Tuesday.

NAPLAN Results

Parents of students in Grades 3 and 5 and Years 7 and 9 received their son’s and/or daughter’s NAPLAN results this week. Many parents were able to discuss their child’s progress with teachers on Monday evening: others received their results in the mail. Should parents wish to discuss the NAPLAN results with teachers, please contact the school and make an appointment. More information on the NAPLAN can be found at http://www.naplan.edu.au/.

Primary Sport Update

Last Friday a busload of senior primary students travelled to Donald to take part in Zone selections for track events.

Georgia Lee was placed first in the 100m sprint and hurdle events and Hayley Hogan was first in the 800m. Our children all performed well and filled many placings. Four of our relay teams were placed second.

Six students have been selected to represent the North Central District at the Wimmera Zone Athletics at Warracknabeal on Tuesday 7th October, which is the first Tuesday of next term. They are:
- Marnie Lehmann – Triple jump and shot put.
- Hayley Hogan – 800m
- Riley Sayle – Triple jump.
- Royce Bennett – 200m and 800m
- Georgia Lee – 100m and triple jump.
- Joe O’Donnell – 100m and 200m

We wish our competitors all the best at the Zone sports next term.

Many thanks to Mr Greg Welton for his excellent organization and efforts to ensure our students participated and gained selection.

Secondary Northern Zone Athletics Carnival

The secondary Northern Zone Athletics will be held in Bendigo on Thursday 9th October. This is the first week in term 4. Mr Sayle has consulted with students and entries have been submitted. Transports forms and further information will be distributed after the holidays. Students in running events are encouraged to do some sprinting or distance running to maintain their specific fitness.

Handy Hints for Improving Learning - #2

How much sleep does my child need to succeed at school?

A good nights sleep (at least 8 hours) is essential for optimal brain functioning at school. Memory consolidation occurs during sleep especially during dream (or REM) sleep. During the normal 8-9 hours of sleep, five dream (REM) cycles occur. Adolescents getting only 5-6 hours of sleep lose out on the last two REM cycles and thereby reduce the amount of time the brain has to consolidate information.

Teenagers need as much sleep as children, partly because their brains are doing so much development.

Always remember there is no such thing as a sleep bank. So just because you slept 10 hours one night doesn’t mean you can get away with only sleeping six hours the next night.

Students who don’t get enough sleep have to work much harder to do well at school.

From “Help Your Child Succeed at School” by Andrew Fuller www.andrewfuller.com.au
Twenty six excited students in Years 4 and 5 set off to Bendigo on Tuesday 16th September. After a break at Wedderburn, first port of call was the Bendigo Leisure Centre, where students took to the water slide, pool volleyball and swimming like ducks to water. Lunch by the lake was devoured hungrily, then it was time for Ten Pin Bowling, a first time experience for many of the students.

On Wednesday we visited the Golden Dragon Chinese Museum, where we found the little dragon which visited us in Birchip last term. We then headed to Huntly to watch Firemen and Emergency Service personnel training to extinguish a car fire and exploding gas cylinders, then visited the various simulated disaster situations. Lunch at White Hills was followed by an afternoon of mini golf.

Our final day was spent at Confectionery Capers where students learnt that man’s most significant invention is the wheel, and explored hundreds of applications of wheel technology. The Discovery Centre was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and most, (including Mr Colbert and Mrs Kelly), overcame their apprehension and fell down the vertical slide. The new digitally enhanced Planetarium was awe inspiring as the Solar System came to life.

After a shopping spree at Lansell Plaza, the tired but happy campers returned home. Many thanks to the students for their cooperative behaviour, Mr Chris Colbert, Mrs Sandra Naughton and Mrs Kelly for accompanying the students.
Shake Rattle and READ

*Research has shown the single most important thing a parent can do to help their child be successful is read to them.*

The second session of Shake Rattle and READ was held on Thursday morning. It was a huge success with 32 in attendance. We read the stories ‘Tums’ by David Bedford and ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ by Eric Carle. Children were able to interact with the story by looking for and placing sequencing cards on the story apron. We also recited some old favourite rhymes and learned some new rhymes and chants to use throughout the day with babies and children. A great time was had by all who attended. Mark your calendars... The next session of Shake Rattle and READ will be on Thursday the 9th of October. It will then be held every fortnight until the end of term. Thank you to all who came and please feel free to invite any friends you may have with children under 5.

