

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 1 Week 7 9th March 2017

Newsletter of the Birchgrove Public School
A NSW Government School
Birchgrove Road,
Balmain NSW 2041

Ph: 02 9810 2469

Fax: 02 9555 8653

E: birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

W: www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Dates to Remember



Parent
Music
Sport
Student Parliament

2017

9/3	Selective High School Test – Sydney Secondary College – Balmain
9/3	EOI's for year 7 2018 go out to parents
13/3	Regional Swimming Carnival
15/3	P & C Meeting
15/3	Education Ministry – 3-6 Music quiz - Lunch
16/3	Interrelate Lessons Stage 3
16/3	Learning Support Interviews – Day 1
17/3	EOI's for year 7 2018 due back to school
21/3	Learning Support Interviews – Day 2
22/3	Years 4,5 & 6 Parent/ Teacher interviews – Library
23/3	Learning Support Interviews – Day 3
24/3	Magazine Ministry – Easter Writing/ Drawing Competition ends.
26/3	Sunday Music Jam Club
27/3	Charities Ministry – Crazy Hair Day
28/3	Interrelate Lessons Stage 3
28/3	Year 3 Parent/ Teacher interviews - Library
30/3	School Cross Country Carnival
31/3	Splendour in the Grove 2 7:00-11:30pm
3/4	Kindergarten Parent/ Teacher interviews
4/4	Social Functions Ministry - Talent Quest 3-6 - Lunch
5/4 & 6/4	State Swimming
6/4	Easter Hat Parade
7/4	Last Day Term 1

Principal

Skoolbag News

We now have the ability to opt in to class groups and/or year groups on Skoolbag. Please refer to the instructions in this newsletter to see how it's done. I am assured it is quite straightforward. Parents can receive information relevant to the classes/ year level their children are in.

Parent/ Teacher Interviews: Our first formal parent teacher interviews will be held in weeks 9, 10 and 11. Bookings are done online. There is a booking instruction sheet attached to this newsletter. The main days for each teacher are:

Monday 20th March: Possums (Miss Taksa) & Numbats (Mrs Deans).

Wednesday 22nd March: Crocodiles (Miss Carroll), Great White Sharks (Mr Dodds), Cockatoos (Mr Nguyen) & Kookaburras (Ms Keating).

Tuesday 28th March: Cassowaries (Ms Corliss), Rosellas (Mrs Copping) & Emus (Mr Press).

Wednesday 29th March: Bandicoots (Miss Gill), Bilbies (Mr Fitzgerald) & Flying Foxes (Miss Preece).

Monday 3rd April: Kangaroos (Mrs Weber), Echidnas (Miss Sarina) & Koalas (Mrs Mall)

Thursday 30th March, Friday 31st March and Thursday 6th April - Preschool Red (Mrs Mitchell) before and after school.

Learning Support Parent Meetings

Parents of some of our students on Learning Support are being contacted to arrange a meeting to work on their child's individual learning programs with class teachers and members of the Learning and Support Team in Week 8 and 9.

Finance

When you receive a statement of account for school fees or expenses, at the bottom of the page it states - "Please return this statement with your payment." Ignore this as we don't need the statement back.

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Parent Tutor Reading

Our Parent Tutor Reading Program started again next week. We have 7 volunteers but would love a few more. The program works with children who need a little support in reading. Each parent works one-on-one with a child for half an hour following a program set up by the school. The children not only read but work on word attack, spelling and play a game to finish with consolidating their efforts. Each child on the program needs to read with an adult three times each week for them to get the benefit from the program. For every three parents who volunteer for one hour two children can join the program. If you have an hour to spare once a week please fill in the form attached to this newsletter or see Mr Cormack.

MOVING INTO YEAR 7 IN A NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOL 2018

The expression of interest form (EOI) for NSW Government high schools for 2018 was handed out today. All children in Year 6 who are moving into Year 7 in 2018 must fill in the form and return it to the school by Friday 17th March, 2017. This form is to be filled out even if your child/ren are not attending a public school in 2018. These forms are used to assist the high schools in placing everyone who needs a place for next year.

