

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – January 30th 2020

Welcome Back to School for 2020

It has been a very different start to the school year, with the corona virus outbreak. Of the expected number of students yesterday, we only had 55% attendance rate.

However, that being said, the new school year has started very smoothly in all classrooms. It was lovely to see all of our year 1 to year 6 students back at school on Wednesday.

Today our 2020 Prep children began with us. It is very special starting school for the first time and it was touching to see so many of the parents taking first-day-of-school photos of children in brand new, sparklingly clean uniforms - they won't be that clean ever again! There were some tears of course, but that was mainly from emotional parents. We have a very caring and dedicated staff of teachers, aides and office personnel at Birrale who all understand how much parents care for, and love their children. As Lalita Vijendran our Foundation Team Leader stated this morning, the Prep team promises to love the children almost as much as the parents do!

It was an amazing start with all classes settling down very quickly on their respective first days. Our Prep students are having a wonderful first day and already seem very familiar with their surroundings. Thank you to our Prep team for looking after our little ones so well as they begin their schooldays.

I extend a very warm welcome to all our new Prep students and others throughout the school, and also to their families. As they will soon find out Birrale is a very community-minded school and they too will feel very much part of our close community.

Our current student enrolment is expected to be 568, up from 538 last year.

Corona Virus Update

As you are no doubt all aware, I put out a Compass alert on Monday regarding the novel corona advice. My advice was, and still remains:

*'For any student who has returned from China or been in contact with someone who has recently returned from China, I am advising, in the interests of the health of everyone, that **the student is not to be sent to school for at least 15 days after returning from China or being in contact with someone who has returned from China, to ensure the incubation period has passed.***

I am sure that parents have been following news articles, departmental and government advice closely. We have had some state governments offering quite different advice, and then again, as you are all probably aware late yesterday, the Federal Government changed its advice. This then resulted in our state government and the Department of Education once more changing its advice to schools, which has resulted in a great deal of public confusion and confusion in schools. Private schools last week brought in quite stringent quarantine provisions.

Principals have been inundated with phone calls and emails from concerned parents. Many parents were asking why the private schools were being stricter than government schools regarding the virus.

On Monday whilst I was preparing for the teachers to start the next day (and also for the enquiries I knew we would receive from concerned parents) I went through my emails, wondering where the departmental advice was regarding corona virus. There was none, and this was the day before school was due to start for 2020. I knew it was

my responsibility as the Principal to make a decision based on the information available to me, and alert the community to ensure the health and safety of my students and staff members.

I am an avid reader of science and medical news and had already read the week before about the possibility of the virus being contagious prior to symptoms developing – as you can imagine, with many families travelling to China during the holiday break, I had heightened awareness and concern. Then on Monday morning, the ABC website had an article where China's National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei said that 'the incubation period for the virus could range from one to 14 days, and that *the virus is infectious during incubation, before symptoms have arisen.*'

As soon as I read that the virus is infectious during incubation (the second time I had seen this) I decided to act, erring on the side of caution, and issued my direction. That was at about 3:00pm on Monday. Almost as soon as I had posted the Compass alert, the Department sent an email. I was extremely surprised that the department had not restricted anyone's attendance at schools. The advice from DET was to practice good hygiene and be alert if anyone develops symptoms. Knowing what I already had read, that the virus was probably infectious before symptoms were present, I decided to stay with my advice. Since Monday there has now arisen a case in Germany where 4 people appear to have been infected with the corona virus at a conference from a speaker who displayed no symptoms but became ill some 48 hours later.

I would like to thank my parent community for the enormous support they have shown during the past few days. Many families who travelled to China had decided to self-quarantine even prior to my direction. I understand that many parents are keeping their children home at present until the 14 day period has passed. We will still need to be vigilant however with anyone who is still yet to return from China in the future, until this outbreak is under control. I feel sure it is prudent to be safe rather than sorry.

We are very fortunate in Melbourne to have some of the world's best researchers who have already managed to grow the corona virus in their Parkville laboratory. This virus will be used by many laboratories far and wide to help develop better diagnoses virus and hopefully develop a vaccine.