A fun little rhyme to do with the littlies…

**Acka backa soda cracker, acka backa boo!**

**Acka backa soda cracker, up goes you!**

**Acka backa soda cracker, acka backa boo!**

**Acka backa soda cracker, I love you!**

Growing native Hop bushes

The Grade Three students have also enjoyed practical classes outdoors through their Science subject taught by Mr Jarrod Tyler. For the past term students have studied the biology of plants and learnt how to grow plants from seed. All students have successfully grown a hop bush which is a drought resistant native shrub. The seeds were nurtured in the tropical warmth of the school hothouse. The Grade Three students excitedly collected their hop seedlings to take home during their final science class on Wednesday.

Kool Skools CD Launch

The date of the Kool Skools CD launch will be held on the evening of Monday November 17th 2008 at Charlton.

Birchip Archery Club

Next shoot: Sunday 28th September at 10am – 2pm. South end of Tchum Lake. Lunch and refreshments available at a small cost. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Bob Darby 5492 2898 or Wendy Buteux 0429 798 866

BIRCHIP JUNIOR GOLF

Break-up Day on Sunday 21st Names in 1.30pm for 2pm hit off. 9 Hole Canadian Event with adult partner (perhaps Mum or Dad) BBQ and presentation of trophies to follow

Recent improvements around the school

*Where would we be without Dave?* Over the past few weeks David Valentine, our resident handyman, has been preparing the surrounds of the new primary toilet area ready for paving. Stage one will see paving around the outside of the toilet area and along the mathematics wing. Dave has also prepared room 7a to be a new computer hub area. Mr Whelan will install benches to complete the project ready for term 4.
MIPS TIPS – Year 12 VTAC applicants

If you have completed your application to VTAC, well done – now you can concentrate on your revision during the holidays! **If not, then beware that the 30th September deadline is looming – and remember it’s probably not a good idea to be making your online application on that last day!** Make sure you have all the information you need before the end of term, and that you have someone that can help you with your application should you run into difficulties at the last minute. If you need some last minute advice, try contacting the relevant institution – and some have last minute Open Days during the holidays (see careers newsletter No: 14 or check out websites for info) Know anyone studying in your area of interest? They could also be helpful with some final information about a course or a campus – and they could be home for the holidays. Before you complete your application are you clear on: course pre-requisites? Which campus you are applying for? Any extra admission tests/forms required? SEAS? Other Scholarships? Revisit your friend - the VTAC guide - or www.vtac.edu.au Need assistance? Ask your Careers Teacher or MIPS Coordinator.

Spring into Nature - Tree Planting

Year 9 and 10 students in the Landcare unit, under the direction of Cameron Flowers from the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (MCMA), and Mr Kevin Delaney have been involved in the revegetation and construction of wetland areas at the Pump Hut Reserve (truckwash) on the outskirts of Birchip. A variety of plants and grasses including sedges, poas and juncus were planted over a three week period. This practical activity was an extension of their theoretical studies with the overall aim being to deepen the students’ awareness of the importance of looking after and nurturing the natural environment. The students responded to the tasks in a positive and enthusiastic manner.
WARRACKNABEAL VCAL EXPO

Last Friday 13th September 2008, five VCAL students and three prospective VCAL students attended the Expo run by Tara Leith, a Senior VCAL student from Warracknabeal Secondary College. The expo was a very entertaining and educational day with guest speakers David Gallagher, VCAL Manager and Rob Kune and Kate Clarke from Work Co. The Birchip students had a great day learning about what other VCAL classes had achieved throughout the year. The Birchip students had a lot of fun organising and planning their very stylish VCAL board showing all their work throughout this year.

The guest speakers were very entertaining and enjoyable with all students getting something out of the day. Kate Clark spoke about apprenticeships and how to apply for a school based apprenticeship and apprenticeships in general. Kate posed some questions about School Based Apprenticeships to Shane Harrison from Wycheproof, Tom Rumbold from Birchip and Jenna Jones from Hopetoun.

Report by Patrick Ryan

Birchip Watchem Football Club
Presentation Day – Sunday 21st September 2008
Committeemen are requested to supply a salad please.
Thank you to everyone who assisted with the catering for the Birchip Cropping Group field days. Thanks also to the many people who kindly donated items of food and worked at the site.

