Birchip P-12 School
A Mindful School

Forthcoming Events

December
Friday 18th
Last official day of school for 2009
School Finished at 1:15pm

January
Wednesday 27th
Staff return for 3 day professional development
Friday 29th

February
Monday 1st
Students return
Monday 1st
Prep testing
Tuesday 2nd

Thursday 4th
Prep students commence school
Thursday 11th
House Swimming Sports
Monday 15th
Parents’ Club Meeting
Monday 15th
Year 7 Hall’s Gap Camp
Thursday 18th

Sunday 21st
Year 8 Portland Camp
Friday 26th

Monday 22nd
Year 11 Work Experience
Friday 26th

March
Monday 1st
Parents’ Club Meeting AGM
Friday 5th
Interschool Swimming Sports
Monday 8th
Labour Day Holiday
Thursday 11th
Summer Carnival
Thursday 18th
School Fete
Monday 22nd
James Anderson - Habits of Mind - Parent Meeting in evening
Tuesday 23rd
Senior Citizens Easter Parade
Thursday 25th
School Council Meeting - 8pm
Friday 26th
Last day of Term 1

April
Monday 12th
First day of Term 2

Commencement of school - 2010
The school office will be open from Wednesday 27th January 2010.
Staff return to school on Wednesday 27th January 2010.
Students in years 1 → 12 will return to school on Monday 1st February 2010.
Prep students will be involved in pre-testing on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd February 2010.
Prep students commence school on Thursday 4th February 2010.

Last Newsletter
This is the last newsletter for the year – in fact the 40th. Have a safe and peaceful Christmas with your families and let’s hope 2010 is another successful year. Thank you all for your support over the past year.

Madagascar
Congratulations to Miss Eleisha Heyden for the amazing Madagascar performance last week. It was an exceptional performance and we congratulate also the student performers, Miss Elisha Johnson and the many parent and staff supporters who assisted in so many ways.

Thanks to Mrs Andrea Phelan and her band of helpers for their preparation of the primary children for their wonderful items prior to the Madagascar performance.

Mrs Eileen Smith has put together the Madagascar DVD. These are available for $5.00.
Birchip P-12 School
Speech Night Report

The Birchip P-12 School’s Presentation Night was a proud event for students, their families and staff. The Year 6 students farewelled their primary school days and looked quite grown up as they were presented with their graduation certificates. The Year 12 students were excited about their results and looked forward to their futures. The group of school leavers looked dapper and chic as they took the stage to accept their awards, introduce guests and to host the evening’s proceedings.

2009 VCE Graduates
Laura Bales, Simon Bardell, Mathew Bennett, Elsie Coffey, Cody Connelly, Stephanie Cooper, Alicia Emonson, Maddelyne Foot, Virginia Glen, Tyler Lehmann, Eugene Liston, Jamie Lovett, Shota Nakamura, Alex Noonan, Isaac Noonan, Jake Potter, Aaron Valentine, Ruben Vesikuru, Daniel Watts

2009 Year 6 Graduates
Joshua Bennett, Mason Bland, Ty Buteux, Jacob Gleeson, Mikko Garcia, Nikko Garcia, Sean Hogan, Shane King, Claudia Lee, Jahnvea McGinnis, Megan McKinnon, Dammy Owa, Riley Sayle, Emily Totzenberger, Brendan Tuthill

Academic Awards
Academic certificates were given to students who gained an average of 80% over two semesters in their subjects and pleasingly there were many students who attained this benchmark. The following students were top of their class: Year 7 dux was Sophie Hogan, Year 8 dux Stephanie McClelland, Year 9 dux Ethan Cooper, Year 10 dux Karleigh Weir and Year 11 dux Darcie Cooper.

Year 7
Rowley Walsh
Jacob Christie
Chelsi Kemp
Molly Hogan
Darci Tierney
Aaron Riggall
Hayley Hogan
Laura Phelan
Sophie Hogan – DUX

Year 8
Katelyn Bennett
Harrison Christie
Maryanne Bell
Zoe Weir
Courtney Gleeson
Brylie Emonson
Emma Hogan
Jessamy Bennett
Stephanie McClelland – DUX

Year 9
Emma Forrester
Sarah Watts
Brenten Delaney
Emily Smith
Claire Boyle
Laura Lee
Sophie Noonan
Ethan Cooper – DUX

Year 10
Tayla Connelly
Evelyn Reid
Conor Hogan
Chantel Emonson
Mikaela Christie
Nicholas Bales
Karleigh Weir – DUX

Year 11
Brett Barker
Emily Hogan
Kate Watts
Darcie COOPER - DUX
2009 VCE Results

The Birchip Year 12 students performed very well with most students already having confirmed university placements, and two have rolled their Australia School-Based Apprenticeship into full apprenticeships. 35% of students gained ENTERs greater than 75.