School Playing Field – Artificial Turf

Work began at school on about the 9th January for the redevelopment of the school playing field - everyone calls this the oval despite it being rectangular!

No sooner had the site been excavated, and the crushed rock delivered to provide the base, when the rains came down. The works which were meant to be completed by tomorrow were then given a revised finish date of 11th February. No sooner had that happened when we received another huge torrential downpour – as one of our aides, Michael Bader pointed out to me, we could almost have hosted our swimming carnival on the oval: it was a quagmire! Consequently the finishing date has now been pushed out to the 17th of February.

We are certainly looking forward to the new artificial turf. It will have a 4 lane running track, soccer and AFL markings and goals as well as a long jump pit.

Family Fun Night – coming soon

Please keep alert for news about our Family Fun Night which is being revived after a two-year hiatus. At Birralee we used to host a lovely evening from 6 pm including a sausage sizzle, picnic style races (sack race, egg and spoon race etc.) face painting and so on. It is for families celebrate the start of the year in a friendly atmosphere and a wonderful way for families new to the school to meet everyone. Once we are certain of a finishing time and handover for the new artificial turf on the school playing field, we will let everyone know the date.

Staffing changes for 2020

We have only a few minor changes to staffing this year. Kerry Jory and Dima Syle are two new aides who have begun with us this week. Kerry will be working in Prep and Dima will be working in the Year 4 area.

Jacinta Hollings and Katherine Oswin have both returned from family leave this year and will share Prep H with Jacinta working 4 days and Katherine working one day.

Staff Structure 2020

The staff and structures for 2020 are as follows:

Administration

- Principal, Ashley Ryan
- Assistant Principals, Jacqueline Clement & Tanya Burton
- Office/Business Manager, Deb Moore
- Office Assistant, Pam Dodson

Classroom Teachers

Prep

- Prep V Lalita Vijendran (Team Leader & Learning Specialist - STEM)
 - Charlotte Calderelli will teach FV on Wednesdays
- Prep H Jacinta Strong & Katherine Oswin
- Prep P Ileana Psarakis
- Prep G Sophia Goh

Year 1

- 1BL Natalie Lorigan (Team Leader) & Katie Burke
- 1N Michelle Nolan
- 1M Laura Malloch
- 1T Emma Thomson

Year 2

- 2B Clinton Bowe (Team Leader & Numeracy Leader)
- 2N Sara Naidoo (Learning Specialist - Peer Observation & Mentoring)
 - Laura Greene will teach 2N on Wednesdays
- 2 B Serena Burr
- 2L Nick Lee

Year 3

- 3H Kristen Hendricks (Team Leader)
- 3M Jacqueline Maltezos (Acting Leading Teacher – Data and Assessment)
 - Lia Kennedy will teach FV on Wednesdays
- 3S Steve Hall
- 3Mc Jacinta McClean

Year 4

- 4A Angelique Abdulovski (Team Leader)
- 4S Kate Salzmann
- 4W Carol Wulfsohn
- 4C Anna Cho

Year 5

- 5P Catlin Prescott (Team Leader & Literacy Leader)
- 5B Bella Braddy
- 5K Kavita Parmar

Year 6

- 6H Eloise Heppner (Team Leader)
- 6W Zac Wilson

Specialist Teachers

- Art: Carmela Licastro and Katie Burke
- Mandarin: Wendy Lin

- Physical Education: Deborah Richards & Katie Lang
- Music: John Leever
- English as an Additional Language: Laura Greene
- Library: Cherie Hicks
- Maintenance: Shane Jackson
- Yard Assistant: Michael Manatakis

Integration Aides

- Michael Bader
- Danielle Croyden
- Di DiSimone
- Dom Chong
- Kim Dagher
- Carolyn Degetto
- Sima Ebrahimikhalsari
- Kim Harrington
- Kerry Jory
- Catrin Morrison
- Dima Syle
- Kerri Piva
- Amanda Weston

Birrlee PS Behaviour Expectations.

