What a performance!

Madagascar yesterday was awesome! All students involved either in the items leading up to the performance or the cast and crew did a splendid job. Everybody raved about the talent of our students and of course directors and musicians Miss Eleisha Heyden, Miss Elisha Johnson and Mrs Andrea Phelan.

The final performance of course is tonight at 8:00 p.m. The cast are required at the hall at 6:00 p.m. and primary students should be at the Birchip Learning Centre dressed in their clothes by 7:30 p.m. This will enable pre-organization to occur along with face painting etc.

Presentation Night

Presentation night will be held on Tuesday 15th December 2009 commencing at 8:00 p.m. in the Birchip Public Hall. Students from years prep - 11 should be dressed in full summer uniform with appropriate shoes and socks. Year 12 VCE students should dress semi-formal.

It is important that students and parents arrive by at least 7:45 p.m. to ensure a prompt start at 8:00 p.m. Students will sit in the front left area of the hall with parents and friends occupying the other sections.

There will be a Presentation Night rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the hall.

Parents, family members and friends are most welcome to attend presentation night to celebrate the school’s achievements during the year.

Past student, Ricky Bell, will be our guest speaker on the night. Ricky attended Birchip P-12 School from
Student reports
Thursday 17th December 2009

Student reports will be distributed to all students Prep – 11 from 3:15 p.m. on Thursday 17th December 2009. School magazines will also be distributed to students who have ordered and paid for them.

Students will be expected to clean lockers out on this day and take all work and equipment home on this day.

Last day of the school year – Friday 18th December 2009

On the Friday (DEECD official last day), staff will be involved in rearranging rooms and moving furniture and equipment in readiness for the new school year. Students who attend will either be expected to assist with this task or will be involved in supervised alternative educational activities, not in their normal timetabled classes.

School hours on the final day of school will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Buses will run at the normal time in the morning however home bound buses will depart the school at 1:15 p.m. This is approximately 2¼ hours prior to the normal scheduled times. Bus travelling families are asked to ensure their children are collected from their bus stops at this earlier time.

Stoves for sale

Due to the Home-Economics Room refurbishment we have 2 x gas upright stoves for sale. One is $200.00 and the other $100.00. If interested, please contact John Richmond on 0417 106 033.

School Council Dinner

Last night was the last meeting of the Birchip P-12 School, School Council for 2009. It was a dinner meeting where school councillors came together to celebrate our many successes during the year. The dinner was superbly catered for by Trish Lehmann and Prue McCredden. The night merely highlighted again the abilities of Trish who also freely gives of her time and energy to lead the Parents’ Club catering group. Thank you Trish and Prue for your efforts.

It was also an opportunity to farewell Angela Liston who has been a school councillor for the past 13 years since 1997. Angela has been a driving force behind many initiatives at school. Her ability to organize, cater and source ideas and initiatives for functions especially the annual school fete, BCG expo day and various other fundraisers has been amazing. Angela has also been the vice-president of school council for some years now. Thank you Angela for your many efforts and your sage advice during this time. President Wendy Watts made a presentation to Angela to acknowledge her efforts over the past 13 years.

2010 - 1:1 notebook program

School Council moved to introduce a 1:1 notebook program for students in year nine, ten and eleven in 2010. Of course there will be a parent and student information meeting early in the 2010 new year to discuss various issues surrounding the implementation.
**Change to Navy Blue Top in the Primary Section**

As a P-12 School it is important that uniform is relatively consistent across the board. To this end parents at Parents’ Club and School Council have agreed to change the green top in the primary section to a navy blue top. This will then align the uniform colours from prep to year 12.

The school will introduce navy blue fleecy tops and windcheaters for students in the primary section from 2010.

Just You Casuals will ensure appropriate stock is available.

The transition for navy blue tops will occur over a 2 – 3 year period to ensure no family is disadvantaged.

There will be no change to the white polo top.

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**Community Christmas Concert**

Primary school students are welcome to star in a short Christmas play as part of the Community Christmas Carols by Candlelight night on Wednesday 23rd December 2009 in the Birchip Public Hall. All those willing to take part can come along to practice on Monday 21st December 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the hall. For further information ring Angela O’Donnell on 54 922 437 or contact Simone Christie at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre (birchipblc@bigpond.com)
Flight Training in Donald

Freshly home from their flight to Hobart, the Flight students took off to Donald to learn from model plane enthusiast, Murray Broughton of Donald. Murray has been building and flying model planes for over thirty years and his enthusiasm for planes was infectious. The group looked over Murray’s extensive collection of planes and cars and witnessed the development of planes from petrol to electricity. Murray explained the principles of flight and then took the students for a practical session. The group were amazed at the aerobatic performances of the little planes and the accuracy that they could achieve with a remote control. Shane Barker and Jesse Smith were thrilled to be allowed to fly Murray’s plane but Murray was close at hand, just in case the boys ran into trouble. The students really enjoyed their morning with Murray and learned much from his vast experience.

