Forthcoming Events

October
Monday 25th
Year 12 Swat Vac commences
Wednesday 27th
→ Grade 5 Camp to Melbourne
Friday 29th
Thursday 28th
Grades P → 2 Excursion to Melbourne Zoo
VCE Examinations commence
Transition Day #1
Friday 29th
Junior SRC ‘Canteen’ Casual Day
Friday 29th → Birchip Friends of the Library Art Show
Sunday 31st

November
Tuesday 2nd
Melbourne Cup Holiday
Thursday 4th
Transition Day #2
Friday 5th
Transition Day #3
Wednesday 10th
Primary Cultural Show
Thursday 18th
Grade 5 & 6 Kanga Cricket, Donald
Monday 22nd
Year 11 Examinations
Friday 26th
Friday 26th
Last day for Year 11 students
Monday 29th → Year 9 & 10 Examinations
Friday 3rd Dec.

December
Friday 3rd
Last day for year 10 students
Monday 6th
Parents’ Club meeting
Tuesday 7th
One-Up Day, Kinder - Prep, Grade 6 - Year 7, Year 11 - Year 12
Wednesday 8th
Year 9 Driver Education at Charlton
Thursday 9th
Grade 6 Celebration Dinner
Tuesday 14th
Presentation Night
Thursday 16th
Students Reports distributed
Friday 17th
Last official day of school

Farewell and good luck! 2010 Year Twelve Students

Yesterday we farewelled our year twelve students at a school assembly prior to the class leaving and commencing their final study for the fast approaching examinations which commence with English next Thursday 28 October 2010.

Valedictory Dinner

As in previous years, last night’s Valedictory Dinner was amazing. All who attended were so incredibly proud of our 2010 Year 12 students. The VCE Year 12 class presented themselves in a mature and polished way. Students’ speeches were incredibly thorough indicating much thought and effort went into their production. They were professional, positive and filled with happiness whilst at the same time acknowledging the many contributions of parents, teachers and the wider community.

The meal, prepared by Trish Lehmann and the Parents’ Club was again exemplary. Thanks to the many parents who donated and prepared food and worked in the kitchen. Thanks also to the eleven students who professionally served hors d’oeuvres and the meal; another excellent job!

Many thanks to Mr Christie, Miss Wright and Year 12 students for their organization and presentation of the evening.

The school community congratulates our year 12 students and wishes them all the very best for the forthcoming examinations and the future.
Attention: All parents of L plate drivers!
Driving lessons are available on Wednesday nights from 3:30 p.m.
Murray Robinson is willing to come if there are three or more students interested.
The cost is $50.00. Please let Mrs Barb Smith know ASAP if you are interested.
Grade 6 → Year 7 Transition Day 1

As one class leaves our school another enters. Yesterday we welcomed four grade six students from other schools who are interested in coming to Birchip in year seven in 2011. The class of twenty enjoyed the various games and activities Mr Welton had organized. We also took the opportunity to welcome our new students at school assembly.

Transition Day 2: Thursday 4 November 2010
Transition Day 3: Friday 5 November 2010
Transition Day 4: Tuesday 23 November 2010

Spring Art Scholarship Recipients

Two students at Birchip P-12 School have been accepted into a scholarship Program at the Bendigo Art Gallery. Stephanie Martin (year 9) and Emma Forrester (year 10) were selected from students across the west of the state to participate in the one day program. Miss McKenzie nominated the students based on their flair for the visual arts, as well as their commitment to continually improving their skills both inside and outside the classroom. The girls will visit three exhibitions at the gallery and meet the curator of one. They will also participate in drawing workshops that will further enhance the technique of these two enormously talented art students. Congratulations girls and we hope that this encounter will open you up to the possibilities of where your art can lead you.

VET Orientation Day
October 27th

Students who believe they are beginning a VET course should attend this Orientation day. The day starts at 9.00am and will finish at 12 Noon.

- Students and parents should gather at the Horsham College Bus interchange. Students are to gather in course groups under signs posted on the walls of the bus shelter. At this point they will be allocated a supervising teacher. (It would be appreciated if each VET Co-ordinator could nominate a group they wish to go with).
- Students attending UB and Furnishing will walk to the campus with their supervisor.
- Students attending Longerenong and the Wimmera Hub will board the appropriate bus. (Once orientation numbers are in I will be able to arrange buses and will provide you with information re: transport to and from Hub and Longerenong). Students may need $ for bus transfers (Longy $3.60)
- The RTOs have been asked to provide the VET orientation students with hands on activities that introduce students to the program.
- Please ensure that students wear appropriate clothing and footwear. (eg: Covered shoes not thongs, etc.)
- The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN have again kindly offered to provide a sausage sizzle for the VET orientation students. The sausage sizzle will be held at UB courtyard from 12 o’clock until 12.30 - 1pm. Please indicate if your school will participate in this.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Russell Christie
VCE Coordinator

Uniform Shop

The Birchip P-12 School, Uniform Shop opening times are 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. each school day. Please contact Mrs Kaye Haslam and Mrs Sharon Foott for your school uniform requirements.

