

Term 3 week 10 2024

In this Buzz...

It was a colourful and outspoken culmination to the end of term 3 for the BPS community. Spirits and funds were raised with the P&C's Colour Explosion Fun Run and we showed our more studious side with the BPS Public Speaking finals being held on the last day of term. Full details of both in this Buzz.

Well done to our debating team ably led by Ms Corliss, who wrapped up their 2024 season this term.

If you find you are missing school life over the holidays and looking for a way to thank any, or all, of our wonderful teachers here at BPS, then NSW Education Standards Authority has the answer with their newly launched NSW Teaching Gems map. To support and celebrate World Teachers' Day in NSW on Friday 25 October 2024, they invite school communities to go on a treasure hunt for teaching gems in NSW. A gem is a teacher you care about, past or present, who motivates and inspires you and others. It only takes a minute if you wish to show your appreciation.

Just follow the link below to have your say:

https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/events/world-teachers-day-in-nsw//

Happy holidays all!

We acknowledge the Wangal people of the Eora Nations, the traditional custodians of the land on which we play, learn and grow. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

For your calendar

2024 Term 4

14 Oct Students return term 4

18 Oct Assembly hosted by Jnr and Snr Choir

21 Oct Kindy 2025 orientation day 1

22-23 Oct Book fair orders

23 Oct 3.30pm Preschool orientation Mon-Wed groups

23 Oct NSW PSSA Primary Athletics Championships

24 Oct 3.30pm Preschool orientation Thurs-Fri groups

25 Oct World Teachers' Day Australia

28 Oct Kindy 2025 orientation day 2

29-30 Oct Book fair collections

30 Oct P&C meeting 7pm

1 Nov Assembly Sugar Gliders

1 Nov Grandparent and Friends Morning

4 Nov Kindy 2025 orientation day 3

15 Nov Last day Special Religious Education and Special

Ethics Education for 2024

18-22 Nov Y2-Y6 swimming

29 Nov Christmas concert at St Johns Church

29 Nov Thank you morning tea

3&4 Dec Preschool concerts

4 Dec P&C AGM

5 Dec Year 6 picnic

9 Dec Stage 3 celebration assembly

10 Dec Stage 2 celebration assembly

11 Dec Stage 1 celebration assembly

11 Dec Year 6 formal and graduation

12 Dec Kindergarten graduation

16 Dec End of year school picnic at Clifton Gardens

18 Dec Year 6 assembly and clap out

18 Dec Students' last day term 4

Message from our principal

The P&C colour explosion was a lot of fun! Thank you to parents, students and staff for making it so successful.

Being slimed by the Student Parliament Ministers was my highlight.

Our new <u>Homework Procedure</u> has been approved by staff and Ryan Martyn, our P&C representative, as ready to share and has been updated on our website. Thank you to our staff and parent community for all your input.

Why is there only one gate open of a morning? It's largely for child safety. Once students are onsite, they are the school's responsibility. There are students who remember something and want to rush out to see if their parent/carer is still there. There are children who left something at home and just want to go and get it. There



are students who've been to music and want to drop their instruments home. There are children who are anxious or upset and decide to go home. Once they are onsite the students can't leave as the school has duty of care. In short, there are many reasons students might step out of school and I'm responsible for making sure they don't. It also allows me to greet students and families. I answer questions, build relationships, give out apples and gauge if any of the students are struggling or having a bad day. It gives me a chance to encourage the students who need a little extra TLC and find out many things that are happening for the students. I get a wealth of information on gate duty.

Over the last few weeks, the school executive team and staff have met with staff from the Student Wellbeing Support Directorate about our **learning and support processes**. After surveying all staff, we have an action plan and have formed a team to delve into the appropriate professional learning to enable them to help lead whole staff professional learning and updating of procedures. The team participated in training and presented a 3-hour twilight meeting this term and there is another one in the first week back next term.

Our behaviour flow charts have been updated after stage 3 students suggested mobile phones and devices usage should be included. They also identified where it would fit on the flow charts. The staff agreed. Mobile phones and devices are banned in NSW schools. As some of our children bring themselves to and from school, we've let them bring devices, but they must keep them turned off and in their bags during the school day. There are consequences for checking texts/ messages etc during the day! At last week's P&C meeting, parents completed a simple activity to be shared with the students. I asked 3 questions. The activity is outlined with some responses below.

