Forthcoming Events

December
Tuesday 20th Presentation Night - 8pm
Wednesday 21st Student reports distributed at 3:15pm
Thursday 22nd Last official day of school for 2011
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

Birchip P-12 School
2011 Dux of School & Year 12 Results

VCE results
Today the school received some excellent VCE results. All VCE students satisfactory completed their VCE Certificate.

The median study score was 32 with 7% of scores being over 40 with 36% of students gaining study scores of 35 or more.

2011 Dux of School
Nicholas Bales was awarded Dux of the class with an excellent ATAR of 98.05. The school community congratulates Nicholas on his excellent achievement which is the result of much effort throughout the year. Nicholas received 3 scores over 40.

Nicholas studied:
- English
- Mathematical Methods (CAS)
- Specialist Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry

Nicholas’s ATAR puts him in the top 2% of the state. Nicholas plans to study Engineering in Melbourne.
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. Students from years prep - 11 should be dressed in full summer uniform with appropriate shoes and socks. Year 12 VCE students should dress formally. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 on this day and take all work and equipment home on this day.

Last day of the school year – Thursday 22 December 2011
On the Thursday (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 (Thursday 22 December 2011) 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.
Thank you Matt & Des

Dave Valentine and some MYs students went down to the Birchip Hotel to collect about 400-500 bricks for gardening edges around the school. They were graciously given to us by Matt and Des from the Birchip Hotel. There are still many thousand bricks left and Matt and Des would like to know of any student who would like to earn some pocket money in removing the lime mortar from them and then storing them on pallets. If you are interested please call in and speak to Matt and Des at the hotel.

Italian Scholar

Year 9 student, Sophie Hogan this year studied Italian via Distance Education and achieved excellent results in her first year of study, gaining a Best Effort Award. Sophie’s dedication to her studies was recognised at a celebration afternoon at the Victorian School of Languages in Thornbury, Melbourne. The Best Effort Award was in recognition of Sophie’s consistent work ethic in Year 9 Italian. Sophie enjoys this method of study and hopes to continue with year 10 Italian next year.

A local employer is looking for a temporary worker for employment in office administration beginning in early January 2012 and ending in early March 2012. If interested please contact Kate Clarke at Workco on 0428 971 821.

Lost

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

For Sale

- Brand New still in box - red electric guitar, amplifier, stand etc., - $150.00.
- Two(2) grey school pants Size 14 JB, second hand - $10.00 each.
- FREE - 44 gallon drums - we have four of them to give away.

Contact Sue Turner on 54 922 564 if interested.

Lost Property

Could parents please check the overflowing lost property box in the South Wing Gallery. A black Jay Jay brand jackets has been handed in at the office, found at the park. And also an iPod shuffle has been in lost property for a number of weeks. Please name all items of belongings to enable quick return of found items.

Year 7 Physical Education

Year 7 Physical Education students understand that being fit is not just a matter of being physically active; it is also a matter of eating healthy balanced meals. Mr Tyler, their teacher organised a breakfast activity that involved students planning and cooking a healthy breakfast. Students enthusiastically researched elaborate menus that included pancakes with strawberries, fruit salad, various milk and fruit drinks, omelettes, breakfast pizzas, and tiny breakfast burgers. However, the stipulation was that students couldn’t eat breakfast pizzas and omelettes - there had to be a nutritious balance. The winners of the master chef breakfast cooking were; Cajun Fowler, Joshua Phelan, Amy Bennett and Rebecca Botheras.

Incidentally, the tall man in the back of the photograph is new mathematics teacher in 2012, Mr Joshua Bear.
A group of nine year 9 and 10 students along with Miss Catherine McKenzie and Mr Joshua Richmond set off this afternoon to go to the opera in Melbourne this evening to see Don Giovanni. The students were asked to dress up and dress up they did as can be seen in the photographs below. Don Giovanni is an opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It is one of the best-known of all operas, and is performed in opera houses all over the world. The opera focuses a nobleman (Don Giovanni) who lives an evil life and has to suffer for it in the end.

And then of course there were the heels!

