December

Monday 13th
VCE Results Published
Activities week commences for students from Prep → 9

Tuesday 14th
Presentation Night 8pm Birchip Hall

Wednesday 15th
Year 9 Water Skiing at Tchum Lake
Theatre students to Melbourne for Hairspray

Thursday 16th
Students Reports distributed from 3:15pm

Friday 17th
Last official day of school. 1.15pm finish.

February 2011

Tuesday 1st
Staff return for 3 days of professional development

Thursday 3rd
Students in grade 1 → year 12 return

Friday 4th & Monday 7th
Prep pre-testing

Tuesday 8th
Prep students commence school

Last day of timetables classes

Today, Friday 10th December 2010 was the last day of formal timetabled classes for students in prep to year 9. Next Monday 13th December 2010 we will commence Activities Week. There are various exciting activities organized for all students during this time.

School uniform WILL NOT be required during activities week.

Presentation Night
Tuesday 14th December 2010

Presentation night will be held on Tuesday 14th December 2010 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. Students receiving an award will be contacted prior to the evening.

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.

Ex-student Steven Rickard will be our guest speaker this year. Steven is the son of Ken and the late Alison Rickard. Steven works with the Australian Federal Police.

Student reports – Thursday 16th December 2010

Student reports will be distributed to all students Prep – 11 from 3:15 p.m. on Thursday 16th December 2010. 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 17th December 2010

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.

Kinder kids visit school

Thirteen excited kindergarten students visited the Birchip P-12 School as part of their transition program. The Grade 5 students acted as buddies and helped the youngsters to fit into the classroom activities with ease. The older students showed the kindergarten students around the school, played with them in the yard, made Santa puppets together and played an assortment of creative games. The youngsters were really impressed when they had the story of ‘The Three Bears’ read to them from the interactive whiteboard.

Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program

Congratulations to Laura Lee and Claire Boyle on being welcomed into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at the University of Melbourne. Applications are received from students across Victoria and adjoining border regions. The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program affords the participants the opportunity to mix with like-minded peers and future leaders. A tailored program of events and activities will support and enhance their secondary studies, inspire their career plans and provide opportunities to interact with the university community. Laura and Claire will be guests of the university at a welcome event on Friday 10th December 2010. Nicholas Bales & Mikaela Christie have also been Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars this year.

Hospitality

The popularity of cooking shows on television has increased the number of students who are keen to try their creativity in the kitchen. Cooking has become a social activity as people readily trade recipes and give each other tips on how to make various gourmet delights. This is definitely the case with the growing popularity of Hospitality at school. Mrs Kristy Knight’s class is always abuzz with students willing to experiment. On Monday her students cleared the passageway in the technology wing and decorated it in true Christmas spirit for the Parents’ Club dinner. The students cooked a traditional roast with all the trimmings and finished with the delectable Christmas pudding ice cream dessert that speaks for itself in the accompanying photograph.

Ashlee Potter, Mrs Kristy Knights, Demi Donnellon, H. Collins, Sarah Watts Laura Lee, Sara Sydengen, Emma Steidl, Sophie Noonan
Languages

The school is finding that learning another language and exploring other cultures is becoming more and more popular. While most of our students study Japanese at school, other students are branching out to study other languages. For fifteen months, Bridgette Hogan has been studying French while Claire Boyle has been studying Spanish. Both girls are studying an accelerated program and have progressed from knowing virtually nothing about their language to doing a pre-VCE course.

The girls’ dedication to their study has certainly been worthwhile as both were awarded prizes at the Victorian School of Languages on Saturday. Bridgette came in the top ten percent of students and was awarded with an Academic Achievement award while Claire won the Best Effort Award for her commitment and dedication to her studies. Both students are keen to pursue their language at a VCE level and were highly motivated by guest speaker, Holly Jones who started her language studies in Year 10 and in Year 12 gained a perfect 50 for her study score.

The girls are to be commended for their commitment to study and on being independent learners as studying on one’s own and achieving to high level is not easy. However, the rewards are immeasurable as ‘to have another language is to possess a second soul.’

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Sixteen students attended a formal graduation dinner at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre last night. 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 CD of a photo story he had made of their seven years at school. The photo story was a compilation of key moments in the students’ lives. Each student was also given a framed photograph print which each student had taken as part of their class in photography as a memento of their graduation.

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 thanks to Mr Welton for his terrific organization for the celebration dinner.
Thanks to our Parents’ Club for their superb catering efforts.