Elsie Coffey won the VCE class’s English, Social Science, Humanities awards and Janet Lee Prize for Literature. Alicia Emonson was awarded the Commerce Prize, Darcie Cooper the Science Prize, Daniel Watts the Physical Education and Agriculture and Horticulture Prizes and Mathew Bennett won the Technology Prize. Alicia Emonson was awarded the Caltex Year 12 All-Rounder prize for her consistent endeavours throughout the year.

The 2009 Birchip P-12 School Dux award, with an excellent ENTER of 90.8 was Elsie Coffey.

VET & VCAL Awards

Students who excelled in VET courses were acknowledged and Nathan Bennett was awarded the VET prize for achieving outstanding levels of excellence in Certificate II Engineering. Simon White was the recipient of the North Central LLEN award for outstanding VCAL student achievement.

Achievement Awards

The Achievement Awards are for students in each year level who, in the opinion of their teachers, are deserving of commendation for the enthusiasm with which they approached their studies, the continued effort they put into them, and the success they have achieved as a result.

Year Prep  Hayley McInerney
One       Oskar Bennett
Two       Lachlan Braine & Nariel Garcia
Three     Mark Trollope
Four      Tahlia Flowers
Five      Cheryl Kemp
Six       Riley Sayle
Seven     Marnie Lehmann
Eight     Riley Doran
Nine      Jesse Smith
Ten       Hayden Collins
Eleven    Ashlee Donnan

Arts Awards

For communities to be rounded and interesting we need artistic people who add flavour to our lives. This year in the primary section there were duel winners: Claudia Lee and Mikko Garcia. In the secondary area James Totzenberger was the worthy recipient who showed his passion for music by writing, scoring and performing many songs. James also took part in Kool Skools which is an interstate punk and rock competition. In this competition he achieved the highest accolade that of writing and performing the best song in the competition.
The sporting awards went to:
The year 5 and 6 champions: Georgia Lee and Nikko Garcia
The 12 and 13 year old champions: Sophie Hogan, Marnie Lehmann and Jacob Christie
The 14 year old champions: Courtney Gleeson and Riley Doran
The 15 year old champions: Laura Lee and Brenten Delaney
The 16 year old champions: Chantel Emonson and Tim Walder
The 17 year old champions: Kate Watts and Jamie Lovett
The 18-21 year old champions: Alicia Emonson and Tyler Lehmann

This year Fraser House captains; Ruben Vesikuru and Laura Bales accepted the House Cup.

Leadership Roles:
The school is proud to acknowledge that there are many students who display strong leadership in a variety of ways. The Australian Defence Force gives three scholarships to students who show leadership, teamwork, problem solving skills, resourcefulness, communication and community involvement. The winners were; Elsie Coffey, Kate Watts and Mikaela Christie.

Citizenship Awards
Many regard the Citizenship Award as the most prestigious award a student can achieve and this year the primary award winner was Emily Totzenberger for being an enthusiastic team leader, umpiring, organising and scoring various sporting activities, being bus captain and looking after her Prep buddy in a caring way.

Kate Watts was the senior Citizenship winner for her caring nature around the school and particularly for looking after the welfare of the primary students. In her local community she played, coached and umpired netball and was actively involved in tennis. She was a member of the Granite Church Youth Group and helped to deliver food parcels to those affected by drought. She assisted in the painting of the Presentation Ball backdrop and generally was a very positive influence around the school.

Guest Speaker – Ricky Bell
Ex-student, Ricky Bell was the guest speaker for the evening. Ricky is the son of Trevor and Julie Bell who were well known identities in the Birchip and Beulah communities. Ricky commenced his schooling in Prep with Mrs Merrilyn Kelly in 1980 and has since moved on to become the Group Manager, Community Facilities for Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Ricky related that it is very difficult to go anywhere and not meet a Birchip connection. He particularly spoke about meeting Graeme Emonson who is CEO of Knox City Council – one of the largest municipalities in Victoria.

Ricky, like many Year 12s was not certain of his career path. His inspiration came from reading a career guide which directed those who had a passion for sport and enjoyed science to think about studying a Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement) degree in Ballarat. This he did but realised towards the end of his course that employment in this area was not abundant.

Ricky’s solution was to improve himself by extending his study and thus he undertook a graduate diploma in sport and recreation management as he knew this would give him more employment options. Ricky continued to improve himself by undertaking volunteer work with the Port Phillip Council which turned into permanent employment. Then Ricky did a masters degree in sport business and this really opened avenues for employment and promotion.

Ricky has worked on many multi- million dollar projects and is excited about them because he realises that sport plays and important part in community cohesion. Ricky talked about the part played in healing communities which were suffering from the ravages of the Black Saturday bushfires. Communities under these strains need sport to act as a cohesive force and to allow them to forget about their troubles for a short time. Ricky worked closely with these towns and realised that it was not just about the footy being played, it was about giving friends a place where they could come together and talk. Sport for Ricky is about allowing friends to come together.

