

Diary Dates

TERM 4

Monday 21st October

School Council Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October

Prep Excursion

Thursday 31st Oct, Friday 1st Nov

Prep Orientation (1st of 4 weeks)

Wednesday 6th November

Whole school and group photos

Saturday 16th November

Birralee Camping Night

Thursday 21st November

PFA Meeting Pancake Parlour

Monday 25th – Friday 29th Nov

Grade 5/6 Camp

Tuesday 3rd December

Senior Soiree

Thursday 5th – Friday 6th

December

Grade 3 Camp

Tues 3rd & Tues 7th December

Whole school transition

Tuesday 7th December

Grade 7 Transition Day

Wednesday 11th December

Carols evening

Friday 13th December

Grade 6 Transition Evening

Friday 20th December

End of Term 4 1:30pm dismissal

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – October 10th 2019

Term Four

It was pleasing to see the smooth start to our final term for 2019. After a very busy term 3 and the wonderful finish with our school concert, the students were back into school work from day one. It was lovely to see students so happy to catch up with their friends on Monday.

Please make a habit of checking the diary dates and don't forget to look for this newsletter each week. Teachers will be sending home newsletters shortly to explain in detail what is happening in their areas for term 4.

Planning for Next Year – Class Structures and Student Placement

We are currently working on class structures for 2020. In the next few weeks, we will begin working on student placement. The process is a complex one. In the last week of Term 3, DET released the 2020 Indicative Budget along with an online planning tool enabling me to factor in enrolments and staffing costs. It is important for us to know who will enrol and which students will be leaving the school. ***If your child is leaving Birralee PS, and you are yet to inform us that your child will not be with us next year, please inform us tomorrow.***

This will be the first time since 2015 that a new relocatable classroom will NOT be installed over the holidays. I recently asked DET for an enrolment/facilities audit and was informed that we have sufficient classroom capacity to house 600 students. Next year we are expecting to increase enrolments from the current 538 to around 576. DET supplies classrooms at the rate of one classroom for every 25 students and we are expected to aim for an average class size of 21 from Foundation to Year 2 and 26 from Year 3 to Year 6 – class sizes are necessarily higher in the upper years. (This is still nowhere near my grade 5 class size of 49 – thankfully - when I went to school way back when...!)

We have strictly enforced our school neighbourhood zone this year in an effort to try to keep to a maximum of 80 in each year level. However, with the influx of new residents into Manningham this is almost impossible to estimate and therefore manage – just when we think we know the number of enrolments someone walks in off the street with an 'in-zone' enrolment.

Word of the Week

Wily (adjective) - full of craftiness; sly; (of a person) intelligent, having a very good understanding of situations, possibilities, and people, and often willing to use tricks to achieve an aim

Quote of the Week

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King Jnr

Teachers will work in their teams to develop preliminary class lists for 2020. They consider a number of factors when developing these lists, including academic ability, special skills and talents, social competencies, gender, students who work well together and those who may not work well together.

Skills needed for 'building new relationships' are an important part of our educative process, so please note that friendship groupings are considered only for unique needs.

Parent input, based on student learning needs, is also considered. Parents who have specific concerns about their child's unique learning needs (not friendship groupings) for 2020 may provide written information to me (not the class teacher) by Friday 26th October. Please note that we are not able to consider information received after this date as once class lists are formulated it is very difficult to make changes.

Parents often place requests for teachers. In the past, this has severely limited our ability to compile class lists based on the factors outlined earlier: academic ability, special skills and talents, social competencies, gender, students who work well together and those who may not work well together. Because of these reasons, and for the possibility that teachers may leave the school, they may be deployed to other roles in the school, they may teach in a different area next year, the facility to request teachers will not be available.

The ultimate responsibility for student and teacher allocations rests with the Principal. I can assure you of my commitment to a most comprehensive and professional process with decisions made in the best interests of our students.

