Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 2, Week 5 – 18th May 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

Welcome to Week Five and Education Week! The theme for this year is 'Showcase your school', encouraging school communities to celebrate what's great about their school. At our school, we are proud of our supportive community, dedicated staff and the way our students demonstrate our school values. We are excited to be running a school tour for perspective families today at 11:30am. This is an opportunity to hear more about our school and tour our facilities.

As part of our Education Week celebrations, our Junior School Council are hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea this Tuesday in the Multi-Purpose Room at 11:00am. This is a great opportunity to come together as a school community during Education Week, showcase our school spirit, and enjoy a shared moment of connection while supporting those impacted by cancer. You can make a donation on the day or alternatively visit https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/birregurraps. We hope to see you there.

Year 6 GRIP Leadership Conference

Last Tuesday Mr Connor and Mr King had the pleasure of spending the day with our student leaders learning about leadership with students from a range of schools across the region. The students were in and out of their comfort zones, meeting other student leaders, engaging on stage and learning what leadership can look like, feel like and even what they may want to achieve in their positions. Pleasingly, I have already had some of our young leaders approach me with their ideas of how they can support our younger students in the classroom. I look forward to hearing of other ideas they can bring to our school community.

Successful Evacuation Drill

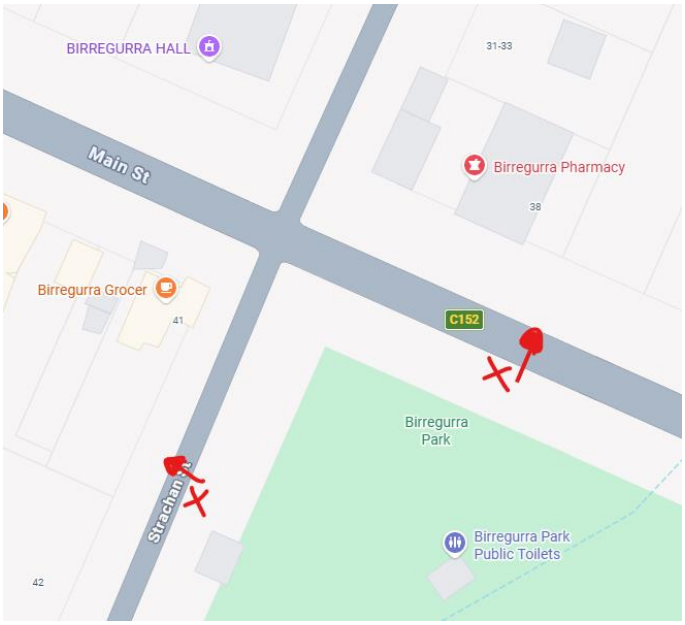
Last Thursday morning, our school conducted a successful onsite evacuation drill. All classes made their way to the bottom oval in a calm, orderly and timely manner, demonstrating excellent cooperation and preparedness from both students and staff.

Practising evacuation drills regularly is an important part of maintaining a safe school environment. These drills help ensure that everyone knows what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency, allowing for a calm and efficient response when it matters most. We congratulate all students and staff for the mature and responsible way they participated in the drill.

National Walk to School Day

It was fantastic to see students, families, and staff come together on Friday to walk to school. We were also pleased to have our local police officer, Josh Goonan, join us and share important messages about road safety. Josh spoke with students about the safest places to cross the road, including avoiding the intersection and using crossing points closer to the skate park. He also highlighted the importance of crossing approximately 20 metres back from the intersection. The diagram below outlines some recommended safe crossing points. We encourage families to continue these important conversations at home to reinforce safe habits when travelling to and from school.

School Councillors –*Kelly Dodds, Emily McDonald, Cassie Stephens, Sarah Green, Katie Delahunty, Belinda Matheson, Alistair Burrell, Jaymie Lowe.*



Celebrating our Education Support (ES) Staff

Education Support (ES) Day was officially celebrated on Saturday; however we would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank the incredible Education Support staff here at our school. From the support they provide in classrooms to the vital work done in the office and across the school each day, their care and dedication play such an important role in supporting both our students and staff. Our school simply would not run as smoothly without them, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do behind the scenes and in our classrooms every single day.

