Forthcoming Events

November
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

January 2009
Wednesday 28th  Staff Resume

February
Monday 2nd  Students in Years 1 - 12 commence school
Prep Testing Begins
Thursday 5th  Prep students commence school

SUMMER SHOWCASE

The end of the year is fast approaching. Summer Showcase will be held on Wednesday 10th December 2008. It is our festival or celebration to showcase our students’ work during the year and to say thank you to our community of supporters during the year. We have been incredibly fortunate to have so many people to assist us with the education of our children.

The whole school will be open for display from 4:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. a FREE barbecue in the quadrangle will available to everyone who attends. There will be sausages and hamburgers available with salads provided by the Parents’ Club.
At 7:00 p.m. our primary and secondary students will entertain all present with their musical and drama items.
I encourage all families to attend to help celebrate our many achievements and successes this year.

REPORT WRITING DAYS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SECTIONS

Pupil Free Day for Primary students tomorrow (Friday 28th November)
There will be NO school for primary students tomorrow. Teachers will be busy writing end of semester reports.

Pupil Free Day for secondary students next Tuesday (Tuesday 2nd December)
There will be NO school for students in years 7 – 10 as their teachers will also be report writing.

Classes working towards the end of the year
Friday 5th December 2008 is the last day of timetabled classes for year ten students.
For students in years prep – year 9, classes will continue as normal until Friday 12th December 2008.
Activities week will commence from Monday 15th December 2008.

New 2009 staff to visit Birchip P – 12 School

We were fortunate to have our three new teachers visit during the week to meet our staff and become a little more familiar with their new school in 2009. Many thanks to Mrs Barb Smith who organized a staff lunch and welcome for our new staff. Our new staff include: Mr Gavin McRae (Physics & Mathematics), Miss Sacha Meehan (Biology & Science) and Miss Stacey Hicks (English & History).
ALPINE SCHOOL

Our Alpine School team of Hayden Collins, Kirsten Geason and Emily Noonan have only one week left before their return. As their Liaison Teacher Mr Marchesi was fortunate enough to visit them last weekend and accompany them on their final three day hiking expedition through the Victorian High Country. It was supposed to be only 3 days, but as the extreme weather unfolded things took an unexpected turn.

With packs strapped on and high spirits the crew left Mt. Hotham on a clear Friday morning and headed down through the West Kiewa Valley, camping beside mountain streams and visiting some of the historic Cattleman’s Huts that dot the region. Our students were teamed with a group from Rainbow and Frankston; 12 students in all. They showed great leadership as they worked together to set up camp, cook and check on each others welfare in the increasingly cold conditions.

On the Sunday they all awoke to a 30 – 40 cm blanket of snow, some even had trouble getting out of their tents! The team still had a days walk ahead of them up out of a steep valley back to Mt. Hotham, where blizzard conditions and 100km gusts were awaiting them. The students worked as one taking turns at ‘snow ploughing’ a track through the at times knee deep snow. Finally at lunch the call was made to seek refuge in an emergency hut – they would stay out an extra night. Everyone took this in great spirits, not even complaining about the fact they only had a few biscuits and fruit for dinner.

Finally the team awoke to a fine Monday morning, brilliant sunshine glaring off the now snow capped mountains that surrounded them. They made great time back to their finish point amid shouts of “we made it!” from the students – the stories they would be able to tell their class mates!

Many thanks to Mr Matt Marchesi for taking the time to travel to Alpine School and spend the weekend with our students on their expedition.
KANGA CRICKET

After a 7am departure our squad of eight senior primary girls travelled down to Hamilton to take part in the Regional Kanga Cricket Final. The winners in the final would progress on to play at the MCG.

The girls had a most enjoyable day recording one win and two losses and meeting some cricketers with excellent skill. Even in our two losses we were competitive for the majority of the matches and displayed some tremendous skill as well.

In our first game against Heywood the highlights included impressive bowling from Hayley Hogan and Sophie Hogan. Scores Birchip 94 runs to Heywood’s 86.

The next game was against a strong Warrnambool East combination, a team which would end up undefeated in the preliminaries and eventually make the final. Warrnambool East 186 runs defeated Birchip 112. A feature of this game was Molly Hogan and Dammy Owa’s great fielding and Bridget Sullivan’s catch and desperate run out attempt.

Our final encounter was against Bundarra (a Portland school). Our girls batted well and we seemed to have our opponents in trouble but a late flurry of heavy hitting saw Bundarra overtake our score. Bundarra 136 runs defeated Birchip 104. Marnie Lehmann’s great catch, Claudia Lee’s excellent fielding around the boundary and Jasintha Yarde’s fantastic run out were highlights here.

The girls really enjoyed the day and thanks to Heather Hogan for assisting with the driving and support.
Year 9/10 Food Excursion

Year 9/10 food students enjoyed a day visiting local food processing businesses yesterday. They visited Glenloth Game, Simply Tomatoes and Saluté Oliva. The variety of primary and secondary processing of food taking place in the area was a surprise to the students.

