

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 10 11th December 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
W: www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Principals Report

Year 6 Graduation The Year 6 Farewell was fabulous and the children enjoyed the night immensely. Year 6 all looked amazing as did the beautifully decorated venue- thank you mum. It was great to see so many staff at the event. The 3 children who spoke at the Graduation Ceremony Maddy, Ethan and Finn showcased the talents of our Year 6's and clearly demonstrated their pride in our school and their achievements. We wish you well in high school Year 6!



Farewell to Staff

It is again the time of year where people move on to new adventures and this year we are saying goodbye to **Elaine Trodden** in the office, who is retiring at the end of next week. I would like to thank Elaine for her hard work, dedication and sense of humour that children, parents and staff have enjoyed for so long. But don't feel too sad, Elaine will still see you at Woollies or a Tigers' game and will be visiting us when we need a casual in the office or a teacher's aide!

Ms Koumi has been a much valued Italian teacher, class teacher and choir conductor at Birchgrove and I would also like to thank her for all the wonderful events she has helped with, the dedication she shows to her teaching and students as well as her constant support of her colleagues. I would like to congratulate her on her new position at another inner city school.

Please take the time to read about the **Cyberbullying** course parents attended last week. Audrey McGibbon has written a great review about it from a parent's perspective. We will try and run the course again next year.

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Have a safe and happy holiday with your families
and we look forward to seeing you in 2014!
Miss Gray and the Birchgrove Staff.

LIBRARY NEWS



Please return all Library books, some of our favourites are missing, you can return books to the Library any day. Reminder notes will continue to go home. Library clean up morning, Monday of Week 11, dusting shelves and book repair.

Thank you for your support and help throughout the year.

Chris Ilieff

Parents' Perspective on Cyber Safety presentation

On December 2nd, Greg Gebhart from ACMA delivered an engaging and thought provoking information session for parents about the invasive and pervasive use of smart devices in our kids' and family lives. He was funny, provocative and above all, highly credible in his expertise and knowledge.

He spoke candidly about the challenges facing parents and children today in relation to social media, various popular apps, emerging trends, gaming & cyber-bullying, highlighting the crucial aspects where he felt parents' awareness should be stronger. By the end of the session he had provided many helpful tips and ideas for ways we can and should be intervening as parents. The bottom line message was that we need to embrace technology in our lives and in those of our children but that we need to do so in ways that align with our family values, the varying maturity levels of our kids and that as parents, we need to actively manage and be on top of what and how technology is impacting our kids.

Highly recommend for parents of all kids of all ages – despite a sense of rising panic from having our eyes opened up, we have made some changes as a result of what we learned from Greg, and are already feeling more comfortable and clear about how to manage going forward. **Audrey McGibbon**

2013

Dates to Remember

Parent

Music

Sport

Student Parliament

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 1:30 seating for a 1:45 start

18/12

Last Day of Term 4

2014

29/1

Students Years 1 to 6 return

29/1-30/1

Best Start Assessments for new Kindergarten Students

31/2

Kindergarten commence

13/2

School Swimming Carnival

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END OF YEAR CONCERT



Hats fly at the conclusion of the concert

Last Friday, the school held its traditional End of Year Celebration Concert in St John's Church, Birchgrove. A capacity crowd of students, parents, teachers and others gathered to listen to the bands, choirs and string and recorder ensembles play a wide selection of carols and other Christmas songs. We also heard some of our senior students speak eloquently about how their family celebrates at this time of year. It was a time to express our appreciation for our hardworking conductors and Music Committee parents and also to congratulate our sixteen Year 6 Music Program Graduates. Thank you to Rob Cormack for MC'ing the event, Graham Jepson for his great photos (featured above and below) and all those who have supported the Birchgrove Music program in 2013.



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TUTORS FOR 2014

New band recruits for 2014 should have contacted their tutors to arrange lesson times for next year. If you don't know who your tutor is, or haven't heard back from them yet, please contact jackifortune@yahoo.com. If your child is participating in the Birchgrove Music Program in 2014, you need to hand in a signed acceptance form to the school office as soon as possible.

ROCK GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Birchgrove Music students can look forward to a new Rock Guitar Ensemble in 2014. It 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 on Wednesday mornings before school. The idea is to offer an alternative way for young musicians to experience the ensemble dynamic. Members of the Concert Band will not be excluded but, if there is more interest than we can accommodate, preference may be given to those who are not otherwise playing in a group. If you are interested, please contact jackifortune@yahoo.com.

INSTRUMENTS AND CLASSES 2014

Instrument handout will take place on Friday, 7 February 2014 with all music ensembles and lessons due to commence in the week beginning 10 February 2014. In the meantime, we wish you a happy and safe holiday.



