

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – October 15th

### Happy Birthday (to us)

Next Monday, Birralelee Primary School officially turns 50 years old!



The school opened on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1970. Keen observers will note the original housing stock surrounding the school is circa 1960s and 70s. The original houses and our school were built on land that was formerly covered in apple and pear orchards. The new housing brought with it young families and the need for a new school.

Birralelee's enrolment was around 300 in the 1970s, but as the children from the 60s and 70s moved on to high school, the school population slowly reduced over the next two decades. For much of the 1990s and 2000s the school population remained between 150 and 200 and indeed the school was in danger of closing in the 1990s when many Victorian schools were closed and sold off. From 2014 our enrolments steadily (and quickly) grew – we have 583 students this year!

We had many plans to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year – but Covid-19 stopped those plans in their tracks!

I'm sure we will make sure some of our postponed events can be re-instated once it is safe to do so – we'll just have to celebrate in our 51<sup>st</sup> year!

### Prep Orientation program

Because of the restrictions surrounding Covid-19, our usual prep orientation program will not be able operate as in past years. However our prep team is in the process of devising an innovative way in which we can ensure parents and our new 2021 preps are very well prepared for their time at Birralelee - stay tuned for more information in the very near future.

### Covid-Safe Restrictions

DET is trying to limit the number of people who come into schools in order to restrict the spread of the virus. The site is restricted to staff members and contractors needed to carry out maintenance and safety works. We are not permitted to have music teachers, sports coaches, dance classes, coding or chess clubs at present.

We only have to look at what has happened with the outbreak in regional areas caused by just one person who entered a café and had a meal. This virus is highly contagious and we must all be vigilant – it spreads so quickly.

Please understand that if you need to bring something to school, you should ring the office from the gate and we will send someone down to you – don't come to the office.

At drop-off and pick-up times, please ensure you maintain a distance of 1.5 metres, wear a mask properly, sanitise your hands before coming to school and leave as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your child. Don't stop to talk with other parents.

One day we will be through this and we can then all resume our previous ways – we just have to be patient, but above all we need to remain safe.

## Fun Day

Fun day is looked forward to every year – it is just as it sounds – a day full of fun!

Fun Day will still take place later this term. We have been meeting to decide which of our usual activities can take place under restrictions this year and which other new activities can be included.

Once we are certain of the format we will let everyone know what we will be doing.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Safety Issue – 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. For children who need to be dropped off early, Before School Care is available from 7:00am until school begins. Bookings can be made via the Camp Australia website.

**Ashley Ryan,**

**Principal**

### 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

Aberrant (adjective) markedly different from an accepted norm.

## Body Safe

To Parents / Guardians of **Prep, Grade 1—3 and Grade 6 students,**

**Birralee Primary School** have engaged **Body Safety Australia** to deliver their **Body Safety Superstars!** program in Term 4 to students in foundation, one, two, three and six.

Body Safety Australia will be running a **2hr WebEx webinar** for all parents and caregivers on:

**Wednesday the 28th of October from 7-9pm**

**Meeting ID - # 578 491 683 Enter this meeting ID on webex to join your meeting.**

The workshop is interactive and will cover the following topics:

- Outline of the children's program including learning objectives
- What is Body Safety and how can we support it at home?
- Identifying grooming behaviours on and offline
- Q & A forum with our educator

We encourage all parents and carers to attend as we see body safety as a partnership between our families, schools, educators and professionals specialising in protective behaviours and developing respectful relationships. There will also be age-appropriate books available for purchase at the parent/carer evening that support body safety education.

You can find out more about **Body Safety Australia** at [www.bodysafetyaustralia.com.au](http://www.bodysafetyaustralia.com.au)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Body Safety Australia Team

Email: [info@bodysafetyaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@bodysafetyaustralia.com.au) | Phone: 98636766

## Interrelate Term 4 2020, Grade 4 and 5 students

To Parents / Guardians of **Grade 4 students,**

Interrelate, in conjunction with your school, is running a course for students in Grade 4.

“Me and the big wide world” is a program designed to explore and create awareness of families through discussing what it means to be in a family and develop knowledge of family differences. Students gain awareness of a range of different values within the community as well as further information on human anatomy, body parts and foetal development. The program assists students to advance their understanding of strategies to be safe and protective behaviours.

### The Program

Three 60 minute sessions conducted during school hours in Term 4

**Session 1: Me & My Family**

**Session 2: Body Parts & Functions**

**Session 3: Reproduction, pregnancy & birth**

To Parents / Guardians of **Grade 5 students,**

Interrelate, in conjunction with your school, is running a course for students in Grade 5 to prepare them for puberty.

‘Moving into the Teen Years’ explores a range of adolescent issues and offers a comprehensive sexuality and relationship education program designed specifically for this important time in life.

### The Program

Three 90-minute sessions conducted during school hours during Term 4

- A wide variety of creative activities and teaching methods are used during the ‘Moving into the Teen Years’ program. These include: a take home workbook to encourage parental involvement; detailed visual presentations; class discussions; written and verbal questions; games and other activities.
- At an age when talking about sex with adults can be embarrassing, Interrelate ensures it is not only informative but also an enjoyable learning experience.

**Session 1: It's all about Me**

**Session 2: My Changing Body**

**Session 3: My Changing Relationships**



# Coming soon – **BOOK WEEK** at Birralelee!

**October 26th-30th**

Every year we celebrate reading and children's books during Book Week. The CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) gives awards to the best picture books, junior and senior fiction, and non-fiction books. Our library always orders the CBCA short-listed books and teachers use them to read and do activities during the week.

