Forthcoming Events

October
Sunday 2nd → Trip to France & Belgium
Tuesday 18th
Monday 17th Parents’ Club Meeting at 7:30pm
Year 7&8 Super 8s Cricket Clinic
Wednesday 19th Year 9&10 Super 8s Cricket Clinic - Horsham
Friday 21st Primary Regional Athletics Championships - Ballarat
Monday 24th Year 6→7 Transition meeting at 7pm
Wednesday 26th Prep Information Meeting - ‘Preparing for School’ - 7.30pm
Thursday 27th Transition Day #1 for Grade 6
Friday 28th Primary Regional Athletics Championships - Horsham

November
Tuesday 1st Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Wednesday 2nd Years 5&6 Kanga Cricket
VET Orientation Day - Horsham for selected Years 9&10 students
Thursday 3rd VCE English Examination
Friday 4th VCE Biology & Further Maths 1 exam
Monday 7th VCE Further Maths 2 & Psychology Exams
Tuesday 8th VCE Maths Methods 1 & H&HD Exams
P-6 Cultural Performance
Wednesday 9th VCE D&T. Maths Methods 2 & Aust. History Exams
Year 7&8 Super 8s Cricket - Horsham
Thursday 10th VCE Specialist Maths 1 Exam
Friday 11th VCE Ag & Hort, Specialist Maths 2 & Accounting Exams
Monday 14th VCE Chemistry & Physical Education Exams
Tuesday 15th VCE Studio Arts & Physics Exams
Wednesday 16th VCE Certificate II (Hospitality) Exam
Thursday 17th VCE IT Software Development Exam
Year 5&6 Kanga Cricket - Donald
Friday 18th VCE Business Management Exam
Monday 21st VCE Certificate II (Engineering) Exam
Monday 21st → Year 11 Examinations
Friday 25th

Term Four Commences
Well the holidays have come and gone – all too quickly. I trust you were all able to find some time to relax and take a breather. Term Four is already looking to be another busy time. Miss Wright returned after spending a little over two weeks on her Spirit of Anzac Teacher Tour. Mr Knights is still in Japan on a three week study tour. He will return next Monday.

Year twelve students have only two weeks of school left. It is important students continue to devote many hours to study, completing practice examinations and revising in readiness for the exams. The Year Twelve Valedictory Dinner will be held on Thursday 27 October 2011. This will also be the last formal day of school for our year twelve students who will leave school following a school assembly on Friday 28 October 2011.

Our France & Belgium travellers continue to enjoy their experience very much. They have visited Bruges, Amiens, Ypres and the Menin Gate where they laid a wreath during a very moving ceremony. The group also undertook some fieldwork around Fromelles, Albert & the Somme regions. Mrs Smith spoke French for 30 minutes with the children at Fromelles School. Mr Whelan, Mrs Smith, Emma Hogan, Stephanie Martin, Brylie Emonson, Maryanne Bell, Jessamy Bennett and Zoe Turnbull will return to Melbourne airport early Tuesday morning. We
will welcome the group back to school on Wednesday 19 October 2011. I’m sure the group will have an extensive report for you all next week.

Year 7 Transition

The Grade 6 – Year 7 Transition Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday 24 October 2011. Transition Day 1 will be Thursday 27 October 2011. Transition Days 2 & 3 will be Thursday 3 & Friday 4 November 2011. One Up Day will be Tuesday 6 December 2011.

Loddon Mallee Zone Athletics
Bendigo

Yesterday, 13 October 2011, nine of our secondary students participated in the Loddon Mallee Region Track and Field Championships in Bendigo at the excellent athletics facilities at LUBAC. These students qualified as a result of their performances at the Interschool sports for the North Central district held back in Term 1.

Schools from Echuca to Mildura, as far down as Kyneton and across to Rochester were in attendance and the standard, as to be expected, was going to be very competitive. Our nine students were, Riley Sayle, Marnie Lehmann, Georgia Lee, Claudia Lee, Connor McGinnis, Cajun Fowler, Dammy Owa, Hayley Hogan and Courtney Gleeson. Once again our students performed admirably. Results as follows:

Marnie Lehmann 15 years Shot Put 1st, High Jump 2nd, 400m 4th placings
Claudia Lee 14 years 400m 2nd place
Riley Sayle 14 years Triple Jump 3rd place
Georgia Lee 13 years Triple Jump 3rd, High Jump 5th place
Cajun Fowler 14 years 400m 4th place
Courtney Gleeson 16 years 100m 4th and 200m 4th
Connor McGinnis 16 years Discus 6th place
Dammy Owa 13 years Discus 5th and Shot Put 6th placings
Hayley Hogan 15 years 1500m 6th place

Marnie's 1st placing in Shot Put with a distance of 9.21 metres means she will now compete in the State Championships held at the new Victorian Athletics Centre in Albert Park in Melbourne on Tuesday October 25th to be exact. Good luck Marnie.

