

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – June 18th 2020

Return to Face to Face Teaching

How lovely it has been to have all of our students back at school!

Lunchtime and recess have been amazing – the seniors were racing around the school last week, playing excitedly and generally having a wonderful time meeting and talking with their friends again.

Our new sports field is proving to be a very popular area to play on. There is always soccer and AFL happening, gymnastics on the sidelines and running races taking advantage of the staggered lanes on the running track. During this week I interviewed a class of Year 6 students and specifically asked about the new facility – they raved about it! Many loved the fact that the playing surface is now very level with one boy stating, ‘It’s harder to fall over now’.

The teachers are incredibly happy to have their students back in class. They have begun to administer a series of assessments (different to those we normally administer) so that we can gain an idea of student progress during remote learning.

What’s harder for us as adults in the school is that we are still isolated from each other and spread out across the school with separate kitchen facilities due to social distancing requirements. Our staff room can only take 19 adults out of staff of 55, meaning the only time we can meet together is still via WebEx.

Prep Enrolments for 2021

We currently have 88 Prep enrolment applications for 2021. Of those 47 are new in-zone preps and 12 are out-of-zone siblings. This means that 59 students will at this stage be confirmed as accepted at Birralee. We are unable to offer acceptance of enrolment to the 23 out-of-zone applications at this stage and will make a decision on these enrolments in October, just prior to the prep orientation program in November. It is highly likely that we will still receive another 15 to 20 in-zone enrolment applications by October, if the past two years are anything to go by.

DET has become much stricter on enrolments and will be conducting audits to see that schools are following the department's enrolment guidelines. Our enrolment procedures can be found on our website at <http://www.birralee.vic.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=34>

If you are yet to enrol a sibling for Prep 2021, please do so as soon as possible so that we can plan effectively.

Our aim is to cap prep enrolments at a maximum of 80 so that we can bring our school in line over time with our long term enrolment cap of 550 students. However as the area surrounding the school changes with more houses being demolished to be replaced by units and apartments, the schools catchment area is becoming denser, making 550 difficult to maintain.

Covid-19 Restrictions

We are still under Covid-19 restrictions for a very good reason – there is no vaccine yet for the disease and Covid-19 is highly infectious. Some good news came out of England this week with a promising steroid treatment shown to reduce the percentage of deaths.

You will note that over the past week or so the number of cases being diagnosed in Victoria has risen substantially. A number of those cases are still from community transmission, meaning we must remain cautious and observe all the recommendations our Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, has in place for Victorians. Our school community needs to remember that the virus took hold originally from one human infection. If we do not remain vigilant, infections can still grow rapidly.

I have observed many parents at drop-off and pick-up, ignoring the 1.5m rule. I see many parents still waiting on the front path by the fence, meaning people can't pass safely with a 1.5m distance between them. Parents of Prep, 1 and 2 students can wait inside the school grounds at pick up whilst socially distancing, but many are standing less than a metre apart. We have had to, on many occasions, remind parents to move apart.

One easy solution is for parents to allow their children to use the Active Travel Routes in whole or in part and meet their children several streets away from school. We have crossings – it is safe.

Lost Property

A number of children have taken home windcheaters and jackets belonging to others. Please check the name on clothing your child brings home from school and return the item if it is not yours.

Unfortunately, we still find items that have no name – hence we can't return the item. If you have an item of clothing that used to belong to another child, please ensure the old name is removed and replaced with your child's name.

Hygiene

Teachers and aides now have this activity down to (almost) a fine art. Students wash hands prior to the school day, prior to morning recess and lunch (before eating), when returning from lunch and recess and whenever they return from a specialist session. Tables and chairs are also cleaned prior to eating in class.

DET, through Spotless, our cleaning contractor, has organised for an extra cleaner to be at school during school hours. This extra cleaner moves around the school throughout the day cleaning high touch surfaces such as door handles, handrails, bench tops and playground equipment etc. Student toilets also have additional cleaning carried out each day and have had that extra cleaning ever since the students returned from learning at home.

Our regular cleaners have been allotted extra time to sanitise all student and teacher tables after school. The student toilets are sanitised thoroughly and cleaned each evening at around 6:00pm.