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Three outstanding young people took up the challenge to take part in the 2009 Birchip Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Darcie Cooper, Emily Hogan and Kate Watts met with the judges, Anne McClelland and Shan Coffey who asked them general knowledge questions on politics and their opinions on the running of the nation. Participants always find the second part of the quest daunting - the giving of two impromptu speeches. The topics that the girls discussed were interesting and elicited a wide range of responses. The first topic was, ‘A recent survey of young people, aged between 13-16, revealed that for males alcohol and drugs were issues of most concern. Girls were more worried about sexual abuse and body image. What worries you most? The second topic given to the trio was,’ Australians pride themselves on living in a multicultural, cosmopolitan society. In reality, are Australians accepting of those from different cultures? Is it in our interest to welcome them to our country? Do we have a moral responsibility to do so?

In the evening the girls delivered their prepared speeches to an enthusiastic group of Lions and parents and friends. The girls were confident, well prepared and certainly engaged their audience. Anne McClelland, in her summation of the day’s proceedings commented that the three girls oozed personality and that interviewing them had been a refreshing task for Shan and herself as the girls were honest and gave some interesting insights into life. Kate Watts, who spoke on the issue of how technology has affected our lives was awarded best public speaker for the clarity of her delivery and the interesting content of her speech. The overall winner, the 2009 Birchip Lions Youth of the Year was Emily Hogan who spoke on the topic that sex education should be part of the school curriculum.
Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Fifteen students attended a formal graduation dinner at the Birchip Leisure Centre last Monday evening. The young people looked very smart in their best attire and parents and teachers were very proud of them as they spoke confidently about their early memories of school. Their class teacher, Mr Greg Welton presented each student with a DVD of a film he had made of their six years at school. The film was a compilation of key moments in the students’ lives. Each student was also given a 4Gb USB drive, pen and chocolate.

The students spoke about how they were initially nervous when they first attended school and expressed gratitude to their teachers as they became more confident and skilled in a range of subjects. Many students commented that they enjoyed Mr Welton’s singing, they loved the Maldon camp and all the chances they had to play sport at a variety of levels.

Junior Cricket

Johnson versus Clarke
Johnson scored 102
Game continues this week
Umpires: Russell Christie & Michael Walsh
This is the last Saturday of junior cricket before the holidays. Cricket and training will resume once school begins next year.

KIDS CRICKET

Kids Cricket concluded last night.
Congratulations to all of the young cricketers that participated in this program.
Thanks to Mark Bowen for his coordination and running the sessions.
Gastroenteritis

There has been some gastro-type bugs moving around the Birchip community lately. I have included some information about gastroenteritis for you. If your son or daughter shows the symptoms of vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhoea, a visit to a medical practitioner is suggested.

Gastroenteritis (gastro) – what is it and how did I get it?

Gastro is an illness which may cause some or all of the following symptoms: diarrhoea, stomach cramps, vomiting, nausea, fever, headache.

Germs which cause gastro get into your body through your mouth and it usually takes several days for symptoms to appear. This time is known as the incubation period. Sometimes symptoms may occur within hours of the germs entering your body but it is usually longer.

When people get gastro they often assume that the last meal they ate gave them food poisoning. This is usually not the case.

What causes gastro and how is it spread?

The most common germs that cause gastroenteritis are bacteria, viruses and certain parasites. They may be found in soil, wild and pet animals including birds, and humans.

Gastro occurs when these germs are taken in by mouth and this may happen in any of the following ways:

• from person to person – this may occur directly by close personal contact or contact with the faeces of an infected person, or indirectly by touching contaminated surfaces such as taps, toilet flush handles, children’s toys and nappies
• eating contaminated food
• drinking contaminated water
• airborne through vomiting, coughing and sneezing (mainly viruses).
• handling pets and other animals

People and animals can carry the germs which cause gastro in their faeces without having any symptoms. These people and animals can still pass the disease on to others.

How can food and water become contaminated?

Food can become contaminated by people who have gastro, if they do not wash their hands properly after going to the toilet and before handling food.

Bacteria which can cause gastro are often present in raw foods such as meats, poultry and eggs. These raw foods must always be handled, prepared and stored so as not to contaminate other foods. Proper cooking will kill these bacteria.

If insects, rodents or other animals are not stopped from entering areas where food is prepared, they may contaminate food, equipment, benches and utensils with gastroenteritis germs.

Creeks, rivers, lakes and dams may be polluted with faeces from humans or animals. You should not drink water from these sources, unless it has been treated or boiled.

I think I may have gastroenteritis – what should I do?

If you have symptoms of gastroenteritis, report them to your doctor. This will ensure that you receive proper treatment and advice and that steps are taken to reduce the spread of the disease.

Can I still work?

