



# Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

*'Living & Learning Together'*

Term 1, Week 4 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Birregurra Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments. Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Child safety is a shared responsibility.

## Our Vision

An inclusive community that supports and encourages a love of learning and the skills and mindset to thrive.

## Our School Values

**Community** - growing positive partnerships between school, home and the broader community

**Aspire** - setting goals and purposefully working towards their achievement

**Respect** - for self, others, learning and our environment

**Excellence** - striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of schooling.

## From the Principal's Desk

WEEK

4

It is hard to believe we are already at the start of Week 4. Over the past couple of weeks, our teachers have continued to prioritise building strong relationships, supporting students in adapting to change, and establishing routines and expectations for the year ahead, while making reasonable adjustments for students who need them. It is wonderful to walk around and see these routines in practice so early in the year.

### 2026 Student Leadership Roles

Last Thursday, our senior students presented their leadership speeches in the Multi-Purpose Room, addressing their peers, teachers, and families. Each student had clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into their speech, and despite the challenge of speaking in front of a large audience, they delivered with confidence and composure. We are so proud of all of them!

On Tuesday afternoon, our 3, 4, and 5 students also presented their speeches to their peers, demonstrating their thoughtfulness, confidence, and emerging leadership skills.

A big thank you to the parents who attended, your support and encouragement meant so much to the students! Special thanks also to Senior Constable Josh Goonan for presenting the students with their badges on Friday afternoon.

We are proud to announce our 2026 School Captains, House Captains, and Junior School Council (JSC) representatives.

### School Captains

Logan & Stevie

### House Captains

**Sladen:** Augie & Indie

**Strachan:** Kate & Jaxson

**Skene:** Jack & James

**Beal:** Flynn & Rosie

### Junior School Council

**Grade 6:** Emme, Lachie, Imogen, Freddie, Sam, Stella & Mahalia

**Grade 5:** Soraya & Daisy

**Grade 4:** Thomas & Indi

**Grade 3:** Sabi & Dane

All members of our school community are expected to uphold and demonstrate our school values. However, it is especially important that our school leaders set a positive example for their peers. As role models, student leaders will embody the following values:

**Community** – Building strong connections between school, home, and the wider community.

**Aspire** – Setting goals and working with determination to achieve them.

**Respect** – Showing respect for themselves, others, their learning, and the environment.

**Excellence** – Striving to reach their personal best in all areas of school life.

We are excited to support and collaborate with these young leaders as we continue to learn, grow, and work together for the benefit of our entire school community.

School Councillors – Rob Lidgerwood, Luke Fitzpatrick, Kelly Dodds, Emily McDonald, Cassie Stephens, Sarah Green, Alistair Burrell, Jaymie Lowe.

## INFO SESSIONS

### Parent Information Sessions

Last Monday we hosted our Parent Information session for P-2. Thanks to the families who were able to attend, we trust that you gained valuable insights from the session. The Junior Learning Community Information Booklet has been distributed to all Prep-2 families through XUNO. If you have any queries regarding the content, feel free to reach out to our junior team.

**Tonight**, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, we will be conducting the Parent Information Session for Grades 3-6 in the Multi-Purpose Room. We hope to see you there!

### School Council Nominations

School Council nominations open **today**. Please find attached to today's newsletter a school council nomination form for interested parents/carers. We have three parent representative vacancies and one school employee vacancy. Nomination forms can also be obtained from the school office.

School Council plays a vital role in the running of a school and is a great way to support your child's education. Please consider nominating. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. School council nominations close on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 @ 4:00pm**.



### Parent Teacher Conversations

Parent/teacher conversations continue this week on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. If you are yet to book a time, it's not too late! Please book your preferred time via XUNO, and teachers will phone you at the scheduled time. Thank you to everyone who connected with teachers last week, your engagement is greatly appreciated and helps us work together to support your child's learning.

### Lunch Orders

Lunch Orders commence this **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of February**. Paper order forms will be coming home today with students and must be returned by **Wednesday at 9:00 am**. If you are available to join the roster and assist with distributing lunches to classrooms, please let us know by calling 5236 2222 or emailing [birregurra.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:birregurra.ps@education.vic.gov.au). A huge thank you to Jemma for once again preparing, cooking and coordinating lunch orders, we truly appreciate her time and effort!