If you see one of our amazing ES staff members this week, please take a moment to say a big "thank you" for all that they do for our school community.

Pre-Service Teachers

Last week, we welcomed two pre-service teachers to our school community. Abby Hay, who is in the first year of her teaching degree, spent the week working across multiple classrooms. We are pleased that Abby will be returning to join us again later in the year.

We also welcomed Abbey Kerr, who will continue working with us over the next three weeks. Abbey is completing the final year of her teaching degree and is based in the 1/2 classroom with Miss Lowe.

It is always wonderful to welcome fresh faces into our school community and to provide opportunities to learn with and from one another.

Year 5/6 Camp

This Wednesday to Friday, our Year 5/6 students will be heading off on their much-anticipated Urban Camp! Students are asked to arrive at Birregurra Train Station by 7:30am on Wednesday to begin what promises to be an exciting and jam-packed few days of activities and experiences.

A massive thank you to Mr Burrell for the incredible organisation and preparation that has gone into making this camp possible, and to Mrs Leigh for all of her work behind the scenes. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff attending camp, Mr Connor, Miss Dillon, Mr Burrell and Miss Bree for giving up time away from their own families to support our students and help provide these wonderful learning opportunities.

We would also like to thank Mr King, who will be taking the Grade 4 students in the 4/5 class across the three days while camp is taking place.

We hope all students have a fantastic time, make the most of every experience, and return with plenty of great stories to share!

Responsible Pet Ownership

This Friday students in Prep-2 will take part in a responsible Pet Ownership incursion. This engaging session will help students learn about caring for pets safely and responsibly, including how to interact appropriately with animals and understand their needs.

Attitudes to School Survey

The Student Attitudes to School Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education, which is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of student experiences and perceptions about a range of areas, some including: academic rigour, student voice and agency, student behaviour, safety and student engagement. We conduct the Attitudes to School Survey for Years 4, 5 and 6 students, and all students are encouraged to participate and share their voice about what we are doing well, and areas in which we can improve. Further information will be available on XUNO this week.

AEU In-Principle Agreement & Reports

As you may have heard through the media, the AEU has reached an in-principle agreement with the government. This still needs to be voted on and ratified by AEU members. While industrial action has been suspended, please be aware there are changes to student reporting this semester. Industrial action did put a ban on writing comments, and this will remain in place due to timing. Families will still receive an overall assessment against the Victorian Curriculum for each subject area taught; however, written comments and overview statements will not be included.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our school community during this time. We remain committed to providing high-quality teaching and learning for all students.

Keeping Personal Items at Home

We have noticed an increase in students bringing toys and items such as squishies to school. While we understand these items can be exciting and enjoyable for students, we ask families to please keep toys at home.

Items brought from home can often lead to conflict between students, become lost or damaged, and can create distractions during learning time. Please note that personal toys and belongings are not the responsibility of school staff.

At school, students already have access to a range of sports equipment and other activities to enjoy during recess and lunch breaks. We appreciate families supporting us by helping keep toys and similar items at home.

Geelong Youth Engagement (GYE) Kokoda Youth Program Raffle

We are pleased to share that our local police officer, Josh Goonan, has been selected to participate in the Geelong Kokoda Youth Program, an incredible initiative led by Geelong Youth Engagement (GYE).

GYE is a local organisation that supports young people across the Geelong, Bellarine, and Surf Coast regions, helping to build resilience, confidence, and strong connections through mentoring and structured programs. As part of the Kokoda Youth Program, participants undertake a 20-week training program before completing a 96km group walk of the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea in September.

This is a significant and life-changing experience, supported by mentors and community members who guide participants throughout their journey.

GYE
GEELONG YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
Today's youth are tomorrows leaders

To support GYE and this valuable program, a raffle is currently being run. Raffle tickets are available from the school office and are $10 each.

Prizes include:

- 1st prize: $3000 Woolworths voucher
- 2nd prize: $2000 APCO voucher
- 3rd prize: $1000 Christmas voucher
- 4th prize: $500 Celebration voucher

We encourage families to support this wonderful local initiative if they are able. All funds raised contribute directly to supporting young people involved in the program.

Reminders

- There is no swimming this week due to the 5/6 camp
- Breakfast Club runs each Thursday morning from 8:15am – all welcome, come along and join your friends for a healthy breakfast!