As gastro is very infectious, it is advisable that people with symptoms should not work or attend childcare centres, kindergartens or schools until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. It is particularly important that food handlers, childcare workers and health care workers do not work for at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

How can I avoid getting gastro?

In your household, the risk of spreading gastro can be reduced. It is very important that people with gastro do not prepare or handle food that is to be eaten by other people and that no one shares their towel, face washer, toothbrush or eating utensils.

By following the guidelines below, everyone can do something to avoid getting gastro. Careful hand washing. Everyone should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds:

• before preparing food
• between handling raw and ready-to-eat foods
• before eating
• after going to the toilet or changing nappies
• after smoking
• after using a tissue or handkerchief
• after working in the garden
• after playing with pets

Food handlers should use disposable paper towels or an air dryer to dry their hands. Cloth towels are not recommended as they get dirty quickly and can spread germs from one person to another.
Safe food storage and handling
- Do not handle raw and cooked foods with the same implements (tongs, knives, cutting boards), unless they have been thoroughly washed between uses
- Keep all kitchen surfaces and equipment clean
- Defrost food by placing it on the lower shelves of a refrigerator or use a microwave oven
- Thoroughly cook all raw foods
- Place cooked food in a refrigerator within an hour of cooking it
- Refrigerate raw foods below cooked or ready-to-eat foods to prevent cross-contamination
- Store food below 5°C or above 60°C to prevent growth of germs
- Thoroughly wash raw vegetables before eating
- Reheat food until the internal temperature of the food reaches at least 75°C
- Protect food from insects, rodents and other animals

Note for microwave oven users
Part of the microwave cooking process includes standing time. When using a microwave, read the manufacturer’s instructions carefully and observe these standing times to ensure the food is completely cooked before it is eaten.

Household cleaning
Bathrooms and toilets must be cleaned often to avoid the spread of germs. Pay particular attention to surfaces such as toilet seats and handles, taps and nappy change tables. Sandpits can become contaminated with animal faeces and urine. Rake the sand frequently and remove any animal faeces. Cover the area when not in use.

Water from untreated sources
Untreated water that comes directly from lakes or rivers may be contaminated with faeces from people or animals. Boil water from these sources before drinking it.

Child care centres & schools
Children are particularly susceptible to certain types of gastro. It is important that children ensure that they wash their hands thoroughly with soap often to control the spread of germs.

Books for Sale
Booklists have gone out today to all secondary and Year 6 students. We are encouraging students to re-sell their books to reduce costs for families. A number of students have already brought in texts to sell and these are listed below.

All secondary students:
- Roget’s Thesaurus- $10, $15
- Oxford Australian Colour dictionary- $10

Year 11 students:
- English: Macbeth- $10, Inheritance- $12
- Inheritance study guide-$5
- Year 11 Food and Technology- Cookery the Australian Way-$25, Food &Tech units 1 &2-$30
- Design and Technology –Textiles and Wood-Design and Technology VCE Units 1-4-$30
- Biology-One - brand new Heinmann Biology 1 (4th edition- $68)
- Physics- Jacaranda Physics 1- $50
- Psychology- Nelson - $15
- Accounting- Cambridge Accounting units 1&2-$30
- Mathematical Methods- Cambridge Essential General Mathematics- Cambridge Essential General Maths- $25
- Mathematical Methods- Cambridge Essential Maths Methods- $30
- Chemistry- Heinemann Units 1 & 2 Chemistry- $20, $40

Year 12 students:
- Further Mathematics: Essential Further Maths &CD- $50
- Chemistry: Heinmann Chemistry 2 Text &CD- $35, $40 and Student Workbook- $20
- Food and Technology- Cookery the Australian Way-$25, Food &Tech units 3 &4-$30
- Design and Technology –Textiles and Wood-Design and Technology VCE Units 1-4-$30
- Physics- Jacaranda Physics 2 - $50
- English- The Secret River- $12
- Psychology notes book 3 & 4 - $5 a book

If you wish to sell any texts please bring them to the office with your name and purchase price on each text.

Birchip Playgroup Shopping Night Committee

would like to thank all business owners and supporters of the Birchip Playgroup Shopping night which managed to spend $14,500 in the town.

BIRCHIP TENNIS:
Ballapur plays Charlton at home. Play starts at 1:00 p.m.

HABITS OF MIND

Madagascar

We all responded with wonderment and awe during the performance of Madagascar yesterday afternoon. This excellent production was the culmination of the use of many of the Habits of Mind along with lots of hours of work by the cast and crew.

“Persistence, creating, imagining and innovating, taking responsible risks, striving for accuracy, finding humour and remaining open to continuing learning”

Congratulations to all involved and many, many thanks to the students involved in the cast and of course Miss Eleisha Heyden and Miss Elisha Johnson. Thanks also to Mrs Andrea Phelan and the primary children who presented their items prior to the performance.

Thanks also to the many parents and friends who helped with costume creation, backdrop and the myriad of other tasks required to put on such a splendid performance.