

# Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 8 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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

Ph: 02 9810 2469

Fx: 02 9555 8653

E: [birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

W: [www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



## Principal's Report



The final P&C Disco for 2013 was enjoyed by all who attended. It was great to see so many families braving the wet weather to attend. Thank you to our fabulous Kindy parent team who organised the event and all the parents who worked so hard on the night (and day setting up!). The summer theme in the hall looked amazing. Lots of sausages and cakes were bought and the parents bought the odd drink to help raise funds for Stewart House. We also learnt how to turn off the emergency lighting when the red button was accidentally pushed.....and fortuitously Miss Gray had time to take some photos before the lights went dim again!



Each year, as a school community we collect food and presents for The Exodus Foundation which services families in need and the homeless in the inner west. There will be a donation box in the school foyer next week. Food items need to be non-perishable or have long expiry dates as they will not be picked up until the last week of term. Presents need to be unwrapped, but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated.

Last week I attended the **P&C AGM** and expressed my gratitude to the outgoing P&C Committee for all their hard work and support. This week I attended **the Music Committee AGM** and did the same thing. As I was sitting there last night listening to the good hearted banter and receiving so many exceptional volunteers to fill the executive roles and the committee roles I was reminded just how many generous and supportive parents we have. You are truly inspirational, and it was on a day I really appreciated being reminded of how inspirational. Thank you.

**Thank you** to all the children, parents and teachers who have been very flexible while dealing with the new asphalt being laid in the playground- it will be wonderful to be rid of all those trip hazards.

It's that time of year where the **2014's Student Parliament** will be decided. Tomorrow students from Year 1 to 6 will be hearing the Year 5 candidate speeches and voting when they return to class. Every year we have exceptional candidates and this year is no exception. I would like to wish the candidates well in the final step of their campaign. Good Luck: Ali Brand, Lila Carney-Chapus, Beatrice Colombis, Piper Daly, Stella Hinchcliffe, Ju-A Hwang, Nic Bulley, Otto Davies, Liam Maloney, William Sheppard, Reuben Warner Van Dijk and Kit Young.

**Tracy Gray**

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## Birchgrove Public School Rules

I respect my personal belongings by:

- writing my name on my things
- keeping my personal belongings in my bag or in my tote tray
- placing my bag in the bag shelves



**LIBRARY NEWS** This will be the last week of borrowing, please look at home for overdue books. Books can be returned any day, reminder letters will follow. Thank you for your support. Mrs Chris Ilieff

### Book Review - The Silver Key by N.J. Cameron.

The silver Key is a great book. It is about a boy called Max and his sister Beatrice. Their Grandpa passes away and for the summer they go to look after his house in a little town called Holmestown. Max finds a key and he is curious to find out what it opens. Along the way they meet a boy called Corky, helps them on their adventure. They all follow clues to find out what it leads to.

I loved this book and recommend it to ages 7-13.

**Reviewed by Piper Daly 5K**

## Classes for 2014

It is the time of year where we are starting to look at classes for 2014. If you are not returning in 2014 (and not in Y6) please let the school know now by completing and returning the note below.

### Students NOT RETURNING to Birchgrove in 2014

Please inform the office by completing this form if your child will NOT be returning to Birchgrove in 2014. (Please do not reply if your child is in Year 6 this year 2013).

My child: \_\_\_\_\_ of class \_\_\_\_\_ will not be returning to Birchgrove Public School in 2014.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My child will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_ in 2014

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form. We are starting to work out classes for next year and this information helps make decisions on how the classes will be set up and what enrolments we can accept. We are still operating at capacity and need to be able to advise parents if there are spots available in 2014.

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**2013**

## Dates to Remember

Parent

Music

Sport

Student Parliament

25-28

Swim School Years 3-6

2/12

Cybersafety - Year 4,5,6 Staff Meeting Parents Meeting 5:30pm

4/12

Kindergarten Graduation 9:30 seating for a 9:45 start

5/12

Years 5&6 Recognition Ceremony 9:30 seating for a 9:45 start

6/12

Christmas Concert St Johns Church

6/12

Parent Volunteers Thank you Morning Tea

10/12

Year 6 Farewell

10/12

Year 3 & 4 Recognition Ceremony 9:30 seating for a 9:45 start

10/12

Preschool Concert (3 day classes)

11/12

Year 1 & 2 Recognition Ceremony 9:30 seating for a 9:45 start

12/12

Picnic Day K-6 K-2 Movie Day Y3-6 Swimming

13/12

Year 6 Darling Harbour

18/12

Year 6 Farewell Assembly and Arch

18/12

Last Day of Term 4



Hi everyone,

This week at **Birchgrove OSHC** we are doing construction. Using everything & anything to get creative & build things for our construction competition. Come on Thursday & have a look at what the students have created!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS are just around the corner & we are excited for all the fun activities we have planned. Before Christmas we are Open on the 19th & 20th of December. We will be learning about Christmas all around the world! After a short holiday we are back on 6th of January to 28th of January with all kinds of themes from Space-Science-Witches & Wizards! For more information visit the Camp Australia website on [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) or come to the centre & have a chat.

