

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – March 19th 2020

What a Term!

It's hard to believe the term is almost over – so much has happened in such a short amount of time! Our preps and other students new to the school have settled in so well – it's as though they have been here for a very long time. For the first time in about 6 years, there were no new teachers beginning with us, even though we grew from 24 to 25 classes, as we had the very welcome return of Jacinta Hollings and Katherine Oswin from family leave to share Prep H. All classes were well into the routines of teaching by the second week, the school was 'humming' along beautifully – a real credit to the fabulous assistant principals, teachers, aides and office staff we have working at Birralelee. Thank you also to the many parents who have gone out of their way to assist staff members and also for the way new families have been made welcome into the Birralelee community.

Everything was looking fine; we'd had a very successful swimming carnival, planning was under way for senior school sport, the family fun night, class excursions, the Year 3 to 6 Athletics sports and so on.

It slowly became obvious however, that the global Covid-19 pandemic was making this a term unlike any other we have ever had. 2020 will be year we will never forget.

Excursions, PFA events, assemblies etc. have all been cancelled in an effort to control the spread of the virus. As I alerted the community to yesterday, we are planning for schools to be shut down at some stage for a period of time. We will ensure students have access to curriculum materials to enable a learning program to continue. I am sure we will have the support of our community as we move into this totally new way of learning. I feel sure there will be difficulties we have not foreseen and the odd technical hiccup from time to time will occur. I ask for a little patience under these circumstances.

DET continues to offer updates to principals each night and I will inform the community as soon as possible of any new developments pertaining to schools.

If the term runs as it should, students will be dismissed next Friday at 2:30pm. They are scheduled (at this stage) to return to school on Tuesday 14th April.

School Council Community Member Vacancy

Birralelee School Council is looking for a community member to join School Council for 2020 that has experience in seeking and applying for grants/applications. If you think you would be able to assist us please contact the school by Friday 27th March.

Harmony Day – This Friday

Birralelee is a diverse community with 30 different nationalities represented, 25 languages other than English spoken at home and people of all major religious faiths represented. Apart from the original custodians of this land, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, we all can trace our heritage to someone from another country. We are a nation of migrants. Some of us trace our migration history to this past year, others way back to the 1790s – but we all have one thing in common – we have come here from somewhere else in the world and we live here in this wonderful country we call Australia. Please talk with your children about their ancestors and the countries from which they emigrated, and remember, "Everyone Smiles in the Same Language".

To celebrate our diversity and the harmony in which we live, we are asking all of our students to enjoy the day by dressing up in national costumes of their heritage or wear orange. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual

respect. (It would be wonderful to see parents wearing traditional costumes when dropping off/picking up children too!)

Special Date

For those with an astronomical interest, Saturday, 21st March will be the autumnal equinox in the southern hemisphere. From Saturday onwards, the days become shorter and the nights become longer until winter solstice on June 21st when the days once more begin to lengthen.

Ashley Ryan
Principal

Quote of the Week

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing you can do is keep your mind young." Mark Twain

Word of the Week

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing you can do is keep your mind young." Mark Twain

2020 Calendar

Term1

- March
 - Thur 19th STEM Challenge due
 - 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
 - Thur3 – Fri 4th
 - Grade 3 Camp
 - Wed 9th Carols Evening
 - Fri 18th End of Term 4 (1:30pm dismissal)

Assembly

Assembly has been cancelled until further notice.

Play is the Way Award Winners

Art: Christian T (3S), Sim K (3M)
Mandarin: Ryan W(4S)
P.E.: Tom H (4C)
Band: Elle V (6E)
Music: Alex H (6W), Emily L(5P), Leo G(4S)
STEM: Martha K(4A)

Golden Platypus: 3S
Active Travel: 4S
House Award Discovery

Please listen to message before returning call

If you receive a call from school please listen to the message before returning the call. If we receive a call in the office and you do not know who made the original call we have to call around the school. This is disruptive to lessons and, in the case where we have families with more than one student in the school, is time consuming.

SRC Gold Coin Free Dress Day

Greetings to parents, guardians, teachers, and students,

We are holding a gold coin donation on **Thursday the 26th of March**. On this day students are more than welcome to bring a gold coin donation that will be donated to The Royal Children's Hospital. If students bring a gold coin donation it is optional whether they choose to wear free dress. 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. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Your newly formed year 6 SRC team.

Privacy Policy

Please read our Privacy Policy [here](#) which explains how our school collects and manages personal and health information.

We are in the process of sending home enrolment information for verification. Please check the details on the form. If there are changes or corrections that need to be made please write them in on the form and return to the school office. If all information is correct there is no need to return the form.

Bakers Delight Easter Fundraiser

If you have not yet placed your order for Hot Cross Buns you have until 5pm on Sunday 22nd to do so. This can be done by visiting <http://bit.ly/bps-easter>.

Orders will be delivered to school on Tuesday 24th March and will be distributed to students. In the unlikely event that the school will be closed by Tuesday we will notify you of alternative arrangements.

School Banking

School banking has been put on hold until further notice. There will be no banking tomorrow or next week.

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 word 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