Sydney East Swimming Carnival

Layla, Sophie, Presley and Lucy are swimming at the Sydney East Swimming Carnival on Monday 13th March. Good luck! Swim fast and enjoy the races. We look forward to hearing how our senior relay team and senior breaststroker went in next weeks newsletter.



Robert Cormack
Relieving Principal

Library News

Orders for Redgum Book Club closed on 6th March, books should be delivered to school on the week commencing 13th March. Thank you in advance for your support.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) began on the 6th March. Children in K -2 complete the challenge at school. Years 3-6 have to read 20 books. They can record the books on line or on a Personal record log. Please contact me if you have any questions about the PRC.

Regards
Mrs Ilieff



BALMAIN DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB

The Balmain District Football (soccer) Club is looking for U6 girls to join their Girls U6 Football teams. The teams are girls only and the focus is on participation, fun and being active. If you would like to sign your daughter up or would like to find out more please contact Peter McDonald at petermcd@odcm.com.au or register through www.balmainfootball.com.au.

Student Parliament Activities – Term 1

WRITING AND DRAWING COMPETITION!

Hello Students, Parents and Teachers!

The school magazine ministry is holding a Year 2-6 Easter themed writing competition and a K-1 drawing competition. You can either write a poem or a story (if in Years 2-6) or a colourful drawing (if in Kindergarten or Year 1) as long as it is related to Easter.

The competition is open from the 8th of March. Entries must be in by 24th of March. There will be an orange box at the front office with a sign above it saying "Writing and Drawing competition". Once your story, poem or drawing is finished put it in the box. The winning entries will go into the first Easter themed magazine edition. There will be posters around the school with information as well. Winners will be announced at assembly. Don't forget it's Easter themed! Think about the meaning of Easter, the fun and excitement and of course things you do at Easter.

Don't forget to write your name and class on your entry.

Best of Luck!
Magazine Ministry



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Crazy Hair Day

On Monday the 27th of March the Charities Ministry and the Treasury will be running Crazy Hair Day. It will go from 8:30 to 9:00am in the top pickup area, it will also be on recess if we don't finish. Please bring a gold coin donation to get your hair sprayed different colours. Also, we encourage you to come to school with a crazy hair style. All money will go to the Leukaemia Foundation. We hope you can help us support this charity.

Thanks

Charities & Treasury
Ministries



Music Quiz

Dear students, teachers and parents,

On Wednesday the 15th of March the education ministry will be running a fun and team building music quiz for the 3 to 6's. It will be in the first half of lunch in the hall. Entry is free to the participants and there will be no spectators. The signups are on the 8th of March outside the canteen area. The team must have a minimum of 2 people and a maximum of 6 people per team. The music quiz will be made up of 2 rounds. The first round we will ask participants to name the song or the artist and whoever puts their hand up first will answer. In the second round they must finish the next line in the song. All songs have no inappropriate language. There will be a K-2 music quiz further on in the year. Hope to see you there.

Regards,

Education Ministry

Talent Quest

Dear students, teachers and parents,

On Tuesday the 4th of April the social functions ministry will be running a talent quest for the 3 to 6's (K-2 will be run in Term 2). It will be at lunch in the hall. Entry is free to the participants and spectators. The signups were yesterday the 8th of March outside the canteen area. If you missed this please see Luca or Holly a.s.a.p. We are accepting drama, singing, dancing, the odd magic act & comedy skits. All performances should be appropriate for children to watch. The item should go for no more than 2 minutes. More information to follow next week. Hope to see you there.

Regards,

Social Functions Ministry



Birchgrove P & C News

Dear BPS Community,

Welcome Back BBQ: The Welcome Back BBQ was the first major event organised by the P&C this year. It was a great way to kick off the year being well attended by many parents and children. Thank you to Frankie Gaffney (P&C Social Liaison Co-ordinator) for running the event and your team behind the scenes, Susan, Lynn and Jennifer.

To those parents who volunteered on the night (especially those who were roped in at the last minute to man the BBQ – you know who you are). A very big thank you. The success of the P&C and the ultimately the school depends heavily on our volunteers.