Congratulations to all students on their effort, behaviour and their desire to perform to their best yesterday. Thank you also to Trish and Tony Lehmann for helping out on the day and to other parents for coming along and supporting. Thank you also to Mrs Michelle Lee for her organization and co-ordination of our students on the day. It's great to have supportive staff and parents who always ensure our students are given many opportunities and do well as a result.

VCE, VCAL, VET, SBA&T Information Evening

On Thursday 20 October 2011 a VCE, VCAL, VET, SBA&T Information Evening will be held for students and parents of current year nine and ten students. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. in learning studios Rooms 11 & 12 at the rear of the quadrangle.

The purpose of the evening is to introduce the four options available to students as they enter years 10 and 11. The options include:

- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)
- Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBA&T)

These four educational opportunities will be discussed in detail and the requirements for each certificate discussed by Mr Russell Christie and Mrs Barb Smith.

The order of proceedings for the evening will be:
1. VET information for all year 9 parents and interested year 10 parents commencing at 7:30 p.m.
2. VCE information commencing at 8.00pm.
3. VCAL information

Attendance at the evening will ensure a clearer understanding of options available to your child in 2012 and beyond.
Parents’ Club Meeting  
Monday 17 October 2011  
7:30 p.m.  
Staff Recreation Room  

We would love to see you there.

Thank you for the recent catering events and activities:
- Deanne Botheras & Janine Paley for organizing the successful Fathers’ Day staff and to Julie Lowry and Cathy bales for working on the day.
- Trish Lehmann, Bernadette Smith, Diona and Ron Cooper and Nora Egerer for the beautiful dinner prepared for the Najaf Mazari - ‘The Rugmaker’ night.

Parents Club Catering  
Year 12 Dinner  
27th October at Leisure Centre  

4.00 - 6.00pm - Trish Lehmann, Emma Bennett, Nicole James, Brenda Clark, Rosalie Gould, Stephanie Chamberlin  

6.00pm onwards - Colene Delaney, Simone Donnellon, Lyn Boyle, Louise Lee, Bev Forrester, Jenny (Peter) Noonan  

Year 11 students (Black and White)  
Could you please contact Trish Lehmann if you are unavailable to help on 0417357850.  
Your support for our Year 12 dinner is greatly appreciated.

Maths Is Marvellous —  
You Can Count on it!  

Apply mathematics to real life situations. How many litres of milk does your family drink in:  
- a day?  
- a week?  
- a month?  
- a year?  

Extension: Other foods could be considered such as ice cream, apples, boxes of cereal, bread etc.
Opening of Birchip P-12 School’s new and refurbished facilities – Friday 23 September 2011

The school opened its doors and looked splendid for the official opening of its new and refurbished facilities. Many parents and community members thronged into the new classrooms and were genuinely interested in how school had changed since they were at school.

$500,000 was spent on the old mathematics portables and room 9. And for this grand sum one can hardly recognise these were once tired old rooms with dull furniture. The community library had $125,000 worth of renovations done-including that famous electronic door, new carpets, shelving and borrowing counter. The gentlemen who wandered around the school marvelled at the facilities in the new Trade Training Centre with its state of the art machinery. Across the road, the new commercial kitchen’s stainless steel equipment and benches gleamed. Together, approximately $350,000 was spent on these two facilities which allow students to study practical courses without having to travel to Horsham. Subjects are delivered in a variety of ways and video conferencing is essential so that students do not have to spend hours in the car. To enable video conferencing to take place, $27,000 was spent on installing two, hi-tech receival and broadcasting units.

Other less noticeable additions to the school included approximately $60,000 spent on computers so that now all students from years 5-12 have their own computers. On the roof of the technical wing is a 5kw/hr solar panel installation and the school also installed a 250,000 litres water tank and solar hot water service. Around the perimeter of the school $9,200 was spent refurbishing the Fitness Track and a new front fence adorns the perimeter.

Visitors to the school were amazed at how lively, roomy and vibrant the newly refurbished primary wing that is now re-named the south wing.

The gardens around the school are looking spectacular and this is due to Mr Jarrod Tyler’s talents as a landscape gardener. To ensure that the gardens are looking healthy and lush, $300,000 was spent on a water recycling project that connects the AWB site and town and also harvests GWM supernatant water, installing underground sprinklers to all play and garden areas.

School Council President Mrs Wendy Watts welcomed all the visitors and introduced local members of Parliament; Mr Peter Walsh Member for Swan Hill and Mr John Forrest Federal Member for Mallee. Mrs Watts outlined that $2.2 million dollars had been spent on the school which would allow for our students to receive the best possible education. She thanked Principal, Mr Richmond for all the hard work he had given to managing the various projects and thanked staff for their continued efforts in delivering quality education to Birchip students.

