



# Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

*'Living & Learning Together'*

Term 1, Week 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 LGBTQ+ 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



Welcome to Week 6, the halfway point of the first term! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful weekend.

### Parents & Friends Update

Our Parents and Friends group met last Monday at the Birre Grocer, and it was wonderful to see such a strong turnout and positive energy in support of the school. A range of fundraising ideas were discussed, focusing on events that are manageable for families, enjoyable for students, and profitable for the school. Exciting activities planned for the year include a potential family movie night, a Birre market stall, a tea towel fundraiser, and hot cross bun fundraiser for Easter. We are very grateful to the parents who give their time to this group. New members are always welcome, and you can be involved as much or as little as suits you.

### School Council February Meeting

Last Monday we held our first general meeting for the 2026 school year and the final meeting for the current council. Principal, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Junior School Council and P & F reports were presented and accepted. The main items discussed included:

- 2026 enrolments and classes
- 2026 Staffing profile including roles
- Start of year approach – First 10 days, setting strong routines and clear expectations
- NAPLAN – commences mid-March, dates published in newsletter, preparation underway
- Student Leadership – GRIP conference opportunity in May for all Grade 6 students
- Athletics Program – Polwarth and House sports approaching
- 2026 Annual Implementation Plan – key actions outlined
- Student Free Days 2026 - **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** Note: We have one more curriculum day to be scheduled, date to be confirmed.
- Staff Professional Learning outlined
- Curriculum Reports from classroom teachers

We also ratified finance reports for December & January and the Anaphylaxis and Yard Duty policies were presented to council for noting.

### School Council 2026

I'd like to congratulate our parent and school employee members to the Birregurra Primary School Council. Nominations were received unopposed from the following people-

#### **Parent Category**

Katie Delahunty, Belinda Matheson, Kelly Dodds

#### **School Employee Category**

Jaymie Lowe

I would like to take this opportunity to thank retiring School Council members Luke Fitzpatrick and Rob Lidgerwood for their time, effort and valued contributions over many years. Luke has served on school council for ten years, sharing his wisdom and financial expertise as Treasurer, supporting buildings and grounds, and playing a significant role in our new build. His work helped ensure the best possible outcome for our community. He has devoted countless hours to the school and we are extremely grateful. Rob has also been a dedicated member of Council for six years, contributing many hours of service. Most recently, he served as President and provided strong support during our school review.

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

We currently have two community member vacancies. If you wish to join council or know a community member who may wish to join, please contact us.

I look forward to working with members of school council to strengthen our school community and achieve our school priorities and goals. Our next school council meeting is the election of office bearers to be held on **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026** at 6:00pm. This will be followed by a general meeting at 6:30pm.

### Polwarth Sports



Last Friday's Polwarth Sports was a wonderful reflection of our strong community spirit. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making the day such a success. A special thank you to our fabulous staff who arrived early at Alvie to set up the school tent, organise events and ensure everything was ready for the day. We are also very grateful to our supportive parent community for coordinating transport to and from Alvie. It is a significant commitment, and we truly appreciate the time and care shown in making sure our students could participate. Thanks also go to Mr King and Dave Drayton for completing the line marking at Alvie in the day's prior.

While bringing home the trophy is a fantastic achievement, the true highlight of the day is seeing our students give their personal best. Well done Birre on a fantastic effort!

We also had several age group champions, congratulations to:

**Hattie, Jack L, Gigi, Xavier, Val, Kate P, Alby, Indi K, Hettie, Jack K & Kate M**

Students who have qualified for the next stage will be notified in the coming days. The Colac Division Athletics will take place on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, at Central Reserve in Colac.**

### Schools Clean Up Australia Day

Today our school will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day. 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 9:40am (note change of time!). Parents are welcome to join us if they wish.



### Clubs Are Back!

Clubs are back in 2026! Our first session will take place this **Thursday 5th March**. Students have submitted their preferences and are guaranteed a spot in one of their top three choices. Our clubs are multi-age, helping form new friendships, enabling the students to potentially get to know another teacher and mix with other students across the school. Our clubs this term include:

**'Stop Motion Masters'** – Bring your creativity to life with Stop Motion Masters! Create your own animated stories frame by frame, using models, clay, or even drawings. Join us to learn the magic of stop-motion animation and make your ideas move!

**'Jewellery Making Club'** - You'll design and make your very own bracelets and necklaces. You'll learn cool new skills, mix and match colours, and create special pieces to wear at home or give as gifts. It's a happy, creative space where you can relax, have fun with friends, and let your imagination shine!

