### Forthcoming Events

**November**
- **Tuesday 4th**: Melbourne Cup Holiday
- **Thursday 6th**: Transition Day #3
- **Tuesday 11th**: Physical Resources Meeting – 7pm
  - Finance ‘Budget’ Meeting – 8pm
  - Athletics Victoria Coaching Clinic
- **Monday 17th**: Primary swimming program commences
  - Kool Skools CD launch in Charlton
- **Monday 17th → Friday 21st**: Primary Swimming Program Commences
- **Wednesday 19th**: Parents and Friends Club Meeting
- **Wednesday 26th**: Year 9/10 Food excursion
- **Friday 28th**: Primary Report Writing Day – no school for Primary Students
  - 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
  - Year 9 Driver Education
- **Tuesday 9th**: Transition Day #4 (One Up Day)
- **Wednesday 10th**: Summer Showcase – End of Year Christmas celebration
- **Thursday 11th**: School Council Meeting
- **Monday 15th**: VCE results published
  - Activities week commences
- **Tuesday 16th**: Presentation Night
- **Wednesday 17th**: Student reports distributed
- **Thursday 18th**: Last day for students
- **Friday 19th**: Pupil Free Day

### VCE Examinations continuing

The first examination week is over and students continue to be busy with study and examination commitments. The last exam for Birchip students is Tuesday 18th November 2008.

### Meetings Next Week

- **Physical Resources Meeting**
  - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday 11th November 2008
- **Finance Budget Meeting**
  - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday 11th November 2008

These are important planning meetings. I encourage school councillors to be present.

### Early Warning Meetings

Teachers will discuss the progress of all students at Early Warning Meetings on Monday 10th November 2008.

Teachers will follow up with students and may also contact parents if necessary.

### Year 6 – 7 Transition

Our 2009 year 7 students enjoyed another action packed day for transition day #3. Students enjoyed Physical Education with Mr Tyler. Miss Heyden had students engaged in creating colourful abstract circles for Art. Following a quick typing test, Miss Howard had students creating word documents of a mock presentation which included formatting and manipulating text and graphics. Students experienced group work in History where they were given limited resources and time to create a medieval castle. Mr Delaney and student involved themselves in some interactive place geography activities. Mr Richmond took the students for Mathematics. Students were involved with a frog jumping puzzle.
This can be accessed at http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au/home/jr/frogleap.xls. I encourage students and parents to ‘have a go’ and see if they can solve the puzzle. Mr Richmond also introduced the students to Carl Frederick Gauss – a famous mathematician. Students were introduced into a method of adding up the sum of various consecutive numbers, e.g., what is the sum of the numbers from 1 + 2 + 3 + …….. + 99 + 100. Mrs Eileen Smith played memory and quick thinking games during English. At lunchtime the students enjoyed a BBQ of hamburgers and sausages cooked by Mr Tyler & Miss Langley along with fruit and juice.

**P - 6 Swimming Program – Helpers wanted**

The P - 6 Swimming Program will commence on Tuesday 17th November 2008 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Swimming will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week until 12th December 2008. If you are able to help, on all or some of these days, please contact Greg or Janine Welton as soon as possible. Please note that due to safety issues, pre-school children are not permitted to attend with parent helpers.

Janine Welton
P - 6 Swimming Coordinator/AUSTSWIM Teacher

**Head Lice**

We have had reports of Head Lice again. They seem to be a greater problem in warmer weather, but outbreaks are easily contained if infestations are treated properly. Please check all heads carefully, tie hair back away from the face and repeat treatment after 7 days if lice are present.

For further information or assistance, please contact Mrs Kelly.

Improvements around the school

The grounds and buildings of Birchip P-12 have changed considerably over the course of 2008. Recently we have watched the completion of the impressive new technology shed situated east of the school. There has also been a computer room upgrade, the creation of a literacy intervention centre, the installation of a barbeque area as well as other paving and sculptural works.