James Totzenberger commented that “it was interesting to see all of the successful businesses we went to had most of the production being done by hand, therefore making work more enjoyable and rewarding for employees and the owners. Ray Poulton was moved to “see an average person become such a success by value adding to green tomatoes. Marilyn Lanyon started her business by a friend’s recipe and progressed from there. Cassie Hogan found Glenloth Game interesting because “we got to see how to kill the animals and who they send all their meat too.”

Saluté Oliva gave the students a look at a tree change situation in which Peter and Marlies moved to Boort and planted 800 olive trees. The highlight however was the beautiful cherries they shared with us straight from the tree!! The students enjoyed lunch at Lake Boort which they prepared prior to the day.

Thank you to Ian and Chris Milburn, Marilyn Lanyon and Peter and Marlies Eicher for taking the time to talk to the students and show them around their enterprises.

Students Prepare to Deck Cumming Ave

In conjunction with Birchip Forum, the Birchip P-12 students have been busily working on rejuvenating Christmas decorations for Cumming Avenue. The decorations will enjoy a fresh coat of paint and fresh tinsel before their installation in the main street of Birchip.

Year 8 students are assisting with preparing the decorations as part of their Star8 community service obligation. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 all participate in the Star program which was designed by Miss Helen Digby to build, amongst other qualities, community spirit.

Students were certainly enthusiastic in cleaning up the framework of each decoration and were displaying both community and festive spirit.
Homework Questions
Due Friday 5th December 2008
1. What does the acronym NASA represent?
2. Describe a lychee?
3. What is a petiole?
4. How does a pugnacious person behave?
5. How would you move to a toccata?
6. If you are vexed, how do you fee?
7. Who composed the folk opera ‘Porgy and Bess’?
8. Where is your cerebellum and what does it do?
9. What is miasma?
10. From which plant do we obtain tapioca?

Answers to last weeks questions:
1. Porto is found in Portugal.
2. Salmon leap over obstacles to make their way to breeding grounds.
4. Canaries were used in mines to give warning of dangerous gases.
5. A collier was built to carry coal.
6. Urine is made in your kidneys.
7. A collection of penguins is called a rookery.
8. The capital of Israel is Jerusalem.
9. A whelk is a shellfish like a snail.
10. Black smokers are hydro thermal (hot water) vents on the ocean floor.

Party Mix!!!
Party Mix are selling elastic bouncy balls for $1.00. They are also selling cupcakes; vanilla for 75c and chocolate chip for $1.00. We will be selling these items on Friday 12th December 2008. If you would like to order some cupcakes you can ask Hayley Hogan, Chanel McGinnis, Dammy Owa, Megan McKinnon, Sam Milne or Ronald Turner.

You do not need to order the elastic balls but if you want a special colour you can ask Ronald Turner or Sam Milne.

Thank you from the ‘Party Mix’ team.
Hayley Hogan, Chanel McGinnis, Dammy Owa, Megan McKinnon, Sam Milne or Ronald Turner

SUMMER SHOWCASE COSTUME REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS
Primary students will be involved in musical and drama items for Summer Showcase on Wednesday 10th December 2008. Mrs Andrea Phelan (Music teacher) requests the following costumes for students.

Grade Prep/1
Children to dress in Christmas fashions!! Green school shorts will be fine and either white, green, red or a “Christmas” T-shirt. Santa hats, reindeer antlers, tinsel or whatever you think looks OK.

Grade 1/2
Children are to dress in football gear, any team, shorts and jumper/top Runner are fine, but no football boots please.

Grade 3
Chloe Rymer
A pretty dress and shoes
James Paley
Good pants and a smart shirt, perhaps even a tie!!
Joe O’Donnell
As a witch doctor!
All other students in school uniform with festive additions they can put on for Christmas items. Eg; Santa hats, reindeer ears, Christmas T-Shirts.

Grade 4/5
Royce Bennett
DJ, Jeans, Denim Jacket, Black shirt, Cool glasses!
Rebecca Botheras
Dressing Gown.
Shae Colbert
Newsreader. Looking very smart!! Good shirt
All other students, seventies outfits. Bright colours, folk style etc.
Could students name all items, put them in a named plastic bag and bring for our full dress rehearsal, Tuesday 9th December 2008.

Junior Cricket
Results from game 2 (washed out game)
Waugh 104 defeated Border 74
Waugh: Jake Hogan 28 retired
Border: Harry Christie 2 wickets for 4 runs

Results from game 3
Chappell 71 defeated Waugh 71
Chappell: Nick Bales 21
Luke Lovett 16
Riley Doran 11 retired

Ladder
Border: 1 win (Total 182 runs)
Waugh: 1 win (Total 168 runs)
Chappell: 1 win (Total 141 runs)

This week
Game 4: Chappell versus Border
Umpires James Rickard & John Bales (for Peter Doran)
Beulah Pre-school

Could any parents interested in their child attending 3 year old kindergarten sessions at Beulah Preschool in 2009 please contact Kylie McCredden (53902204) or Prue McCredden (53990512). A great program is offered in small group sessions.

