**Forthcoming Events**

**December**
- Friday 16th  VCE Results Published
- Tuesday 20th  Presentation Night - 8pm
- Wednesday 21st  Student reports distributed at 3:15pm
- Friday 23rd  Birchip Community Christmas Party

**February 2012**
- Wednesday 1st  Staff return to school
- Thursday 2nd  Grade 1 - 12 students return for term 1, prep testing
- Friday 3rd  Prep testing
- Monday 6th  Grade prep students commence
- Wednesday 8th  Rest day for grade prep students, prep testing continues
- Friday 10th  Secondary House Swimming Sports
- Monday 13th → Year 7 Adelaide Camp
- Friday 17th
- Monday 13th → Year 8 Portland Camp
- Friday 17th
- Monday 13th → Year 11 Work Experience
- Friday 17th

**Last day for year ten students**

Best wishes to our year ten students who completed school today and start their summer break. The last of the year 9 & 10 examinations was held Wednesday. Our year nine students will have their Advance celebration day out at Tchum Lake on Monday 19 December 2011.

**STUDENT REPORTS WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2011**

Student reports will be distributed to all students Prep – 11 from 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday 21 December 2011. School magazines will also be distributed to students who have ordered and paid for them.

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

**Successful One-Up Day – Tuesday 6 December 2011**

We welcomed nineteen new prep students, twenty-one new year seven students and nineteen new year twelve students last Tuesday during our one-up day.

The preps were excited to be working with their grade five mentors. The grade five students will be next year’s grade six leaders. The new preps received a bag of goodies from Mrs Kelly including blue writing pencil, packet of coloured pencils, balloon, chips and a kinder surprise. The paper bag was decorated by their mentors.

The new year seven students are now old hats at this having now completed five days of transition during the term. During the term the students experienced all their subjects that are on offer in 2012.

Our 2012 year twelve students welcomed Blake Jans to their cohort. Blake’s family are moving to Birchip from Cranbourne. Blake’s brother Brayden will also join our school in year nine in 2012. The year twelve students received holiday homework and reading lists so that they can start from day one. The Mathematical Methods (CAS) students have already organized their first class on Friday 27 January 2012 commencing with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Joshua’s Café followed by six hours of mathematics. I’m sure they can’t wait for that.
The 2012 prep class enjoy one-up day with their mentors.
**Student charges**

Parents are welcome to set up a regular direct deposit by internet banking in order to make payments into their family account against charges for camps, notebooks, uniforms, etc.
Please contact Julie Coffey at the school office for banking details.

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**2012 Debutante Ball Meeting**

**Monday December 12 – 6:30 p.m.**

Birchip P-12 School Staff Recreation Room

**Decisions to be made include:**

date, photographer, band, format, theme

All participants and a family representative are asked to attend.

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**Presentation Night**

**Tuesday 20 December 2011**

Presentation Night will be held on Tuesday 20 December 2011 commencing at 8:00 p.m. in the Birchip Public Hall. All students, parents and community members are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our guest speaker this year is ex-student Robbie Lee. Robbie will talk about his education at Birchip P-12 School, his career as an apprentice carpenter, successful builder and football coach before returning home to follow his passion of farming.

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**Japanese Trivia**

On Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} December 2011, seventeen students from year seven and year eight participated in the Japanese Trivia Day at Cohuna Secondary College. Teams were mixed with students from the two schools and were broken up into small groups of four. It was very pleasing to see students from the two schools working together co-operatively and strengthening good friendships with each other. Students enjoyed the trivia quiz day very much. Congratulations to the following winning students.

- **Category 1**  General Knowledge – Cheryl Kemp and Ty Buteux
- **Category 2**  Numbers – Shae Colbert and Claudia Lee
- **Category 3**  Language – Riley Sayle
- **Grand Championship**  Maddison McCredden and Mason Bland

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**2011 P - 6 Swimming Program**

Swimming continues with sessions being held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following days:

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<td>No Swimming</td>
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<td>14 December</td>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>16 December</td>
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Grade Six Celebration Dinner

Twenty-one very dapper Year 6 students and their parents and guardians, attended the Year 6 Graduation evening at the Birchip Leisure Centre. The evening was a chance to celebrate the students’ educational journey and mark a new stage in their learning.

