



# Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

## 'Living & Learning Together'

Term 4, Week 12 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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 12 and the final few days of the 2023 school year. I trust everyone enjoyed an opportunity to rest on the weekend ready for the last two days of school.

Last week was a busy week with our canteen day on Monday, our final breakfast club Tuesday as well as concert and graduation, whole school excursions on Thursday and our Grade 6 excursion on Friday. Massive thanks to our Breakfast Club helpers for their support throughout the year including both students and parents.

## School Concert & Graduation

What a fabulous night we had last Tuesday night celebrating a huge milestone for our Grade 6 students as well as enjoying the wonderful class performances at our concert. It was great to see our whole school community come together to acknowledge and celebrate the 2023 school year and our graduates. Our graduating students spoke beautifully, reflecting on the individuals who had supported them throughout their primary school years, reminiscing about the humorous moments they had experienced, and expressing their excitement for the future. Special thanks to Maddie from STOMP and our team for their efforts in putting the evening together, and a heartfelt acknowledgment to Mr. Burrell for his preparation and presentations.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Max Curtis on behalf of the Birregurra Freemasons Lodge, Lachie Henderson, the Birregurra Arts Group, Bendigo Community Bank, Neighbourhood Watch, and the Birregurra Medical Centre for their generous donations of awards.

### Congratulations to our 2023 award winners:

**Jonah C** – Birregurra Freemason's Lodge Award (*Outstanding Academic Performance & Role Model*)

**Ivy H** – Shire of Winchelsea Award (*High Academic success in Literacy & Numeracy*)

**Beau Callahan** – Lachie Henderson Sports Award (*Teamwork, Sportsmanship & Athletic Performance*)

**Tilly J** – Bendigo Community Bank Award (*Modelling our School Values*)

**Georgia R** – Neighbourhood Watch Award (*Leadership, Kindness & Respect*)

**Olivia M** – Birregurra Arts Group Award (*Creative Flare & knowledge within the Arts*)

**Ollie D** – Birregurra Medical Centre Award (*Knowledge & ability in the area of Science/STEAM*)

I wish our Year 6 students the best for their future education. I am confident that Birregurra PS has provided them with the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need to continue their educational journey at secondary school and become happy, successful and lifelong learners.

## End of Year Excursions

Last Thursday, students and staff headed off on our end-of-year excursions. Years 3-6 travelled to Lorne to enjoy the beach and have a go at surfing! We were fortunate to have perfect weather for the day, ensuring our students could maximise their experience.

Our students returned to school very tired but with smiles on their faces, feeling proud of their efforts.

School Councillors – Rob Lidgerwood (President) Luke Fitzpatrick, Claire Leeson, Abbey Gannon, Kelly Dodds, Emma Mezzatesta, Emily McDonald, Alistair Burrell, Brendan King.

Our Prep-2 students also enjoyed some time on the Queenscliff beach, beachcombing, and discovering many treasures. They also had the opportunity to explore the aquarium at the Marine Discovery Centre, with the touch tank being a highlight!

On Friday our Grade 6 students headed into Geelong to visit Bounce. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate the end of their primary school days as a cohort. Please enjoy the photos in today's newsletter.

### Community Colour Run

We are really looking forward to bringing our community together on the final day of the school year for our students, this **Tuesday 19th of December** to participate in a Community Colour Run. The event will kick off at 2:00pm and is a casual dress day. The cost to participate in the Colour Run is **\$2 per person**. It's highly recommended that participants wear clothing that they don't mind getting dirty. This could be old clothes that you have in your closet or something that you plan on using solely for the Colour Run. Wearing white clothing can make the colour really pop! As well as powder colour, students may be sprayed with water so please ensure your child brings along a towel to sit on, leaving minimal colour transfer from their clothes when they're on the bus or in the car.

If any parents would like to get involved, please let us know, but even if you can't help, we'd love to see you down there on the day cheering the kids on!



### Outside School Hours Care

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank TheirCare and particularly Mia for her amazing organisation and ensuring a OSHC program that reflects the interests of our students. We are very thankful to have this service available to our families. A reminder that the last day of care for 2023 is this Tuesday. TheirCare will reopen on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and run all day. To book your child into care in 2023, please go online and visit [www.theircare.com.au](http://www.theircare.com.au) or contact 0436 333 006.

### Thanks School Council Members

*Luke Fitzpatrick, Claire Leeson, Rob Lidgerwood, Abbey Gannon, Kelly Dodds, Emma Mezzatesta, Emily McDonald, Brendan King, Alistair Burell, & Kate Leigh (minutes secretary).*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and staff members who give so freely and enthusiastically of their time to be your representatives on School Council. I am extremely grateful to this supportive group. It certainly does make a principal's job much easier. Thank you all for being so supportive, friendly, flexible and generous with your time.

### Thanks to our Parent Community

I want to express my gratitude to all parents for your continuous support. It is widely acknowledged and understood that learning communities fostering strong home/school partnerships achieve the best outcomes for their students.

A special thank you to the parents who have contributed to fundraising and events throughout this year. Our termly canteen days are well supported and appreciated, parent social events have been highly enjoyable, and we have successfully raised significant funds, thanks to the generosity of our parent community and local businesses. The funds raised are a substantial benefit to our school and have been instrumental in supporting our building and landscaping efforts. Your support is genuinely valued.

### Thanks to Staff

Thanks also to our wonderful and dedicated team here at Birregurra P.S. I have enjoyed working with you all throughout 2023 and appreciate the time, effort and genuine care you provide to all students.