The technology shed was an initiative of Technology and Wood teacher Mr Cameron Whelan. The initiative came about through a unit Mr Whelan conducted last year where students identified the need for a metals and engineering shed. This year’s students fabricated much of the building including installing the uprights and framework based on drawings drafted by Mr Whelan.

The new building is now fitted out and operational. Mr Whelan and students from three subjects are currently using the shed for a variety of purposes. It is a great initiative and has allowed students to learn skills in metal work and construction not generally attained in the previous classroom environment.

There will soon be improved computer room access at the school with the refurbishment of
Room 7A. Room 7A was traditionally a small computer room but has been refitted to accommodate larger classes. The room is now a bright and inviting environment and ergonomically sound for students and staff to learn in.

The room formerly known as the ‘careers’ room has now been converted to a literacy intervention centre where students can go for tuition such as Reading Recovery and Bridges programs. The two rooms created within the old careers space will be more comfortable and spacious for students and staff involved in the literacy intervention programs.

The school quadrangle now features a useful L-shaped barbeque facility built by Year 12 student Gareth Cozens as part of his school-based assessment. The barbeque includes a sink with hot and cold running water for easy clean up, a large hot plate and ample stainless steel bench space. Student groups have enjoyed the convenience the new structure has brought to the many barbeques conducted during school activities.

Our resident maintenance contractor, Dave Valentine, has also been busy improving the school grounds through his meticulous paving. These outdoor spaces will be further enhanced by a collaborative student sculpture called ‘Tuesday’. ‘Tuesday’ will be finished and installed for Summer Showcase, which will take place on Wednesday 10 December 2008.

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**Advance Summer Day**

As part of Year 9 Advance we have to complete a community project. This year our community project is the restoration of the garden at the back of the squash courts. To raise money to fund this project we are planning to have a Summer Day on Monday 17th November 2008. The menu includes fruit kebabs, Caesar salads and 3 varieties of drinks.

Please fill in and return the envelope attached to back of the newsletter with money by Wednesday 12th November for catering purposes.

Thank-you for your support of our project.

Branden Atkinson, Nick Bales, Mikaela Christie, Conor Hogan, Hugh O’Keefe, Evelyn Reid, Tim Walder and Karleigh Weir

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**Homework Questions**

**Due 14th November 2008**

1. Which country peacefully dissolved into the independent states of Slovakia and Czech Republic in 1993?
2. Where did Australia’s first parliament meet?
3. Who are the actors who play “Kath and Kim”?
4. Who was the first person on board *Endeavour* to spot the Australian mainland?
5. Who led the miner revolt at the Eureka Stockade, Ballarat in 1854?
6. What is the last letter of the Greek alphabet?
7. In which continent would you find the Kalahari Desert?
8. Who won the first Academy Award or Oscar?
9. What did Alessandro Volto invent in 1799?
10. Who invented television and when did it happen?

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**Answers to last week’s questions:**

1. The Parana River flows through Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil and Uruguay.
2. Australia’s floral emblem is the Golden Wattle or *Acacia Pycnantha*.
3. There are 100,000 square metres in ten hectares.
4. Australia’s (and the world’s) most venomous snake is the Inland Taipan.
5. Australia is considered a continent, the next largest island is Greenland.
6. The ten symbols of the Hindu Arabic numeral system are 0123456789.
7. Korea is also known as ‘The Land of Morning Calm’.
8. If you are festinating, you are hurrying.
9. Mars has two moons called Deimos and Phobos
Lions Youth of the Year Quest

The Quest is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. It does this by selecting an outstanding young person from candidates throughout Australia to travel overseas and act as an ambassador for Lions Clubs International.

The Quest seeks a high level of academic, leadership, sporting, public speaking and citizenship achievement in its potential winners. By emphasising these qualities it hopes to provide outstanding role models for the youth of Australia and an overall increase in the confidence of young men and women.