Ricky was very practical in his advice to the exiting students. He stated that Gen Y will have five careers in their lives and two before they are
thirty. He encouraged students to think about continually improving themselves by learning and doing work voluntarily so that they form networks. He also highlighted that long-term achievement is not just about marks as many employers look at character and work ethic when making employment decisions. He encouraged students to believe in themselves and to develop the skills they don’t possess at the moment.

School Captains
The evening concluded with the school captains’ speeches. Elsie Coffey and Shota Nakamura both stated that they found learning in Birchip to be a consistently positive experience, which they now appreciate entirely. Elsie related that, ‘It’s easy to forget that not everyone is subject to such a unique band of teachers, with endless enthusiasm and patience. This exceptional good fortune to be educated in Birchip is something that a student can only appreciate after completing year twelve. This year I was subjected to countless after school classes and meetings, a myriad of empathetic catch ups and lots and lots of general support. Birchip P-12 School’s students flourish as a result of such unparalleled care and commitment.’ Shota spoke about the physical changes that he had seen occur around the school and was sure that Mr Richmond was impressed that the school had the first automatic doors in Birchip. Shota thanked the staff and his fellow classmates for their friendship over the years and took the opportunity to thank his mother for her support over the years. Elise concluded her speech by encouraging all students to reap the benefits that the school offers without hesitation- just absorb it! Because whether you are dux material, or not even slightly academic, the educational environment of Birchip P-12 School has only the ability to advance you.

Birchip P - 12 School
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Campbell Street
BIRCHIP 3483

BIRCHIP P12 SCHOOL - PARENTS’ CLUB

DATES TO REMEMBER for 2010
Parents’ Club Meeting Monday 15th February 2010
Annual General Meeting Monday 1st March 2010
If you have any ideas for the school fete please bring them to Parents’ Club meeting.
POTTED PLANTS required for School Fete.
Thank you to all parents, friends and supporters of the students attending Birchip P-12 School for their tireless and enthusiastic help throughout the year.
Thank you to all staff and students for sharing your enthusiasm and dreams and some of your challenges with us. To all those who are leaving Birchip P-12 School, we wish you well along your journey.
Have a happy and memorable holiday - see you all in 2010.

Ros McCallum
Secretary
Parents’ Club
Birchip P-12 School
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.

For Sale

3 border/kelpie x pups. 2 males, 1 female. Great working parents. $50 each. Phone 0417 537 069

Junior Tennis Coaching

A reminder that coaching sessions continue as normal schedule this Thursday and that the final session will be held on Tuesday. Any unpaid subs or fees need to be finalized now thank you.

Junior Cricket

Clarke 115 defeated Johnson 102

Clarke: Harrison Christie 30 retired
Jacob Christie 21 retired
Ethan Cooper 17 retired

Johnson: Brenten Delaney 33 retired
Jacob Gleeson 13 retired

LADDER

Ponting 2 wins, 1 loss 8 points
Clarke 2 wins, 2 losses 8 points
Johnson 2 wins, 3 losses 8 points

The Junior Cricket Competition and Training will resume when school returns next year.

Next match: Ponting versus Clarke 6th February

Umpires: Andrew Lee & Danny Lowry

Birchip Tennis and Cricket Club

Reverse Raffle/Cocktail Party Saturday December 19th 2009

Birchip Community Leisure Centre

We are organising our first joint fundraiser of the 2009/10 season and we would appreciate your support. The senior players have been asked to sell the tickets for this event and to help with some other fundraising that has been taking place so we are hoping the junior parents will help out on this occasion. The money raised from these events is used to maintain and provide new equipment which in turn benefits the junior players.

All Food is to be delivered to the Leisure Centre prior to 8pm please

Please provide 2 dozen pieces of the following items:

- own choice - Stephanie McClelland, Connor Buteux, Chloe Rymer
- Spring Rolls - David Casey, Matthew Rickard, Jacob Gleeson
- 1kg Chicken drumettes - Jackson Sayle, Sean Hogan
- 1pkt frozen wedges - Seamus Lowry, Cheryl Kemp
- Mini Pizzas/Toasties - Riley Doran, Joe Boyle
- Party Pies - Darcie Tierney, James Paley, Tom Hogan, Josh Bennett
- Sausage Rolls - Nick Bales, Nick Martin, Georgia Lee
- Cob Loaf - Simone Christie, Hugh O’Keeffe
- Sandwiches - Brenten Delaney, Joe O’Donnell, Claudia Lee
- Platter – eg dip, biscuits, olives, cheese - Heather Hogan, Rowley Walsh, Royce Bennett