

# Birchgrove Public School

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## NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 10 - 5/7/2024



### A Message from the Principal

This week has seen our fabulous **NAIDOC activities**. Thank you, Aunty Bronwyn and Aunty Francis! We have enjoyed our time with you and learnt so much.

Mr Maglis came with an incredible team of Sydney Secondary College Balmain students to conduct a great **STEM lesson with Stage 3** and Student Parliament raised money to clean up our oceans for **World Oceans Day**.

**Updates from our SIP** (Strategic Improvement Plan 2024-2027) – some information on some of the activities that aren't posted on the forward-facing pages on the school website.

**Homework Review** – During term 2, in partnership with the P&C, we held a forum where staff and parents could share their thoughts on how homework is being implemented across the school. To add to the great information received at the forum, we will be sending a parent survey home early term 3. It would be great if as many families as possible can complete it as a priority, so we have the whole community perspective. After the data is analysed, we will develop our new homework procedures.

In term 1 teachers developed a **whole school goal** that will drive our professional learning. Our goal is to: "Improve the quality of communication and community connection among students, teachers, and parents by highlighting achievements, sharing important information and providing more opportunities for parent involvement." Initiatives so far include things like our class-led assemblies, regular 'Information Updates' by email the Parent Homework Forum.

As a part of our **professional learning**, the school executive will be attending Growth Coaching International professional learning in term 3. The course, "The Impact Cycle and giving instructional feedback through a coaching approach", will help with the delivery of critical feedback on teaching observations using a coaching approach. To build on this approach, all teachers will participate in whole school professional learning to further develop their own growth coaching skills.

All teachers have been attending professional learning on the implementation of the new English and Mathematics Syllabus.

It's the end of term 2 already and we are halfway through the year. It's been an exciting semester with lots of learning and fun activities. Thank you to all our parents, staff and students for your hard work, support, and sense of fun! I hope you all have some family fun over the next two weeks.

Education Week is in week 3 next term, and we are plotting a special event for our families. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

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, present and emerging.

### 2024 Term 3

23/7	Students return
23/7	NSW PSSA cross country
26/7	Assembly Senior Choir
1/8	Y4 Opportunity Class Test
2/8	Assembly Great White Sharks
5/8-8/8	Education Week
7/8	S3 Nexgen Codecamp incursion
9/8	Assembly Crocodiles
16/8	Balmain zone athletics
16/8	Assembly Rosellas
19/8-23/8	Book Week
20/8	PS Platypus and Wallabies Taronga Zoo incursion
22/8	PS Quokkas and Wombats Taronga Zoo incursion
23/8	Assembly Kangaroos
29/8	S1 Taronga Zoo excursion
30/8	Assembly Stingrays
6/9	Assembly Sugar Gliders
9/9-10/9	S2 Camp Yarramundi
13/9	Assembly Kookaburras
20/9	Assembly Possums
27/09	Assembly Brolgas
27/9	Last day term 3

### Principal's Trophy

**Week 8 Stingrays** - In our Week 8 assembly the Stingrays received the Principals Award for Excellence in Learning for their great effort learning about the Australian Gold Rushes. They are designing and creating newspapers for their local goldfield in the 1850's, that will appeal to the miners while keeping them informed and entertained.

**Week 9 Kookaburras** - In our Week 9 assembly the Kookaburras received the Principals Award for Excellence in Learning for their stunning water colour paintings of Sydney Cove. They also did a great job evaluating their work using 2 stars for things they did well and a wish about what to improve on.

# Festival of Music 2025

17 Birchgrove musicians were part of the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House on Tuesday 25 June. That morning our Birchgrove musicians carried their musical instruments and caught the ferry into the city. All were excited about the rehearsals and upcoming concert.

Upon arriving at Circular Quay, students playing stringed instruments and the recorders separated to join others from across the state for our final rehearsals. The concert started at 7pm. All our musicians were fantastic, playing their songs with 600 students from across NSW. All students were smiling after beautiful performances of "Psalm 100" and "In the Serpentine Mine" (recorder students), "Dracula's Day Off" and "Pieces of Eight" (strings) and "Concertino Bianco" (combined strings and recorders). Alicia Crosley conducted the world premiere of a new piece called "Owl Rave" by Tristan Coelho with the NSW Public Schools Recorder Ensemble.

Special thanks to Heidi and Katy for their support and joining us for the ferry ride. Jordan and Alicia, the kids were brilliant and made Birchgrove Public School Proud!

Anthony Brereton - Kookaburras Teacher



# Athletics Carnival Awards

Congratulations to all BPS students who received a ribbon during the last two school assemblies for placing first, second or third overall in a track event at the school athletics carnival.

The Balmain PSSA Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 16 August at E.S. Marks Athletics Field, Kensington. More information on which students have qualified for this carnival will be provided early Term 3.



# Bilbies Class Host Assembly

The Stage 1 Bilbies hosted the Week 9 Assembly. They have been exploring ways to make their imaginative and creative writing more interesting. They have focussed on techniques like personification, onomatopoeia and rhyming and including subject specific vocabulary. They were proud to run the assembly and introduced the audience to their new octopus friend and headed out into a storm, performing “The Undeterred Octopus” and “A Passing Storm” by Rebecca Gardyn Levington.

They also won the trophy for the best behaved class!

Emma Taksa – Bilbies Teacher



# Debating Team Update

Our Birchgrove Debating Team is now three debates into the season, with debate number 3 held last Wednesday. This time we were up against Rozelle Public School, debating the topic that **the Olympic Games are a waste of money**. A very timely topic given that we are all about to be glued to the TV for the Paris Olympics.

The debating gang are a finely tuned, collaborative team at this point. They continue to be highly motivated and self-driven, and always receive great praise from adjudicators and their audiences.

Round 3 saw Elodie, Alice, Ava and Saffi take up the affirmative argument at Rozelle, and Phoebe, Evie, Xander and Annie fought for the negative on home soil. (Special hurrah for Evie and Annie who both stepped into their roles late in preparation without flinching!)

Unfortunately, neither team was victorious in their debate last week, but they sure did an excellent job of keeping their competitors on their toes and representing our school exceptionally well.

Stay tuned for our next round in Week 3, Term 3.

Dani Corliss - Debate Coordinator



# Rock Band Terrace Gig



Our latest Terrace Concert was performed by our talented Rock Band led by Tutor Ally McMahon

# In Other News...

Congratulations to Ian Kwon for winning the Stage 3 Spelling Bee competition! Well done to all students who participated, there were some very challenging words to spell.



Congratulations again to Alice Barnett who has been competing in tournaments since her selection for the Balmain PSSA representative netball team.



BPS students celebrated World Ocean Day on Thursday 4 July raising nearly \$300 which is destined for the Tangora Blue Foundation, an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris. Students wore ocean-coloured mufti, but the most creative ocean fashion award goes to teacher Dani Corliss, who dressed as the ocean itself... BEFORE the clean up!



# NAIDOC Week

What is the artwork for NAIDOC Week 2024? 'Urapun Muy' depicts the rich, multifaceted tapestry that makes up who we are as Blak, Loud and Proud mob. The artwork shows ancestors placing an ember into a burning fire. This ember, and the fire, represents the sharing of cultural knowledge from one generation to the next.





# NAIDOC Week



# Kindy Classrooms