As always if your child is attending as casual (or can't make it) please let the Head Office know on 1300 105 343 or give us a call direct on 0405 413 528.

Thanks,

Birchgrove Team

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## P&C News

Last Friday we capped off the P&C calendar with another superbly organised and very successful event. The End of Year Disco was a fun night for all who attended and the thousands of dollars raised have been donated to a very good cause, the Stewart House Children's Charity based at Curl Curl. Stewart House provides programs and opportunities for children who need a break from their everyday life. It's website states:

*"Each year 1,800 public school children in need come to Stewart House from many parts of NSW and the ACT. During their stay, children are provided with optometric, dental and medical treatment as well as emotional support. This is balanced with health and educational programs and out of school activities to boost their self-esteem and to promote a healthier lifestyle."*

The P&C is deeply grateful to Cheli Lawlor for her magnificent effort in coordinating the event. Many thanks also go to: Cheryl Douglas and Michelle Stellini for the very creative hall decorations and props; Jacqui Verbeek for planning and logistics; Stephanie Griffiths for organising ticket sales; Heidi Williams, Anna Klara and year 6 for the all-important glow sticks; Jo Moore for the well-executed bar set up; Jacki Fortune, Karen Peters and Sandy Jenkins for operating the bar; Amy Large, for managing the door sales and sweets; Lisa May, Jane, Sureka and Becky for their baking expertise; and, on the BBQ, Wayne (Angela's dad), Nina, Dianne and Hessel. Thanks too to Angela Davies, Paul Angus and Jackie Fortune for donating and setting up the tarp and to Tracy Gray and Di Ford for their support for this event.

Finally, the P&C extends its gratitude to Kate Myles – who has stepped down from the Secretary's position on the executive after five years' sterling service – and Eric Moore – who is stepping down from the Sponsorship Committee. Everyone on the P&C greatly appreciates all the highly effective work you have put in for the School Kate and Eric, and wishes you all the best.

**Chris O'Donnell**  
P&C President

## Chess Class

The chess class at Birchgrove Public School runs on Tuesday mornings from 1:10 pm - 1:55 pm.

If you are interested in joining the chess class, please contact the Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170 or email [enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](mailto:enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au).

### Puzzle information

Answer Puzzle nr. 5:

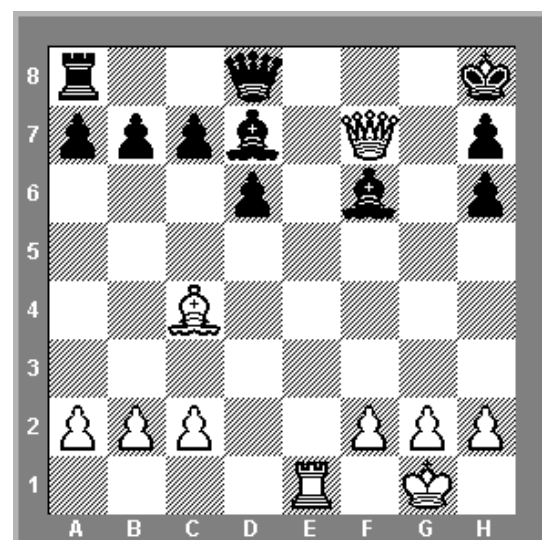
1. Qe5+

### Upcoming holiday chess events

Information on holiday events can be found on:

[sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/coaching/holiday](http://sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/coaching/holiday)

## Chess puzzle



**Puzzle nr. 6:** White to play and checkmate in 2 moves





## HELPER MORNING TEA

**We want to say  
THANK YOU  
to all the parents and carers  
who have helped in many  
different ways**

bread  
butter

ham  
cheese

carrots  
beans  
apples  
bananas

biscuits

**When: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Time: 11.15 am approx.**  
(after St John's concert)

**Where: On the Terrace/  
Staffroom**

Thursday - Help  
with reading

morning  
Working Bee

CANTEEN ORDER FORM

hot dog

☐

drink

☐

payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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cyber(smart:)

## Cybersmart TIP#17

### *Excessive Use*

Too much time online can impact on your health and wellbeing, family, relationships, work or education.

To find out more about how you can keep your child safe online attend the upcoming cybersafety presentation schedule in your school.

Session details:

2/12 @ 5:30pm in the school hall  
Birchgrove Public School



[www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

outreach



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Dear Parent/ Carer,

### Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, Birchgrove Public School is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge. Birchgrove Public School is committed to helping students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5:30pm-7pm in the school hall.

To register your attendance, please return the note below as soon as possible, so we make sure there are enough seats and handouts!. Enrolments will also be accepted on the night.