As is our usual practice, your child will be informed of their class for 2020 towards the end of term 4 this year. An intra-school transition program will take place in December so that students will spend time with their new teacher and new classmates for the following year. Sometimes, however, it is difficult to provide confirmed information as teacher movement can occur right up until the end of the year and even into the beginning of the following year as has happened in previous years.

Let's Have Our Students as Active Travelers

Next year we will have an extra 40 to 50 students which means the traffic congestion is not going to improve if parents keep on doing the same thing – driving children to school and/or using the drop off zone. We need parents and students to move away from being dropped off at the front of school or in the nearby streets, to walking or cycling – if this doesn't happen, congestion will only worsen.

Although the provision of a traffic management officer, Shane, has dramatically improved traffic flow at morning and afternoon times, we still need to reduce the number of students travelling by car.

If I were a parent at this school I would be using the active travel routes and park 500 metres or so from school and either walk with, or let my child walk with all the others who currently walk. I am urging parents to change habits - encourage your child to walk or ride to school. If you are concerned, you can walk or ride too. Please use our Active travel Routes – they have been specifically planned with parents, teachers and representatives from Manningham Council, to be safe accessible routes for students to walk to and from school. This would go a long way to avoiding congestion at pick up and drop off times. Information regarding our Active Travel Program can be found on our website <http://www.birralee.vic.edu.au/community.php?id=36>

Working With Children Check

This is just a reminder that parents who help out regularly at school, in classrooms or on excursions etc., will need a Working With Children Check (WWCC) We have these on file in the office. Parents who do not have a WWCC will be unable to volunteer at any school events. Please understand that this practice has the ultimate aim of ensuring our students are safe. It is a very easy process to apply for one at <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>.

Ashley Ryan
Principal

Assembly

Senior School assembly will be taking place this week. **Grade 3M** will be performing. Assembly starts at 2:40pm in the hall. All welcome to attend.

Here is the assembly schedule for term 4

Week	Item
1 – 11 th Oct	Senior 3M
2 – 18 th Oct	Junior 2L
3 – 25 rd Oct	Senior 3H
4 – 1 st Nov	Junior 00P
5 – 8 th Nov	Senior 6W
6 – 15 th Nov	Junior 00V
7 – 22 th Nov	Senior 4S
8 – 29 th Nov	Junior 1T
9 – 6 th Dec	Senior 4B
10 – 13 th Dec	Whole school
11 – 20 th Dec	No Assembly

Division Athletics

On Wednesday, thirteen of our Birralee students competed at this year's Division Athletics at Bill Sewart Athletics Track in Burwood East. These students qualified for this competition based on their results at District Athletics during third term. Well done to all our students who represented Birralee with such fantastic sportspersonship and a positive attitude. Regardless of the results on the day, they had already achieved so much for making it through to this level of the competition. A special mention to Ishara and Andrew who will now go on to compete in the Regionals next week. Good luck and go Birralee!

Deb Richards
Physical education Teacher



Nana-Chan, Shannon, Ethan, Ben

Active Travel – a message from Lotte



Welcome to sunny term 4!!

It was lovely to visit you all at the crossing on Monday morning and I hope you all have a very active Term 4. Walking to school is very good for your body and brain and that's why my head is so big, full of oxygen from all that walking to and from school. Hopefully I will see you all on the walking tracks over the term.

Good luck,
'Lotte'

Battery Recycling

Your kids might've told you that there are some bins living in their classroom. These bins are from Battery World! In them, you can place all the batteries you own that don't work anymore. Clock batteries, watch batteries, phone batteries, and any other battery if they fit. If you do bring any larger batteries like laptop batteries then you can bring them to the front office and they'll do the rest. Battery World's purpose for giving us these bins is so we can start recycling batteries instead of letting them land in landfill. Many batteries contain lithium, which when exposed to water, catches on fire or explodes & if it catches on fire you can't put it out. So, if you don't want fires in landfill which cannot be put out, then you should ask your kids to put batteries into these battery bins.

Thank you

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'.

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>