"Everyone please switch off your devices...except for the secretary who needs to minute and the device zooming to those at home. See what it feels like to turn your devices off and focus on the task at hand for the remainder of the meeting. It's a similar time frame to a session in class for the children. On the post it notes provided I am going to ask you to do 3 things:

- 1. Write how it felt to turn off your device.
 - Disconnected, felt like I needed to look at it a few times before turning off, a little lost, fine I don't use my phone in meetings, happy, calm, peaceful, anxious.
- 2. Write any impact it had on your focus or concentration.
 - Focus improved and better able to concentrate. Increased focus, no distraction, always good to be focused on what is happening in front of me, I feel much less present when I am distracted by the phone.
- 3. Write any benefits you see to the children being "present' and not distracted by their devices in lessons.

 Better results at school, better concentration, better listening, better behaviour, concentrate on lessons, not distracted by messages, focused and calm, being present helps you to understand and helps with groups discussion, your phone should work for you if it's distracting you have the power to choose.

Message from our principal

On our staff development day at the start of term 3 BPS staff looked at our <u>Anti Bullying Code</u> and worked on some areas that needed updating. P&C meetings have been so busy I haven't had the opportunity to share, so the updated code has now replaced the previous one on our website. Over term 4 we will be updating our wellbeing processes and procedures, so there is further student, parent and staff consultation ahead.

Don't forget there is no staff development day at the start of next term.

School resumes for students on Monday 14 October.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

T. Gray
Tracy Gray

Principal
Birchgrove Public School

Principal's trophy.

Week 9 Stingrays - In our Week 9 assembly the Stingrays received the Principals Award for Excellence in Learning Trophy for their great focus and effort on public speaking. The 5/6 Stingrays have been practising and perfecting their public speaking skills by writing and performing slam poems in groups and presenting their individual persuasive speeches. The class has explored elements of presenting to an audience, being a respectful audience member and what teachers look for when marking public speaking activities.

Week 10 Sugar Gliders - In our Week 10 assembly the Sugar Gliders received the Principals Award for Excellence in Learning Trophy for their fantastic writing and publishing of hybrid books. Stage One have been reading the hybrid text 'Great White Shark' by Claire Saxby. They have learnt that hybrid texts are books that combine factual information and narrative storylines. Stage One then researched seals, collecting facts and wrote narrative sentences to weave them together to create our own hybrid books.

Upcoming Events:



Term 4 K-6 Scholastic Book Fair

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in the home.
 Update this collection routinely to keep pace with changing tastes and reading skills.
- Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings to school the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.

K-6 Scholastic Book Fair details:

Browsing and Book selections: Term 4 Week 2 - Tuesday 22/10 and Wednesday 23/10

Students will attend the Scholastic Book Fair during school hours, in the allocated time for their class. Students will be sent home with a Purple Wish List to be approved and paid for online by their parent/carer. Please ensure all details on the front and back of the Purple Wish List are completed, including the Receipt Number and Amount Paid. Please note this is a cashless Book Fair. Payments may be made online only.

Book collections: Term 4 Week 3 - Tuesday 29/10 and Wednesday 30/10

Students will attend the Scholastic Book Fair during school hours, in the allocated time for their class. Students must bring their completed Purple Wish List, including the Receipt Number and Amount Paid, to collect their book/s.

Please note that in cases of popular books, more will need to be ordered from Scholastic. This means that some students may need to wait a little longer to collect their books.

Thank you for supporting our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school!

- Melissa Sarina, Teacher Librarian



Possums hosted assembly

The Stage 1 Possums hosted the week 9 assembly. They performed the song 'What I am' by Will.I.am. They chose this song because the lyrics were about being resilient and having a positive attitude.

They did such an amazing job singing and learning the dance moves to the song!

- Ms Stephaine Carey, Teacher Possums







Brolgas hosted assembly



The Brolgas have been learning about legends and fantasy in class and recited the poem Pegasus by Eleanor Farjeon in their assembly. They also displayed their painted depictions of the famous flying horse.

-Bengamin Dodds, Teacher Brolgas

BPS 2024 Colour Explosion Fun Run

Dear parents, carers and BPS students,

What a day it was yesterday at BPS' Colour Explosion Fun Run! It was great to see so many smiles, lots of laughter and lots of fun had by all!