‘Midford’ Polo tops $20.00
Girls Green Tailored shorts $40.00
Boys Grey shorts $40.00
Year 9, 10 & 11 end of unit examinations

All students in years 9, 10 and 11 will be required to sit formal end of unit examinations similar to the June examination period. It is important that students prepare well for these examinations and ensure all work required has been submitted for assessment. Please refer to the Year 9, 10 & 11 examination timetable.

### Year 11 - Semester 2 Exams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>23rd November</td>
<td>24th November</td>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>26th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 10.40</td>
<td><strong>Orange Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;General Mathematics&lt;br&gt;Alternative Maths</td>
<td><strong>Blue Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;English</td>
<td><strong>Red Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Studio Arts (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Outdoor Ed (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;HHD&lt;br&gt;Chemistry</td>
<td><strong>Pink Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wood (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Drama (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Maths Methods&lt;br&gt;Legal Studies&lt;br&gt;Hospitality Cert II</td>
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| 1.40 - 3.20 | **Yellow Exams**<br>Physics | **Purple Exams**<br>ICT (60 Mins)<br>Biology<br>Business Management | **Green Exams**<br>Engineering II (60 Mins)<br>Physical Education<br>History |

### Year 9 & 10 - Semester 2 Exams

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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>30th November</td>
<td>1st December</td>
<td>2nd December</td>
<td>3rd December</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 10.40</td>
<td><strong>Orange Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;10 Mathematics&lt;br&gt;9 Mathematics&lt;br&gt;Alternative Maths</td>
<td><strong>Blue Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Ed (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Chemistry/Physics</td>
<td><strong>Red Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sculpture Art (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Speak Up</td>
<td><strong>Pink Exams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drama (60 Mins)&lt;br&gt;Hospitality Cert II&lt;br&gt;Blood, Sweat &amp; Tears</td>
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| 1.40 - 3.20 | **Yellow Exams**<br>Biology (60 Mins)<br>Japanese<br>War History | **Purple Exams**<br>Landcare (60 Mins)<br>Health (60 Mins)<br>Horticulture | **Green Exams**<br>Engineering II (60 Mins)<br>Democracy (60 Mins)<br>Food (60 Mins)<br>English Literature |
The drive from Paris to Belgium only took two and a half hours and once at our destination in Ypres, it was off to discover the fortified wall that had surrounded the town since medieval times. Ypres is in the heart of Flanders and has some 155 cemeteries dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War One. Indeed viewing the cemeteries where the tombstones went as far as the eye could see, was a humbling experience and it was almost unfathomable to believe how many young men had given their lives for their ‘king and country.’

We visited mostly cemeteries that honoured dead Australians and all were meticulously kept by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but we also visited Langemark cemetery which honoured the Germans who too had made the ultimate sacrifice. The total number of soldiers buried or commemorated in Langemark stands at 44,234 and in one mass grave there were 24,000 soldiers. However, unlike the cemeteries of the allies, Langemark was in dire need of attention and care.

Our accommodation was only 20 metres away from the Menin Gate, a memorial dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient, a region of the battlefield near Ypres. At 8:00 pm, buglers from the local fire brigade sound the Last Post. This ceremony has been carried on since July 2, 1928 (except during occupation by the Germans in World War II when the ceremony was conducted in Surrey, England). Each name of the missing is inscribed in huge panels that make up the monument. Interestingly, on completion of the memorial, it was discovered to be too small to contain all the names as originally planned. An arbitrary cut-off point of 15 August 1917 was chosen and the names of 34,984 UK missing after this date were inscribed on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing. The Menin Gate Memorial does not list the names of the missing of New Zealand and Newfoundland soldiers, who are instead honoured on separate memorials.

The Birchip students took part in the Menin ceremony and laid wreaths to the 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died without graves. I have been to many ceremonies that commemorated those who died at war but this was by far the most poignant. Our students stood to attention as three hundred on-lookers bowed their heads to the sounds of the ‘Last Post.’ After this was played, a lone bag-piper played ‘Amazing Grace’ and three hundred voices in unison began to hum the tune that echoed through the stately building. It was a most impressive, solemn, and
moving moment that will be with the students for ever.