I'm afraid we won't be having special guests, story time or even a family challenge this year (parents need a break I think)

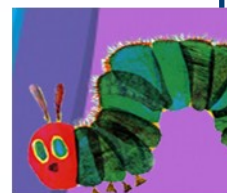
BUT, there will be ...



**BOOK WEEK DRESS-UP**

**DAY!**

**Friday 30th October**



Students and staff can dress-up as **a fictional book character**. Have a look at picture books or think about your favourite stories, also check out the posters around the school for some costume suggestions. You don't need to spend a lot of money on a costume because you can make it yourself using fabric, paper, paint or other craft items. Have fun with it! I'll see you there!

**Cherie Hicks – Librarian.**

## 2020 Parent Opinion Survey

We want our parents to tell us what they think!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst all parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Each family has received a email inviting them to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. Please complete this by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

Please take the time to complete the survey. Your opinion is important to us.

## 2020 Parents Victoria Online Conference

Parents /carers, school leadership / staff and school councillors are invited to attend the 2020 Parents Victoria Online Conference.

The theme of the forum is a Brave New World: Changes, challenges and opportunities for families and schools.

This year's conference program includes presentations from expert speakers and groups on mental health support for students and parents, connecting school communities and engaging families.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino will open the conference and answer questions submitted by schools and families.

To submit a question email [office@parentsvictoria.asn.au](mailto:office@parentsvictoria.asn.au) by Sunday 11 October.

Details on the conference and how to register are provided below.

**Date:** Monday 19 October 2020

**Time:** 10am to 1.15pm

**Cost:** The conference is free but registration is essential.

**Registration:** The conference will take place on Zoom. Participants will be emailed a Zoom link on 18 October.

## Book Club

Book Club catalogues are available online at [https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc\\_520.pdf](https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc_520.pdf)

## 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

## Birralee Primary School Week 2 – Term 4

It is great to see everyone back! OSHC with Camp Australia is more than care, we provide enriching experiences every morning and afternoon that are tailored to the likes and needs of your child. Whether it's one of our engaging featured experiences that could see your child doing science experiments, creating art pieces and pictures, competing in a round robin of sports and more, or one of our dedicated zones where they can explore construction, mindfulness, cooking and creativity – our activities are designed for your child to learn through experience.

Have a look at out some pictures that the children have created:



### **FREE to Register.**

Once registered, you'll be able to easily make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

BSC 7:00AM – 8:30AM | ASC 3:00PM – 6:15PM (Early ASC start to support term 4 staggered times)

### **Enhanced safety and hygiene.**

With updated policies and measures, we commit to providing a safe and hygienic environment for your children to enjoy.

### **Visit our blog.**

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families. [Visit our blog.](#)

Bookings can be made at [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) or through contacting Customer Care on 1300 105 343. The service is opened from 7:00am to 8:30am and 3:15pm to 6:15pm.

Jennifer Stoddart - Coordinator



# Community News



## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CLUB!**

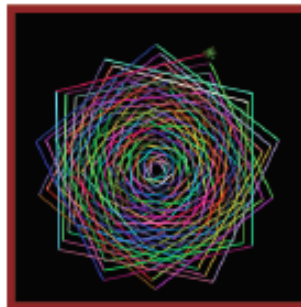
@ Birrale Primary School

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 coding club running at the school.



### DEVELOP SKILLS

- Creativity
- Logical thinking
- Problem solving



### LEARN

- Computer Science Concepts
- Fundamentals of programming
  - Loops, Events, Randomness and more

### PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Scratch
- Python
- Javascript
- .. and many more



### MAKE

- Games
- Web pages
- Apps

### 9 WEEK TERM PROGRAM

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$171+GST

AFTER SCHOOL

4:00pm - 5:00pm

BATCH 1

Tuesday's 06th Oct to 08th Dec

### ONLINE PROGRAM

UNTIL EXTRA CURRICULARS  
ARE BACK AT SCHOOL

Fill out the form online by  
**Friday the 25th of  
September 2020**



<https://www.digimaker.com.au/parents-registration-form/>

Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via email

## HOLIDAY E-LEARNING PROGRAM

2 HOUR OF FUN FILLED CODING  
FULLY SUPERVISED OVER ZOOM  
(5 DAYS A WEEK)!

<https://www.digimaker.com.au/events/school-holiday-coding-program/>

# Community News

AND **WIN** 1 of 5 x \$1000 WISH eGift Cards<sup>#</sup>



Renew today to go into the draw!

Renew & support us

20% of your Membership renewal purchase comes directly to us.

Single City

**\$69<sup>99</sup>**

1 Year

+ 2 months **EXTRA**

Discover all the best savings in your city

**\$14** to our fundraiser

Multi City

**\$119<sup>99</sup>**

1 Year

**MOST POPULAR**

+ 2 months **EXTRA**

Enjoy savings across all of Australia, New Zealand and Bali

**\$24** to our fundraiser

Multi Plus

**\$229<sup>99</sup>**

2 Years

**BEST VALUE**

2 years of savings across Australia, New Zealand and Bali

**\$46** to our fundraiser

Entertainment Memberships are filled with thousands of incredible savings on dining, activities, travel & shopping. **Up to 50% off** and **2-for-1 deals in your city and across Australia.**

Renew & support us