Led by Trish Lehmann, parents, students and teachers enjoyed a wonderful meal last night at the Grade Six Celebration Dinner prepared by the Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club. Many thanks to Trish Lehmann and her band of willing workers including Jenny Hogan, Bernadette Hogan and Bernadette Smith.

Thank you ladies – a magnificent effort yet again!

Donations from the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter

Over the past few years now our school has received donations from the members of the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter in Melbourne. This year we have received two such donations. This money is added to the student assistance fund which is used to assist many students with the purchase of school uniforms, textbooks and stationery along with camps and excursions subsidies. We are indeed fortunate to continue to receive funds from various charitable organizations to ensure our students do not miss out when it comes to education. On behalf of the students, parents and staff of the school community, I thank the members of the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter for their most generous donation.

The connection between our school and the members of the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter being Mrs Janice Roberts (nee Barber – Keith & Angus’s sister) is a close friend of Mrs Cathie McCleery a member of the group.
Lions Youth of the Year

Six outstanding young people took up the challenge to take part in the 2010 Birchip ‘Lions Youth of the Year’ Quest.

Mikaela Christie, Hugh O’Keefe, Conor Hogan, Emily Noonan, Nicholas Bales and Hayden Collins met with the judges, Tim McClelland, Kelli-Ann Sheahan & Deb Barber 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 young people discussed were interesting and elicited a wide range of responses. The impromptu questions were:

- What do you think contributes to antisocial behaviour and how would you rectify the situation?
- If you were given a spare block in town and asked to build, develop or provide something for our community what would you do with it?

Judges were most impressed with the six students. They spoke confidently and were very well prepared. They were impressed with how the students could express their views even though some were quite controversial. They presented logical arguments to support their views under pressure.

The winners!

Nicholas Bales, who spoke on the issue that politicians should be more accountable for their election promises, was awarded best public speaker for the clarity of his delivery and the interesting content of his speech.

The overall winner, the 2010 Birchip Lions Youth of the Year was Mikaela Christie who spoke on the topic that women should be free to make their own decisions in relation to the abortion debate.

Answers to Last Week’s Homework Questions

1. What were the king, queen and maid doing when the blackbird pie was opened and where were they? King – counting money in his counting house, queen – eating honey in the parlour, maid – hanging out clothes in the garden.

2. Who put pussy in the well and who pulled her out? Little Johnny Flynn put her in and Little Tommy Stout pulled her out.

3. In the nursery rhyme Ring a Ring of Roses, reportedly based on the Black or bubonic plague, what does we all fall down mean? - we all die.

4. What coloured horse is the fine lady on in Banbury Cross? White

5. How many days has the porridge been in the pot? Nine days

6. How many musicians did Old King Cole want to see and what instruments did they play? three fiddlers

7. How deep was the puddle that Doctor Foster stepped into? Up to his middle.

8. When was Baa, Baa, Black Sheep supposedly written? 1744

9. Which people are being supposedly being referred to in the poem Jack and Jill? King Louis XVI - Jack - who was beheaded (lost his crown) followed by his Queen Marie Antoinette - Jill

10. Who wrote the rhyme ‘There was a little girl’ and who did he write it about? Henry Wadsworth Longfellow about his daughter who refused to have her hair combed.

Habits of Mind

This week’s winner

Congratulations to Connor Buteux, Sophie Hogan and Cooper Benfield, this week’s winners of the Habits of Mind Award. They created, innovated and imagined whilst constructing a tower to support an egg during science class.

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.
### 2010 Primary Activities Week

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<th>Monday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<th>Thursday 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<td>Own class activities</td>
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<td>Christmas activities</td>
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<td>BBQ Lunch</td>
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Students should bring a sturdy recycled bag each day. These activities are planned but changes may occur.

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### 2010 Secondary Activities Week

At the beginning of each session students will assemble in Learning Studios 11 & 12.