In addressing the audience, Mr Richmond stated that in his 35 years of teaching he had never seen so much money injected into the development and future of Australia’s children - our most precious resource!

After the formalities, school captains Nicholas Bales and Mikaela Christie compared a feast of musical items. The community was interested to see the Rock Eisteddfod performance ‘Dance, dance Barbie’ and the choreography and costuming culminated in a lively, foot-tapping presentation. Mrs Andrea Phelan had worked hard with primary students who all performed an array of Australian songs and poems. The students’ enjoyment in performing to such a large audience was obvious by the enthusiastic looks on their faces.

The entertainment was followed by a shared community barbecue in the quadrangle where students, parents, guests and visitors enjoyed a BBQ and salads prepared by staff and students.
Spirit of Anzac Teacher Tour – Rebecca Wright

During the September school holidays, I was fortunate enough to take part in the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Study Tour for teachers. The aim of this tour is to promote the collaborative teaching of Australian military history in secondary schools across Victoria and to provide innovative teaching resources for history teachers across the state. This tour is sponsored by the Shrine of Remembrance. Seven teachers and two representatives (from the Shrine and Monash University) were selected to take part.

Our tour was extensive and I can’t believe how many things were fitted into the two weeks! We left Melbourne very early Friday 24th September and arrived in Istanbul on Saturday and stayed there for two days. Some of the amazing sights of Istanbul included the Aya Sofia, the Blue Mosque and the Sultan’s castle Topkape Palace, which had beautiful treasures, extensive grounds and looked out over the water. The Grand Bazaar was bustling with energy and shop keepers trying to foist their goods onto all us tourists.

From Istanbul, we had a five hour bus trip to Gallipoli with our local Turkish guide, Haydah. Gallipoli was a magnificent place to visit. Visiting Ari Burnu, Anzac Cove and The Beach cemetery was very moving. Seeing the terrain that our diggers had to face on that early morning on 25th April 1915 was remarkable. Walking up to some of the cemeteries at Plugge’s Plateau, Shrapnel Green, Shrapnel Valley and Lone Pine Memorial, you could see how difficult it must have been for our diggers carrying all their gear and also facing gun fire and shellfire. Our group carried out a dawn service at the site of Ari Burnu, not far from Anzac Cove which was very moving and something I won’t forget.

From Gallipoli, we travelled back to Istanbul and flew to Paris for a change of pace. The heat wave from Istanbul continued over to Western Europe where we enjoyed temperatures of 25-30°C everyday of our trip. Very lucky! From Paris, our English guide took us to Northern France and to Villers-Breteneux, Fromelles, Albert, Poziers, Bullecourt and Mouquet Farm and took us through to where the various battles occurred. Newfoundland Park, the Canadian memorial, was astounding as the trenches have been left intact as they were in World War I (of course much has been grown over). It was fantastic to see how these were constructed.

We left our hotel in Albert and headed further north to Belgium and stayed in Ypres. The food there was amazing, the waffles definitely a highlight. We were fortunate enough to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate memorial service which has been running every day of every year since World War I (except for the years of the Second World War). It was a very emotional experience, especially listening to the Last Post prior to our walk up to the memorial to lay our wreath.

From Belgium, we headed to London on the channel train. London was unsurprisingly cold, although they had just finished a heat wave. We visited the Imperial War Museum, Churchill cabinet rooms and headed south to Sutton Veny and Fovant where many Australian soldiers did their training and also where they were hospitalised from injuries. A school we visited in Sutton Veny teaches their students all about the Anzac soldiers and have named their classes from P-6 after various towns in Australia. From London it was back on the plane and a very long trip to Melbourne.

It was an amazing experience, quite emotional at times but also very enjoyable and I’m very grateful that I was able to take part in it and encourage our Birchip students to visit some of these amazing locations for themselves.
The Beach cemetery at Gallipoli

Anzac Cove

Our group at “The Nek” in Gallipoli

The view from the memorial at Villers-Bretteneux

On our walk near Plugge’s Plateau, Gallipoli

Stonehenge
What: Read Aloud and Rhyme-time demonstrations and activities

Where: Birchip P-12 School Community Library

When: **Fortnightly** Thursdays

- 20th October
- 3rd & 17th November
- 1st & 15th December

10:15 am for all ages

Why: Add to your existing storytelling skills
* learn rhymes & chants
* stimulate brain development
* borrow books from the library
* socialize with other babies and parents
* morning tea provided

** If you know someone with a child aged 0 – 5 in the area please invite them to come along with their child.

For more information contact either Diona Cooper or Kaylene James on 5492 2230
Names and payment for classes must be given to Simone Christie at the Birchip Business & Learning Centre prior to the commencement of each class.