Each graduating student showed a great deal of poise and confidence as they addressed the gathering of one hundred people about the high-points in their education and the many humorous incidents that had occurred during their seven years at school. The children took the opportunity to thank all their teachers over the years but it must be mentioned that the class’s obvious respect for their home group teacher, Mr Welton was very touching.

The night was one of celebration where students and parents were full of praise for our teachers.

Photographs wanted – for “The Year that was – 2011”

As in previous years, I am starting to compile a collection of photographs of people, celebrations, awards and occasions within the Birchip area for the 2011 year. Photographs of children born this year, people who have died during the year, people who have celebrated milestones, special birthdays and celebrations will be most welcome. I am also looking for photographs of organizations, their achievements, awards and activities along with those who arrived in and departed from Birchip during the year. Please eMail your photographs to jr@birchip.vic.edu.au or drop them into the school office where they can be scanned and returned to you immediately.

LOST

Black USB with a green line threw it. If found contact Penny O’Donnell or Mrs Debra Emonson

Peas and Corn

2 x 2kg bags of peas and 2 x 2 kg bags of corn are missing from the Birchip Community Leisure Centre freezer where they were stored for the Grade Six dinner catering held on Monday night. If you know who might have mistakenly used or taken these, we would appreciate the mystery being solved.
BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL PARENTS’ CLUB
FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR
Monday 12 December 2011
7:30 p.m.
Staff Recreation Room
Christmas Theme, Kris Kringle to the value of $5.00

PARENTS’ CLUB THANK YOU

A big thank you to the catering team that helped out at the Grade Six Celebration Dinner last Monday 5 December 2011. Thank you to Emma Bennett, Bernadette Smith, Prue McCredden, Noeline Hogan, Jackie Tierney, Claudia Lee, Darcie Tierney, Ashlee Tierney, Cheryl Kemp and Marnie Lehmann on a job well done.

This was the last function for the year for our Parents’ Club. The efforts of the Parents’ Club will be able to be seen at the front of the school early in the New Year. The Parents’ Club members are quite excited about this new addition to the school.

Thank you all parents very much for your support over the 2011 school year. You are all welcome to join the Parents’ Club on Monday night at their last meeting of the year.

Many thanks to our catering manager, Trish Lehmann, for her tireless efforts and amazing talents preparing food for various local functions.

School Lunch Orders from Georgie’s Café

As of Thursday 1st December 2011, all orders will be on a cash basis only with orders in bags. **There will be NO exceptions**

You are requested to settle all accounts by Friday 16th December 2011 to avoid charges.

**FOR SALE**

One second hand drum kit, includes stool & sticks.
$200.00
Contact: Joan Glen 54 922 623

Movie Mayhem

Birchip P-12 School Room 5
9th December 2011
at 6:30 p.m.

Soft drink - $2.00
Popcorn - $2.00

$5.00 entry

Bookings can be made at the school office.

BIRCHIP JUNIOR CRICKET

Results of last game (Indoor game)
Clarke 90 defeated Hussey 88 (a close one!)

**Clarke**
Jacob Gleeson and Royce Bennett 39 runs
Bill Lee 3 wickets
Courtney Sayle 3 wickets

**Hussey**
Sean Hogan & Luke Fowler 38 runs
Brody Connelly 4 wickets
Andrew Clark 3 wickets

This week’s game (weather permitting)
Watson versus Clarke
George Cartwright Oval – both innings: Please be ready to start before 9:00 a.m.
This match will take approximately 3 hours.
Umpires: Glenn Hogan & David Chamberlin

In the event of wet weather and the pitch unsuitable for play – Andrew Sayle will contact parents around 8:00 a.m. through a text message if possible.
Year 7 English War

Year 7 English have been studying World War One through the novel *Private Peaceful*. While students studied this war specifically, they also talked about other wars and their causes. This led the group to talk about wider issues. The class split into small groups to discuss at length the following topics: what enticed men to go to war? What starts wars? Why disabled people are sometimes treated differently and what does this say about people? Why is the world split into hierarchies and do we need them? What is the function of religion? Why are some people heroic while others give up? What does it mean to be poor or wealthy? And, do people really want to go to war?