Yours Sincerely,

Tracy Gray  
Principal

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### Cyber Smart Parent Session

Fax: 9555 8653

Email: [Birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

I will be attending the Cybersmart Parent Session on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Decmber @5:30pm -7pm in Birchgrove Public School's Hall

Parents/Carers Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

My children attend:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Birchgrove Public School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balmain Public School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicholson St Public School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rozelle Public School Public School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Gove Public School



## Canteen Christmas Stall Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

We are having our very successful Canteen Christmas Stall again this year. We need your help with donations of gifts to make this year a great success as well.

We need gifts for kids, men and ladies as soon as possible, to ensure enough time to have all the gifts wrapped and ready for sale by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All gifts must be new. We cannot accept any used or broken items.

Gift ideas include (but are not limited to): Toys, books, puzzles, footballs, golf/soccer/tennis balls, games, stationery, Smiggle, CDs, DVDs, aftershave, hats/caps, wallets, key rings, socks, drink holders, perfume, make up bags, make up, cups/mugs, bowls, plates, platters.

Christmas cakes, puddings, chocolates, other Christmas food items, Christmas tea towels, decorations etc.

...or any other gift item you think would make a nice Christmas present.

Thank you for your support  
**Karen**





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## Music Committee AGM

Our Music Committee AGM was held last night. A big thank you to all those have been on the Music Committee this year. Particular thanks must go to our retiring co-ordinator Lisa Healy who has done a **fantastic** job for the past two years, always with a smile! Also big thanks to Sam Brampton, Jerome Fink, Catherine Whitty and Penny Cain who are leaving the school after many years of helping to build the Music Program to the high standard it is at today. You will all be very much missed.

## The Committee for 2013 will be:

Co-ordinator- Jacki Fortune  
Treasurer – Andrew Davies  
Secretary – Suzanne Shipard  
Instrument Co-ordinator – Kate Myles  
Tutor Co-ordinator - Michelle Stellini  
Senior Strings co-ordinator – Lisa Healy  
Intermediate strings co-ordinator – Louise Thompson  
Junior strings co-ordinator – Katy Evans  
Concert Band co-ordinators - Simone Love, Graham Jepson & Rose Russell  
Training Band co-ordinators – Bronwyn Smith & Nicole Bennett  
Advanced consort & consort recorder co-ordinator – Marian Barker  
Intermediate recorder contact parent – Emma Day  
Beginner recorders contact parent – TBC  
ECM co-ordinators – TBC

Please let Lisa at [rich@rdhinchliffe.com](mailto:rich@rdhinchliffe.com) know if you would be interested in filling one of the vacant positions.

## Recruitment Night Update

Offers have now gone out for positions in the Strings Ensembles and Training Band. If you haven't received an offer for your child, please contact Lisa at [rich@rdhinchliffe.com](mailto:rich@rdhinchliffe.com) for strings or Jacki at [jackifortune@yahoo.com](mailto:jackifortune@yahoo.com) for band as soon as possible. Acceptance forms need to be printed out, signed and handed in into the school office by Friday.

We still have availability to join the Training Band in 2014 on the trumpet or euphonium.

## New Music Ensemble in 2014

We are planning to introduce a NEW music ensemble in 2014. The "Rock Guitar Ensemble" will be open to students who have been learning guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard or a brass instrument for at least 12 months and will rehearse before school on Wednesday mornings. The idea is to offer an alternative opportunity for young musicians, who are not already involved in a BPS band, to experience the ensemble dynamic. Members of the Concert Band would not be excluded, but if there is more interest than we can accommodate, preference will probably be given to players who are otherwise not playing in a group. If you are interested, [please contact Jacki Fortune at [jackifortune@yahoo.com](mailto:jackifortune@yahoo.com)]

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## Band, String and Recorder Parents

We are currently planning next year's Music Program. If your child will not be continuing in their current ensemble in 2014, please let your parent contact know as soon as possible.

## All Music Fees Due

All Music fees are now overdue. If you haven't received an invoice, have difficulty paying or have any queries, please contact our Treasurer, Jerome Fink at [birchgrovemusic@hotmail.com](mailto:birchgrovemusic@hotmail.com). Families with outstanding invoices will not be able to participate in the Music Program in 2014.



## Senior Music Soiree

Last Sunday, Senior Strings and the Concert Band performed a concert for friends and family in the School Hall. The idea behind the concert was to give everyone a chance to hear how well our two most senior groups are playing and what an extensive repertoires both groups have. It is no understatement to say that the audience was blown away by the very high standard of the performance. A highlight was the Concert Band's final number, "Eye of the Tiger", with guest vocalist Catherine Atriano.



Thank you very much to Catherine Whitty for organising the event and also to Rose Russell and Kate Myles for their assistance.

## Musical Dates for the Diary

☺ 6 December – Christmas Concert at St John's Church, Birchgrove Rd, followed by instrument return and lunch for all students in the Music Program.