Thanks to the generosity of the school community, we were able to raise nearly \$15,000! That's an amazing effort!

A massive thank you to everyone involved yesterday especially the parent volunteers (who also enjoyed spraying the kids with colourful powder) and to Miss Gray and the other 9 teachers/staff who volunteered to be slimed if we raised enough funds! You're very good sports!

I'm looking forward to the 2025 Colour Explosion Fun Run already!

Kind regards Greg O'Keefe Vice President Birchgrove Public School P&C











Our top fundraisers!
Well done to Iris (Kindy Kangaroos), Clementine
(Y1 Bilbies) and Frankie (Y5 GW Sharks)





BPS 2024 Colour Explosion Fun Run























Public Speaking Finals

We held the BPS final of the Metropolitan South and Metropolitan South and West Public Speaking Competition on the last day of term 3. All of the speakers from stages 1 to 3 did a fantastic job of sharing their opinions in front of almost the whole school.

Congratulations to our finalists:

Stage 1: Olivia, Mia, Leo

Stage 2: Isabella, McLean, Chloe

Stage 3: Archer, Winter, Elsa

and our ultimate winners:

Stage 1: Leo (year 2 Possums)

Stage 2: Isabella (year 4 Kookaburras)

Stage 3: Elsa (year 6 GW Sharks)

These 3 students will represent BPS at the district final on 29 October 2024 at Annandale Public School.

Thank you to Ms Taksa, Mrs Copping and Mr Fitzgerald for adjudicating.

Benjamin Dodds, Public Speaking Coordinator





Finalists Winners

In the Classroom

Stage 1 and Stage 2 students recently teamed up for a series of engaging buddy activities, showcasing leadership, teamwork, and collaborative learning. It was heartening to see new friendships blossom as students learned from one another while having fun.

- Stage 1 and 2, Teachers











Stage One have been exploring hybrid texts and publishing their own seal books!
They drew their inspiration from 'Great White Shark' by Claire Saxby.

- Emma Taksa, Teacher Bilbies









Students' Desk

Kookaburras Clay Sculpture Work - Term 3 2024

Learning Intention:

I am learning to use the pinch pot technique in clay sculpture.

Success Criteria:

I can gradually pinch out the walls to an even thickness and the desired shape.

I can paint my pinch pot using primary and secondary colours.

In the last four weeks the Kookaburras have been learning techniques for clay sculpture. We moulded clay to smooth the edges then, in our scrapbook, we drafted a design to decorate our sculptures.

-Anthony Brereton, Teacher Kookaburras





BPS Kindy and Year 1 students have been busy colouring away with the aim of luring the stars of Paw Patrol (and NSW Fire and Rescue) to BPS next term for an educational incursion.

Here's our final school entry featuring the work of Lucas (Bilbies), Lexi (Sugar Gliders), Ivy (Possums), Emerson (Possums) and Leo (Possums). All the students' work can be seen on display outside the front office.

In other news...

That's debatable and that's a wrap!

Well, the debating season has finally drawn to a close. Our dedicated debaters have emerged from the debating wilderness and reclaimed their Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. And deserving of that joy they are.

Our final debate was held in Week 9 against Haberfield Public School. The topic, that schools should teach current affairs instead of history, was a tough one and the teams worked well together to push personal preference aside and to anticipate their opponents' arguments. Our affirmative team travelled to Haberfield with a big job ahead of them to argue the merits of leaving history to the past and concentrating only on current events. When exactly does something become history? I mean, is Term 3 now history? They fought the hard fight, but it wasn't to be.

The negative team remained on home ground, playing host to the Haberfield affirmative gang. Following some very last-minute reshuffling due to illness, the team found themselves with a new and very capable first speaker (promoted from 4th) and a new 4th speaker who barely flinched at her late inclusion. The new line up blew the opposition away (in a humble and admirable way) and it was a win for the negatives! Yay, history!

I shouldn't have to say it again, but I will. The Debate Clubbers have conducted themselves with pride, effort, collegiality and humility this year and it has been a joy to witness.

Finally, we enjoyed a pizza and cookie lunch to close the season in style.

- Dani Corliss, Debate Club Coordinator





In other news...