Part of the students’ assessment was to write a discursive essay on their topic but they also had to use technology to combine their thoughts with words and visuals. Students discussed vocabulary and used the programs; FreeMind, Wordl, Picassa, Publisher to produce their picture. The difficult part was converting their final product of many pictures and words into a single jpeg (or for those not tech savvy - a picture).

The next stage in our discussion is to discuss war poetry and hopefully next week we should be able to treat you to some of our poems.
Tessellations in Year 7 Mathematics

As part of the Shape & Measurement Unit, students in Year 7 Mathematics have been examining the effects of symmetry, translations, reflections and rotations on a variety of 2-dimensional objects. In order to study these effects, students have been researching and implementing a number of geometrical techniques to create an object that tessellates (or tiles). The final step in this process involved students filling in their shape with computer generated artwork to enhance the tessellating effect.

Below are three examples of students work:

If you are interested in seeing some of the methods the students used to tessellate shapes go to the website www.tessellations.org and click on the DO IT YOURSELF tab.
Merry Christmas &

Happy New Year

from

Birchip P-12 School Community Library

The library will close between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 22nd December 2011.

Community hours will continue from:
Thursday 22nd December 2011 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 24th December 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

We will reopen to the community on Tuesday the 3rd January 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The community hours for January 2012 will be:

Tuesday 4:00pm - 7:30pm
Thursday 4:00pm - 7:30pm
Saturday 9:00am - 11:00am

The library will resume normal opening hours from Thursday 2nd February 2012 at 9:00am.
OUR KOORI KIDS NEED CARERS

CONTACT
RICKY CAMERON
ON
(03) 50 322 388

ARE YOU A PERSON WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A CARER FOR OUR CHILDREN?

CAN YOU PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE TO STAY OVERNIGHTS, RESPITE, SHORT OR LONG TERM?

DO YOU HAVE A WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S AND NATIONAL POLICE CHECK OR WILLING TO APPLY FOR ONE? IF NOT WE CAN HELP YOU APPLY.

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE,
YOU ARE WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR.
BE A CARER TODAY.
OUR KIDS NEED YOUR HELP
Birchip Community Christmas Party
Fri Dec 23rd In the hall & Morrison St

☆ Santa visiting between 7 & 8pm
☆ Bouncy castles, bubble tent & Cha-Cha 6.30-10.30
☆ BBQ & soft drink for sale from 6.30pm
☆ BYO Alcohol
☆ Community Carol singing between 6.45-7.15pm
☆ Powerpoint presentation of photos from the Year that Was 7.15-7.45 pm
☆ Christmas Concert 8-9pm
☆ Traders draws at 9pm

Music from Brody Glen and his band from 9pm til midnight

$5 adult, $5 child (2+) or $25 family.
Includes unlimited rides & entertainment
Funding provided by Buloke Shire & RACV
Earlier this term year 7 students began to learn about the microscope in Science. They were initially introduced to the microscope and how to handle it carefully and safely. The year 7’s were then required to explain their understanding to Mrs. Emonson’s grade 4 and 5s. Students thoroughly enjoyed the activity. Below are some of the habits of mind year 7 students identified whilst performing the activity.

### Habits of Mind

- **Listening and understanding with empathy**
  
  I listened to what the year 4/5s were saying. They even gave me some ideas to use when teaching someone. *(Sam Owa)*

- **Finding humour**
  
  I made them laugh to help them remember. *(Jayden McGinnis)*

- **Communicating with clarity and precision**
  
  You had to communicate clearly so they could understand. *(Ashlee Tierney)*

- **Continuous learning**
  
  When the year 4/5’s didn’t understand what we were saying they came up with ideas to help themselves remember. For example, the stage looked like a CD and a CD is played at a concert and a concert is on a stage. So, I learnt another technique to remember information. *(Georgia Lee)*

- **Applying past knowledge and thinking flexibly**
  
  When the students didn’t understand I had to think flexibly and change the way I was explaining it. *(Cajun Fowler)*

- **Persistence**
  
  I taught them the various components of the microscope and to not speak over each other. *(Chloe Chamberlin)*