Bonjour!

Fun French lessons available at
Birchgrove Public School.
Wednesdays from 3.20 to
4pm

Prices will be calculated per
Term based on \$35 per
lesson.

Contact Valerie on 0405
707 674

valforestier@hotmail.com

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HOLIDAY FUN FOR EVERYONE!!!

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE

INVITE YOU TO

"DREAM"

THE YEAR OF THE HORSE STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

AT THE CHINESE GARDENS OF FRIENDSHIP

DARLING HARBOUR

SATURDAY 25TH JAN. 2014 – SUNDAY 16TH FEB. 2014

**PART OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY CHINESE NEW YEAR
CELEBRATIONS!!!!**

View an exhibition of artworks inspired by the horse and its friends by primary school children from Kids@theArthouse. Support the Birchgrove Public School students and view their amazing artworks including their large group sculpture of a horse! This is a wonderful opportunity for all our students to have their artwork exhibited in such a beautiful and culturally significant setting. Everyone is welcome! **GREAT HOLIDAY FUN!**

2014 ENROLMENTS

For Kids At The ARthouse

ARE NOW OPEN!

Enrol your child into the 2014 art program. We have an exciting new program for 2014 including submissions to art competitions and art exhibitions! Creative and stimulating classes open to K-6 students. Wednesday's 3:15pm - 5pm.

\$30 per class! Afternoon tea!

ONLY AT BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC ON WEDS. BE A PART OF THE CREATIVE FUN!

ENROL NOW! email Sabina: sabina@kidsattheartthouse.com

or call Sabina on: 0403768282

WINNER AVANT CARDS "CALLING ALL ARTIST'S" COMPETITION 2013

FINALIST AUSSIE ART COMPETITION 2013

WINNER SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY POSTER COMPETITION 2012

WINNER SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2011

WINNER AVANT CARDS "CALLING ALL ARTIST'S" COMPETITION 2010

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT WITH:

THE TAFE ULTIMO SCREEN PRINTING DEPT. 2011

THE AUSTRALIAN NUMERACY AND LITERACY FOUNDATION 2013

THE CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP "DREAM" EXHIBITION - 2013

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Planning & Infrastructure
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority



Carols by Candlelight
featuring

**Canada Bay
Community Choir**

19th Dec 6:00pm – 8:30pm

24th Dec 7:00pm – 8:00pm



**Canada Bay
Community Choir**

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Birchgrove Public School Community Keyring Deals!!

Simply flash your BPS 2013 keyring to SOLVE all of your Christmas shopping problems!!

Balmain Village Sports
Christmas SALE starts
Friday 13th Dec!
HUGE range of
Sporting Gear and
Attire on SALE
Ph: 98185909



2 x 1 hour personal training sessions
for \$45. **Normally priced at \$70!!**
(Sessions to be held between 9am – noon
Monday – Thursday.)
Contact: Dave Woods on 0417650094

Charlottes Café

Open on NEW Years Eve Day for all of you Picnic and party needs! Grab some food on your way to the park to watch the fireworks!

Happy New Year from Jason and all his team!

127 Rowntree Street Birchgrove



*Conditions apply. See in store for details. While stocks last.



Canvas - your urban beauty retreat. Your perfect place for pampering this Christmas for yourself or a gift.

Purchase any gift voucher before December 31st and go in the draw to win a body massage. Good luck!

www.canvastherapies.com.au

9818 7273

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AcuSense

Sydney CBD Health Oasis

Located at 88 Pitt Street (just north of the corner of Martin Place & Pitt Street)

Specialist back and pain management. **Receive 20% off initial visit.** Private health insurance rebate applies.

Contact: Tran Ong on 0413 126 826
or email tran@acusense.com.au



WESTMINSTER

Donation to BPS of \$1000 for any housing loan above \$250,000 sourced through Westminster.

Contact: James Grima on
0407 407 104



NEW FIDELITY

Audio • Vision • Automation



Authorised Reseller

FREE in-home technology consultation valued @ \$330
Expert advice on Audio-Video-Internet-Wi-Fi-Automation

*Book now - offer for late Jan/Feb only

New Fidelity – 9818 2333 – 211 Darling Street Balmain. (opp London Hotel)



Stem is the perfect place to pick up last minute xmas presents.
This month's offer: **Buy 10 gorgeous Christmas Decorations and get 1 FREE!**
Drop in to see the treasure trove of Xmas delights and take the stress out of last minute Silly Season Surprises!!

Stem – 295 Darling Street Balmain – 9810 5222

Community Keyring Deals!!

Simply flash your BPS 2013 keyring to SOLVE all of your Christmas shopping problems!