Birrlee PS acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children at our school.

1. As principals and school leaders, we will:
 - Model positive behaviour and effective leadership
 - Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
 - Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
 - Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession, and meet core responsibilities to provide a safe and inclusive environment
 - Plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
 - Identify and support students who are, or who may be at risk
 - Do our best to ensure that every child continues to experience successful personal and learning achievements
 - Work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
 - Respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated & implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
 - Inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
 - Ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds
2. As teachers and teaching school staff, we will:
 - Model positive behaviour to students, consistent with the standards of our profession
 - Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
 - Proactively engage with parents about student outcomes

- Work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
 - Work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs
 - Communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event that we anticipate, or face any tension or challenging behaviour, from parents
 - Treat all members of the school community with respect
3. As parents and carers, we will:
- Model positive behaviour to our child
 - Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
 - Ensure that our child attends school on time and every day that the school is open for instruction
 - Take an interest in our child's school and learning
 - Work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child
 - Communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
 - Support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
 - Follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
 - Treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect
4. As students, we will:
- Model positive behaviour to others, including; consideration, co-operation and courtesy
 - Communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
 - Comply with, and model school values
 - Behave in a safe and responsible manner
 - Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
 - Actively participate in school
 - Not disrupt the learning of others
 - Make the most of our educational opportunities
5. As community members, we will:
- Model positive behaviour to the school community
 - Treat other members of the school community with respect
 - Support school staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
 - Utilise the school's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints

Uniform

Please ensure that your children are wearing our correct school uniform. Our sports tops are required for phys.-ed. and sports practice. Your child will be doing phys.-ed. or sport on specific days – if you are unsure which day that is please check with your child's teacher. Please note that footwear allowed under the school dress code for everyday wear is: black school shoes or black runners (no other colours permitted) for everyday use. If your child needs to wear specific sports shoes for physical education or sport, please pack those shoes into their bag for your child to change into and out of, for those sessions.

School Start Time

We start school at **8:50am each morning**. Thank you to the vast majority of students who are punctual. It is very important for us to establish a routine in the 10 minutes prior to 9:00am, so that all classroom preparation of desks, books, handing in of notices and so on, is completed before 9:00am. When the bell rings the expectation is that the roll is taken and then instruction begins. Latecomers miss out on that instruction and disrupt the learning of others which is not acceptable.

There are however students who are too early to school. And wander around the schoolyard from 8:00am with no supervision. We would like students to arrive from 8:30am onwards, no earlier. There is Before School Care available from 7:00am for those parents who need to drop children off earlier than 8:30am

School Timetable

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:47am: | Bell rings for line-up (Please make sure your child arrives <u>before</u> the music sounds) |
| 8:50am | Students enter classroom, roll marked, preparation time |
| 9:00am to 10:40am | 2x 50minute teaching sessions |
| 10:40am to 11:10am | Recess |
| 11:10am to 12:50pm | 2x 50minute teaching sessions |
| 12:50pm to 1:00pm | Eat lunch inside |
| 1:00pm to 1:50pm | Lunch Play |
| 1:50pm to 3:30pm | 2x 50minute teaching sessions |

Parking

Please note that the indented parking bay area in front of the school is for drop off only. Drivers are not permitted to park for longer than two minutes in this area nor are they permitted to be more than 2 metres from their vehicle. Parents have been fined by ticket inspectors previously and I have been informed by Manningham Council that traffic inspectors will be targeting schools.

If you want to bring your child into the school grounds, please park in the other streets around the school where the parking restriction does not apply. Please also remember that we need to remain on good terms with our neighbours, make sure that driveways remain clear. Our Active travel program encourages parents to drop off their children and for children to walk along designated routes that are marked by decals along the pavement. Children who walk to school really enjoy the fresh air, exercise and social activity when meeting up with friends along the way – and our traffic at the front of school is reduced as a bonus! Please check our website for details of the routes available.

