



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 1, Week 5 – 23rd February 2026

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome to Week 5! The term is certainly flying by! It has been a busy and productive start to the school year, with much more planned in the upcoming weeks. Please keep an eye on the dates in the diary section! A reminder that our first Parents & Friends catch up is this morning at 10:00am at the Birre Grocer.

Parent Information Sessions

Thank you to all parents who attended our information sessions over the past few weeks. We recognise the demands on family schedules and appreciate the time you gave to attend. Our aim was for the information shared by teachers to provide clarity about teaching, learning and support at Birregurra Primary School.

We view our work with families as a partnership and see our roles as a privilege. We value the trust you place in us each day your children are in our care. During the sessions, teachers shared key information about literacy and numeracy instruction, class timetables, inquiry learning, school opportunities, health and wellbeing supports and specialist subjects.

Information booklets have been distributed via XUNO. If you have any questions about the P-2 or 3-6 sessions, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you also to the parents who made time to meet with teachers during the recent parent teacher conversations. It is always valuable to connect early in the year and hear how your children have settled into the school year.

Interschool Swimming in Apollo Bay

Last Monday, three of our senior students, Kate M, Rosie and Tess had the opportunity to participate in a swimming carnival in Apollo Bay. Their passion for swimming and participation in squad swimming outside of school earned them spots in the event. All three girls showcased their skills and represented our school with pride, enjoying the chance to compete against other swimmers from the region. Well done, Kate, Rosie and Tess and thanks to their family members for supporting them to attend.



Polwarth Sports

The Polwarth Sports is this **Friday 27th February** at Alvie Primary School. We are looking forward to the day, interacting with students, staff and families from across our local schools. A friendly reminder that parents are required to transport their children to and from the event. I encourage you to chat to each other about potentially carpooling if needed.

Sausage sizzle/veggie burger order forms were sent home last week and are due back to our office **today** so that we can send them to the organising school. Families are encouraged to stay and enjoy the day. There will also be a coffee van with drinks available to purchase.



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

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.

Staff will arrive early and we ask that parents and students please arrive at 9:00am as students will assemble in their age groups at 9:15am and events will commence at 9:30am sharp. We will have a school tent set up, head to the tent first to collect your child's score card. Students are to wear their school T- shirt/jumper, blue shorts and hat. The program has been sent via XUNO and we will have some hard copies of the event schedule available at our tent. We look forward to enjoying this community event with everyone. Go Birre!

Schools Clean Up Australia Day

This year our school will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day on **Monday 2nd of March**. Clean Up Australia Day is a great way to inspire our students to learn about the impact of rubbish on their local environment while playing an active role in the community. Students will join in the clean-up of our school and the Birregurra Park in the morning at 10:40am. Parents are welcome to join us if they wish.



Staffing

Miss Erskine is on leave for the next few weeks; Mrs McDonald is supporting our Prep/1 class during this time. Wishing Miss Erskine all the very best for her big day, we can't wait to hear all about it.

Mrs Leigh continues to recover from surgery. We thank you for your patience as we manage office enquiries and administration in her absence with limited staffing. We appreciate your understanding while we do our best to maintain normal processes and response times.

Reminders

- There is no school for Preps this Wednesday.
- School council nominations close **TODAY** at 4:00pm. Please send all nominations to the office.
- A friendly reminder Prep health questionnaires are due by **Friday 6th March**.

If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns please don't hesitate to contact either myself or your child's teacher. Have a wonderful week.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

Dates for the Diary...

Monday 23 rd February	- School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 25 th February	- No Preps
Thursday 26 th February	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 27 th February	- Polwarth Sports - Alvie Primary School
Monday 2 nd March	- Schools Clean Up Day
Thursday 5 th March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 6 th March	- Assembly, Gr 3/4 Class Presentation
Monday 9th March	- Labour Day Public Holiday - No Students at School
Tuesday 10 th - 18 th March	- Somers Camp - selected 5/6 students
Wednesday 11 th March	- NAPLAN Writing for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Thursday 12 th March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - NAPLAN Reading for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Friday 13 th March	- NAPLAN Conventions of Lang for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Monday 16 th March	- NAPLAN Numeracy for Years 3 & 5 (9:00am)
Thursday 19 th March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs begin
Friday 20 th March	- Ride 2 School Day - Colac Division Athletic - selected students - Assembly, Grade 2/3 Class Presentation

Students of the Week

Respect	Ivy W	For the respectful way you participate in our class discussions. You put up your hand and wait patiently for your turn to share. Go Ivy!
	Zoe T	For the kind and thoughtful way you always look after our classroom and help tidy up. You are a wonderful part of our class! Well done, Zoe!
	Liam P	For showing respect to new students in our school by kindly inviting them to join in, helping them feel welcome, and making sure they feel included and supported in our classroom community.
	Aliya N	For consistently showing respect and genuine care for others during learning. You thoughtfully offer support in a kind and considerate way, helping your classmates feel valued and included. Thanks for being a superstar, Aliya!
	Tess M	You show kindness through your words and actions, listen thoughtfully to others, and bring your bubbly nature to our classroom. Thanks for being so caring Tess!
	Jack K	For showing kindness and respect to your fellow peers! It has been noticed and appreciated! Keep up the great work!
Excellence	Charles H	For having a go even when it sometimes feels tricky. I love seeing your smile when you achieve your goal. Keep it up Charles!
	Hattie K	For always striving to do your best, even when it might feel challenging. You consistently try to extend your learning, and we love how confidently and thoughtfully you share your ideas during our discussions. Awesome work, Hattie!
	Sabi M	For extending your learning in Maths by challenging yourself with new addition strategies, showing perseverance as you practised carrying over, and confidently applying these skills to solve more complex problems independently.
	Zeb C	For demonstrating the value of Excellence in your learning. You set clear goals for yourself that reflect your high expectations, and you are clearly working hard to achieve them. Keep up the fabulous work, Zeb!
	Hettie G	You approach your learning with focus, determination, and care, always aiming to do your personal best. Keep up the awesome attitude Hettie!
	Rosie H	For displaying great focus and determination in completing your learning tasks on time and extending yourself! Well done and keep it up!
Art	Noah T	For his wonderful focus and careful line work when creating his 'Op Art Dots' - well done!
Indonesian	Stevie G	You confidently and enthusiastically led your class through the steps to create a dragon-themed chatterbox when learning about Lunar New Year, showing wonderful leadership and initiative. Terima kasih, Stevie!
PE	Violet P	For your exceptional generosity and kindness when offering to share your equipment with others during Phys Ed. Well done!