**'Baking Bosses'**- Mix, measure, and make something delicious with Baking Bosses! From cupcakes and cookies to savoury surprises, our club is all about hands-on fun in the kitchen. Learn new skills, follow recipes, and share tasty treats with friends in a safe and supportive environment. Join us and become a star baker! 🍰

**'Game Gurus'** - Join Game Gurus for an epic mix of strategy, fun, and friendly competition! Whether you're into board games, card games or both, there's always a new game to play and a challenge to conquer. Come roll the dice with us!

**'Golf Gang'** - Come and join the Golf Gang! Enjoy some fresh air, learn a new skill and have plenty of time to practise. Who knows, you might become the next Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy. Why not give golf a go?

**'Minecraft Club'** – Join a fun and creative space where you can work together to build imaginative worlds, complete challenges and solve problems as a team. This club encourages creativity, collaboration and critical thinking while students explore and design in Minecraft.

**'Fairy Garden Club – Where Magic Grows!'** - Join us as we create tiny fairy worlds filled with imagination and creativity. Students will explore design, work with natural materials and bring their magical ideas to life. A beautiful blend of art, nature and storytelling!

## BSW Network Learning Days

This Wednesday and Thursday I will be attending two days of professional learning with colleagues from our network. If you require support during this time, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Mr Burrell will also be available for urgent matters.

## Easter Raffle Fundraiser



Our annual Easter Raffle will be running again in 2026, supported by our newly appointed JSC team. We are seeking donations towards our raffle and would appreciate any Easter eggs and/or Easter themed items towards our hampers. Keep an eye out for tickets coming home soon with each family. Tickets will be due back to school on 1<sup>st</sup> of April with the raffle to be drawn at our final assembly for Term 1 on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April**.

## Reminders

- Students are reminded to keep their treasures and valuables at home. Please note that any valuables brought to school are not the responsibility of the school.
- A friendly reminder that learning begins at 9am each day. Arriving on time ensures students receive important instructions and can fully engage in lessons. Late arrivals not only mean missed learning opportunities for your child but can also disrupt the flow of the classroom and interrupt others.
- Lunch orders are due back by **Wednesday morning 9:00am**. We really appreciate your support with getting these in on time, particularly as we are short staffed in the office.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

## Dates for the Diary...

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	- Schools Clean Up Day 9:40am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs
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> - 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) - Clubs
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	- NAPLAN Conventions of Lang 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
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	- Ride 2 School Day - Colac Division Athletic - selected students - Assembly, Grade 2/3 Class Presentation
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	- CSC Open Night - School Council 6:00pm
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	- Greater Western Swimming
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs 12:30-1:30
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	- House Sports @ Birregurra Rec Reserve



WISHING THE FOLLOWING  
STUDENTS A VERY

HAPPY

*Birthday*

**3rd March**

*Willow*

*Phoebe*

*Ivy L*

**7<sup>th</sup> March**

*Zoe T*



*Meet Russell, the Red Heeler puppy!*

*Mina kindly introduced her puppy to some excited students and staff at the back gate last week. Russell was a little nervous but snuggled nicely into Mina's arms. Thanks for sharing your precious puppy with us, Mina 😊*



*Meet Reggie!*

*Reggie is Libby & Nate's new lab x puppy. Reggie made an appearance at the Polwarth Sports on Friday in Alvie and was a huge hit amongst students, parents and staff. Reggie was seen having a well-deserved rest half way through the day. A big day out for a little puppy!*

If you have a photo of your pet that you'd like to share with the school community, please send it through to [Brendan.king@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Brendan.king@education.vic.gov.au).

## What To Do When Children Are Anxious

The start of the school year can occasionally cause an increase in child anxiety. Below is an excerpt from the Raising Children Network website. The information provided below may help parents when managing anxiety in their children.

If you think your child is showing signs of typical childhood anxiety, worries or fears, you can support them in several ways:

- Acknowledge your child's fear or worry and let them know that most people feel anxious sometimes.
- Talk with your child about their worries.
- Gently encourage and support your child to face situations they're anxious about, starting with situations that cause the least anxiety.
- Wait until your child gets anxious before you step in to help.
- [Praise your child](#) for doing something they're anxious about.
- Avoid criticising your child for being afraid or worried.
- Avoid labelling your child as 'shy' or 'anxious'.
- Try the [stepladder approach](#), a gentle behaviour technique that you can use to help children manage anxiety.
- Make sure your child eats [healthy food](#), does enough physical activity and gets the [sleep](#) they need. Good physical health is important for mental health.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/health-daily-care/school-age-mental-health-concerns/anxiety-in-children>



## 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**.

# JSC EASTER RAFFLE

Please help us create Easter hampers to support upcoming school projects!

