

Diary Dates

Monday 22nd July

Grade 5 Hoop Time

Friday 26th July

Grade 5 Excursion

Monday 22nd July

Grade 5 Hoop Time

Friday 9th August

Grade 3 Excursion

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th

September

School Production

Friday 20th September

End of Term 3 2:30pm dismissal

Monday 7th October

Start of Term 4

Monday 25th – Friday 29th Nov

Grade 5/6 Camp

Thursday 5th – Friday 6th

December

Grade 3 Camp

Wednesday 11th December

Carols evening

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – July 18th 2019

Welcome Back

It was lovely to see our students return to school refreshed and ready for term three. Once more there is a great deal that will be happening this term. Our staffroom whiteboard calendar is filling rapidly. Please take the time to frequently check the Diary Dates so that you are aware of what is coming up.

A big focus for this term will be our annual production. A dedicated production team has been meeting regularly since term 1 and we are now at 'the pointy end' with practices about to begin in the next week or so.

All this of course will be taking place alongside our normal focus on teaching and learning – another busy term!

Pick-up Time

This is just a reminder regarding pick-up after school. Our traffic managements systems appear to be working with Shane, our traffic supervisor and parent volunteers, working together with Peter, our crossing supervisor, to maximise the traffic flow along Heyington Avenue.

Pick-up can be assisted in the following ways:

- Don't arrive directly at 3:30pm, children will not have made their way to the front of the school at 3:30pm. Since this area is only 2 minute parking, you will be asked to move out of the zone if 2 minutes is exceeded to make way for the next car. Aim to arrive no earlier than 3:35pm
- If you are picking your child up from the pick-up zone, please impress upon them the need to make their way directly to the front of the school (no dawdling) stand on the concrete path in front of the administration block and keep watch for their car.
- Please talk with your child about using only the main gate to exit for the pick-up zone, not the small gate at the northern end. This ensures all the cars move south along the pick-up zone.

Several drivers have been seen using mobile phones whilst driving into the pick-up zone. This is against the law and puts everyone at risk. Please ensure this does not occur and make sure attention is being given to everything that is happening around you in the mornings and afternoons. Children behave unpredictably.

Word of the Week

Malign (verb) - to speak badly of a person; slander

Quote of the Week

"Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use." - Emily Post

New Policies

As is our usual school practice, new policies are announced in the school newsletter. At the moment there are seven new policies. The new policies are;

- Child Safe Policy (with the accompanying Statement of Commitment and Child Safe Code of Conduct that needs to be signed by all volunteers each year).
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- School Philosophy
- Duty of Care Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health Care Needs Policy
- Curriculum Framework Policy

Attached to this newsletter are the School Philosophy and Bullying Prevention Policy. The other policies listed will be attached to the next couple of newsletters so as to spread out the information. All policies can be viewed on our website at <http://www.birralee.vic.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=22>

Please take the time to read today's policies, in particular the School Philosophy. Unfortunately, we have noticed an increasing number of incidents of parent aggression towards staff and volunteers whether at parent/teacher interviews or when doing student entry and exit management at the front of the school. It is important that a degree of respect and restraint is practised for the sake of the students (some of whom witness these incidents) and for the sake of people in their workplaces doing their jobs. Fortunately instances are infrequent, but do occur and the School Philosophy addresses this issue.

Parent Opinion Survey

The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from Monday 22nd July to Sunday 11th August. Parents selected for the survey will be notified via email.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September.

Staffing

As you are all aware, Jacinta Hollings has taken family leave for the impending birth of her baby. We are all excited for Jacinta.

Our new teacher, Kavita Parmar, started with us this week to take over the class for the rest of the year. Kavita is an experienced and passionate teacher and I'm sure the Birralee community will join with me in making her feel very welcome.

Punctuality

I am beginning to sound somewhat like a recording on repeat loop: "Please ensure your child is at school by 8:45 am so that they will be at their line-up area by 8:50 am."

Far too many students have arrived late this week which is having an impact on when teaching and learning starts at 9:00am in the classroom. Being late is not respecting the rights of other members of the class to teach and learn without interruption.