### Parents & Friends / Parent Helpers 2026

We love having parents support our programs and are seeking parents/carers that may wish to join our Parents & Friends group in 2026. The P&F plays a vital role in supporting our school by fostering parent and community involvement, assisting with fundraising, and strengthening connections between families, students, and staff. The group helps with sporting events, organises social gatherings, welcomes new families, and helps with school activities as needed. We'd love for you to be part of the P&F this year! Our first Parents & Friends get-together is scheduled for **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, at the Birregurra Grocer at 10:00am. Join us for a chat and enjoy a coffee! Please complete the form using the link below to let us know if you can attend:

<https://forms.gle/aHxv8CwN5rLA73TJA>

If you are unable to attend but would still like to be involved, please complete the form so we can contact you.

### Polwarth Sports

The Polwarth Sports event at Alvie Primary School on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February** is rapidly approaching. We recognise the challenges this day may pose for some families and acknowledge the substantial commitment required from both our families responsible for transporting children and our dedicated staff arriving early in Alvie to assist with set-up, first aid, tents, etc.

I encourage you to engage in conversations with each other regarding the possibility of carpooling. If you happen to have a spare seat in your car and are willing to assist with transportation, please let us know.

Program details and schedules are currently in the finalisation stage and will be communicated to families through XUNO when available.



## 2026 NAPLAN testing

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing will take place in March, beginning on the 11th, for students in Grades 3 and 5. NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment that all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills students are developing through the school curriculum. It allows parents and carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards. While NAPLAN is an important measure, it is just one part of a school's broader assessment and reporting process. It does not replace the ongoing assessments teachers make about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional insights into students' educational progress.

Our teachers have begun preparing students for the tests and will continue to support them as they familiarise themselves with the test format and online platform.

If you have any questions about your child's participation in NAPLAN, please contact either Mr Burrell or I.

## School Nursing Program

Our prep students received information regarding the Primary School Nursing program last Thursday. We would appreciate if families could please respond to the Prep Questionnaire at your earliest convenience and by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

## Reminders

- PREP students do not come to school on Wednesdays throughout February.
- Uniform orders are due to the office by **TODAY!**
- Assembly is this Friday in the Multi-Purpose Room. Grade 4/5 will be presenting.
- A reminder to parents that lunch orders are available for students starting this Friday. Please do not drop off additional lunch items or treats for individual students, as this is not appropriate and can create unintended inequities. Your support helps ensure all students have a fair and consistent experience with lunch orders.
- Please consider what items you enable your children to bring to school as DE (The Department of Education) does not cover any personal property being damaged at school.
- As per our Student Dress Code policy, students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school as this type of jewellery can cause a safety concern.
- It's great to see so many students and families riding to school. Please park your bikes in bike racks or at least near the bike racks when they are full. We appreciate students walking their bikes in and out of the playground and not riding inside school grounds. We want to keep everyone safe and avoid accidents. Thanks for your support with this.


If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns please don't hesitate to contact either myself, the office or your child's teacher. Positive home school partnerships and relationships ensure the best possible outcomes for your children. We value your input and are committed to making our school the best it can be!

Jess Kattwinkel & team

School council election process and timetable		
Name of the school: Birregurra Primary School		
EVENT		DATE
a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	<i>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026</i>
b)	Closing date for nominations	<i>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</i>
c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	<i>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026</i>
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	<i>On or before Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</i>
e)	Close of ballot	<i>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026</i>
f)	Vote count	<i>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026</i>
g)	Declaration of poll	<i>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026</i>
h)	Special council meeting to co-opt community members (the principal will preside)	<i>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</i>
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	<i>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</i>

## Dates for the Diary...

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	- Gr 3-6 Information Session 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	- Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	- No Preps - Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	- Assembly 2.45pm, Gr 4/5 Class Presentation
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	- School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	- No Preps
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	- Polwarth Sports - Alvie Primary School
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	- Assembly, Gr 3/4 Class Presentation
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	- Labour Day Public Holiday - No Students at School
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March - 18 <sup>th</sup> March	- Somers Camp - selected 5/6 students
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	- NAPLAN Writing for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - NAPLAN Reading for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	- NAPLAN Conventions of Language for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	- NAPLAN Numeracy for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs begin
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	- Ride 2 School Day - Colac Division Athletic - selected students - Assembly, Grade 2/3 Class Presentation

 Birregurra Primary School

### Parent Teacher Conversations

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

3.30pm to 4.30pm

Bookings can be made via XUNO.  
Please contact the office on 5236 2222 if you have any queries.



WISHING THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS A VERY

HAPPY

Birthday

16<sup>th</sup> February

Georgia P

19<sup>th</sup> February

Byron S

20<sup>th</sup> February

Evelyn L



A huge thanks to Clementine in Grade 3 for sharing these wonderful photos of her beloved pet Ginny and some information about her special pet. If you've got some photos you'd love to share please email them through to [Brendan.king@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Brendan.king@education.vic.gov.au).