Newsletter

Our newsletter is sent out each Thursday via Compass. Please make sure you pass the word to other parents to take the time to read this and other communications from school.

Class and Area Newsletters

These newsletters are a vital means of communication for events and activities at your child's area. These will also be posted via Compass. Newsletters from grades are generally once per term but there may be extra communications for certain special events. Make sure you download the Birralee Compass App.

School Council Elections

Each year elections are held usually in February or early March for roughly half the school council positions. A notice for elections will be sent home next week. Please take the time to read the information regarding school council – it is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in your child's school.

Hats

Children are required to wear hats when outside when the UV rating is predicted to go above 3. It is strongly recommended that students bring their own supply of sunscreen and also wear sunglasses when outside at recess and lunchtimes. Students who do not have hats will be restricted to the covered deck. **Please ensure all hats are clearly named.**

Calendar

Already our calendar is filling up – please make sure you note forthcoming events listed below.

Ashley Ryan
Principal

Quote of the Week

"You can't be truly rude until you understand good manners." – Rita Mae Brown

Word of the Week

Cacophony (noun) – an unpleasant mixture of sounds; harsh noise; discord

2020 Calendar

Term1

- January
 - Tues 28th Teachers start
 - Wed 29th Grade 1 – 6 start
 - Thur 30th Preps start
- February
 - Thur 6th Swimming Carnival Grade 4 – 6
 - Thur 20th Curriculum Day
 - Wed 26th Parent Teacher Information Exchange – Senior School
 - Thurs 27th Parent Teacher Information Exchange – Junior School
- March
 - Mon 9th Labour Day Holiday
 - Wed 25th House Athletics Grade 3 – 6
 - Fri 27th End of Term 1 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term2

- April
 - Tues 14th Start of Term 2
 - Thur 23rd School photos
- May
 - Mon 4th Curriculum Day
- June
 - Fri 5th Curriculum Day
 - Mon 8th Queens Birthday holiday
 - Mon 16th – Fri 19th
 - Grade 5 Camp
 - Wed 24th Parent Teacher interview – Senior School
 - Thur 25th Parent Teacher interview – Junior School
 - Fri 26th End of Term 2 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term3

- July
 - Mon 13th Start of Term 3
- September
 - Wed 16th & Thur 17th
 - School Production
 - Fri 18th End of Term 3 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term4

- October
 - Mon 5th Start of Term 4
- December
 - Fri 18th End of Term 4 (1:30pm dismissal)

Lala Music 2020

Music lessons will begin on Wednesday 5th February. Band rehearsal will start mid Term.

Please contact Olivia at lalamusic2@yahoo.com.au, if you would like to enrol your child to learn an instrument at school.

CSEF for health card holders

If you have a current health care card and haven't yet filled out an application CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) form please see Deb in the office.

Assembly

Assembly is held on Friday at 2:40pm in the hall. All welcome to attend. This week will be **Senior School** assembly.

Community News



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
2020
乐高课后班

Tap into your child's potential by *encouraging their passion, curiosity and creativity* with **BRICKS 4 KIDZ®**. Kids learn and grow with our fun-filled models using **LEGO®** bricks, designed just for us by our own architects and engineers!


Scissor Lift

Educational and Developmental Benefits:

- Fine motor skills
- Social/emotional skills
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Process-oriented thinking
- Abstract thought
- Sequencing
- Follow step-by-step directions
- Visual and kinesthetics learning styles
- and more ...

Monday (3 Feb – 23 Mar)
Time : 3:45pm – 5pm
\$17 per session





Places are limited –
Enrol Online at
BRICKS4KIDZ.COM.AU/MM

For more information
Contact Derick Chong
p.0402 945 599
hychong@bricks4kidz.com

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Computer Programming Club

In a world where technology touches every aspect of our lives, it is crucial that our children understand how it works. To accomplish this objective, there is an exciting **Computer Programming club** running at the school.