I can’t believe women can actually walk in these 6 inch high heels – they may as well walk on stilts.
2011 VCE RESULTS
Friday 16 December 2011 – results are available on the Internet and SMS from 7:00 p.m.
Internet: VCE Results and ATAR Service website is: resultsandatar.vic.edu.au
Students will be asked to enter their VCAA student number and four-digit PIN
Monday 19 December 2011 – Check the mail for Unit 3 & 4 results.
(Delivered to the student’s nominated address)
Help is available after you know your results
The VCAA and VTAC have set up a Post Results and ATAR Service (PRAS), which will be
available from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday 16 December and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on
Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December 2011 inclusive.
The following telephone lines will be available:
9651 4640 or 1800 653 080 (Freecall) and the email address is pras@edumail.vic.gov.au
This service utilises trained personnel to handle all enquiries related to VCE, VCAL results and
ATARs for the period outlined above.
Course Preferences through VTAC which can be changed up until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday 21
December 2011.
Lizzie Judd – MIPs Coordinator can also be contacted on 0429 148 399.
(Up to 21st December 2011 and from 3rd January 2012 onwards)

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.

More Buildings
Yes, more building is in progress. If you chance to drive by the front of the school you will notice the boxing
for the erection of a seven metre octagonal gazebo. This structure, which will give students more shade and
act as another handy outdoor classroom, will add to the aesthetics of the overall school. To the south of the
gazebo are eight very large wooden garden beds that have been constructed by David Valentine, Russell
Christie and the Agriculture and Horticulture students. These beds will soon become full of lovely vegetables
that students can use in the commercial kitchen. To complement the raised garden beds a copse of assorted
fruit trees has been planted.
Final Parents’ Club Meeting for 2012

Members of the Parents’ Club held their last meeting for 2012 last Monday 12 December 2012. At this meeting, parents discussed the new gazebo which they are funding. The gazebo will be ready for the start of the new school year in 2013. They also shared Kris Kringle presents before being involved in a cooking demonstration. Emma Bennett and her sidekick Trish Lehmann taught them how to make Florentines and chocolate peanut butter balls. It’s great to see parents learning and having fun at the same time.

The school community takes this opportunity to thank the Parents’ Club and in fact all parents for their excellent fundraising efforts during the year. Parents’ Club have raised significant funds over the past two years and are to be congratulated for their continued efforts to ensure our school is well supported.

Thank you to all parents who have been willing to prepare and create food items for catering and then to work at the various catering functions held during the year.

The Nullawil ladies opening their Kris Kringle gifts. Wendy Watts and Kerry Barker.

FOR SALE

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

On Monday during our ‘This is Your Life’ class we had a fire awareness session. Mr Whelan brought in the Birchip fire truck. He showed us how to find a grid reference on a map. We had a discussion on the information needed when you call 000. We learnt about the minimum fire brigade personnel numbers required on the fire truck before it can leave the station. Mr Peter Garley from the Birchip Fire Brigade came to help. We were allowed to use two different fire hose nozzles. We got to squirt the fire hoses while the fire truck was moving and in the process some people got sprayed. When we turned the siren on the Preps heard it and came out for a look. After using the hoses the water level was really low so Mr Whelan showed us how to fill up the tanks using the fire hydrant. Overall it was a great last “This is Your Life” class. Thanks to Mr Whelan for organising the truck and Mrs Smith for taking the photos.
**T-Art Knit Bomb the Bull**

The T-Art class completed the semester with a knit bomb activity. The students knitted and crocheted pieces of fabric which were used to adorn Big Red. Knit bombing is a contemporary form of artistic expression which challenges the difference between graffiti and art.

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**Birchip Junior Cricket**

Result of Last week’s game
Watson 147 defeated Clarke 145 (another close one)

Thanks very much to umpires David Chamberlin and Brenda Doran – these full matches result in a long morning.