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<td>Christmas decorations at hospital. SH</td>
<td>Presentation night practice 9:30am – Recess All Year 7 -12 Students ES &amp; JR</td>
<td>Pack up Hall - all students &amp; staff</td>
<td>Shortbread biscuits CB &amp; SM</td>
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<td>Gingerbread Houses BS</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>Activities in the Stadium AS</td>
<td>Canoeing (max 8) JT</td>
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<td>Board Games RW</td>
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<td>Year 9 ADVANCE celebration SM, TK, CW &amp; RC</td>
<td>Basketball GM</td>
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<td>Hairspray – A day on Broadway BS, CM &amp; RW</td>
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<td>Bowls (Max 16) KD &amp; TK</td>
<td>Scrapbook Card Making SH &amp; CM</td>
<td>Year 9 ADVANCE celebration SM, TK, CW &amp; RC</td>
<td>Canoeing (max 8) JT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking Prac (Max 14) KK</td>
<td>Gingerbread Houses BS</td>
<td>Hairspray – A day on Broadway BS, CM &amp; RW</td>
<td>Science session CB &amp; SM</td>
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<td>Activity GM</td>
<td>Fishing (inc lunch, max 12) JT</td>
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<td>Indoor Cricket/Badminton AS</td>
<td>DVD – Wizard of Oz CB &amp; CM</td>
<td>Year 9 ADVANCE celebration SM, TK, CW &amp; RC</td>
<td>Period 5 and 6</td>
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Text Books for 2011

We will again be running a second hand book shop. If you have any texts that you want to sell, put your name on them together with an asking price and drop them off at the school office.

Courses, especially VCE courses, change all too often and thus new books are needed. The following is a list of VCE texts that are needed for next year and are different from what was studied this year. Old editions are out of date and will not be used next year so please don’t send old editions to school to sell.

**Economics:**
VCE Units 1&2 - In Economics students must have the 6th edition of ‘Economics Down Under Book 1 VCE Units 1 &2 & ebookplus’ by Morris.
VCE Units 3 & 4 - In Economics students must have the 6th edition of ‘Economics Down Under Book 2VCE Units 1 &2 & ebookplus’ by Morris.

**Chemistry:**
VCE Units 1&2- Heinemann Chemistry 1 Student Workbook (4th edition), Lukins
VCE Units 3&4- Heinemann Chemistry 1 Student Workbook (4th edition), Lukins

**English:**
VCE Units 3&4-Oxford VCE English Units 3 &4 2011, Leslie
On the Waterfront- film
The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif by Mazari

**Information Technology Applications Year 12**
VCE Units 3&4- IT Applications VCE Units 3&4 (3rd edition), Potts

**Psychology:**
VCE Units 1&2- Psychology for the VCE Student Units 1 &2 & ebookplus (5th edition) Grivas

**Physical Education:**
VCE Units 1&2-Nelson Physical Education, Telford, Seery, Whittle, Corrie, Malpeli

**Mathematics Years 10, 11 and 12**
All Year 10, 11 and 12 Maths units will require a CASIO CLASSPAD 300 CAS Calculator - this can be purchased from the school. A note has already been sent home to all students in years 9 & 10. The cost of these calculators is $195.00

**Second Hand books on the booklist still current: check at home for copies to sell**
Accounting – Cambridge VCE Accounting Units 1 & 2
Australian History – Imagining Australia – Aust History VCE Units 3 & 4
Yr 11 Chemistry – Heinemann Chemistry 1
Yr 12 Chemistry - Heinemann Chemistry 2
Textiles, Wood - Design & Technology VCE Units 1-4 (2nd edition)
Year 11 English - Inheritance (Rayson), Macbeth
Yr 12 English - The Secret River, Year of Wonders
Yr 12 Mathematics - Essential Further Mathematics (classpad version), Essential Mathematical Methods 3 & 4 (CAS classpad version), Essential Specialist Mathematics CAS classpad
Yr 11 Maths - Essential Standard General Maths (CAS class pad version), Essential Maths Methods 1 & 2 (CAS classpad version)
Physics – Yr 11 - Jacaranda Physics 1 (3rd edition),
Year 12 – Jacaranda Physics 2 (3rd edition)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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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>Friday 17th December 2010</td>
<td>Last official day of school for 2010</td>
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Parents’ Club Meeting – December 2010

The Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club held their last meeting for 2010 on Monday the 6th December. The meeting was supported by a large number of parents (24 in all with 8 apologies) and the formalities of the meeting were kept to a minimum so all who attended could enjoy the Christmas theme and conviviality.

Our Principal, John Richmond provided a brief report of “happenings about the school” for 2010. In particular: Belgium & France trip, Japan trip, provision of Certificate II Engineering and Certificate II Hospitality training at our school and the various refurbishments about the school. John also spoke of the changing nature of education and how the Birchip P-12 School, its staff and students have continued to “explore, take opportunities, take calculated risks and generally be engaged in educational pursuits outside the conventional classroom walls”. John spoke of the wider school community – staff, students, parents and all the people who are involved and support the school.

Mrs Jenny Hogan, our president, thanked John for all his input and support throughout the year.