Sydney East PSSA Athletics

Leo B, James E, Ami Q and Summer W-M all competed at this event and we are very proud of their efforts.

James E is off to NSW PSSA Athletics Championships for the 800m and 1500m events in October, congratulations James!



Real Birchgrove Buzz!

We have had a large swarm of bees take up residence in the tree by the soon-to-be-replaced playground equipment. After logging a call to have a contractor remove them, the powers of social media made the connection to a lovely local beekeeper called Nicole who had recently lost her bees. After coming to school and establishing they weren't her missing bees, she was kind enough to come back with a ladder and suit to collect them. Nicole would like to call the bees the Birchgrove Public School off campus beehive and she would be happy to share updates with us. The school would like to thank Nicole for her kindness and for making sure that the bees were relocated to a place of safety for them and for our students and staff.



Sydney Secondary College Balmain Marine Science students visit

On Tuesday the 17 September, our Stage 2 classes welcomed Year 10 Marine Sciences students from the Balmain Campus of Sydney Secondary College. The high schoolers had been writing and publishing picture books aimed at young children as part of their studies.

In groups, our students listened to a wide range of stories about crabs, lobsters, barnacles and many other forms of sea life. They learned about marine ecosystems and some of the threats affecting the world's oceans. At the end of the visit, our students provided feedback on the stories and their authors' presentation styles. The secondary teachers will take this into account when assessing their students' achievement in the Marine Sciences course.

Many thanks to BPS alumnus and science teacher Connor Maglis for organising this terrific event.

- Benjamin Dodds, Teacher Brolgas



Get to know

Get to know the staff at BPS! Each fortnight, we will share a questionnaire answered by a staff member at BPS so you can get to know those working within our school community.



TEACHER info

2024 ROLE: 3/4 BROLGAS CLASSROOM TEACHER
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A TEACHER? 18 YEARS

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE A TEACHER? I LOVE HELPING PEOPLE DISCOVER THINGS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE

MY favourite THINGS:

SUBJECT TO TEACH: ENGLISH

MUSIC ARTIST: TORI AMOS

HOLIDAY DESTINATION: ITALY

FOOD: CHINESE

BOOK: DRACULA

COLOUR: BLUE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY: CHRISTMAS

MOVIE OR TV SHOW: LABYRINTH

SPORT CLUB/S: SYDNEY SWANS

HOBBIES: WRITING POETRY

This OR THAT?

CITY COUNTRY SWEET SAVOURY EARLY BIRD NIGHT OWL BOOKS MOVIES SUMMER WINTER **BREAKFAST** DINNER **ADVENTURE** RELAX GLAMPING CAMPING

SPONTANEOUS

OUT TO EAT

Students SAY:

STUDENTS SAY THAT MR DODDS ALWAYS SAYS/DOES: "SIAMO PRONTI?" (ARE WE READY?)



--> THE 'VULCAN SALUTE' HAND GESTURE FROM STAR TREK TO GET OUR ATTENTION.

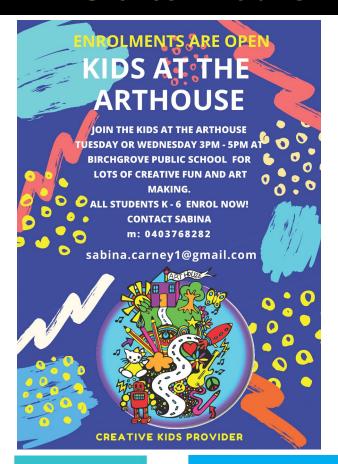
STUDENTS DESCRIBE MR DODDS AS: KIND, FUNNY, A GOOD TEACHER, FAIR AND CLEVER.



PLANNED

HOME-MADE MEALS

BPS after hours







Learn to code and build your own games with CODE4FUN

Y1 - Y6 students are welcome to join. STEM focused program students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills by learning to code.



CODING **FOR KIDS**

Term 4, 2024 Y1 - Y6 Students

CREATIVE CODING

Birchgrove PS

In-person coding class

Every Wednesday

16 Oct - 04 Dec | 8 weeks

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Y1 - Y6 students

No experience required

Laptops are provided

\$216 per student per term

ENROL NOW AT

code4fun.com.au/bps

If you have any questions email us at info@code4fun.com.au or call **0452 525 453**

Learn more about CODE4FUN: www.code4fun.com.au

Why Chess?