It is an excellent means of assisting Australia's youth and promoting the essential role of leadership development and community service organisations in maintaining Australia's high standard of living.

The Birchip Lions Youth of the Lion Quest will be conducted on Wednesday 3rd December 2008. It will involve:
- Interviews during the day at a mutually convenient time (approximately 40 minutes)
- Responses to 2 impromptu questions – approximately 5 minutes with a very small audience
- Prepared 5 minute speech at the Lions Dinner that evening.

Expressions of interest and entry forms can be obtained from Mr Richmond ASAP. Please give this your serious consideration.

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Birchip P-12 School
‘Parents & Friends’ Club Meeting to be held on Wednesday 19th November 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room
Please keep this night free.
SUPER 8S CRICKET

On Thursday Birchip P-12 was represented by one boys and on girls team in the regional super 8s Years 7/8 cricket carnival. This is a competition where a team of 8 have one over each and each batting pair face two overs. Runs are accumulated in the normal fashion as well as bonus 5 runs gets added to your total for every wicket that you take when bowling.

The boys team won 2 out of 3 three matches, but were unlucky to come up against eventual Grand Finalists (Horsham) in their first game. All players played well with Brenten Delaney and Curtis Smith compiling the highest score as a pair for Birchip. Thanks also to Mr Knights who looked after and umpired the boy’s games and was often left as the only umpire.

The girl’s team won all three matches and were unlucky not to play off in the grand final, this being decided by runs aggregate.

The girl’s strength was in bowling, with Laura Lee becoming feared amongst the opposition. There were also many boundaries scored when batting and a couple of spectacular run outs. All girls played well and contributed to the success of the team.

Hopefully after a successful introduction this year we may be able to enter teams in the Yr7/8 and Yr9/10 competitions next year.

Andrew Sayle

Wooden Animals

The Grade 4, 5 and 6 students have grouped together to create different businesses. Kellie James is the president of the wooden animals group. The students are planning to run a marked day called Mind Your Own Business. We need help and support to market our animals. Prices for each animal are $2.00. There will be a selection of animals to buy. A note for orders will be sent home in the near future.

Take a Break Holiday Program 2009 - At “Portland Bay Lodge,” Portland

The Take a Break Holiday camps program is an initiative of Uniting Church Camping and Wimmera Uniting Care. All food and accommodation is provided at no cost to the participants. The camps are held in school holiday periods with up to sixteen families/couples attending each camp. The holiday makers all come from drought affected communities, some are farmers or are working on farms, some are townies, some are business owners, some are retired farmers, some just need a break to rekindle their spirits.

The camps are not only for those in critical financial situations, they are for families and couples living in a drought affected communities who need a break and are hesitant to do so because of financial constraints. The Uniting Church recognises the value of spending time together as a family and wants to encourage families and couples to take time to maintain their family relationships. Life in rural Victoria during recent years has been very stressful for many, and this holiday program is an opportunity for families and couples in rural communities to “Take a Break”. The dates for the holidays are:

Arrive Wednesday 14th January 2009  Depart Sunday 18th January 2009
Arrive Monday 19th January 2009  Depart Friday 23rd January 2009

Application process:
- Applications will be received up to November 14th
- All applicants will be notified of the result of their application by November 25th

For further information about “Take a Break” call Norval on 53564241. If you need any further information or help with the application please contact Mrs Eileen Smith at the school.

School Bags & Hats

A new supply of green bucket hats has arrived. They are light weight poly cotton with a drawstring for adjustments. $6.00 each.

Primary back packs are available for $35.00 and larger backpacks suitable for secondary students are available for $45.00 & $50.00.

There are still a few of the older style school carry bag available.
**Scholarships – ‘Carry On’ Grant**

‘Carry On’ will assist children in years 7-12 to pay for their educational expenses for 2009.

