

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 8 29th November 2017

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

Ph: 02 9810 2469
Fax: 02 9555 8653
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2017



Dates to Remember

*Parent
Music
Sport
Student Parliament*

2017

1/12	St Johns Concert
1/12	Instrument Return (following St Johns Concert)
1/12	Parent & Volunteer Thank you Morning Tea
1/2	Music Lunch
4/12	Years 1 & 2 Recognition Ceremony
5/12	Preschool Concert- Blue & Green
6/12	Kindergarten Graduation
7/12	Years 5 & 6 Recognition Ceremony
8/12	Preschool Concert- Red & Yellow
8/12	Year 6 Picnic- Luna Park
11/12	School Picnic Clifton Gardens
12/12	Year 6 Formal
12/12	Preschool Party- Blue & Green
13/12	Years 3 & 4 Recognition Ceremony
14/12	Preschool Party - Red & Yellow
15/12	Year 6 Farewell Assembly & Arch 1.15 start
15/12	Last Day of School 2017

2018

Dates to Remember

29/1	Staff Development Day
30/1	Years 1 to 6 commence
30/1-31/1	Best Start Kindergarten
2/2	Kindergarten 2018 Commence

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Principal

Not returning in 2018? Form attached. *Very important to fill this out* to help with numbers of students for class planning for next year.

Parent Survey is open for another week. Please have your say, it is anonymous. It closes this Friday 1st December, so don't miss your chance to have your say.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/birchgrove17>



The **Stage 3 Sleep Over** last Friday night was lots of fun and as always playing spotlight around the school was one of the highlights. The children were impeccably behaved and it was a toss up who had more fun the staff or the children. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their Friday night to camp out with the children, your continued generosity enables the children to enjoy many amazing experiences.



Our preschool **Red Wombats** concert was adorable! Today started off our concerts and recognitions which tells us the end of the year is close.

2018 Classes 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.

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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.

Birchgrove Backpacks- these are the characteristics/skills you wanted your children to gain while they are at Birchgrove! I agree there are lots of fabulous Birchgrove attributes here!!!

well rounded personality, play an instrument, tenaciousness, perseverance, respect for teachers and students, a sense of encouragement - give it a go no matter what, strong academic record, exposure to various sports, music, great mentors, exposure to digital tools; different thinking methods, adaptability, mediation skills, language skills, playfulness, self-reflection, entrepreneurial mindset, strategies for dealing with peer pressure, confidence in being different, opportunities to shine, understanding of people less fortunate than them, willingness to try new things, study-organisational skills, enthusiasm for the arts, age-appropriate understanding of current affairs, excellent decision-making qualities, well-rounded general knowledge, thoughtfulness and an inclusive and considerate nature, thirst for knowledge, musical ability, understanding of science and the natural world suitable for their age, street smarts / stranger danger / what to do in an emergency, social acumen, and the ability to get along with diverse peers and superiors regardless of race, gender, wealth, education, sexuality, confidence to feel they can be who they want to be without fear of discrimination, motivation to always endeavour to try and do their best, innate sense of ongoing self improvement, understanding of value of fitness and healthy eating for maintaining healthy lifestyle; basic drug and sex education, lots of fun, laugh, experience, open minded, bravery, self motivation, contentment, curiosity, strong ethics, love of reading, strong spelling skills, morals, cultural awareness, grammar critique skills, problem solving, environmental awareness, trust, support network, feeling special, set of goals, bully management, leadership, public speaking, courage, application, focus, self-belief, emotional intelligence, motivation to exceed, sense of humour, tolerance, having a love of life, resilience, inventiveness, motivation, problem solving skills, adaptability, confidence to achieve a dream, presentation skills, creativity, IT/Coding/Digital literacy, love of learning, communicate effectively, and with respect, the ability to ask questions, independent, resourceful, accountable and responsible, know how to learn, think critically, embrace risk taking in learning, discover how to do things through making mistakes, perseverance, good team worker, self-esteem, sense of community and belonging, strong coding skills, good strength and coordination, good handwriting, understanding of social justice, interest in world events, study skills to prepare them for high school, listening skills, motivation, for girls - drive to succeed in "male type of domains - ie science", great memories of their time at primary school, pride, confidence, discipline, strong numeracy and literacy skills, friends, empathy, leadership, motivation, resilience, kindness, courage, tact

I'll put more from the surveys and the planning meetings in the remaining 2017 newsletters.

