

Diary Dates

Monday 21st October

School Council Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October

Prep Excursion

Sunday 27th October

Working Bee

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 17th 2019

OXFAM Concert

On Tuesday November 12th the Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Band will perform at the OXFAM concert at Box Hill Town Hall.

Please find below a link to purchase tickets for parents and supporters. Please also note that performers do NOT require a ticket.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BFZTO>

Venue: Box Hill Town Hall: Starting Time is 7.00pm. Please ensure that all performers arrive by 6.30pm. We aim to finish by 9.15pm.

Prep Orientation program

Our orientation program for preps will run over four weeks beginning on Thursday 31st October and 1st November. This program has proven to be extremely successful with the new preps each year very ready for their time at Birralee the following year. The children spend 45 minutes at school each week, enjoying craft, stories and music. They get to mix with other new preps, meet their teachers, and familiarise themselves with the school. The new (and some very familiar) parents are invited into the staff room for tea and coffee where they too can socialise. Our PFA members are present to assist with any questions, uniforms, communications etc. On the final transition day, the students will be with their classmates and teacher for the following year.

Classes for Next Year

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.

Quote of the Week

"If you are not willing to learn, no-one can help you. If you are willing to learn, no-one can stop you." Anonymous

Word of the Week

Zephyr (noun) a soft, mild, gentle wind or breeze

Safety Issue No.1 – too early to school

I know that I frequently talk about the need for children to be punctual – and it is very important. However a number of students are arriving unaccompanied by an adult at school too early – 8:00am to 8:30am when there are no teachers on duty. At this time teachers are in their classrooms preparing for the day – not on duty. Students should not arrive at school unaccompanied by an adult prior to 8:30am. Camp Australia operate before school care from 7:00am to 8:30am.

Safety Issue No. 2 – children at pick-up and drop-off

I am sure every parent was extremely upset to read about the death this week of the three year old girl, tragically killed outside a childcare centre in Epping, when her mother's car unexpectedly reversed on the child and her mother.

I am requesting the following:

- I am very concerned that a similar event could occur here. We still have parents using our staff car park to drop off and pick up children. This is not safe – please refrain from doing this.
- When dropping your child off at the front of school, please stop your child from exiting onto the road – the child might easily be struck by another vehicle travelling along Heyington Avenue. A child who exits on to the road side also has to walk between cars, increasing risk. Children should exit only on to the passenger side.
- Pack your children's bags in the car, not the boot. I am concerned that children are spending time between two parked cars with engines running retrieving bags in the morning or putting them inside after school. It would only take a small mishap for a car to lurch forward and pin a child between vehicles. By carrying bags in the car, no child should have to walk between vehicles.

For the safety of every child, please follow the directions above.

Parents in School Grounds

I have recently had a discussion with officials in the Department of Education regarding the issue of when parents are permitted to be on school grounds, excluding drop off and pick up times.

The clear directions I have been given are as follows:

Parents are permitted to be on school grounds for the following reasons:

- Meetings with staff members
- By invitation as part of a school run program e.g. reading assistance, art room help, excursions etc.
- Sports team coaching
- Monday morning and Friday afternoon assemblies
- Parent/ teacher interviews
- Official school business such as school council, subcommittee work, fair committee etc.
- Special functions e.g. Mothers' Day morning tea etc.

There have been occasions where we have discovered parents wandering around the grounds at lunchtime or recess ostensibly to 'check-up' on their child. Please note this is not permitted at all. Imagine if every parent wanted to do this – we would have over 1000 parents on the grounds!

We also have dance classes, chess club, sports coaching, and music lessons at lunchtimes and recesses run by accredited out-sourced organisations or individuals. Parents are not permitted to simply turn up and watch or join in with these activities either.

Calendar of Events

We have a great number of activities coming up and some parents have reported to me that they have missed some information. Every event is posted in the newsletter or sent via Compass notification. Please take the time to read Compass notifications and the newsletter.

Ashley Ryan
Principal

Assembly

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

Play is the Way Award Winners

3M: Sophia & Tianin
3MC: Jaidyn & Lucas
3S: Damien & Ollie
3H: Ashley, Zoha, Luca & Joshua
4A: Sammy
4S: Aydan, James & Ethan
4B: Ilaria
4W: Bianca
5P: Ella & Camden
5O: Lucas & Jaren
6E: Mia
6W: Elissa

Art: Joelle (5P)
Choir: Sophia (3H)
Science: Joshua (6W)
P.E.: Misha (3M)
Library: Leya (50)

Golden Platypus: 4B
House Award: Resolution

Book Club

Please submit Book Club orders by Friday 25th October.

Working Bee Sunday 27th October 9am to 12pm

Each year the resources committee organises a few working bees to assist the school with odd projects and initiatives to make our kids school and experience as positive as we can. Apart from being of enormous help to the school – it's a chance for parents, teachers and families to be an integral part of their own environment – fostering respect, charity and a sense of community.

On the day, we will split volunteers into work teams and hope to achieve the following outcomes:

- TREE PLANTING – Planting new trees near the Grade 6 portables area
- GARDENING – Weeding and Cleaning up the school ground



The more people that show up the more we can get done! Please add the date into your calendar. Everyone is welcome to attend – children love to help and/or just play with their friends.

If you have them – please bring gloves, general gardening tools (shovel, rake etc.).

The Registration form is now open via <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/3012654/false#/invitation>

Please complete the online form by Wednesday 23 October 2019.

If you are unable to attend but would like to donate towards the working bee fund this can be done at the office or via direct deposit:

- BSB: 063 210
- Account: 10022649
- (Please quote student name and WB as reference)

Resources Committee

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Choc Chunk, Gingerbread, Strawberry Cheesecake, Anzac Biscuits. There is even Doggie Dough for your furry family members!

Be sure to register and get your orders in.

You can create an online fundraising page to share with your friends and family for support.

To register

- Go to www.cookie dough.com.au
- Click on "Register" on top right hand corner of the screen
- Fill in the details on the page and press "Register"
- Fill in student and school details.
- Share with family and friends who can place their order online

Happy fundraising!

PFA

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>