Lost - Green zip through school jumper, size s
Wanted - egg containers contact 5085 4253

Vicswim at Watchem

Watchem Swimming Pool has been allocated Program 1 - Monday 5th to Friday 9th January 2009 and Program 2 - Monday 12th to Friday 16th January 2009.

In the current Vicswim brochure the class times were for morning sessions. This has been changed to afternoon sessions - 2pm to 5pm for both programs.

Enrolment closing date is 12th December 2008.

Junior Tennis Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Premiership Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federa</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>116%</td>
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<td>Williams</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>119%</td>
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<td>Nadal</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivanovic</td>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>68%</td>
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Individual aggregate

Mikaela Christie 42 games
Laura Lee & Hugh O’Keefe 35 games,
Jackson Sayle and Jesse Smith 33 games
Jake Hogan and Dean Lovett 32 games.

It is important that players let their team captains or Heather, Louise or Simone know in advance if they are unavailable for any of the matches so substitutes can be arranged to ensure the scheduled sets can proceed.

P/1, 1/2 & 4/5 Christmas Cards

Orders close Friday 28th November
Collection Monday 1st December

Orders Available From the Birchip P-12 School Office.
Pack of 10 with envelopes. $5.

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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Counting by 1, 2, 5 &amp; 10s and backwards by 1 from any number between 100 to 0</td>
<td>5th Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>General Knowledge Questions, Learn Tables, Spelling List 30</td>
<td>1st Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Maths Mate</td>
<td>3rd Dec</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Mysteries</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Finish exposition</td>
<td>1st Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Quadratics Assignment</td>
<td>1st Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
Birchip’s Community Christmas Carnival

In the Hall and Morrison Street

Tues 23rd December 2008 from 6.30pm -

* Santa visiting Santa’s Winter Wonderland between 7 & 8pm
* Christmas Angels face painting
* Bouncy Castle & Cha-Cha
* BBQ & soft drink for sale
* BYO alcohol

Music all Night

* 7pm-8pm Easy listening music
* 8pm-9pm Community Carol Singing, Reading of the Christmas Story & a visual display of the Year that Was
* 9.00pm-12 ‘SEVERED’

$5 person (adult or school aged child) or $20 family (includes unlimited rides)
[Sponsored by Mitchell Water.]

Parents and Friends Catering
The Catering has been a great fund raiser for the school, and we know how hard it is to find extra time to do these things, but we do really appreciate every one’s time

Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
Monday December 8th

Please find a roster for parent helpers, during the day and evening below

Morning 10.00am
Trish Lehmann, Julie Lowry, Emma Bennett, Mandy Valentine, Tracey Bennett, Janet Smith

Evening 6 pm (if you could please wear black and white)
Co ordinator - Claire Cook, Noeline Hogan, Caramel Rumbold, Bern Smith, Mandy Moloney, Bern O’Donnell, Melissa Rickard and Students selected by Youth Group

Swimming Squad
Wednesdays swimming squad has changed to Monday 1st December - for this week only
Wednesdays classes also changed to Monday - for this week only.
Times to stay the same.
The P-6 Swimming Program commenced last week in cool conditions. On the first day we participated in an emergency drill and since then the children have been working on improving their swimming and water safety skills. One of the premises of learning to swim is to build on previous learning.

This week in warmer conditions the older children have been striving for accuracy to develop their stroke techniques. They have been practicing to improve various competition strokes as well as survival and water safety techniques.

The top groups will build up their endurance levels and progress from swimming in appropriate clothing to swimming in casual clothes such as tracksuits and windcheaters. The students simulate accidentally falling into water. They then use their swimming and water safety skills to aid rescue.

The younger children have been working on water familiarization. Many have increased their confidence and are exploring ways of entering, exiting, submerging and moving in water.

The following comments are in answer to - How have you improved? What have you been doing in the water? :

Ruby: - “I’ve tried my hardest to swim and tried my hardest to do a good job and listen to the teachers”

Joe Boyle: - “. . . improved with my long distance and working as a team, surviving out in water.”

Ethan McGinnis: - “. . . proved that I can go faster than when I was in New Zealand!”

Claudia Lee: - “I’ve improved my breathing, learnt how to stay positive if out in the ocean and learnt to stay as a group.”

Tori Hogan: - “I’ve learnt how to breathe better and how to do freestyle better.”

Leslee Cooper: - “. . . learnt how to do freestyle properly and I got faster and better learning how to do backstroke.”

Blair: - “Jumping and swimming in the pool. I’ve been going under water and on boards.”