



HELPER MORNING TEA

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

When: Friday 5th December

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

**Where: On the Terrace/
Staffroom**

bread
butter
ham
cheese
carrots
beans
apples
bananas
biscuits

Saturday
morning
Working Bee

Thursday - Help
with reading

CANTEEN ORDER FORM

hot dog

drink

payment \$ _____

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 8 26th November 2014

Newsletter of the Birchgrove Public School
A NSW Government School
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2014

Dates to Remember

*Parent
Music
Sport
Student Parliament*

Term 4

26/11	P&C Meeting & AGM 7pm
28/11	Year 5 & 6 Sleepover
1/12	Canteen Christmas Stall
4/12	Stage 3 Recognition
5/12	St John's Christmas Concert
5/12	Preschool Concert
5/12	Parents Thank you Morning Tea
5/12	Preschool Concert
9/12	Preschool Party
9/12	Year 6 Farewell Dinner
10/12	Stage 2 Recognition Ceremony
11/12	Kindergarten Recognition Ceremony
11/12	Preschool Party
12/12	Year 6 Picnic
12/12	Stage 1 Recognition Ceremony
15/12	School Picnic Day
16/12	Preschool Cleaning Day
17/12	Farewell Assembly and Year 6 Arch
17/12	Last Day of Term 4

Library News Sadly, library borrowing has finished for the year. It is time to have a good look at home for all books that have bar codes. The stock take means that I scan every book and hopefully I will find lost books also. Return the books to the library at any time.

**Thank You
Mrs Chris Ilieff**

**P&C Meeting & AGM 7pm
tonight in the staffroom**

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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 is 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.



On Monday 1st December the **Finance Office** will be closed as Mel completes the annual review of our finances.



Year 1 to 6 parents please remind your children that the handball courts are reserved solely for kindergarten pick up after school and cannot be used for ball games as it is not safe.

In Monday's staff meeting the teachers and executives developed our plan "A" option for **2015 classes**. Of course this will all change as new children arrive and children whose parents haven't had time to fill out the 'we are leaving form' think to send it in. At the moment we have 15 classes for next year. Each year a couple of parents ask about composite classes so I have attached the DEC's information flyer on composite classes. All classes at Birchgrove are mixed ability and teachers are expected to cater for individual differences.



Last night was the final Music Committee meeting for 2014 and AGM. I would like to thank our amazing music committee led by president, Jacki Fortune for all their hard work this year and the fabulous program they have provided the children with!



This morning as I was welcoming a new family to the school it was great to show them the wonderful efforts of our parent volunteers who were helping with Kindergarten reading!



Camp Australia is open on our Pupil Free Days the 18/12 and 19/12. Bookings are available after Friday through personal online calendars under Pupil Free Day or via Customer Services.

I can't believe it's the end of another year, but I know it is as I can see Stage 3 Recognition Ceremony and the St Johns Concert on the calendar for next week! The St John's Concert will be followed by our Parent Helper Thank you Morning Tea, put on by the staff. (see flyer) I'm looking forward to catching up with many of you at our end of year events!

Tracy Gray
Principal

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Different types of writing

You child may be asked to present an assignment in a particular text type. Text types mean writing according to a purpose or an audience. For example, factual texts inform and literary texts entertain. This fact sheet gives several examples and the purpose of different types of writing.

Find out more: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4108.pdf>

Choosing a book for your child

What makes a good book for young kids? Usually anything that they want to read. Resist the desire to choose only books that you read as a child. Good books teach kids things subtly while still telling a great story.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/what-makes-a-good-book-for-young-kids>

Does cartoon violence make kids more aggressive?

Lots of parents question the violence in many of today's cartoons and video games, but many of us grew up watching cartoons where violence was also a key ingredient. What does the research indicate about exposure of our kids to violence?

Find out more: www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/does-cartoon-violence-make-kids-more-aggressive



Hi All, Just a quick update to let you know what OSHC has been doing for the last couple of weeks. OSHC has been updating our walls with awesome artwork from our OSHC children. They created a 3D-wall, 3D flowers and also made a Sea Scene collage. All activities are ideas provided by OSHC children who also turn these ideas into reality. Aloha! Our Holiday Program is now up & running, please visit us online at www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs to book your child in for fun adventure! A friendly reminder to please call customer service on 1300 105 343 if your child is unable to attend OSHC or call us here on 0405 413 415.

**Thanks,
Birchgrove Team**



Education &
Communities

Multi-age or composite classes: 2005 to 2011

Research shows it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class – it's the teacher who makes the difference.

Multi-age classes are made up of students drawn from different year levels. They may be established because of the uneven pattern of enrolment in the school, because of the small size of the school or where it's considered that mixing students of different ages is academically and socially advantageous. These multi-age classes are often designed to match the organisation of the syllabus, which is based on 'stages' running over two years.

Research about multi-stage classes

Research findings on the effects of multi-age classes and best teaching practices are available at:

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/studentsupport/programs/classsize/multiage/multi_age.pdf

For Data see:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/about-us/statistics-and-research/key-statistics-and-reports/composite-and-multiage-classes.pdf>

Two findings stand out in the research:

- it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class. The most important factors in determining how well a student does are the quality of the teacher and his or her teaching
- multi-age classes may benefit students both socially and emotionally.

The number of multi-age classes and children in these classes in each NSW public primary and infants school can be seen in the data below. It doesn't include students in support classes or schools without multi-age classes.

NSW students are performing at a high level

NSW consistently performs above average in NAPLAN testing.

