

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 4 Week 9 6th December 2017

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
W: www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



2017

Dates to Remember



*Parent
Music
Sport
Student Parliament*

2017

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	Tacky Christmas Tshirt Day
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



Hi, Birchgrove bankers. Due to the school picnic next Monday there'll be no banking next week, which means that's it for this year. Well done to all our Dollarmite savers, you've helped the school raise money while adding to your own! Have a safe and fun Christmas and I'll see you all in the new school year.

School Banking Parent Jack Robertson

Principal

Congratulations Stage 3 your sleepover raised \$ 1252.50 for the **Exodus Foundation**.

CODE4FUN annual Coding Challenge 2017 This year all CODE4FUN 1,380 students from all our 28 locations including BPS students were invited to participate in our coding challenge. The task was to create a "Time Machine" App in ten weeks' time. They received over 250 projects including 8 projects from BPS students. What is even more exciting is that two NBPS students Oren and Sebastian got into top 10%, and their projects have been marked as outstanding. All winners and participants took home small prizes and huge congratulations from their classmates.

They have also been invited, amongst other top 10% CODE4FUN students from different schools, to visit Atlassian, the most successful Australian tech company, on a special excursion organised by CODE4FUN and Atlassian teams on 6th December.



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The students will meet Atlassian and learn what does it mean to work as a software engineer for the most innovative Australian company. Atlassian, founded by two classmates 15 years ago as a tech start-up is now evaluated at 8 billion dollars.

2018 First Days Day 1 2018 students go to their 2017 classroom and most students will be with their 2017 teacher. The new Year 1's will be with our support teachers as the Kindergarten teachers will be completing Best Start with their new students. Classes for 2018 will be formed once all the kindergarten students arrive, and new arrivals /departures are sorted.

Clifton Park Picnic day is fast approaching. Please ensure you have returned your permission form and \$12 and have read the information on the note for requirements on the day, Monday the 11th Dec.

The **canteen's major end of year fundraiser** is the MEGA Christmas Hamper Raffle along with the Gift Order Booklet, so please support your school canteen by donating to the raffle, purchasing the personalised Gift items & buying the raffle tickets. This will help keep the canteen viable & open for another year. **Tickets on sale today.**

Volunteer Ethics Teachers for 2018 - No experience required, just a little spare time and enthusiasm. It's a great way to get involved with the school and help the kids develop their thinking skills. Contact Mark Lauer asap ethicsm@rklauer.net

The **uniform shop** will be open for the last time this year on Tuesday 12th Dec from 8.30-10am. It will reopen on Monday 29th Jan 8.30-10am and thereafter Tuesday mornings 8.30-10am.

As they leave for high school I would like to wish our **Year 6** students every success in their future. We are looking forward to hearing about their new adventures and achievements.



Thank you for all your help and support this year. Have a safe and happy holiday with your families and we look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Miss Gray and the Birchgrove Staff

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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@kidsattheartouse.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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CODING COURSES FOR KIDS

2018



Y2 - Y6 students at Birchgrove Public School

LEARN TO CODE AND BUILD YOUR OWN ONLINE GAMES WITH CODE4FUN

Year 2 to Year 6 students are welcome to join. STEM focused programs - students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills by learning to code.

- Birchgrove Public School School Library
- Every Wednesday
8 Weeks
Y2 - Y6 students: 3:05 pm - 4:05 pm
Y4 - Y6 students: 4:10 pm - 5:10 pm
- Laptops are provided
- \$176 per student per term
Late enrolments are accepted

Enrol now at www.code4fun.com.au/bps

If you have any questions email us at info@code4fun.com.au or call 0452 525 453.
Check out our website at www.code4fun.com.au for more details about our school.



CREATIVITY



PROBLEM SOLVING



FUN

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Congratulations to all of the ensemble who performed on Friday at the St John's Christmas Concert, you sounded amazing. Farewell to our Year 6 graduates, we will miss you!

We can look back on 2017 with much pride at the achievements of each of the groups and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the entire music committee. Their involvement continually help to strengthen the program over time.

A special mention to Lisa Healy, who after 11 years on the Committee as everything from Kodaly Parent Co-Ordinator to overall Co-ordinator, Instruments and Treasury, will be leaving the school as her 3rd child leaves Year 6. We will miss you and your Trumpet playing daughter!

To all of the parents, teachers, tutors, conductors and of course children, who make our program strong. We look forward to 2018 filled with more music.



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Call for Ethics Teachers

Dear parents and carers,

Could you be an Ethics Teacher for Birchgrove Public School?

In 2017, we've had 11 ethics classes running from Kindergarten through year 6. But some of our wonderful ethics teachers will be moving on in 2018. So to give as many students as possible the chance to participate, we're seeking more volunteers to teach ethics. Children of volunteers have priority in taking the classes.

Teaching and its required preparation takes no more than 2 hours per week. Volunteer Ethics Teachers receive full training by Primary Ethics, which consists of a two day workshop and short online modules. Curriculum and access to teaching resources is all provided. Suitable volunteers will have an interest in children's education and developing their critical thinking skills and must be available on Friday mornings at 9:15-9:45am or 9:45-10:15am each school week. Below is a note from one of our ethics teachers about her positive experience of volunteering.

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au and contact Mark Lauer, Ethics Co-ordinator (ethicsm@rklauer.net).

Mark Lauer
Ethics co-ordinator, Birchgrove Public School

Reflections on Teaching Ethics

by Sandy Jenkins

Ethics classes first started at Birchgrove in 2012 and although I supported this initiative, initially I didn't put up my hand to be a teacher. I had no teaching experience, and apart from an interest in ethical discussions and a liking for the company of children, I had no qualifications I thought relevant. Some months later it seemed volunteers were still required, so I thought I would give it a go. I attended a 2 day training session run by Primary Ethics, which was fascinating and attended by a wide variety of people, mostly without a background in education. Turns out that a fondness for discussion and kids really is all that is necessary!

I started in term 4 of 2012 with years 5/6, and immediately loved it. The kids were so clever and quick, and (mostly!) seemed to be interested in the discussions. In 2013 and 2014 I took on years 3/4, and then went back to 5/6 in 2015 for a final year. Reflecting back over this time, I can see that I learned a great deal and enjoyed the lessons enormously. I hope the kids did too! I am grateful for the opportunity and encourage anyone who might be on the brink of volunteering to take the plunge, you won't regret it!