**Yoga**
Monday 17 October – Monday 19 December 2011
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
$60.00

**Dance for fun classes**
Monday 17 October – Monday 5 December
Birchip Public Hall
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Preschool
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Junior
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Senior
$40.00

**Painting Class with Bev Neil**
Sunday 6 November from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(BYO lunch)
Birchip P-12 School Art room
$25 (includes canvas boards, brush & paints)

**Basketball**
Monday nights – Men
Wednesday – Women
Friday - Junior
Starting in the week beginning 24 October 2011 for 5 weeks

**Coming soon**
More cooking classes, water exercise classes, swimming classes …………

**Birchip Tennis Club**
The Saturday competition commences next Saturday 22 October 2011 with a home game against Nullawil. Play is to start at 1:15 p.m.
There will be a practice/social hit on Thursday 20 October 2011 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

**Twilight Tennis**
Names for a competition to be held on Thursday nights can be given to Eileen Smith or Jo Connelly or left at the school office. Tennis will commence at 6:00 p.m. with matches concluding at 7:30 p.m.

**Junior Tennis coaching with Peter Bewley**
Names are being taken by Louise Lee on 0417 159 136 or 54 922 576, for coaching by Peter Bewley on Fridays commencing with the first lesson at 5:30 p.m.
For Sale

Fishing Rod Holders

Tim Phelan and Jarryd Hogan are constructing quality fishing rod holders for the community in entrepreneurial studies at the Birchip P-12 School. They are single rod holders and made from steel. They will also be coated in a silver spray.

Cost:
$10 each or 2 for $18

Phone: Tim Phelan: 53902441
Jarryd Hogan: 54935253

Uniting Church & Birchip/Watchem Netball Club Catering Notification

Thank you for your ongoing support over the year. Please note that the last catering function takes place on Saturday 5th November 2011. Please check your emails and school newsletter for forthcoming catering list.
Thankyou - Louise Lee Catering Coordinator

Birchip Angling Club Fishing Competition

Birchip Angling Club will be holding a twilight competition at Tchum Lake on Thursday 20th October commencing at 5:00pm with weigh-in at the barbecue shelter at 7:00pm. This competition is a bank competition only. Entry is $5 for seniors and $2 for juniors with a barbecue to follow. All new and existing members are welcome. For more information please contact Jarrod Tyler.

Birchip Junior Cricket

Notes were distributed this week to students who expressed an interest in playing junior Cricket this season.

Birchip Junior Cricket is available for students in years 4 → 10

Could names (and $20.00 subs) please be returned to Andrew Sayle or the front office at school by Monday 17th October 2011.

Teams will be selected once names are in and a draw will be organised – hopefully to start as soon as possible.

Kids Cricket

Kids cricket will start this Thursday 20th October 2011.

This is available for children from Prep onwards.
Sessions will be conducted by Mark Bowen from the Birchip Cricket Club.
Time 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cost $15.00

This program will run for eight weeks and is designed for children to improve their cricket skills and have some fun playing cricket.
Any parents available to assist with supervision will be greatly appreciated.
Mark Bowen will organise and run the activities, but will often need a hand when children are split up into smaller groups.

Washin’ da dog

Birchip’s newest small animal washing business!
Located at 26 Cumming Avenue Birchip
Open Tuesday’s
4:30pm to 5:30pm
And Monday’s 9:20am to 10:30am

PRICES:
Small animal - $8
Medium animal - $12
Large dog - $17

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!
Call Molly Hogan on: 54922773
or
Email us at:
darei_jade@hotmail.com

Washed by Molly Hogan, Darc Tierney and Marnie Lehmann!
Please bring your own collar and lead.
Habits of Mind

Science Week
Thanks to Kylie Walsh

During Science week; Grade 6, Year 7 & Year 8 students spent time “gathering data through all the senses” by swabbing their mouths, keyboards, door handles & taps within the Science room. Then “striving for accuracy” the students carefully wiped the swabs across the glass Petri dishes of agar. These dishes spent the next few days in the humidifier.

I decided that I would go about “finding humour” within this experiment during Science week. Using sterile plastic Petri dishes and pineapple jelly to create ‘fake’ agar, then “applying past knowledge” to create various ‘fake’ bacteria/fungi using icing sugar, chocolate sprinkles and green food dye.

On the Friday I took my ‘creations’ to each of the 3 grades; “listening with empathy & understanding” my storytelling evolved as the students were “responding with wonderment & awe” that these dishes were ‘their’ own experiments and various specimens that had ‘grown’ on the agar. The success of the practical activity became evident when I took a spoon and ate the jelly agar with what the students thought was and swab from somebody’s mouth!

As a treat for Science week, all students from the three grades were able to enjoy eating the ‘fake’ samples that they had been ‘foiled’ with (although there was still a little disbelief)!