Reading With Your Child

Children at Birralee receive very good results for reading – well above the state average. We are confident that the teaching and learning program we provide is instrumental in achieving those good results. However we cannot achieve such good results without the help of parents and what occurs at home. Research shows that a child's learning outcomes are dependent on a number of factors.

Most educators will know of John Hattie. Hattie's research looks at what makes a difference (effect sizes) in student learning outcomes. His work is fascinating and looks in detail at the varying degrees of efficacy when looking at various programs, methods and techniques used in education. His work draws upon thousands of studies from around the world and is highly acclaimed.

As well as programs and practices, Hattie has looked at what has the most influence on a child's outcomes.

Hattie estimates the following:

- School (including the principal) 5%-10% influence
- Peers 5%-10% influence
- Home 5%-10%
- Teachers 30% influence (which is why we put so much effort into teacher PD at Birralee.)
- The child accounts for about 50% of the variance of achievement. It is what students bring to the table that predicts achievement more than any other variable.

Please note that much of this individual child factor has a great deal to do with what has happened in the home from birth to school. It can be seen then that what you do at home and what the child carries within, has an enormous impact.

This brings me back to reading. It is vital that at home you as parents encourage the love of reading. Children need to see that mum and dad value reading too. Try setting aside some time when the computers, TVs and tablets are all switched off and each member of the family picks up a book to read. This sends a powerful message to a child that reading is valued.

When your child brings home a book there are a number of options. Students in the junior school might bring home a book that is below, at or above their reading level. Please don't be concerned about this. We want the students to choose a book that they like – it's all about loving books and reading.

If the book is below or at the child's level then please listen to them read – not whilst you are cooking or driving in the car though! Your child needs your undivided attention. Ask your child questions about the story, ask your child to recount, ask 'What if' or 'What might happen next' questions. If the book is at a lower level, concentrate on fluency and expression.

If on the other hand the book is at a level higher than they are reading, sit them down beside you, follow the words with your fingers and read the story to your child with them watching. After you have read the story, ask exactly the same questions as above.

If this occurs at home you are giving your child the best start and it your child will have a head start at school.

Ashley Ryan,
Principal

Assembly

Senior School assembly will be taking place this week. Assembly starts at 2:40pm in the hall. All welcome to attend.

Invitation to Support Xander

School Sport Australia (SSA) Championship in Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 2 August 2019 (10-12 Years).

Last Sunday, was the first Team Vic Swim Team 2019 meeting and photo session. Xander is the current VIC state champion in freestyle.

Xander's family, who are very thankful for all the support provided by fellow Birralees would like to extend an invitation to the Birralee community to come and join them at MSAC on Friday 2nd August on this happy occasion for Birralee and to cheer Xander on. This will be a huge boost for him and very much welcomed. Xander will participate in 4 events.

Good luck Xander!



Unclaimed Books

These books were left around the office area and they aren't named. If you own them or know who does, please see Cherie in the library before she adds them to the shelves!



Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books for 2019/2020 are now available. We have a sample book in the office if you'd like to see what's available. Books can be ordered via www.entbook.com.au/1890w64

See the flyer in our Community News for more information.

Recycling Oral Care Waste 2019

In an effort to look after our planet and environment, our school is again participating in the recycling program run by Colgate, Chemist Warehouse and TerraCycle called the 'Colgate Community Garden Challenge'.

We are currently in second place out of all schools participating in Australia!

There are five community garden sets up for grabs, each worth over \$7,000! Each community garden set includes:

- Three garden beds
- Two custom-made benches
- One rubbish bin
- One paddle sign
- One \$500 Bunnings Warehouse gift voucher to buy gardening supplies

Collect oral care waste such as toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss packets and containers, toothbrushes packaging etc. The recycling box is located at the school office.

Every piece of oral care waste collected will count towards our total Garden Points. The more waste we collect as a school community, the more chances we have to win!

You can also increase our points by voting online for our school at:

<https://www.terracycle.com.au/en-AU/brigades/colgategarden>