Half Year Reports

Reports will, by necessity, be very different this year. By the sixth and seventh weeks of Term 1, we started to experience a large number of students remaining at home due to fears about Covid-19. Over the remaining weeks of Term 1, our attendance figures dropped to around 50%. Then four days from the official end of term, the holidays were brought forward and, as everyone knows, from Term 2 students were learning remotely and teachers and aides were teaching remotely.

As a consequence teachers had limited anecdotal evidence that is frequently noted during the week and the normal battery of assessment tasks requiring triangulation of data did not take place during this term. We had a number of students who were largely left to their own devices during remote learning. These students occasionally attended WebEx meetings (we followed up with parents) and some were not even aware of the remote learning packs that were available.

Most students, I am pleased to say, were very well supported by parents and so were very keen, attended their daily WebEx sessions with teachers and many attending the second optional session. The staff at Birralee is indebted to the great work carried out by parents during this lockdown period. As principal I have been very appreciative of the support and understanding from parents and incredibly proud of the work that the teachers, aides, office staff and assistant principals have done and continue to do.

Because of the above reasons, we have decided to leave all progression points as at December last year because to do anything else would really be an educated guess at where student achievement currently lies. What we have focussed on in this half year report is the curriculum content delivered in term one and during remote learning together with the level of student engagement teachers found in Term 1 and during the Term 2 remote learning sessions.

By the end of the year we will have completed our extensive assessment regime and will be able to place student achievement very accurately.

Staffing

EAL: I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Ela Fornalska to the EAL position at Birralee. We shortlisted 4 experienced EAL teachers. Ela Fornalska's interview and referees were very impressive; she has a number of years of experience working in the EAL field. Ela began with us two weeks ago and has settled in extremely well. This position will most likely move from 3 days to 4 days per week, such is the need. I will review this time fraction in September when next year's Indicative Budget and online SRP planning tools are released by DET.

Classroom Aides: Two new aide positions were advertised and filled recently. These aides will be working in the Year 6 classrooms until the end of the year. The successful candidates are Wendy Bignami and Servein Sze Yun Low. They began work with us last week and have settled in very well in such a short space of time.

The aide positions have arisen due to Michael Bader's decision to retire. Michael will be taking Long Service Leave before officially resigning from DET later in the year.

Playground retaining walls

What an incredible job Shane Jackson, our maintenance worker, has done with the retaining walls by the playground closest to the car park! We now have an incredibly strong structure with galvanised steel posts (all concreted into the ground) and 75mm wooden sleepers. The structure will outlast me by a number of years! We will now order new playground mulch to be delivered during the forthcoming term break.

Pick-up is the only time some parents (of P-2 students) are permitted on site. Parents of grade 3-6 parents are not permitted on site at pickup.

Late drop off and early pickup

If you are dropping your child off late or picking them up early please call from the gate and a member of staff will come down so that there is a safe handover. Do not come up to the office.

Each time a student arrives late or has to leave early causes an interruption to teaching therefore it would be greatly appreciated if appointments could be made outside of school hours.

**Ashley Ryan
Principal**

Quote of the Week

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thomas Edison

Word of the Week

Capricious (adjective) governed or characterized by caprice; impulsive; unpredictable.

End of Term Dismissal

All students will be dismissed at 2:30pm next Friday 26th June.

SRC News

Greetings to parents, guardians, teachers, and students,

We are holding a gold coin donation free dress day on the last day of school - Friday the 26th of June. On this day students are more than welcome to bring a gold coin donation that will be donated to The Royal Children's Hospital. We chose the Royal Children's Hospital because we believe it is important to donate to children in need who can't afford the appropriate treatment.

The theme is 'Wear your best online learning outfit'. If students bring a gold coin donation it is optional whether they choose to wear free dress. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely, the year 5/6 SRC team.

Entertainment Book

To order your 2020/2021 Entertainment Book go to <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/1890w64>

See Community News for more info.

OSHC Camp Australia News

What We Have Planned in Our OSHC Program

We've been trying new activities in our OSHC program recently, including new group games at the playground, going to the oval, playing soccer, running on the oval, playing with new basketballs, and enjoying more craft activities based on children's suggestions.

The children have led the way in exploring these activities, having lots of fun and sharing ideas along the way. Most of the children have enjoyed going outside and playing in group games at the playground and at the oval – with games ranging from different forms of tag, octopus, fruit salad, and playing soccer on the new oval. Inside children have been enjoying playing board games with each other, painting, making drawings using the scratch art, and building with the Lego.