**Watson**
Harrison Christie 39 retired (including a big six)
Joe Boyle 34 retired
Joseph Reid 25
Hemi Fowler 4 wickets for 5 runs

**Clarke**
Riley Doran 33 (including a bigger six)
Jacob Gleeson 25 retired
Royce Bennett 24 retired
Jack Lee 15

This week’s game: Watson versus Hussey – Indoor Game
Umpire: Jake Hogan

This will be the last game before the summer holidays. Junior Cricket will resume 4th February 2012. Hussey versus Clarke – on the Birchip P-12 School Oval.
# Year Seven War Poems

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| **You miss home while at war!**  
by Rebecca Botheras  
Laying there awake, thinking of home  
I don’t have time to think, before I have to fight  
Fighting for my country is a huge task  
If I quit my family will be at risk  
It’s all up to me, to make sure my family stay alive  
Putting myself at risk  
All I think of is home  
Guns fired at me and gas blown  
I reach for my gas mask, hoping to stay alive  
Hoping I stay alive  
It’s a big ask to save home | **No Man’s Land**  
by Leslee Cooper  
I saw the bullet and felt the pain  
I lay there in no man’s land, dying.  
I can feel the blood rushing from my leg  
The blood soaks my clothes.  
It makes me a warm blood bath to die in,  
I’m waiting for my friend’s warm embrace  
To save me from my terror and shock  
I can’t call for help, I can’t move  
I can feel the essence of life slowly escaping me  
People say one’s life flashes by  
Memory by memory. They remember their life  
But my memory doesn’t flash.  
Yet I know I’m on the brink of death.  
My life wasn’t worth living  
The war saw to that.  
My eyes close and my body stops  
I take my last living breath  
And I die, in no man’s land, alone |
| **War**  
by Samuel Owa  
War, the bullets striking from a distance, covered with blood of the soldiers. Falling one by one, to where death awaits them. Trenches filled with quivering soldiers, some lay there dead. The rats surround them, gnawing at their flesh biting their dead bodies, pieces of the soldiers’ face taken away from them, inside the rodent’s stomach.  
Shells drop behind the soldiers, flinging them off their feet as the gunfire chases them like a cheetah chasing its prey, it will soon catch up to them.  
Thousands of emotions run through the soldiers’ head: Sorrow, grief, rage, perplexity, no happiness, no pleasure.  
The sights they saw while their friends went down next to them, like poisoned fleas and their decision to leave them there knowing the dreaded rats come back for their lunch.  
Only a glimmer of hope shone in their eyes. The hope for them to come home but that was just for lucky men. The gas isolates them like the distant dark clouds close up the sun. Nobody to hear their desperate cry as the suffocating evil gas burn their lungs.  
They cannot breathe, their last breath soars away from them as they fall to the ground; dead. Tears are wept but nobody’s there to comfort them like at home. No happiness, no peace. War. | **Barging Bullets**  
by Tahlia Noonan  
Going to the incessant war  
Was the only glimmer of hope that most men saw  
Guns with power  
That makes you cower  
Dodging, weaving everyday  
If you get hit, that’s the end of your day  
Avoiding bullets all the time  
Trying not to dive into the pool of lime  
One by one gas bombs flew down  
Soldiers held their breath and tried not to drown  
Walking through that awful sludge  
Our boots were buried and wouldn’t budge  
Guns so loud that you can’t hear  
Makes you want to tremble with fear  
Angry sergeants giving orders  
Making the soldiers cross borders  
Getting butchered all the time  
That’s why you don’t stand at the firing line  
Into ‘No Man’s Land’ they go  
If they return nobody knows |
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 22\textsuperscript{nd} December 2011.

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

We will reopen to the community on Tuesday the 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2012 at 9:00am.
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
This term students have been encouraged to enter the "Habits of Mind" competition. Students from Prep to Grade 2 designed their own posters targeting one Habit of Mind.

Students in Grade 3 and 4 created their own power point presentations, consisting of 4 slides, targeting a range of Habits of Mind.

Students from Grade 5 onwards, chose between a power point presentation and a movie, with majority of students opting to make a movie.

Teachers of the Habits of Mind team on Wednesday night responded with wonderment and Awe, while judging the entries of the competition. They thought flexibly when they decided to have three sections in the competition instead of two.

Teachers were looking for students who in their entries strived for accuracy, and thought and communicated with clarity and precision.

A big congratulations to everyone who entered the Habits of Mind Competition, and the winners will be announced on Presentation Night.

Prizes and awards will be announced at Presentation Night on Tuesday 20 December 2011.