



## Dates to Remember

### 2016

	Parent
	Music
	Sport
	Student Parliament
29/11	Music Committee Meeting & AGM 7pm Staffroom
30/11	Canteen Christmas Stall 8:30am
1/12	Canteen Christmas Stall 8:30am
2/12	St John's Christmas Concert – followed by Instrument Return Parent Thank you Morning Tea Music Lunch
2/2	Last Day of Before & Afterschool classes (music, art, drama, coding etc)
5/12	Stage 1 Recognition Ceremony
6/12	Preschool Blue & Green Concert
6/12	Uniform Shop closed
7/12	Kindergarten Graduation
8/12	Stage 3 Recognition Ceremony
8/12	Preschool Red and Yellow Concert
12/12	School Picnic K-6 Parsley Bay
9/12	P&C Christmas BBQ
13/12	Preschool Blue & Green Party
13/12	Year 6 Farewell Dinner and Graduation
14/12	Stage 2 Recognition Ceremony
15/12	Tacky Christmas Tshirt Day
15/12	Preschool Red & Yellow Concert
16/12	Year 6 Farewell Assembly ( K-6 & Year 6 parents only- due to hall size) & Arch (all welcome to join in arch as it's outside)
16/12	Last Day 2016

### 2017

27/1	Uniform Shop 8:30-10:45 open
30/1	Year 1 to 6 Return
30/1-	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments
31/1	
31/1	Preschool Blue & Green- Group 1
1/2	Preschool Blue & Green – Group 2
1/2	Kindergarten commence
2/2	Preschool Red & Yellow- Group 1
3/2	Preschool Red & Yellow- Group 2
15/2	P&C Meeting 7pm Staffroom



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Time: 11.00 am approx.**  
(after St John's concert)

**Where: On the Terrace/  
Staffroom**

Friday  
morning  
Working Bee

Thursday - Help  
with reading

CANTEEN

hot dog

drink

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

# Birchgrove Buzz

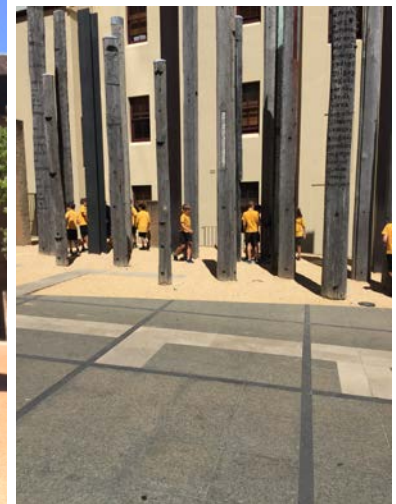
Term 4 Week 7 23th November 2016

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



**Stage 2 Excursion**  
Museum of Sydney &  
Hyde Park Barracks



## Canteen

I would like to thank all of the very generous families who have donated gifts to the Christmas stall so far your support is very much appreciated. We are hoping to have all donations in by this Friday so I have enough time to have everything wrapped up and ready for sale for next Wednesday 30th November. We are still very low on Men's gifts but still also need gifts for women and children. The Christmas stall is extremely popular with the children so please support your school canteen by donating gift items so the children don't miss out. There is a wish list of items on the board outside the canteen.

# Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 7 23th November 2016

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](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

There is a **Thank you Morning Tea** after the St Johns Music concert for all our sensational parent volunteers and helpers.... Which is actually nearly every parent !(invitation following, further down newsletter).



Skoolbag is the ultimate school to parent communication tool. This School Mobile App provides schools with an easy way to tell parents and carers everything they need to know about school news, newsletters, events calendar, cancellations, school notices, school information, school timetables, parent sick note forms, school documents and much more. No more lost paper in school bags!

The Skoolbag School Mobile App is very flexible to allow schools to create their own customised content and provides a great alternative to school SMS alerts by using Free Push Alert Notifications directly to parent smartphones.

In 2017 we are going to trial Skoolbag for parent communication. Our App will be ready in about two weeks and can be purchased from the App Store. There is an iPhone and a Windows version. I will let you know when it is available for download.

## Classes 2017

At this time of year parents are always starting to ask questions about next years' classes, so I'm putting out some information about our class formation processes.

1. Students are matched to the teacher who will suit them (research has this as the biggest factor affecting student learning and wellbeing).
2. Students are put into groups with a variety of abilities and behaviours.
3. Where possible students are separated from students they don't work well with or clash with.
4. Students have other children in their group they are known to work well with.

Teachers teach to the students' needs based on assessments and what is needed to move them forward, it's not like when we went to school and teachers taught to the middle of the class. They use questioning grouping and variance in the tasks to make sure everyone is getting what they need to move on to the next skill, particularly in Mathematics and English.

Every year there are parents who ask how are the classes structured next year. We don't know at this time as new children show up at the start of the year without having enrolled and we always discover that some of the parents hadn't quite got around to letting the school know they were moving on the following year. A couple of years ago we did try putting the children into classes ready for the start of the year, but within two weeks a number of the classes had to be changed due to new arrivals and students leaving without notification. It was upsetting for all, so we will not try it again anytime soon!

For the first few days until numbers become clear and classes are formed students stay with their teacher from the year before, except for Year 1 whose teachers will be administering Best Start Assessments. They will be with our support teachers.