Here is what some of the children created this week:



We've got more planned next week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soccer Game Learn to Play Chess Obstacle Tiggy	Learn to Play Checkers Colouring In Competition Poison Ball	Painting Techniques Play-dough Play Pole Tiggy	Collage Making Box Building Oval Play	Origami Making Clay Making Group Games: Octopus & Fruit Salad

Please Note

For OSHC drop off and pick up – we have a change in procedure due to COVID-19, when arrived at the school can you please walk to the basketball courts and call (0404 482 254), as at this current time families will need to wait outside and we need to ensure we have line of sight of yourself and your child. To ensure the safety of all children and educators, we will be signing the children in and out using the tablet.

Program Details

To find out more about our OSHC program, fees and times visit www.campaustralia.com.au and use the school finder on our homepage to search for your school.

Alternatively, you can call our friendly Customer Care Team on 1300 105 343. The team are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – except National Public Holidays.

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon!

From the Team at Camp Australia



Brainworks Doncaster

One to one Teaching- Individualised Learning program

Foundations Program (English & Maths)

Extension, Reinforcement and Remediation

Scholarship and Selective Entry Program

Assessment, Skill Development and Exam techniques

Sessions: Thursday 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 2:30 pm, 2:30 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: MC2 Manningham City Square,
687 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster



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WINTER Holidays

SCAN ME!

Birralee Primary

DATES 29 JUNE - 10 JULY HOURS 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Community News



Birralee Primary

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

ARRIVE BY 9AM ON INCURSION DAYS



INCURSION



IN-HOUSE



BEST PROGRAM EVER

29 JUNE - 3 JULY

29 MONDAY



ICE MAGIC & WOODEN PROPELLER CARS

We wish for snow today with Ice Magic! This winter-themed day will see us create white Snowy Owls, knit scarves & play some very cool team games. Later, we'll construct Wooden Propeller Cars to take home.

30 TUESDAY



MAGIC TRICKS & ILLUSIONS AND RAINBOW WEAVING

Abracadabra! We'll be amazed in a day of Magic Tricks & Illusions! We'll create Endless Folding Cubes, dazzle our friends with our impressive card skills & so much more. After, we'll do some Rainbow Weaving.

1 WEDNESDAY



THE BACKWARDS DAY & CONSTRUCTION STRAWS

Imagine if EVERYTHING is topsy-turvy! How about sleeping in the morning, eating dinner for breakfast & walking on the clouds. What will we get up to on Backwards Day? Then, we'll play with Construction Straws.

2 THURSDAY



YOUNG ENGINEERS & BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Are you ready for stacks of fun? Today, we'll stretch our imaginations as we construct & play with mechanical LEGO figures. Then, we'll make funky Birds of a Feather to take home.

3 FRIDAY



EXTREME PAPER CRAFTERS & DIY BIRDHOUSES

We're on a roll with Extreme Paper Crafters! We'll fold our own Powerful Paper Planes, fly some DIY Spinning Helicopters & create colourful Tessellation Art. Then, we'll make DIY Birdhouses to take home.

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$7.00
Daily Total \$74.50

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$7.00
Daily Total \$74.50

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$16.00
Daily Total \$83.50

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$17.00
Daily Total \$84.50

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$7.00
Daily Total \$74.50

After Max CCS*

\$11.18

After Max CCS*

\$11.18

After Max CCS*

\$12.53

After Max CCS*

\$12.68

After Max CCS*

\$11.18

6 JULY - 10 JULY

6 MONDAY



WILD, WILD WEST & ANIMAL BAG TAGS

Yeehaw! We're in for a great time with Wild, Wild West! We'll make a Horseshoe Toss, create Pony Pals & play a range of giddy team games. Later, we'll make Animal Bag Tags to take home.

7 TUESDAY



BUGS ALIVE & DIY SQUISH BALLS

Do butterflies have hairy legs? How many eyes does a fly have? We'll find out the answers & more as we explore life on a micro-scale in Bugs Alive! Later, we'll make DIY Squish Balls to take home.

8 WEDNESDAY



MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS, CASTLES & DRAGONS & DIY MOOSE HEADS

We're embarking on a journey of mythical proportions! We'll create Flying Dragons, build a Medieval Castle & emerge victorious together as we play enchanting games. Then, we'll make a wooden Moose Head to take home.

