

Birchgrove Buzz

Term 3 Week 8 12th September

Newsletter of the Birchgrove Public School

A NSW Government School

Birchgrove Road,

Balmain NSW 2041

Ph: 02 9810 2469

E: birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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



2018 Dates to Remember



*Parent
Music
Sport
Student Parliament*

Term 3

17/9	Assembly- Numbats
19/9	P&C 7pm Staffroom
21/9	Big Night Out
20/9	Sean Murphy- Comedian K-6 Incursion
24/9	Assembly 24/9
28/9	Last Day Term 3

From the Office

Band fees for Term 3 are now overdue.

If your child attends any of the band ensembles, please pay the fees indicated below now.

(Payment via the school website is the preferred method). If you have any queries about your child's account please contact me.

Concert Band	\$110
Training Band	\$80
Rock Band	\$110
Kodaly	\$110
Strings	\$80
Recorders	\$65
Cello Hire	\$60
Violin Hire	\$40
Other Band Instrument hire	\$75
Percussion Levy	\$10

Thank you
Melanie Wales
melanie.wales@det.nsw.edu.au

School Banking (Outgoing) School Banking Officer Jack Robertson: Happy to advise all Dollarmites banking children and their parents/guardians that Diana Lai has stepped up to take over as BPS Banking Officer going forward, now that I'm moving on. All other scheme details remain the same. Any questions/queries contact Di via the school office - happy saving, kids!

BPS Community Notice Board "Have you got something to give away, sell or swap? BPS has launched its very own community noticeboard! So, parents and teachers, if you'd like to post something and/or want to check it out, you'll find the noticeboard opposite the canteen. Any questions, contact Alex Marceau (alex_aus@hotmail.com)."

Principal

Congratulations to Mr Dodds and Mrs Copping who as of 2019 will be permanently appointed to the Birchgrove staff! Mrs Ilief has also been appointed as our permanent librarian, congratulations. Mrs McDonnough has gone on her maternity leave and is hoping for a couple of weeks peace and quiet...although she did come in to visit on Tuesday (her 2nd day of leave!) Miss Hahn will be teaching the Cassowaries for the remainder of the year...she is feeling very refreshed after her trip to Europe and already enjoying the Cassowaries. Mrs Mall is off to Europe on Friday and Mrs Boyle is relieving Assistant Principal for Years 1 & 2 while she is away. Mrs Weber is also taking some leave as of Monday and Mrs Mitchell is relieving Assistant Principal for preschool & kindergarten for the remainder of the term.

Kindergarten Orientation 2019 was a fabulous event thank you Mrs Weber, Mrs Mall and Miss Sarina for all your hard work and preparation. Music night was a fabulous event and a great showcase of the childrens love of music. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who made it a success! Children your performances were great and your behaviour was exemplary!

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These are our public speaking winners who will go on to represent Birchgrove at the Network Final on September 19th September at Wilkins Public School.

Good Luck to Alexandra (ES1), Lulu (Stage 1), Jess (Stage 2) and Mala (Stage 3).

Kindergarten enjoyed exploring the **local community** and people who help us as a part of their geography unit. Hmm kindergarten teachers I know you went to the library too...but I can't see any librarian photographs 😊. The children asked lots of questions and had lots of information to share with anyone willing to listen!



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Birchgrove PS Parent Homework Survey Results 2018

179 parents responded to the survey- Thank you so much for all your input it is greatly appreciated and clarifies what our parent body thinks.

Q1 How long do you read with your child/children each night? 47.93% of parents read with their child/ children for 15 minutes, 43.79% 30 minutes and 6.51 % for 45 minutes.

Q2 How long do you play games/activities with your child/ children each day? 76.19% of our parents spend 15 to 30 minutes playing games/activities with their child/children

Q3 How long does your child/ children spend helping with chores each night? 90.30 % helped for 15 minutes each night and the remaining 9.70% helped with chores for 30 minutes.

Q4 How long does your child/ children spend at out of hour activities such as sport, drama, dance etc? 30.17% have more than 3 hours a week of activities, 18.44% have 3 hours a week of activity, 18.44% have 2 hours a week of activity and 24.02 have one hour a week of activity.