Will we have straight classes or composites? Is the other question every year. It is based on numbers and childrens' needs. There are always some composites/ multi-aged classes. They are not new. They were around when we were at school! I have attached the department pamphlet on them. In multi-aged classes students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it (just in time learning) and allows more flexibility in students grouping and learning styles. It also encourages children to help each other and work collaboratively and cooperatively. Role models and leaders can come from both the younger and older children; the children who excel at these traits do so irrespective of age.

See you at the Thank you Morning Tea  
**Tracy**



Education &  
Communities

## Multi-age or composite classes: 2008 to 2014

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/student-support/programs/classsize/multiage/multi\\_age.pdf](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/student-support/programs/classsize/multiage/multi_age.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 2014:

- 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.
- 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.

# Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 7 23th November 2016

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



We are looking at setting up a **car corner** in the playground and are looking for toy car donations. If you have old toy vehicles that aren't being used we would love to give them a good home. Please leave them at the front office or with Miss Corliss who is developing this project. Any set of wooden street signs, garages (sturdy) etc would also be good. If any of you enjoy craft/ construction activities it would be good to have some blocks turned into buildings.



**Library** This is the last week of Library borrowing, it is now time to return all books for the Annual Stock Take. I will be sending out Please return the books any time to the Library. If you can't find the book please email me. [christine.illieff@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:christine.illieff@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Christine Illieff**



Again we have had a tremendous response to recruitment, though have some spots available for the following instruments;

Recorder  
Cello  
Trombone  
Euphonium  
Trumpet  
Flute  
Bass Guitar

Please email or call [michelle\\_stellin@hotmail.com](mailto:michelle_stellin@hotmail.com) 0417316725 with any music questions

## MUSIC DATES FOR THE DIARY

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Music Committee AGM, 7pm staffroom

Dec 2nd Friday – End of Year Concert, Music Lunch and Instrument Return



# CANTEEN



GIFTS FOR  
KIDS TO  
GIFT TO  
YOU...

The canteen Christmas Stall is coming soon!

Karen is still looking for small gifts for kids, mums and dads... Please drop your kind donations to her by this Friday 25th.

All welcome to pop by on Wed 30th and Thurs 1st -before school- for the kids to shop for their friends and loved ones.

Karen would like to thank all of the very generous families who have donated gifts so far. Your support is very much appreciated.

[#christmasiscoming](#) [#supportBPS](#)

# Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 7 23th November 2016

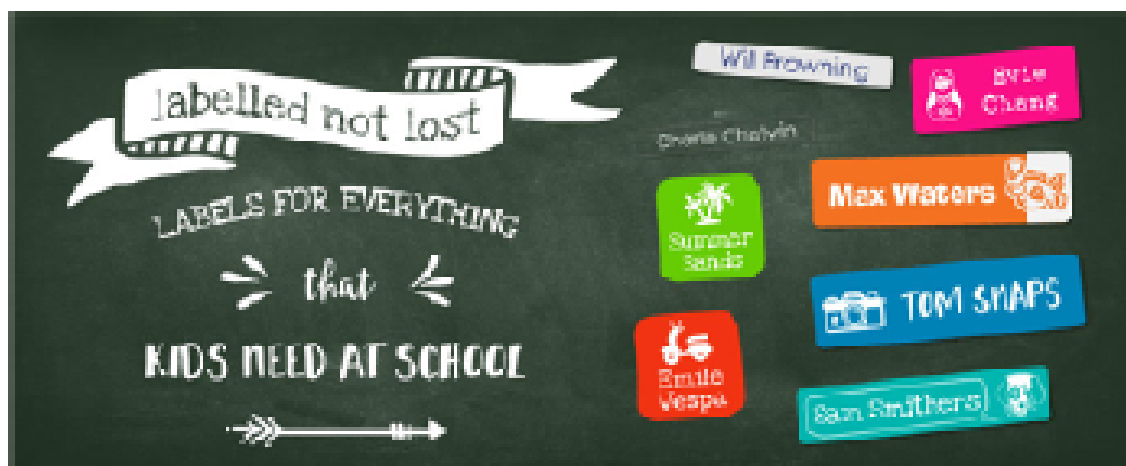
Newsletter of the Birchgrove Public School  
A NSW Government School  
Birchgrove Road,  
Balmain NSW 2041

Ph: 02 9810 2469  
Fax: 02 9555 8653  
E: [birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
W: [www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



BPS Fundraiser  
That's Mine  
SCHOOL NAME: Birchgrove PS  
UNIQUE CODE: 1996

## LABELS FOR EVERYTHING!



We have signed up!

For every order placed, our school receives a massive 25% commission!

There is always:

- Free standard shipping
- Fastest turnaround in Australia
- No quibbles money back guarantee

Simply go to [www.thatsmine.com.au](http://www.thatsmine.com.au) and place your order as normal.

When you checkout and pay, there is an option for you to add in your "Fundraiser Code".

Simply enter **1996** in the fundraiser box (or you can enter Birchgrove Public School)

That's Mine Pty Ltd - 10 Clearview Place BROOKVALE NSW 2100 - ABN 30 161 624 433

[admin@thatsmine.com.au](mailto:admin@thatsmine.com.au) | [www.thatsmine.com.au](http://www.thatsmine.com.au) | Ph: 02 9905 6388