Birchip Cricket Club
Working Bee at 4:00 p.m. sharp Thursday 25th September at the George Cartwright Oval
All help appreciated
Please bring shovels and wheelbarrows if possible
Training Commences
4:45 p.m. Tuesday 30th September 2008
George Cartwright Oval
NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

Birchip Watchem Netball Club
Presentation Evening – 6:00 p.m. Monday 22nd September 2008
Please RSVP to Arna Pickering or Heather Hogan.
Could the following people please help set up at 3:00 p.m. at the leisure centre on Monday 22nd September 2008:
- Mary Anne Bell
- Elsie Coffey
- Cody, Tayla Connelly
- Demi Donnellon
- Bridgette, Hayley, Molly Hogan
- Laura Lee
- Stephanie Martin
- Emily Noonan
- Evelyn Reid
- Darci Tierney
Please contact Heather Hogan on 0408 504 583 if you cannot make this time.

Three Day School Holiday Kids’ Club
Monday 29th September – Wednesday 1st October
Uniting Church Hall Birchip
2pm – 4:30pm
with John and Ros Patterson from Adelaide
Games, puppets, stories, songs, craft and snacks.
Everybody welcome
Parents & Friends Club News
The Parents and Friends Club general meeting was held at the Birchip P12 School Wednesday 17th September. The following information is provided for the school community.

First, I must apologize for not putting time of meeting on notice – for all future attendees 7.30pm appears to suit most. As you can all see our name has been changed to Parents and Friends Club – we hope this may entice a few more to attend our meetings.

Our meeting opened with Mr John Richmond. He delivered a comprehensive report on the happenings at our school, not to mention activities further afield. Drug & Alcohol Night for parents, Rock Eisteddfod, Parent teacher interviews, School camps, Radiance Program, School Sports at Rainbow, Professional Development/Meetings for Staff, Student activities at school, Trade training and skills centre and Classroom environment protocol to name a few. Thankyou John.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mrs Simone Christie. Simone gave a very informative talk regarding grants and funding. Simone outlined what makes a good submission and presented us with a wonderful guide on to how to apply for Grants/Funding. Simone emphasized the importance of identifying needs within the community, developing partnerships within our community and with funding bodies, to seize opportunities, to use appropriate language, of following timelines, providing accurate budgets, completing reports and evaluations on time and looking at projects that have long term value within our community. Simone provided us with a number of written resources and advice regarding future workshops. Simone spoke briefly of her role with Neighbourhood House. Our thanks go to Simone for her very interesting, thought provoking and informative presentation.

A reminder of future catering events:
Thursday 23rd October Year 12 Valedictory Dinner,
Monday 27th October Pupil free day – Staff Literacy Inservice
Friday 31st October Art Show
Monday 8th December Grade 6 Celebration Dinner

Lastly, I would encourage all parents & friends to participate in our club meetings. Meetings are always advertised in the School newsletter.

Next meeting: Wednesday 19th November 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.
Venue to be arranged at later date.

Ros McCallum – Secretary Parents & Friends Club

Amendments to the Birchip Squash Club spring season draw

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<tr>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Blue</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Purple</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Lee</td>
<td>M. Bowen</td>
<td>R. Christie</td>
<td>S. Goldsmith</td>
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<td>L. McLoughlan</td>
<td>E. Smith</td>
<td>S. Trollo</td>
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<td>T. Lehmann</td>
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<td>E. Trollo</td>
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Players please note that during the school holidays there will be no squash competition but if players wish to have a hit on Wednesday evenings there will be social squash starting at 6:00 p.m.
Homework!

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<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Welton/Kelly</td>
<td>Up Date Star Awards</td>
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<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Read To the Beat of a Drum during holidays</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
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<td>6 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Trigonometry sheet</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Miss Langley</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Complete set work</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Summary notes, answer questions Chp 9 &amp; 17</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<td>General Maths</td>
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<td>Finish to end of Ex 10E</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Visual representation of South Africa’s history</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>2 practise essays and learn quotes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Study! Study! Study!</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Watchem Craft Market & Car Boot Sale
Sunday 9th November 2008
Watchem Hall
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
$10.00 per site
For enquiries and bookings please call
Tammie Tait on 03 53 992 228

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
Habits of Mind

Year 7 - Global Warming Projects
‘Thinking & Communicating with Clarity & Precision’

On Wednesday 17th September 2008, students, teachers, parents and other family members took part in the year seven global warming presentation. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue cooked by year seven students before heading inside and being engaged in the global warming presentation. The topics covered incorporated the Habits of Mind model which assisted students in completing tasks through offering different thinking strategies. Topics covered on the day included tips on mowing lawns without a lawn mower, Aboriginal and European land use, natural disasters, fossil fuels, a new clothing range, rising sea levels and a quiz to finish the day.

We would like to thank all parents and other family members for taking the time to be involved in the day.