

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – March 5th 2020

Staffing Changes

Yesterday I sent a letter home to the parents of students in Serena Burr's Year 2 class. Miss Burr is a wonderful teacher who has shown high levels of professionalism, is very caring and enables the students in her care to receive a very sound grounding in the junior school before moving on to Year 3. Sadly, for us, Miss Burr will be moving schools in Term 2 to be much closer to the home she and her partner purchased at quite a distance from the school. I am sure that all those parents in the senior school who have had the good fortune to have Miss Burr as their child's teacher, along with the current Year 2B parents will be sad to see her leave and will wish her the very best in her teaching career.

I am very mindful of the need to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for the students in 2B. Keeping that in mind, rather than advertising for a new unknown classroom teacher at this stage of the year, I have decided to move our EAL teacher, Miss Laura Greene into 2B. Miss Greene has been at Birralee since 2016 and previously taught Year 2 at another school, so she is very familiar with the curriculum. Of course already being on staff, Miss Greene understands the policies and practices at Birralee and knows many of the students in Year 2 already.

Miss Greene and Miss Burr will take part in a handover meeting to exchange relevant information about academic, social and behavioural needs of the students in 2B.

This change consequently has a flow on effect. Miss Greene had been teaching one day per week in Mrs Naidoo's year 2 class whilst Mrs Naidoo is engaged in her whole-school Learning Specialist duties. One of our regular casual relief teachers who is known very well by the students at Birralee, Mela Madaffarri (Mrs M to the students) will be taking over the one day per week role in Mrs Naidoo's class.

I have placed an advertisement seeking a new EAL teacher to begin with us in Term 2.

After School Care Tomorrow Night – Location Change

Please be aware that tomorrow, after school care will be held in the Year 1/Library building not in the school hall.

Year 6 Transition

Each year, all Victorian primary schools provide parents with information regarding the selection/allocation of secondary schools. The process and timeline is the same across all schools.

All parents of Year 6 students should receive an information pack in the first week of Term 2.

This information pack is very clear with explicit instructions on what needs to occur from a parent perspective.

In the meantime, parents should ensure that they attend the Secondary College Information sessions at secondary schools they are considering for their child. I would urge parents of Year 5 students to avail themselves of this opportunity also.

We are indeed very fortunate with the selection of government secondary colleges close to us. Victoria is a leading state when it comes to educational outcomes and the Manningham schools are some of the highest performing schools in Australia. There really is no need to look at the private sector when the outcomes in our state government sector are so high in Manningham and surrounding suburbs.

School Uniform

School Council, after extensive consultation with parents and staff, established both a school uniform policy and a school uniform dress code.

A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code.

Aims of our school uniform policy are:

- To promote equality amongst all students.
- To further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school.
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.
- To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.

I would like to draw the attention of parents to the School Dress Code in relation to footwear.

Our dress code states, under Boys Uniform and Girls Uniform: 'Black school shoes or black runners'.

This gives parents the flexibility of only purchasing black runners rather than a pair of school shoes as well as a pair of runners – but they are both black, the school uniform colour.

Under specialty uniform, footwear it states the code states: 'Black runners (or specialist footwear such as football boots, cricket shoes etc.)' Note that the colour of runners is black. Please note that your child may wear runners of a colour other than black if they are considered specialist footwear (they may have been recommended by a health care professional to assist in supporting your child's feet) however they can only be worn for the specific Physical Education or sports session. Prior to and after the session the student must wear black footwear.

Most parents have adhered to school policy and have purchased the correct footwear but a number of students are wearing shoes other than black. Please ensure that your child has the correct colour shoes from the start of next term.

Ashley Ryan
Principal

Quotes of the Week

"One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness, it is usually returned." - Cort Flint

"Let them love you for who you are." - The wisdom of Steve Hall, 2015

Word of the Week

Chasten (verb) - to discipline for the purpose of making better

2020 Calendar

Term1

- March
 - Mon 2nd Division Swimming
 - Mon 9th Labour Day Holiday
 - Mon 16th School Council Meeting
 - Thur 19th STEM Challenge due
Grade 5/6 Interschool Sport
 - Wed 25th House Athletics Grade 3 – 6
 - Fri 27th End of Term 1 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term2

- April
 - Tues 14th Start of Term 2
 - Mon 20th School Council Meeting
 - Thur 23rd School photos
- May
 - Sat 2nd Trivia Night
 - Mon 4th Curriculum Day
 - Fri 8th Mother's Day Celebration
 - Tues 12th – Thurs 14th
 - NAPLAN testing
 - Fri 15th Grade 6 Market Day
 - Mon 18th School Council Meeting
- June
 - Fri 5th Curriculum Day
 - Mon 8th Queens Birthday holiday
 - Wed 24th Parent Teacher interview – Senior School
 - Mon 15th School Council Meeting
 - Thur 25th Parent Teacher interview – Junior School
 - Fri 26th End of Term 2 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term3

- July
 - Mon 13th Start of Term 3
- August
 - Fri 7th Birralee 50th Celebration Formal
- September
 - Fri 4th Father's Day Celebration
 - Wed 16th & Thur 17th
 - School Production
 - Fri 18th End of Term 3 (2:30pm dismissal)

Term4

- October
 - Mon 5th Start of Term 4
- November
 - Tues 3rd Melbourne Cup Day
 - Mon 23rd – Fri 27th
 - Grade 5/6 Camp
 - Mon 23rd – Wed 25th
 - Grade 4 Camp
 - Fri 27th PFA Christmas Dinner
- December
 - Thur 3 – Fri 4th
 - Grade 3 Camp
 - Wed 9th Carols Evening
 - Fri 18th End of Term 4 (1:30pm dismissal)

Assembly

Grade 2B will be performing at assembly tomorrow (Friday 7th March).
Assembly is held in the hall at 2:40pm on Friday. All welcome to attend.