To qualify you must be:

1. A former or serving member of the military forces who have recognised service in war or on Peace Keeping duties.
2. A former or serving member of the military who have been injured and whose need or distress has been caused directly by such service.
3. Spouse, widow, widower and dependent children of the above.

If you think you fit any of these categories, please let Mrs Eileen Smith know or phone: 96292648

**Athletics sports training course**

Training course for teaching skills for athletic sports for any interested staff, parents, older students or community members. Facilitated by TRAKSTART – free of charge.

To be conducted at Wycheproof P-12 College Wednesday 12th November 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Wear comfortable clothing/footwear.

Names to Rhonda Allan, Mallee Sports Assembly

Telephone: 54 937 796 ASAP.

**Junior Cricket**

Border vs Waugh

Waugh 104
Harrison Christie 32 retired
Brenten Delaney 18
Hugh O’Keefe 11 retired

Border
Hayley Hogan 2/2

Border are batting this week

Umpires: Russell Christie and Andrew Sayle

**Linda Griggs Dancing School presents**

*Mama Mia*

15th November 2008

Memorial Hall - Donald

**Birchip Playgroup Progressive Shopping Night**

Birchip Playgroup - Progressive Shopping Night will be held tonight Friday 7th November 2008 beginning at the Birchip Cropping Group, with registration and complimentary drink between 6:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Shopping to start at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $12.00 and include supper, drinks and a mystery gift. All enquiries to Belinda Randall on 50 854 235.
**Watchem Market**

Sunday 9th November 2008
Watchem Hall
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- 15+ Stall Holders
- Free Jumping Castle
- Donuts, Barbecue, Soft Drinks, Tea and Coffee available
- Small Paper Boomerangs free to children to colour
- Limited number of “Back to Watchem” DVDs for sale

$10 per site
For enquiries and bookings please call Tammie Tait on 03 53 992 228

**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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| 4/5 | Class | Mrs Kelly | Oral presentations
Spelling List 28, General Knowledge Questions, tables
MYOB – keep working | 17th Nov
14th Nov |
| 5/6 | Class | Mr Welton | General Knowledge questions
Oral presentations
List words
Star Award to be completed by, MYOB | 14th Nov
17th Nov
Ongoing
1st Dec |
| 7 | Maths | Miss Barclay | Maths Mate | 10th Nov |
| 7 | English | Mrs Smith | Finish Don’t Call Me Ishmael | |
| 8 | English | Mrs Smith | Finish Ireland essay | |
| 9/10 | History | Miss Johnson | Work on mini essays | 14th Nov |
| 10 | Crime & Punish | Mrs Smith | Journalist essay on capital punishment | |
| 11 | History | Miss Johnson | 5 different interpretations of Sharpeville massacre | 14th Nov |
| 11 | Chemistry | Miss Barclay | Start revision for exam | |

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
The adolescent world is a confusing place. In this unit, year seven students explored a range of issues. Topics include life from conception to the raging teens, the adolescent brain, education, family, contraception, STIs, health services available, ancient practices in relation to health and HEALTHY EATING.

During the week, students recognised the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. This morning students worked in groups to prepare fruit salad, milk shakes (no ice cream of course!), pancakes and cereal. Students ate their healthy breakfast together.

**Applying past knowledge to new experiences**

“In food we have learnt a lot about safety, we can use what we learnt in food to help us prepare our healthy breakfast” – Jackson Sayle

“Yes, we need to remember to wash our hands before we begin” – Jessamy Bennett

“Also we must use and wash the knives carefully” – Stephanie Martin

**Thinking interdependently**

What skills do you need in order to think interdependently?

“Communication” – Mitchell Weston

“Listen to each others’ ideas” – Maryanne Bell

“Assign a team leader” – Stephanie McClelland

**Striving for accuracy**

“Measure ingredients correctly”

– Brylie Emonson

“Ask questions if you are unsure of what you are doing” – Zoe Weir

“You could always consult Baz” – David Casey