In 2010:

- the proportion of NSW students performing at or above the national minimum standard for Reading and Numeracy was above the national average in all four testing years with the exception of Year 7 Numeracy, where NSW has 94.9 per cent of students at or above the national minimum standard, compared with an average of 95 per cent for Australia
- NSW is mostly ranked in the top three jurisdictions, along with ACT and Victoria, on the proportion of students at or above minimum standard and the proportion of students achieving results in the highest band for NAPLAN performance.

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P&C News

Warm and balmy weather provided the perfect atmosphere for the Summer Luau Disco last Friday evening. The children attending had a ball, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the parents who planned the event and helped out on the night on the night. It was hugely successful, with record ticket sales. Close to 600 tickets were sold. 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.



The P&C is deeply grateful to Jen Peters for her magnificent effort in coordinating the event. Special thanks also go to her chief helpers, the Kindergarten class parents: Anastasia Warden, Simone O'Connor, Melanie Mayer, Jo Feldon, Alex Marceau and Kim Hall, and to Phoebe Jeebe who designed the flyer. Thank you to Tracy Gray and Rob Cormack for your support on the night and to all the following for their efforts on the night, without which this event could not have occurred:

- BBQ: Paul Angus, Jane Fidler, Sophie Paterson, Derek Wilson, Kim Hall, Dawn Murray, Sarah Wright, Katrina Morris, Di and Kerry Fraser, Ross Bilton;
- Glowsticks/Slushies: Claire Hodgkinson, Holly Kelsall, Simone O'Connor, Liz Burrows, Sara Lewis, Sarah Pooley, Cristy Savory, Rose Copping, Bruce Parnell, Tony Board, Sarah Lecoutre, Janice Welch, Jo Feldon;
- Cake stall: Trine Nybo, Cristy Savory, Saeid Valipoor, Amanda Hope, Elsa Santo;
- Bar: Mikako Endo, Jen Peters, Karen Peters, David Stenhouse, Columbine Bloodworth, Jacki Fortune;
- Hall Entry: Percy Harris, Zara Lyons, Kate Myles, Greg Warden, Jacinta Grant, Lizzie Austin;
- Ticket Sales: Aly Wood, Columbine Bloodworth, Lindy Sivyer, Emili Fox, Annabel Marsh, Emma Derrick Read, Claire Waddell, Sara Bidgood, Matt Stone; and Anastasia Warden and Mel Mayer.

I am stepping down after two years as President and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks: to Tracy Gray, Di Ford, Rob Cormack and Jodie Weber; to the hard-working members of the P&C Executive I have worked with in that time - Angela Davis; Matthew Garvey; Tony Board; Kate Myles, Amy Large and Anastasia Warden; and to the many coordinators and sub-committee members on the P&C over the last year who have contributed their ideas and energy including Jacki Fortune, Anthony Green, Mark Jones, Rob Love, Kim Hall, Tanya Vincent and Lynn Feldon. All of their contributions to BPS have been outstanding.

Finally, on behalf of the P&C I wish Di Ford all the best for her retirement and Jacki Fortune all the best for her return to New Zealand. Words aren't adequate to describe the extraordinary contribution Di and Jacki have made as part of the lifeblood of BPS. You will be missed!

Chris O'Donnell

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MUSIC COMMITTEE AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the Music Committee AGM last night and put their hands up for roles in 2015!

A big thanks also to all those who served on the Music Committee or as Ensemble Coordinators or in other volunteer roles in 2014.

It is with much sadness that we farewell our 2014 Program Coordinator, Jacki Fortune who, as well as running a tight ship this year, has made a huge contribution to the Music Program in previous roles including Tutor Coordinator, Concert Band Coordinator and Music Camp organiser. We will miss her energy, enthusiasm and organisational finesse but wish her and her family the very best for their return to Auckland.

The new Music Committee for 2015 will be:

Program Coordinator – Michelle Stellini

Treasurer – Andrew Davies

Secretary – Suzanne Shipard

Tutor Coordinator – Amanda Headford

Instrument Coordinator – Kate Myles

Membership Coordinator – Lisa Healy

END OF YEAR CONCERT

The End of Year Concert will be held on Friday, 5th December, in St John's Church. Audience members need to be seated by **9.30am**. Could all ensembles please check your emails from contact parents regarding arrival times. Performers are to wear music uniform (Birchgrove Music t-shirt, black trousers/skirt, black socks and shoes).

INSTRUMENT RETURN

School hire instruments must be returned to the Instrument Coordinator at the Church following the End of Year Concert on 5th December.

MUSIC LUNCH

The Music Committee will be holding a **free** Music Students lunch on Friday, 5th December on the basketball courts. There will be pizza and an ice block with vegetarian and gluten-free options available. All members of the Early Childhood Music Program, Recorder Ensembles, Strings Ensembles and Bands are invited to come along. If you are able to help serve the food/drinks please contact sanshipard@bigpond.com.

MUSICAL DATES FOR THE DIARY

☺ Wednesday, 3rd December – Senior Strings perform at Balmain Hospital

☺ Friday, 5th December - End of Year Concert, St John's Church followed by instrument return and Music Students Lunch

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Please donate gifts now to support your school canteen.



Canteen Christmas Stall
Monday 1st December
Starts 8.30am

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belle 2014 PROPERTY

BALMAIN FUN RUN



2KM 5KM 10KM

SUN 7TH DEC



Canterbury BMW 

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ENRICHING LEARNING®
Unlocking Your Child's Full Academic Potential

Balmain/Rozelle
Community Bank®
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