Thanks to Ray White for the colouring and balloons – the balloons were a big hit with the children.

Splendour in the Grove - Friday 31 March: Tickets are on sale now for 'SPLENDOUR IN THE GROVE'. The inaugural event was held last year and tickets were sold out well in advanced, due to the hall/venue only being allowed to hold so many. Birchgrove school rocked that night with tunes everybody knew. Get along to watch the mums and dads of the schools sing their hearts out. Thank you again Frankie Gaffney (P&C Social Liaison Co-ordinator) for organising another event.

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Spending by the P&C in 2017 (so far)

This year the P&C has spent the following:

- \$25K Maths and literacy teacher
- \$5K Guided reading resources
- \$3K Learning apps and software licences
- \$3K Year 6 leavers party

2017 Fete Coordinator – Vacant role (Fete Date: Saturday 13 May 10-4pm)

The Birchgrove Public School Fete is held in high regard by the Inner West Community. Annually it contributes over \$30K to the P&C revenues and towards the school. It is our biggest revenue earner.

We do not want to limit our search to just Year 3. We are seeking the best person from the school for the role. Ideal background would be Events management or Project Management. However anyone who can be organised, communicate and delegate is also well suited. Each class usually chooses 2 stalls to run. There are manuals from previous years to guide them. The Fete coordinator overall role is bringing it all together to run as smoothly as possible.

You would be ably supported by the P&C, Fete Committee, Class Parent Coordinators and School Staff. I have run the fete previously in 2014 and 2015 and could give you good insight to how it is run. If you are interested feel free to contact me.

2017 P&C Levies are due by the 31 March

Thank you to those parents, who have already made their voluntary contribution!

The levies are our second biggest revenue earner for the P&C. The levy helps plug the gaps in much needed learning resources for our children. We currently have a list of more resources that we wish to add to the classrooms, but are awaiting further funds. Payment by every family would result in \$30,000 additional resources that could be purchased for the school.

The ANNUAL FEES for 2017 are:

- \$130 for 1 child
- \$230 for 2 children
- \$310 for 3 children and \$80 for each extra child thereafter
- \$65 per preschool child

The P&C levies are due by 31 March 2017. While we will accept payment after this date, ultimately prompt payment helps us significantly fund priority items early in the year. We politely request payment by the 31 March.

Payment can be made the following ways:

1. Cash or Cheque
– please place payment in in a sealed envelope in the black box at the school office.
2. Direct Debit Details
(Please include family name in reference section)
Bank: CBA
Account name: Birchgrove P&C
Account number: 00900746
BSB: 062 110

If required, further details re P&C levies can be found on the green form outside the school office. This same green form was also send home in the children school bags.

Finally, if you have any queries relative to the P&C, please send them through the school website (www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) via the P&C page or attend our monthly meeting.

Kim Hall
(BPS P&C President)
email address: bransdonhall@gmail.com

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ENSEMBLE ETIQUETTE

Please ensure your child/ren arrive on time for all ensemble practices. It is in the interest of the whole group and makes the conductors and parent coordinators jobs a lot easier.

SPACES AVAILABLE

We have a few vacancies in Kodaly Year 1 - register with michelle_stellini@hotmail.com. Classes are on Tuesday mornings at school.

IMPORTANT MUSICAL DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sunday 26th March – Sunday Music Jam Club

Sunday 7th May - Combined Bands (Training and Concert) workshop, at school

Saturday 13th May - School Fete

Tuesday 5th Sept - Music Night, at school in the evening.