Have a wonderful week everyone and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can further support in anyway.
Jess Kattwinkel & team

Dates for the Diary...

TERM 2	
Mon 18th May – Fri 22nd May	- Education Week
Monday 18th May	- School Tour 11.30am - School Council 6.30pm
Tuesday 19th May	- JSC Biggest Morning Tea 11am
Wed 20th May – Fri 22nd May	- Gr 5/6 Urban Camp
Thursday 21st May	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 22nd May	- Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion – Prep to Gr 2
Thursday 28th May	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 29th May	- Swimming - Assembly 2.45pm, Grade 4/5 Class Presentation
Tuesday 2nd June	- School Photos
Thursday 4th June	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 5th June	- Swimming
Monday 8th June	- King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9th June	- Curriculum Day – NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL
Thursday 11th June	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 12th June	- Swimming - Assembly 2.45pm, Grade 3/4 Class Presentation
Monday 15th June	- Special Lunch Order Day - School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 17th June	- Learning Showcase 3.15pm – 5.15pm
Thursday 18th June	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 19th June	- Final Day of Swimming
Monday 22nd June	- Semester 2 Reports distributed
Thursday 25th June	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 26th June	- Assembly 1.45pm, Grade 2/3 Class Presentation - Last Day of Term 2, 2.15pm finish

Students of the Week

Community	**Mae S**	For being a wonderful role model in our class and always following the instructions quickly and quietly. You have been showing super listening on the mat. Go Mae!
	Georgia P	For your wonderful participation in our daily Sounds-Write sessions. Your focus, listening, and positive attitude have helped both you and those around you do their best. Keep it up, Georgia!
	Georgia K	For consistently looking after our classroom community by putting away your own resources and helping tidy up others' as well. Thanks for being a superstar!
	Eleni L	For contributing positively to your house community by consistently earning house points and meeting classroom and school expectations with a smile on your face. You're a superstar, Eleni
	Zoe G	For your consistent organisation and attention to detail to help others get ready for learning. Thanks for your initiative, Zoe!
	Freddie L	For consistently being organised to start the day on the right foot. Well done Freddie, keep up the great work!
Aspire	**Otis F**	for continually challenging yourself in your daily learning, particularly during daily review. I love watching you use feedback to extend your thinking. Keep it up Otis.
	Chloe S	For your unique and imaginative sentences you created using the conjunctions 'before' and 'after'. You did a great job linking your ideas to our mentor text, 'The Most Magnificent Thing'. Awesome job, Chloe!
	Will S	For extending your brain in Maths by learning our new strategies for the 4 and 11 times tables. Keep up the great work!
	Blake S	For your impressive engagement in our class novel The Iron Man. Your interesting and insightful ideas have led to thoughtful class discussions and encouraged others to think more deeply about the story. Keep up the great work, Blake!
	Ella G	I love the way you have applied yourself to learning this week, Ella. You have used a growth mindset to work through challenging tasks. Well done!
	Emme D	For displaying great enthusiasm and leadership qualities at the GRIP Leadership Conference. Terrific work Emme!
Art	**Zoe T**	for your carefully designed Keith Haring style dog. You really focused on creating a colourful negative space background. Well done Zoe!
Indonesian	**Pippa D**	For always giving your best during Indonesian. You approach every activity with focus, independence, and a strong commitment to your learning. Bagus, Pippa!
PE	**Emme D**	For your 'can do' attitude and willingness to always give things a go. Well done Emme!
STEAM	**Sabi M**	Congratulations on creating such a fantastic STEAM hypothesis and sharing your ideas so clearly with your classmates. Your brilliant teamwork and creative thinking are exactly what making new discoveries is all about!

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Hunter S

For his quiet persistence and consistent effort, especially at the Colac Cross Country.
Well done, Hunter!

BIRREGURRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Health & Wellbeing

Colac Swimming Club Qualifying & Encouragement Meet

Date & Time: Sat, 18/07/2026

Warm Up - 12:30pm | Competition 1:00pm

Location: Bluewater Leisure Centre 118-134 Hearn Street, Colac

Attend: $12 per event

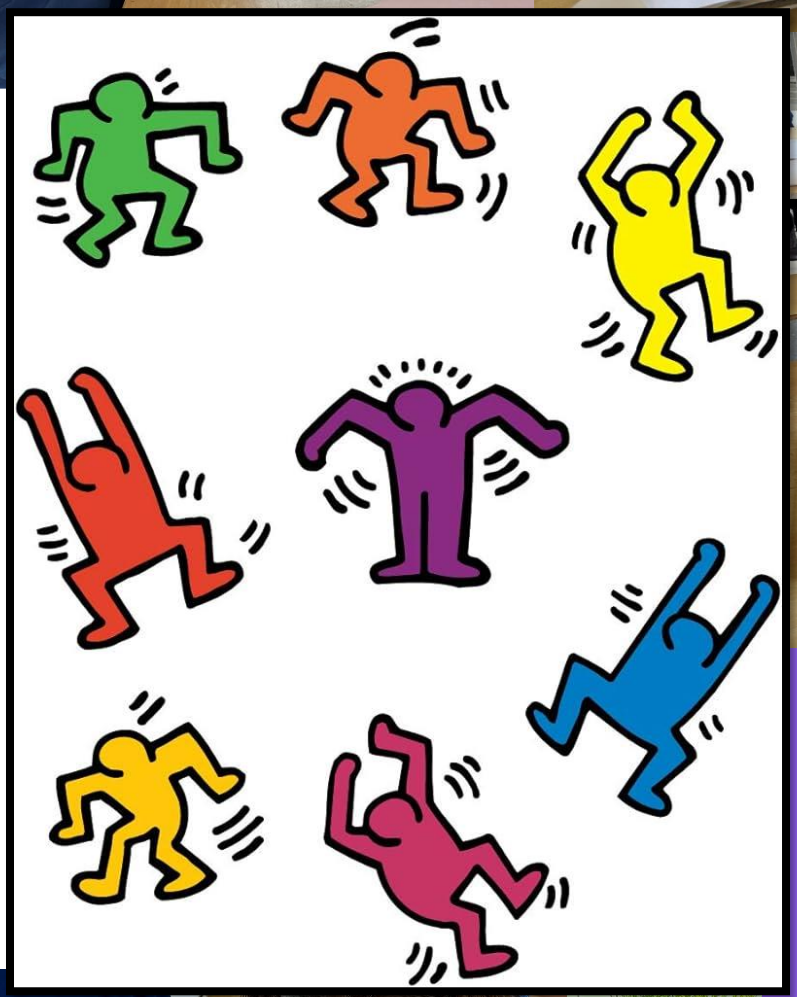
Entry form and further information can be found here.

Wishing the following students a very

Happy Birthday

May

12th Van B
14th Sabi M
15th Hettie G
20th Alby H
22nd Benji D
24th Xavier N



ART

In Art this week, students explored the bold and energetic work of street artist Keith Haring. They learnt about his playful style, use of bright colours and simple lines. We explored how his artwork often showed movement and action. Inspired by his designs, students created their own artworks featuring barking dogs, moving people and lively patterns. It was wonderful to see students experimenting with shape, line and movement while developing their own creative ideas. - Mrs Williams

Hello Birre Community,
You are invited to our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Let's get together and enjoy a cuppa so we can support those impacted by cancer.

When: Tuesday 19th May 2026
Where: Birre P.S. Multi-Purpose Room
Time: 11 am

Please donate to my morning tea

Scan the QR code to donate.
You will be directed to my fundraising page where you can donate directly to my morning tea.

Visit the donation link directly
https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/birregurraps

Birregurra Primary School Tours

Come and experience first hand why Birregurra Primary School is a great choice for your child.
Join us for an information session and school tour -
TODAY
Monday 18th May 11.30am

Bookings are essential.
Please use the QR code or use the link below to register.

https://forms.gle/JDgXmdj6QUhprdmKA

For more information please visit our website
www.birregurraps.vic.edu.au

FUNDRAISER FOR BIRREGURRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Otways Women's Day

Saturday 31 October 2026

Save the Date
Details to follow...

LIVE MUSIC
FIZZ & CANAPÉS
GUEST SPEAKERS
AUCTION & RAFFLES

Who Gives A Crap®

Birregurra Primary School Parents & Friends Fundraiser

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