The aim of the club is to provide students with exposure to the fundamentals of computer science concepts. Run by external consultants from Digimaker, this program will:

- Build games, animations, stories utilizing pupil's creative thinking
- Develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Express ideas & boost confidence working in a collaborative environment
- Enable the grasp of computational thinking which combines math and logic

For details on the course, visit <http://www.digimaker.com.au/courses/>

The club will run for 8 to 10 weeks each term (depending on the length of the term) and is charged on a per-term basis. Students work on school computer during the session.

Program for Term 1 2020 is as follows:

Room : Computer Room
Year : 3 to 6
Fee : \$152 + GST

| <u>Batch 1 – Lunch Time</u> | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Day | Tuesday's 04 th Feb to 24 th Mar (08 weeks) |
| Time | 12:50pm – 1:50pm |
| <u>Batch 2 – After School</u> | |
| Day | Tuesday's 04 th Feb to 24 th Mar (08 weeks) |
| Time | 3:40pm – 4:40pm |

Birralee Primary School

*If you are interested in your child being considered for the programming club, please *fill the form online @ www.digimaker.com.au/contactus/ latest by Friday 20th Dec 2019. Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via **email.*

*Existing students need not fill the form

**All important emails from Digimaker will be sent from info@digimaker.com.au Please ensure this address is whitelisted in your Junk Email filters or added as a Trusted contact.



SealPony Football is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic/intermediate skills.

* Fun games & activities * Great giveaways

For more information, call 0415-388-028

or visit www.sealpony.com.au

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Time: | Every Sunday Morning |
| Starting Date: | 8 th March 2020 |
| Finishing Date: | End of May |
| Register in-person: | Sunday 10 - 11 am 1 st of March 2020 |
| Address: | James Street Reserve Heidelberg Heights 3081 |



SMS 0433 994 112

GUITARSTARS@OUTLOOK.COM

120 FOURTH AVE ROSEBUD, 3939

IN SCHOOL GUITAR LESSON PROGRAM

GUITAR STARS is our school based guitar tuition program for boys and girls from prep to grade 6. **WE ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLING FOR 2020.** Our guitar teacher will come into your child's school and provide guitar tuition to your students.

DOES MY CHILD NEED A GUITAR FOR THESE LESSONS?

Guitars and worksheets for student's tuition at the lesson are supplied by GUITAR STARS.

WHEN WILL THE LESSONS TAKE PLACE?

The lessons will be held at lunchtimes on a day that suits the school. The lessons will be once a week for 30 minutes. Each group will be 6-8 students. **Your child can begin lessons as soon as we receive your enrolment form.**

WHAT GUITAR STARS OFFERS YOUR CHILD:

Your child will receive weekly lessons starting at beginner's level. As your child advances, lessons will adapt to accommodate your child's individual progress. Playing music helps your child with co-ordination, socialization with peers, listening and concentration skills and is GREAT FUN!!!

WHAT DOES IT COST? (Payment details are in your 1st invoice sent by SMS to your mobile)

The cost is \$15.95 per lesson per child for each week of term (Term length varies) An invoice is sent by SMS to your mobile that includes payment details.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Parent/Carer Name(MR/Mrs/Ms) _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| Post Code _____ | Telephone/mob _____ |
| Child's name/grade _____ | D.O.B _____ |
| Email: _____ | |
| Parent/Carer declaration: I would like to enroll my child in GUITAR STAR lessons. I understand that he/she will be released from the care of the school into the care of the guitar teacher who will be teaching on the school premises. I understand the cost to be \$15.95 per child , per 30 minute lesson, and understand that I will pay in full before each term (4 per year) before my child can begin his/her lessons. Once my child is enrolled at Guitar Stars, re-enrolment from term to term is automatic, and will continue to be until cancellation in writing is received by SMS or mail at Guitar Stars office. | |
| Parent/Carer signature _____ | Date _____ |

*******DO NOT SEND ENROLMENT FORM TO SCHOOL*******

SCAN/EMAIL FORM TO: guitarstars@outlook.com

SMS PHOTO OF FORM TO: **0433 994 112**

POST TO: **120 FOURTH AVE, ROSEBUD VIC 3939**

Birrale