There was a short discussion about the school fete – theme and activities. The date for the fete is 17th March 2011 – St Patrick’s Day so “GREEN THEME” here we come. Jenny completed the formalities with a few thank yous. In particular a big thank you to Trish Lehmann for all her organization of the catering for 2010 and to Ros McCallum on being such an efficient secretary in keeping everyone within the community informed with weekly newsletter reports.

Parents’ Club are also catering for the Staff End of Year Dinner on Thursday 16 December 2010.

Our “Christmas” meeting was catered for by Mrs Kristy Knights and the hospitality students. We were treated an absolutely beautiful meal. Platters of mixed Asian nibbles and dips with carrot sticks and crackers. A main course of roast fillet of beef and a variety of vegetables followed. The piece de resistance “potato stacks” – finely sliced layers of potato cooked on muffin trays with lashings of butter along with various other vegetables.

Before dessert was served we had a surprise visitor – yes – you guessed – the red suited friend with bells and whistles. Kris Kringle gifts were distributed so the chatter continued loud and strong.

Dessert followed – a choice of mouth watering individual “ice-cream” Christmas puddings or sticky date puddings. Unfortunately for those of us with a sweet tooth, no seconds allowed. Coffee and chocolates (thank you to Trish Lehmann and Deanne Botheras for providing beautiful handmade nibbles) finished the meal to perfection. Kristy and her team of students are to be congratulated on presenting such a wonderful meal and we thank them sincerely for providing us with our Christmas Dinner and giving up a night to cater for the Parents’ Club. Thank you to everyone who attended. It is not easy to find time to attend all functions at this time of the year, so your attendance is really appreciated.

This will be the last Parents’ News for the year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to read the news. There will be a general Parents’ Club meeting early in February to discuss the school fete and the AGM will be held in early March 2011. Dates will be advertised in the school newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jenny Hogan, Deanne Botheras and Trish Lehmann for all their help and support over the past year. I wish everyone a successful harvest (rain allowing for us to start), a “happy festive season” and all the best for 2011. Good luck to all the students for 2010 and beyond.

Ros McCallum
Secretary Parents’ Club

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Ros McCallum for her secretarial work throughout the year. Ros has ensured that everyone is brought up to date via her newsletter reports.
Birchip tennis teams to play at St Arnaud, cars to leave café 12 noon
Saturday 11 December 2010

Beulah Pool
Lifeguard Required Urgently
A Life Guard is required for the summer season for the Beulah Pool Committee. They will assist with training and travelling. Good Pay. Must be aged 16 years. Phone Narelle Gibson 5390 2402. Summer swimming program also available.

Birchip Junior Cricket
White versus Siddle
Last week White scored 116 runs
Siddle are batting this week
Umpires Andrew Sayle & Kevin Delaney
Details of this game will appear in next week’s newsletter.
Unfortunately we still have not been able to finish game 4: McKay versus White. When McKay batted they made 83 runs but the weather has been against White in their efforts to have a bat.
The completion of this game will take place once junior cricket resumes, sometime in the New Year. This Saturday will be the last of junior cricket before we have a break for summer holidays. Likewise it is hoped that training will be able to resume its normal schedule of Thursday nights at the George Cartwright Oval on 3rd Feb 2011.

Junior Cricket Working Bee
There will be a working bee for all junior cricketers in secondary school that live in Birchip.
This will be held at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning 12th December 2010 at the school oval (Junior cricket oval)
Of course anyone else is welcome to come along . . . “many hands make light work”.

Birchip Preschool
Supp Lotto Fundraiser
Draw 3065 – 04.12.2010
1st No. 1 Karoline Tellbach
2nd No. 31 Jenny Noonan
Thanks for your support.

2011 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship now open!
As part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank’s commitment to help build stronger communities, we have established a scholarship fund.
Each year grants are awarded to outstanding, but disadvantaged students, usually from a rural area, that have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college campus for the first time.
The Scholarship aims to support first year students who, due to social or financial circumstances, would not have been able to further their education.
Applications for the 2011 Scholarship are now invited For further information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit http://www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/public/in_the_community/scholarships.asp.
The staff at the Birchip P-12 School have been busy in recent weeks writing reports for all students.

To ensure that all reports are an accurate reflection of each child’s work throughout the semester, staff have enacted many Habits of Mind.

They have all *Communicated with Clarity and Precision* when writing comments on each student’s achievements.

Proofreading has enabled staff to *Work Interdependently*.

Evaluating each individual child’s VELS level requires *Striving for Accuracy* to be sure that each child is placed at the appropriate stage.

And above all, we have all had to *Find Humour* to ensure report writing was a positive experience.