This is my puppy, Ginny. She is a one year old, black and tan, King Charles Cavalier Spaniel.

Ginny's main job is to sit on people's laps and look cute. When anyone sits on the couch, Ginny sits on them immediately!

She is always excited to see me when I come home from school.

She LOVES to meet people and dogs (and cows, sheep, horses, chickens, anyone!)

If you see her out and about with us, come and say, "Hi" - it will make her day.





**CONNECT** is a trauma-informed therapeutic program that focuses on strengthening the relationship between a mother/carer and her children following the impacts of family violence.

The group supports women to understand the impact of the trauma of violence on themselves and their children and enhances their ability to 'tune into' their children and respond in meaningful ways.

Through discussion, education and practical skills, the group supports women in their parenting following family violence.

**CONNECT** is suitable for mothers/carers and children who have experienced family violence where:

- At least one child is aged 7-11 years.
- The relationship between the mother/carer and children has been impacted by family violence.
- Mothers/carer and children are living with a level of safety and stability.
- Mothers/carers have a level of self-regulation and external supports that enable them to safely engage in the program.
- The family is able to commit to attending all sessions of the program, except where unforeseeable circumstances occur.

### Colac Program

**Meet & Greet:** Tuesday 24 March

**10 week program starts:** Tuesday 31 March, between 12:45 - 2:45pm.

**Where:** Colac Area Health, 2-28 Connor St Colac

### More information

Please contact Tracey Bayne on 5232 5100 or 0499 323 782.

CONNECT is a joint initiative of The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre and Colac Area Health, with group sessions held in both regions.



CONNECT is proudly funded by the Victorian State Government.



**INTRODUCING OUR  
2026  
SCHOOL CAPTAINS**



**INTRODUCING OUR  
2026  
HOUSE CAPTAINS**

**INTRODUCING OUR  
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVES**



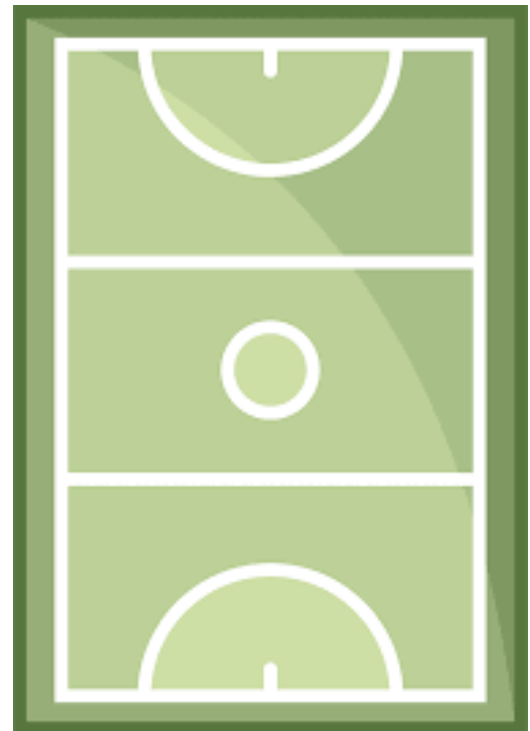


# Birregurra Junior Netball

Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2: Term 2 Thursday afternoon Net Set Go skills sessions  
(Some Grade 2s may play games on Friday nights)

Grades 3-6: Thursday night training and Friday night CDNA games (Friday night games start Week 1, Term 2 and run til August)

Please sign up using this [link](#) by **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.





**Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening**  
**Tuesday 3 March, 2026 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

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**Selected Entry Advanced Learning  
Program Information Evening**  
**Tuesday 31 Mar, 2026: 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

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**School Tours**  
**Tuesday Mornings at 9:30am - *see website to book***

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For further information, contact our office on  
(03) 4243 0500 or  
[matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au)



**MFG**  
**Matthew Flinders  
Girls Secondary  
College**



# FESTIVAL OF SPORT

at KARDINIA PARK



## FREE EVENT

LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND  
FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
5PM - 8PM

PRESENTED BY



SUPPORTED BY



- 30+ interactive sporting activities
- Experience the thrill of playing on the field at GMHBA Stadium
- Enjoy entertainment and food trucks
- Connect with the local sporting community

[WWW.FESTIVALOFSPORT.COM.AU](http://WWW.FESTIVALOFSPORT.COM.AU)