Q5 How long does your child/ children spend at tutoring, speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychologist etc? 14.86 % of our students spend up to 3 hours a week engaging in this kind of support.

Q6 How long does your child/children spend on technology each night? 50% of children spend 30 minutes using technology each night, 18.54% spend 1 hour and 11.24% spend more than an hour using technology.

Q7 Do you supervise your child/childrens' technology time? 76.14% of parents supervise their child/childrens' technology time.

8 What does your child/ children prefer to do for relaxation? 21% of our children play outside for relaxation, 22.47% play inside, 8.99% read and 28.65 % watch TV or use electronic devices.

Q9 Having no formal homework other than reading, family time, and chore time is working for my family and child/children 15.17% of families would like formal homework.

Q10 My child/ children talk to me about the school day and their learning? 72.77% of our children regularly talk to their parents about the school day and their learning. Only 1.13% never talk to their parents about school...but I would like to see this improve and become 0%!

Q11 I would like a parent information session on games/ activities /tasks I can work on with my child/children 57.3% of parents would like a parent information session on games/ activities they can work on with their child/children.

Q12 Is there anything else you would like to tell us? Please note although there is only 15.17% of parents who indicated they wanted homework I have tried to provide a representation of the opinions for both sides below

"I would prefer that my child gets homework and assignments. Then I would have a clearer idea of what she is learning, where she needs help and to reinforce what she has learnt at school. So far we have had no projects or any work sent home. I have no idea how/where I can help support her learning, particularly in maths."

"Official homework with deadline provides structure"

"I think it is a good discipline to get into particularly in the older grades (say 4-6)"

"Would appreciate if you could reconsider and bring back some homework."

"There are different types of homework that could be employed. Projects that don't require much guidance or marking for teachers but stimulate children's thinking e.g. other countries, planets, inventions would be an option I'd prefer to no homework."

"Some simple worksheets to reinforce maths and literacy concepts, that could be easily completed by the child and show the parent what is being learnt; or a reading book with some simple comprehension questions, would help with my child's learning. It doesn't have to be marked and can be optional. No huge projects requiring high levels of parental input. Having no homework is good for stress levels but doesn't help my individual child learn."

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"I'd like to be advised (via newsletter/teacher email) of some links to useful educational websites/apps that are specific to my child's age and learning level - good ones can be hard to find in the mass out there. Also I think a couple of assignments per year that encourage research and presentation would be beneficial for Y4-6. I don't miss the daily grind of repetitive homework but there are times when having a set optional task (online or an assignment) would be useful when my daughter is keen to learn more on a subject that has been raised in class."

"Homework is a good way to teach children responsibility and enable learning. Most children need the structure. I am disappointed that there is no homework given to the children and I feel that this disadvantages them for the future."

"In place of formal school homework I think the children should have a project set each term which they have to complete (eg researching an element for science). Kids tend to enjoy these projects and it's good for their research and presentation skills."

"Thanks for all your support."

"Current approach is great!"

"YES! It is fantastic and there is so much evidence to suggest it is not beneficial in primary school."

"Like most parents disappointed formal homework has been withdrawn. My kids have ample outside playtime and sport, stopping formal homework has not altered this."

"Thank you for leading the way with removing homework in primary school, this is such a great initiative and so many parents that I know whose school still gives homework are the envy of BPS. Please stick to this, backed by research, as being in the best interests of children and families. Thank you!"

"To a degree I trust what you think is best; I believe the Scandinavian schools believe little benefit in homework until high school"

"Very grateful for this year off homework. Has totally changed our family time"

"Not having homework has allowed our kids to spend more time doing things like practicing their musical instruments and drawing/puzzles etc."

"At the start of the year, we were positively surprised with the change of no 'formal homework'. We are not educators ourselves, but believe that children at a young age at primary school benefit more from growing life skills than from doing homework and the time (rather than correcting homework or supervising homework) is better spent by both teacher and parents to work and interact with the children."