Thurs 12th & Friday 13th October - Music Camp (Year 3 + only) Training Band, Concert Band, Rock Band, Concert Strings

Sunday Music Jam Club

Jack Robertson, father of Joe and keen musician, announces a new activity for BPS musicians:

After discussing the idea with the Music Committee and the Principal (Tracy Gray), Rob Cormack and I are happy to announce a trial of what we are calling the **BPS Sunday Music Jam Club**. As everyone knows, at Birchgrove our kids are blessed with a fantastic music program which incorporates regular performances and first rate individual tutoring, but a few of us are interested in exploring additional options for the school's aspiring musos. The basic idea behind what could become a monthly get-together in the school hall is to set up some PA gear, some amps and a drum kit, invite any interested BPS kids (and a parent/carer) to come along, and...well, jam. Play some music. Sing some songs. Kick around some simple chord progressions, learn a bit about improvising, interacting with other players, stagecraft, equipment, and so on. If that sounds pretty vague it's because...the concept is still pretty vague! It's an experiment, the aim being to get the kids to shape a Music Jam Club that suits *them*, not us. There'll be more practical details closer to the date, but if your kids might be interested, pencil in **Sunday 26 March, 11:00 to 13:00, in the BPS Hall**. It'll be open to all classes/ages and all instruments, key supervisors will be Rob Cormack and me (at least) BUT your child(ren) will need at least one 'attached' adult to stay, too. If you have queries feel free to ring me (Jack) on 0429 690 261, although don't be surprised if I respond to your questions with '*Not entirely sure, let's see what the kids reckon...*' a lot. However if it does work out (if it works out at all) the emphasis will be on fun, inclusion and informality.

Band and Ensemble Fees

Invoices will be sent out to students at the beginning of each term 2, 3 & 4 (usually within the first 2 weeks). Term 1 Invoices are going out this week, so please look out for your child's in their bag.

Please note it is your responsibility to pay fees if your child goes to band/ensembles. Please contact me to pay if you have not received an invoice or come and collect a copy from the Finance Office.

Students with any unpaid fees at the end of each term will be removed from the Band/Ensembles in the following term.

As with all payments now - please pay via the school website 'make a payment'.

Any queries regarding fees please contact me.

Thank you
Melanie Wales
Finance Office

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THE EASY WAY TO BOOK

SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held shortly. Bookings must be finalised before the 17th of March at 4pm, when bookings for this event will close.

For parents that do not have internet access, computer kiosks will be available at Reception from Friday onwards, for parents to make their own bookings. Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require, or phone the school on 9810 2469. Students with written permission from parents may also have access to the kiosk. Interviews are strictly 10 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Go

Simply enter the code and press "Go"



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately –

Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on 17th March at 4pm

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 9810 2469

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the "contact us" button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school's name and suburb.

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Friday 24 February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Across the school there are a number of students who would benefit from reading to an adult on a daily basis. In recent years the school has run a very successful Parent Tutoring program helping over forty students improve their reading skills each year. Some of the students improved beyond expectation.

If you would like to be involved in the Parent Tutoring program and are able to give an hour of your time on any day Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 11:00am your help would be greatly appreciated.

For any parents that are able to help out, there will be a training session on Friday 3 March, 2017 (Week 6 Term 1) at 10:15am in the school library. This session will explain the program and answer any questions. It will be presented by Robert Cormack. The program is more than just reading with a child.

The Parent Tutoring Program will commence in Week Seven. (Monday 6 March)

The students that are identified will work individually with a parent volunteer for a half an hour a day Monday to Friday.

If you are interested in being involved in this program please fill in the form below and return it via email or to the front office attention Mr Cormack. Your support of this program will be greatly appreciated.

Robert Cormack
Assistant Principal and Coordinator
(robert.cormack@det.nsw.edu.au)

Tracy Gray
Principal

Parent Tutoring Program

Parent Name _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Class _____

I would like to volunteer for the Parent Tutoring Program starting in Week 7, Term 1.

Please circle the day, how often and the time you are available.

I am able to help on:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

I am able to stay for: 2hrs (9:00 to 11:00am) 1hr (9:00 to 10:00am) or 1hr (10:00 to 11:00am)

Other times:

My contact details are:

Phone _____

Email _____

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Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



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SPRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE

A free travelling exhibition that tells the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War, featuring artefacts from the Australian War Memorial.

**BOOK FREE TICKETS NOW AT
WWW.SPIRITOFANZAC.GOV.AU**

We will be hosting free children's activities at the Experience from 17 - 21 April. Find out more and register your interest at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/sydney/activities

International Convention Centre Sydney
15 - 27 APR 2017

PRESENTED BY



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



FINAL TOUR DATES