Principal's Award

Tess M- For your daily enthusiasm and dedication across all areas of school life, including the interschool swimming carnival. Great work Tess!



This week's newsletter pet feature was sent through by Miss Dillon. Rudy is her much loved puppy who may be familiar to some, having visited our school in the past. If you'd like to share your pet, email through some photos and info to Mr King at brendan.king@education.vic.gov.au.

Rudy is a Labrador x Cavoodle puppy who is full of energy and lots of love to give! She loves chasing balls, birds and running alongside me on my bike. I take Rudy everywhere with me and spoil her rotten!



Wellbeing for Learning Tool



Research has shown a correlation between wellbeing, mental health, social and emotional skills and academic learning for students.^[1]

Pivot Professional Learning has collaborated with wellbeing, education and mental health experts to identify the key components of wellbeing and the impact these have on a student's ability to learn at school. From this research, Pivot has created a new tool to measure, track and support student wellbeing.

Pivot Professional Learning

Pivot Professional Learning is an Australian-based Education Technology company. Known for their feedback tools, Pivot provides schools with a simple way to gather feedback on teaching practice, school leadership and wellbeing.



What the research says:



Primary school students can lose up to 8 months of learning over a 4 year span, due to lower wellbeing^[1]



Compared to 35 other countries, Australian students experience the lowest sense of school belonging^[2]



25% of secondary school students report being regularly bullied and can lose up to 10 months of learning if bullied for more than 2 years^[3]

Rising concerns during the pandemic



70.5% of principals reported negative impacts on student mental health and wellbeing^[3]

29% of parents said their child's education was negatively impacted^[4]

37% of parents said their children have become more anxious and stressed^[4]



80% of students missed seeing their friends and 66% missed seeing their extended family^[4]

Challenges students are facing



Kids Helpline interventions in Victoria increased by 184% between Dec 2020 - Mar 2021 in comparison to the previous year^[5]

3 in 5 students see navigating loneliness and isolation as very challenging^[6]



43% of students find online bullying very or extremely challenging^[6]

How the Wellbeing for Learning tool works

The Wellbeing for Learning check-in has been designed to help students and teachers monitor and understand wellbeing. The check-in takes one minute, once a week to complete and students are asked to answer questions on:

1 General Wellbeing

This question is all about a student's general emotions and will help to track how they are feeling each week.

2 Resilience

Includes questions about:

Perseverance

Grit

Optimism

Growth mindset

Self-advocacy

3 Belonging

Includes questions about:

Peer relationships

Close friendships

Trusted adults

Engagement

School identification

5 Protective behaviours

Includes questions about:



Family



Friendships



Health



Hobbies



Schoolwork



Sleep

4 Safety

Includes questions about:

Emotional safety

Physical safety

Online safety

Respect for diversity

A safe environment

Who Gives A Crap®

Birregurra Primary School Parents & Friends Fundraiser



Order Here

Order [here](#) - Orders due by Friday 27th February 2026



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 5th March 2026**.



JUNIOR INDOOR SOCCER

New Season Soccer Starting March

Junior Rebound Soccer is a fun fast action game catering for all levels and abilities. Coaching provided during the matches.

Games scheduled Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school.

Secure your child's spot and Call Paul to Register Now or text 0425792949.



GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

BIRREGURRA

Birregurra Recreational Reserve

Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm



Birregurra Auskick 2026 - 30 Apr 2026 - 03 Jul 2026 - 10 Sessions - Mixed - Birregurra Recreation



OLIVINE FOSSICKING @ MORTLAKE



Rock Lickers, Gem lovers,
Noodlers, Rockhounds



Mount Shadwell Quarry at Mortlake allows fossicking amongst the igneous rocks of this Victorian volcano.



Volcano-ejected rocks, aka **bombs**, can contain **olivine** or other minerals. Enjoy a fun treasure hunt for very unusual souvenirs. Can you find a **peridot** (gem-quality olivine)?

You should wear pants, strong shoes, gloves, hat and safety glasses. Bring tools like a rock hammer or small pick and a bucket, as well as food and drinks.

Please note, facilities at the quarry are limited, but Mortlake township offers services to meet most needs. The quarry is in an exposed area so it is highly recommended to bring sunscreen and plenty of water. On the day of the event, fossickers must complete an entry and indemnity form.

Book via QR Code or the Link at www.mortlakeinfo.com.au

Time - 10 am – 4 pm

Dates -

7,8 & 14 March, 4 & 12 April,
2 & 10 May, 6 & 8 June

Booking Page



Google Map



Peridot



Find a piece of
natural history from
the Victorian
Volcanic Plains.

Rocks from the
Mantle of planet
Earth!



Peridotite



Mount Shadwell
Mortlake
The Olivine Capital
of Victoria



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

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

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

For further information, contact our office on
(03) 4243 0500 or
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 6TH 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