## We'd Love Donations Of

Chocolates and Lollies

Easter theme crafts and activities

Easter décor



## We also need

Baskets and gift bags

Cellophane and ribbon

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Donations are warmly welcomed  
at the office until Thursday 26  
March.





## Birregurra Primary School



# FUNDRAISER

BIRREGURRA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS EXCITED TO OFFER 100% COTTON TEA TOWELS, EACH FEATURING A UNIQUE DRAWING CREATED BY THE STUDENTS.

*THE THEME FOR THIS FUNDRAISER IS "FEEL THE LOVE"*

THE CHILDREN WILL BE INVITED TO ILLUSTRATE A SPECIAL PERSON IN THEIR LIVES, ADDING THEIR UNIQUE DESIGNS TO EACH TEA TOWEL.


TEA TOWEL ORDERS ARE DUE BACK BY:  
FRIDAY APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>  
FIND AN ORDER FORM IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

*\$20ea*

# SWIMMER CLINIC

This clinic gives developing athletes across the region access to expert coaching, performance insights, and inspiration from leaders in Australian swimming. Led by esteemed coach Richard Sleight with a special athlete appearance from Bowen Gough.

 Bluewater Leisure Centre

 Saturday 28 March

 11:30am-2:00pm

 SV Members Ages 9+

 \$65 +GST



A fun, free and relaxed event connecting people with disability to the swimming community.

All Welcome.

BYO swimmers, towel, cap and goggles.

THE **abilities** PROGRAM

Saturday 28 March

3:00pm-4:00pm

Bluewater Leisure Centre

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

Shannon Lennie

[shannon.lennie@vic.swimming.org.au](mailto:shannon.lennie@vic.swimming.org.au)

9230 9400

\*Please advise in advance if additional equipment or support is required to support your swimming experience. \*\*Basic swimming ability required (this is not a 'learn to swim' event).

# FUN SWIM

FUN SWIM provides young swimmers with a fun and engaging program to explore racing, and develop and improve 'race ready' skills.

Get in touch to find out more!

 Bluewater Leisure Centre

 Saturday 28 March

 2:00pm-3:00pm

 [shannon.lennie@vic.swimming.org.au](mailto:shannon.lennie@vic.swimming.org.au)

 03 9230 9400



## GOOD CLEAN FUN

**PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK**

## BIRREGURRA

Birregurra Recreational Reserve

Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm





FLIPPIN' FUN

# PANCAKE PARTY!

TUESDAY MARCH 17

during after-school care at your TheirCare service!

We're mixing up Shrove Tuesday and St. Patrick's Day cheer!  
We'll be flipping pancakes, enjoying green crafts, making  
good luck charms, and playing silly games.



Join in the fun during after-school care,  
at no extra cost to families. Scan to book  
or visit [TheirCare.com.au](https://www.theircare.com.au)

**TheirCare**  
Where Kids love to be!



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)



**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](mailto:matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au)



**MFG**  
Matthew Flinders  
Girls Secondary  
College



**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](http://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**

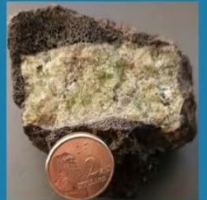


Find a piece of natural history from the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

Rocks from the Mantle of planet Earth!



**Peridotite**



Mount Shadwell  
Mortlake  
The Olivine Capital  
of Victoria



**OPEN NIGHT**  
**MONDAY 23RD MARCH**  
4.30PM - 7.30PM

PRESENTATIONS - 4:30PM, 5:15PM & 6:00PM  
PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE



173 Queen Street, Colac, Vic, 3250  
(03) 52319800

[www.colac-sc.vic.edu.au](http://www.colac-sc.vic.edu.au)  
[colac.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:colac.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

# WE MOVE THE WORLD

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

a celebration of women's wisdom, creativity and connection through movement, rhythm, poetry, sound and art

Friday 13th March  
Birregurra, 9am-1pm

Tickets and info

[events.humanitix.com/iwd-we-move-the-world](https://events.humanitix.com/iwd-we-move-the-world)



food by  
*La Caseta*



International  
Women's Day