9 THURSDAY



HOOP SPARK & CARDBOARD ALPACAS

It's time to work it with Hoop Spark! This fast-paced hoopercise class includes team games, hoop relays & world record-breaking attempts! Then, we'll make Cardboard Alpacas to take home with us.

10 FRIDAY



TIME TRAVEL TO THE YEAR 3000 & MAGNETIC CARS

Have you ever wanted to visit the future? Today, we're blasting off to the Year 3000! We'll create our own Gliding Robots & Spinning Cyborgs. Later, we'll make cool Magnetic Cars to take home.

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$7.00
Daily Total \$74.50

Base Fee \$87.50
Exp Fee** \$16.00
Daily Total \$83.50

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Exp Fee** \$7.00
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\$11.18

*Child Care Subsidies may apply. \$5 Late Fees apply within 7 days per child. Payment plans available.

**Experience/Activity Fee. Programs may be subject to change. Third Party Payment Fees apply. See Terms and Conditions for cancellation policy.



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Community News



Birralee Primary

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

课外日游日上午 9 时到达

特别讲座 室内活动

最好的项目

29 周一

30 周二

1 周三

2 周四

3 周五

6月 29 日 - 7月 3日



ICE MAGIC & 木制螺旋桨汽车
今天我们要和 Ice Magic 一起等待雪花降临！在这个冬季主题里，我们要制作白色的雪花猫头鹰和针织围巾，还要玩一些有趣的团队游戏。之后，我们还要制作木制螺旋桨汽车带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18



魔术和幻象 & 彩虹编织
咪咪妈咪哄！魔术和幻想将带给我们惊喜！我们要制作无尽折叠方块，让我们的朋友为我们酷炫的卡片技能所折服。之后，我们还要进行彩虹编织。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18



倒走日 & 吸管建筑
想象一个乱七八糟的世界！在白天睡觉，在晚上吃早饭，在云端上行走……倒走日有什么惊喜呢？之后，我们还要一起玩吸管建筑。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$16.00
每日总计 \$83.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$12.53



小小工程师 & 羽毛鸟
您准备好了迎接乐趣了吗？今天，我们回家发挥自己的想象力动手搭建 LEGO 机械人物。之后，我们还要制作可爱的羽毛鸟带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$17.00
每日总计 \$84.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$12.68



极限纸匠 & DIY 禽舍
我们要和极限纸匠们联手！我们要折自己的强力纸飞机，让一些 DIY 螺旋纸飞机起飞，创作五彩缤纷的镶嵌艺术。之后，我们还要制作 DIY 禽舍带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18

7月 6 日 - 7月 10 日

6 周一

7 周二

8 周三

9 周四

10 周五



飙风战警 & 动物行李牌
耶！我们今天要和飙风战警共度一天美好时光！我们要制作马蹄铁、小马朋友，还要玩一系列有趣的团队游戏。之后，我们还要制作动物行李牌带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18



BUGS ALIVE & DIY 捏捏球
蝴蝶的腿上有毛吗？苍蝇有几只眼睛？我们将前往 Bugs Alive 博物馆，在微观世界找出答案，发现微观生命！之后，我们还要 DIY 自己的捏捏球带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$16.00
每日总计 \$83.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$12.53



中世纪骑士、城堡与龙 & DIY 鹿头
我们即将踏上神话般的旅程！我们将制作飞龙，建造中世纪城堡，在这个迷人的游戏时间里，尽情沉浸在胜利的喜悦之中吧。之后，我们还要制作木制鹿头带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18



HOOP SPARX & 纸板羊驼
是时候体验 Hoop Sparx 了！这里有快节奏呼啦圈训练、呼啦圈接力赛，您有机会在此打破世界纪录！之后，我们还要制作纸板羊驼带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$17.00
每日总计 \$84.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$12.68



时光旅行到 3000 年 & 磁力车
您有没有想过看一看未来？今天，我们要前往 3000 年了！我们要制作自己的滑翔机器人和旋转机器人。之后，我们还要制作酷炫的磁力车带回家。

基础费用 \$67.50
体验费用** \$7.00
每日总计 \$74.50

Max. 后 CCS* \$11.18

* 可申请儿童看护补贴。每名儿童的 7 日内滞纳金为 5 澳元。支持分期付款。

**体验/活动费用。活动项目可能会发生变化。第三方支付需支付手续费。查看取消政策的条款和条件。

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Community News

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2 Years

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