## Reminders

- Today is our final assembly for the year and will be held in the Multipurpose room at 2:45pm. There will be a special presentation for our Neighbourhood Watch Award winner as well as a short video of our Grade 6 and their journey through primary school.
- The final day for our students is Tuesday with a normal dismissal time of 3:15pm.
- Breakfast Club will be on Thursday mornings in 2024, commencing on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

On behalf of all at Birregurra Primary School, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas with family and friends, and Happy and Safe New Year! We look forward to 2024 and all that it has to offer for our school community!

Jess Kattwinkel & team 😊



## Dates for the diary ...

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December    | - Final Assembly 2.45pm   |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December   | - Colour Run, \$2 per participant - ALL WELCOME<br>- Last day of school for students - normal dismissal |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December | - Curriculum Day  |
| 2024                                |   |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January     | - Term 1, 2024 commences for Staff - No Students  |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January    | - Curriculum Day - No Students  |
| Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January  | - Term 1, 2024 commences for all students   |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February     | - Prep-Gr 2 Information Session, 6pm-7pm  |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February  | - No Preps at school<br>- Welcome BBQ 5pm   |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February     | - Assembly 2.45pm   |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February    | - Gr 3-6 Information Session, 6pm-7pm   |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February | - No Preps at school  |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February | - No Preps at school  |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February    | - Assembly 2.45pm   |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February | - No Preps at school  |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February  | - Polwarth Sports   |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March        | - PFA Barefoot Bowls, 6pm-9pm   |

Wishing the following students  
a very Happy Birthday

December

26<sup>th</sup> Layla M

January

3<sup>rd</sup> Ollie M

4<sup>th</sup> Mina L

5<sup>th</sup> Libby B & Seb R

6<sup>th</sup> Savannah K

12<sup>th</sup> Val C

16<sup>th</sup> Mia S

19<sup>th</sup> Rosa F

20<sup>th</sup> Hudson G & Archie R

21<sup>st</sup> Kate McD

23<sup>rd</sup> Ivy H

25<sup>th</sup> Polly F

27<sup>th</sup> Emme D

28<sup>th</sup> Jonah C

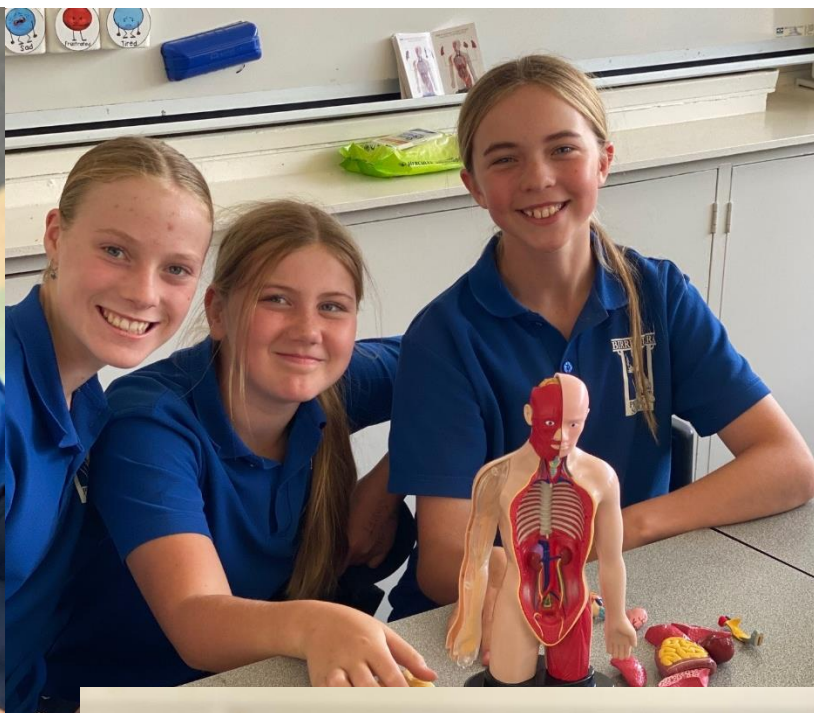
29<sup>th</sup> Harry C

30<sup>th</sup> Elodie T



# HEALTH & WELLBEING

*Merry Christmas from the Wellbeing room! I hope everyone has a safe and happy festive season and enjoys some quality time relaxing with family and friends. I look forward to catching up with you all in the new year. - Mr King*







Prep - Gr 2 EOY Excursion



# ITALIANO

The Festive Season in Italia begins eight days before Christmas Day and lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Traditionally, it is a spiritual event and not heavily focused on gifting and gift exchange...that is, until the arrival of “La Befana”!



Bambini italiani are familiar with Santa or “Babbo Natale” (they receive small, useful items for Christmas) but, in many regions of Italia, the exchange of gifts awaits the coming of La Befana on the night of January 5th.

That night, before going to bed, bambini hang their socks along the chimney hoping La Befana will fill them with sweets and other small treats. For children who are naughty, La Befana leaves hard black candy called carbone (charcoal), as a reminder to do better the following year! In exchange, un goccia di grappa, pane (bread) e un po’ di formaggio (cheese) is left out to warm La Befana’s chilled bones, and to help her on her way!

Buon Natale - Signora



2023 Grade 6  
Italian Awards

*Congratulazioni ~ Tyrell e Mia!*



Congratulations

CLASS OF

2023

*Best wishes for a bright future!*





A few pics from our School Concert - huge thanks to Sylv Tyrer for these photos!



# Birregurra Primary School Barefoot Bowls

Friday 1st March 2024

Birregurra Bowling Club, 58 Roadknight St.

6pm -9pm

BBQ and Bar at Birregurra Bowling Club prices  
BYO Nibbles



[Click here to RSVP](#)  
by 2nd February 2024