"I really like the approach taken by BPS"

"I'm really happy the school has adopted a no homework policy. My girls were stressed when homework was compulsory- me too! I think parents who want homework for kids can structure homework themselves with the help of a tutor. Kids learn via play based activities, I need to get my kids off technology and onto play based activity. This is my responsibility. Ps we love Birchgrove!"

"Definitely found not having homework has taken pressure off the family as a whole. I've bought maths and grammar books from office works so if my child does need more academic stimulation after school he does exercises from those books. I think the school should produce a homework book for each term based on the curriculum for that term and it's optional, but the benefits are spelled out to the children along with the benefits of the no homework strategy."

"Support your concept of making homework a fun activity for both children and parents."

"I am all for the 'no formal homework' approach, and it hadn't occurred to me that 1/4 of the class wouldn't do it anyway. I agree, it's better for all concerned that there are better uses of time."

"Formal homework on a daily basis would be difficult as both parents work full time and it's difficult to sometimes fit in at the end of the day. If there was something else implemented we would need it to span the weekend so we could pick it up then"

"When we received the policy I checked in with a friend of mine who teaches at Andover Academy in the US. They too have done a great deal of research on this issue and came to the same conclusion as Birchgrove. Proud to be in a community that reflects some of the thinking of the most influential and forward thinking academies in the world!"

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2019 Kindergarten Orientation

Play, Learn, Grow



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Orientation Evening 5:30pm-6:30pm

Monday 10th September 2018

(For Parents & Carers) Term 3

Kindergarten Orientation Morning

9:15am-10:45am

Monday 22nd October 2018 Term 4

(For Parents, Carers and Children)

Kindergarten Orientation Morning

9:15am- 10:45am

Monday 15th October 2018

(For Parents, Carers and Children) Term 4

Kindergarten Orientation Morning

9:15am-10:45am

Monday 29th October 2018

(For Parents, Carers & Children) Term 4

School Tours are available by prior arrangement through the school office

Applications to Enrol can be found on the school website or collected from the school office:

<http://www.birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/enrolment>

For more information, contact:

Jodie Weber, Assistant Principal

Jodie.weber@det.nsw.edu.au | Office Email: birchgrove-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

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MUSIC NIGHT

The hall was filled with the wonderful sounds of ALL of our Birchgrove ensembles last night. Congratulations to the children for their hard work, superb performances and wonderful behaviour. It is undoubtedly one of my proudest nights of the year when we have a chance to experience the breadth and depth of music program. Special thanks to all of the teachers who supervised the rooms and helped to make the night run so smoothly. The parent co-ordinators for the ongoing management of your ensembles. To Emel for coordinating the food stalls and the army of interval helpers. Sophie and Phoebe (stage management) and James Matthews for sound. To Tracy Gray and Rob Cormack for their help and support and finally to the Year 6 children who very capably hosted the evening.



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Early Bird Special \$25
Ends Wed 23rd Aug

BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS

BIG NIGHT OUT

TICKETS \$30 AT BIRCHGROVEBNO.COM

NO DOOR SALES ON THE NIGHT (CHILD FREE EVENT)

Our Big Night Out just got bigger...
Birchgrove Public School invites you all to our
annual fundraising event of the year....

COMEDY SHOW



EMCEE
KRISTIN
BOESENBERG



STEPHANIE
BROADBRIDGE



MICHELE
BETTSY



CHRISTINA
VAN LOOK



KABBA

ART AUCTION

Every class from Pre-school to Year 6 have created incredible art masterpieces to be auctioned on the night to help raise funds for Birchgrove Public School.

**SEATS ARE LIMITED SO BOOK NOW
– BRING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY
AND NEIGHBOURS....**

LIVE MUSIC ON THE DECKS

DJ LADY TRE

DJ UNIQUE

FRI 21ST SEPT | 7PM - 11.30PM | BPS HALL

A WELL STOCKED CASH/EFTPOS BAR INCLUDING HARDYARD'S BOUTIQUE DRAFT BEER.
GYPSY'S KITCHEN IS SELLING DELICIOUS AND FRESH ITALIAN MEALS.

BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