Create Brighter Thinkers
 Improve Student Focus
 Achieve Academic Success

Combines learning with fun!

Educational Benefits:

- Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills

- solving skills

 Enhances memory

 Encourages creative and lateral thinking

 Promotes discipline

 Accelerates emotional development

 Expands visualization and spatial
 awareness

 Demonstrates actions and consequences

 Rewards correct decision making

 Increases self-confidence

 Provides opportunities to make new
 friends from diverse backgrounds

Birchgrove Public School Chess Classes, 2024 Fridays 8:00AM - 9:00AM in Mrs Karnaros' Room

Term 1	Cost: \$129.50	23rd Feb - 12th Apr*
Term 2	Cost: \$185	3rd May - 5th Jul
Term 3	Cost: \$185	26th Jul - 27th Sep
Term 4	Cost: \$148	18th Oct - 6th Dec

To enrol please pay online with your credit card at www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment

Enter the code 99R5L5TWOU and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.

"There are no credits or refunds for missed classes, clashing activities, sickness, school excursions, staff or designment days, teacher strikes or change of mind. Any missed classes can be made up at one of our online properties of the control o

OPTIONAL EXTRAS (prices exclude delivery) To enhance your child's learning experience these items are available for purchase online at the time of enrolment						
Workbook 1 - Cost: \$25 [For Beginner/Rookle Players] Workbook 2 - Cost: \$25 Workbook 1 & 2 - Cost: \$40 [SPECIAL OFFER]						
Exploration in Chess Beauty - Cost: \$33 [For Advanced Players]	5 Chess Clock DGT1002 Bonus - Cost: \$55 [Recommended for All Ages]					
Pay for four terms in advance and receive a free chess set or workbook 2. Offer expires 31st March, 2024.						



The programs above are offered by third party companies utilising BPS facilities. Birchgrove Public School is not directly affiliated with and does not endorse any events, services or products represented.

Dept of Education Notice

NSW Department of Education

Calendar 2024



January

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Key dates

* Check with your school as starting and finishing dates may change.

O ... Term start and end dates*

Term 1 (Eastern): 30 January to 12 April

Term 1 (Western): 6 February to 12 April

> Term 2: 29 April to 5 July Term 3: 22 July to 27 September Term 4: 14 October to 20 December

School development days. students do not attend

> Term 1 (Eastern): 30 January and 31 January

Term 1 (Western): 6 February and 7 February

Term 2: 29 April

Term 3: 22 July

Term 4: 19 December and 20 December

School vacation dates

Summer (Eastern): 20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024

Summer (Western): 20 December 2023 to 5 February 2024 Autumn: 15 April to 26 April

Winter: 8 July to 19 July

Spring: 30 September to 11

Summer (Eastern): 23 December 2024 to 30 January 2025

Summer (Western): 23 December 2024 to 6 February 2025

Public holidays



Scan me for key dates

Help your child get the most out of their school year and to explore our resources, education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers



Scan me for key dates

education.nsw. gov.au/calendars School zone speed limits apply on all school days, including school development days.

Contact us and useful links

Please contact the school with any queries:

Phone: 02 9810 2469

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

You can find important updates and further information on our website, via the Sentral app, and the BPS Facebook page:

Website: https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/

Facebook: @BirchgrovePS

Useful Links:

NSW school term dates inc. Staff Development Days (pupil free):

https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/calendars/2024

Camp Australia before and after school care: Phone: 1 300 105 343

https://campaustralia.com.au/school/?accessCode=9F7B

The School Canteen: An external company supplying canteen service to our school Wed-Fri each week:

https://www.theschoolcanteen.com.au/

Extended Leave form: To apply for leave beyond what is available in the school holiday periods please fill and return this form for Principal approval prior to travel:

https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/b/birchgrove-p/forms/Extended Leave Travel notification.pdf

Administration of medication at school: Information and paperwork required for support at school

https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/health-and-physical-care/health-care-procedures/administering-medication

Prior Newsletters: https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/newsletter.html

BPS P&C contacts and sponsors

BPS P&C contacts and further information can be found here:

Website: https://www.bpspandc.com/

Our P&C would like to thank our local sponsors for their ongoing support.

Benn+Penna Architects

CobdenHayson.