Ypres occupied a strategic position during World War 1 because it stood in the path of Germany’s planned sweep across the rest of Belgium. During the First Battle of Ypres, the Allies halted the German Army’s advance to the east of the city. The German army eventually surrounded the city on three sides, bombarding it throughout much of the war. British and Commonwealth soldiers often passed through the Menin Gate on their way to the front lines where hundreds of thousands of them were killed.

Where ever we went, Belgians were obviously thankful to the Australians who fought so hard in the war. This gratitude was evident by the fact that the people of Ypres have donated the two carved limestone lions that once adorned the original gate to the Australian War Memorial.

In the Flanders area there are 155 cemeteries and many of them are in the most beautiful settings. To fully appreciate their beauty, on two mornings we went out to watch the sun rise over Polygon Wood cemetery which was dedicated to the Australian Fifth Division. 2,103 soldiers were buried here but only 428 of these are identified. This meant that over three quarters of the burials are men 'Known Unto God'. After looking closely at many of the graves, we then walked through the woods to discover German bunkers.

The students had watched the film, ‘Hill 60’ in Australia and it made the film so real to actually go to the site and see where the Australians had created so many underground tunnels in which to put high-end explosives that virtually bombed the landscape out of existence. We walked around the tunnels and saw first-hand the craters that the bombing made. The largest crater, now renamed the Peace Pool, is the site of one of 19 mine explosions was set off on June 7th 1917 and formed by a 91,000 pound bomb. The site of the 70 metres deep lake is now idyllic and aptly named the Peace Pool.

One of the most enjoyable pastimes in Flanders was scouring the local fields for war memorabilia. Up to our calves in mud, we enjoyed fossicking for bullets, ball bearings, uniform pieces and the occasional shell case. Tramping through the muddy fields allowed us to empathise with the terrible conditions that the soldiers had to live through, month upon month and we were forced to ponder upon the terrible deaths that these artifacts of war had caused. However, on returning to Australia, these pieces from the battlefields were later given up to Customs to be gamma rayed.

While we immersed ourselves in World War One history, we did have time to sample fresh Belgium chocolate and some tried to single handedly boost the Belgian economy by buying kilos of the yummy produce. There was time for shopping for souvenirs in the quaint town of Ypres. Ypres may look old but it has been completely rebuilt after being bombed off the face of Europe. There were no gaudy buildings and everything was in keeping with its Flemish heritage.

One sunny afternoon we made our way to Dunkirk but the town is now modern and once where thousands of soldiers waited on the beach to be evacuated, there were now lovely hotels and shops lining the promenade. The sight of water was too much for Cameron Whelan, Nick Bales and Riley Doran - they had to say that they had attempted to swim in the English Channel. The Channel however is not known for its turquoise clear waters but this did not stop the three from swimming in brown and murky water.

Next week it’s off to the Somme region.
Student Attendance for Term 4, 2010
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 26th November 2010 and then must attend compulsory course planning meetings during Mon 29th November 2010 – Fri 3rd December 2010. 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 3rd December 2010.
Students up to and including Year 9 are required to attend school until the end of the school year on Friday, 17th December 2010.
Reports to all students will be distributed on Thursday 16th December 2010.
Please contact Mr Richmond at the school should you wish further clarification of these dates.

National Bandanna Day
On Friday 29 October, the Junior SRC is organising a fundraiser for Canteen, an organisation that supports young people living with cancer through a very difficult time. Canteen provides programs for young cancer patients, for young siblings and offspring of cancer patients and for young siblings who have lost family members to cancer. This day will be a casual day where students pay a gold coin donation for being out of uniform. Also there will be bandannas available for purchase prior to the day which can be worn on Friday 29 October 2010 as part of National Bandanna Day. Bandannas cost $4 and are available for purchase at the front office. Please help support this worthy cause.

Habits of Mind
This week’s winner
Congratulations to Brodie Andison this week’s winner of the Habits of Mind Award.
Brodie acted with empathy and understanding. He selected a pick of the box toy to give to his brother rather than keep for himself.
Thank you to all students who have been nominated this week. ALL nominated students will go in the running for the end of year prize of the iPod touch.