See you at the Recognitions and Concerts,
Tracy Gray

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Classes for 2018

It is the time of year where we are starting to look at classes for 2018. If you are not returning in 2018 (and not in Year 6) please let the school know now by completing and returning the note below to the office.

Students NOT RETURNING to Birchgrove in 2018

Please inform the office by completing this form if your child will NOT be returning to Birchgrove in 2018. (Please do not reply if your child is in Year 6 this year 2017).

My child: _____ of class _____ will not be returning to Birchgrove Public School in 2018.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

My child will be attending: _____ in 2018

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.

Importantly, it also helps us look at transition programs/ arrangements for our special needs students as we are much more likely to know which teacher/class we can put them with. This makes things at the start and finish of the year run much more smoothly for the students and families being helped by transition programs.

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE ENROL FOR 2018

ENROL NOW and join the Kids At The ARThouse every Tuesday and Thursday 3pm - 5pm at Birchgrove Public School for lots of creative fun and art making. This visual arts program will enrich and inspire every student's creativity through a variety of art practises. Painting, printmaking, sculpture, drawing, mixed media and many more techniques are taught throughout the year. We supply everything including afternoon tea! All students from K-6 and from other schools welcome!

Come along, have lots of fun and unleash your creative spirit!

CONTACT:

Sabina Carney
e: sabina@kidsatthearthouse.com
m: 0403768282

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

STUDENTS CHINESE NEW YEAR EXHIBITION AT THE CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP (DARLING HARBOUR) "DREAM" EXHIBITION - 2014, 2015 & 2016
WINNERS: CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA POSTER COMPETITION 2015
FINALIST: AUSSIE ART COMPETITION 2014
WINNER: AVANT CARDS "CALLING ALL ARTIST'S" COMPETITION 2013 & 2010
FINALIST: AUSSIE ART COMPETITION 2013
WINNER: SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY POSTER COMPETITION 2012
WINNER: SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2011
THE AUSTRALIAN NUMERACY AND LITERACY FOUNDATION 2013
THE TAFE ULTIMO SCREEN PRINTING DEPARTMENT 2011



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ST JOHNS CONCERT – FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

All music students who are performing at St Johns should go there with their school bags and wearing their Birchgrove Music Tshirts with black pants / skort / shorts.

Timings of arrivals for ensembles performing at St Johns are as follows at the church:

8.00 am Intermediate and Concert Strings

8.30 am Junior Strings, Concert Band, Training Band, Beginner and Consort Recorders

Junior Choir are to meet in Miss Sarina's room at 8.50am ready to leave at 9am (if they are not already in an ensemble as they will be at the church already).

The performance is expected to start around 9.15 (when the rest of the school arrives).

MUSIC LUNCH – FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

Students from all music ensembles including Kodaly (K - 4) and Junior Choir will receive free pizza and an ice block for lunch on Friday as a thank you from the Music Committee.

INSTRUMENT RETURN – FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

All instruments hired via the school are to be returned after the St Johns concert this Friday (unless you have a pre-existing arrangement).

INSTRUMENT VACANCIES FOR 2018

CELLO - We have a couple of spots left for the beautiful and soulful cello open to all ages from Year 1.

TRUMPET/TROMBONE/EUPHONIUM - Training Band 2018, year 3 +

RECORDER - Year 2 +

If your child is interested in learning any of these, or you would like to talk through registration for 2018, please contact me on either michelle_stellini@hotmail.com or 0417316725 and I will happily answer any of your questions.



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 1st December

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

**Where: On the Terrace/
Staffroom**

Saturday
morning
Working Bee

Thursday - Help
with reading

CANTEEN ORDER FORM

hot dog

☐

drink

☐

payment \$ _____

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Balmain Swim Club

“Bikini and Boardies” Kids Disco

Dress code: Your swimmers and a bit of bowtie or a sprinkle of sparkle!

Friday 1st December

Dawn Fraser Pool - Elkington Park, Balmain

BBQ dinner, dessert & drinks available for the adults

Time: 5.45pm – 8.30pm Disco starts at 6pm

Entry Fee: \$20 per child - includes pool entry, disco and a sausage for dinner!

Get your ticket through:

<https://www.trybooking.com/SQTZ>

All WELCOME and bring your friends!!!