Play is the Way Award Winners

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 3M: | Simon |
| 3MC: | Calista, Emma |
| 3S: | Jamie, Theeksyana |
| 3H: | |
| 4A: | Moksha |
| 4C: | Olga |
| 4S: | Chloe, Molly |
| 4W: | Dion |
| 5P: | |
| 5B: | Jack |
| 5K: | Jun |
| 6E: | |
| 6W: | |

Family Fun Night

The PFA are very excited about the completion of the new athletics track and will be holding a Family Fun Night on

- Friday 20 March
- From 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm

There will be

- Students, parents, teacher's races
- Egg & spoon, sack races
- Sausage sizzle, fairy floss, poffertjes
- Face painting and other activities

Hope to see you all there for a fun filled evening.

PFA

Sport Captains Report

Hi all Parents and Guardians,

We are your new and excited Sport Captains for this year, Ishara from 6W and Xander from 6E. We are absolutely looking forward to this year to come and hope to write more to the Birrale Community. We will be writing for the newsletters about the Athletics Carnivals, Swimming Competitions, Interschool Sport and much more!

On Monday 2nd of March, thirteen Birrale students attended the Division swimming competition. Division was held at Aquanation (Ringwood) with our one and only PE teacher, Mrs Richards. These students participated in all four different strokes for Division. Out of these students, 6 made it to Regionals. Regionals will be held on Friday the 13th of March at Aquanation (Ringwood). Those students were: Jack (6W), Xander (6E), Kieren (6W), Sebastian (5K), Davina (5P) and Damien (4W). But we all couldn't have come this far if we didn't have our faithful, dedicated parents who came along and supported our Birrale swimmers. Thanks parents, we really couldn't have gone this far without your effort and support. We hope to see the same amount of support for our students heading to Regionals next week.

Yours truly,
Xander and Ishara.



Book Club

Issue 2 book club orders are due Friday 13th March.

Term 1 STEM Challenge

Welcome everyone to this terms' STEM Challenge! We are Elle V and Zacky P and we are the STEM Captains this year. We challenge you to build your own eco-friendly flower pot! We are looking for;

- Creative design
- Functionality
- Durability

There will be a Senior school and Junior school winner. The winners will receive a trophy but all participant's pots will be planted around the school.

The project is due on the **19th of March**. Students will bring their pots to the Prep deck at 1.10pm for submission. Winners will be announce at Assembly on the 20th of March.

We are fundraising to take the Grades 3-6 to the New Scientist STEM Festival in August. Please donate a gold coin with your entries.

Elle & Zacky STEM Captains #STEM4Life

Oral Care Recycling

The Colgate community garden challenge has been launched for the year!

There are 7 community garden sets to be won, including a garden bed, bench with planter boxes, picnic table and \$200 Bunnings warehouse gift voucher for gardening supplies!

So start recycling your oral care wastes such as used toothpastes tubings, toothbrushes, floss packets and other packaging etc, and place them at the recycling box in the office. These items, which constitute a substantial amount of hard plastic, will otherwise end up in our landfills!

The more we recycle and collect, the more points our school will get.

Also don't forget to vote for our school on the Terracycle website!

Please join in the recycling and spread the world to your families and friends!

Lin (mum of Samuel L 4C and Joshua L 4W)

Extracurricular Activities

We have various tutors and organisations who provide private tuition and programs before, during or after school. New programs are advertised via flyers or in the community news section of the newsletter. Enrolment forms are available at the office or directly from the program organiser.

| Name | Program | Contact |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Lala Music | Music lessons and band for grade 3 - 6 | Olivia 0419 131 868 lalamusic2@yahoo.com.au |
| Jill Scholfield | Piano | Jill 0401 972 664 |
| Piano Friends | Piano | Emi 0468 632 715 pianofriends@live.com |
| Violin Program | Violin | Trent 0413 207 689 trentbunston@gmail.com |
| Chess-ed | Chess | Nick Speck 9387 4503 info@chesseducation.com.au www.chesseducation.com.au |
| Bricks 4 kidz | Coding using Lego bricks | Derick Chong 0402 945 599 hychong@bricks4kidz.com |
| Digimaker | Computer Coding Club | info@digimaker.com.au http://www.digimaker.com.au |
| Kelly Sports | Multi-Sports & Basketball | Gary Hoskin gary@kellysports.com.au kellysports.com.au/events |
| Sporty Stars | Dance, Soccer, Basketball | 0422 043 853 info@sportystars.com.au |
| Camp Australia | Out of school hours care | 1300 105 343 campaustralia.com.au |