Answers to last week’s Questions
1. In the 70s, who or what was Chia Chia?
   Giant panda
2. What is legendary guitarist Eric Clapton’s real name?
   Eric Clapp
3. Which two states battled for victory during the Punic Wars?
   Rome and Carthage
4. What is the term for a period of play in polo and generally how long does it last?
   Chukka - 7 and a half minutes.
5. Who, in 1837, invented a very popular version of shorthand?
   Pitman
6. What color is cuckoo spit?
   White
7. In a fresco, what is applied to paint?
   Wet plaster
8. A coney is what sort of animal?
   Rabbit
9. Henry Cotton became famous in which sport?
   Golf
10. What is nepotism?
    Practice of favouring your own relatives.

No questions this coming week due to the grade camp to Melbourne and transition.

Scrapbooking Weekend
Come along and get those projects finished so you can show them at Christmas.
Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th October
10am til whenever - Saturday
10am til 3pm - Sunday
Birchip P-12 School Textiles Room
Queries phone Janine 5492 2767
Art Exhibition
BIRCHIP FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Opening and judging Friday 29th October 8.00pm
Entry $15 includes program, savouries and complimentary wine

PRIZES
Best In Exhibition $500
Best Oil $200
Best Water Colour $200
Best Other Medium $200
Best Local Entry $100
Best Local Content $250
Best Photograph $100
Popular Choice $100
Saturday 30th October 10.30am - 4.30pm
Sunday 31st October 10.30am - 4.00pm
Entry $4 includes program, refreshments available

Come along to the Art Show opening on Friday at 8pm. It’s a terrific time to catch up with friends and have a social chat.

This year, the Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club are supplying multicultural savouries and in their usual style, food will be in abundance.

If you want to drop in over the weekend to see the show, Barb Smith’s food group will be cooking morning and afternoon tea and light lunch.
Parents’ Club News

Thank you to the parents’ Club for their catering efforts last night at the Year 12 Valedictory evening. The meal as usual was wonderful.

Dates to remember: 29/10/2010 Art Show
                  09/12/2010 Grade 6 Celebration Dinner

The last meeting for Parents’ Club will be Monday 6th December 2010. There will be a Christmas theme so if you would like to join us for our last meeting please come along.

Dates for School Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th November 2010</td>
<td>November School Council Meeting at 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2nd November 2010</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd November 2010</td>
<td>Physical Resources Meeting at 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd December 2010</td>
<td>December School Council Meeting at 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th December 2010</td>
<td>Grade Six Celebration Dinner</td>
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<td>Birchip Community Leisure Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th December 2010</td>
<td>Presentation Night at 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Birchip Public Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th December 2010</td>
<td>Last official day of school for 2010</td>
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Birchip Junior Cricket

The Birchip Junior Cricket season fixture, final teams and an umpire’s roster was distributed earlier this week.

Included in this was a list of responsibilities and rules.

Thank you to all parents who volunteered to help.

Good luck to all players for the season ahead.

Cricket this week: Game 2: White versus Siddle

This is a two week game

Umpires Leon Hogan and Danny Lowry

Results from last week’s indoor game: McKay defeated White

Birchip Fishing Club

There will be a Twilight Fishing Competition at Tchum Lake next Tuesday 26th October 2010 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

$5.00 adults, $2.00 for juniors which includes a barbecue.

Entry at the boat ramp.

Contact Jarrod Tyler for particulars – 0427 161 281

Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practise doubles</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Class</td>
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<td>Mrs Taylor</td>
<td>Learn times tables 2, 5 &amp; 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 English</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Private Peaceful</td>
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| 7 Science  |         | Miss Barclay  | Recycling Questions    | 26th Oct.

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Shake Rattle & READ

What: Read Aloud and Rhyme-time demonstrations and activities

Where: Birchip P-12 School Community Library

When: Fortnightly Thursdays

October 28th
November 11th
November 25th
December 9th

10:00 a.m. for all ages

Why: Add to your existing storytelling skills

*learn rhymes & chants for 2010
*stimulate brain development
*borrow books from the library
*socialize with other babies and parents

** 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 Lorna Litt on 54 922 230
Habits of Mind

Grade 1/2

We have been striving for accuracy in the Grade 1/2 class. Here are some of our ideas on how to get it right:

“Check it . . . Look back and make sure it is right.” – Blair Gould

“By not talking you can concentrate.” – Kelsey Davidson

“Double check! Check again to see if it is right.” – Cassie Turner

“Put your head down so you can focus on your work.” – Ruby Cook

“We used a list and ticked off our work.” – Bodie Colbert

“We can look at a calculator to check if it is right.” – Darcy Reid

“Think in your head.” – Patrick Hogan

“Sit up properly.” – Niamh Lewis

“Use the beads and count quietly to work out the answers.” – Chloe Gleeson

“Don’t make loud noises so you can concentrate to work out the answer.” – Ponnu Ajith