Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 4, Week 7 – 16th November 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



As we head into Term 4, Week 7, it continues to be a busy and exciting time across Birregurra Primary School, with plenty happening in and around our classrooms. There are lots of activities, events and learning opportunities taking place as we work towards the end of the school year. While this is always a busy time for students and staff, it is wonderful to see the enthusiasm, positive energy and engagement across the school. We appreciate the ongoing support of our families and wider school community as we work together to make the most of the final weeks of the year. Thank you to everyone for their continued efforts and contributions to our school.

Talent Quest

Congratulations to our Talent Quest winners, who were announced at assembly last week!

Our Junior Winner was Levi, who impressed everyone with his stellar performance of *Radioactive*. Our Senior Winners, Lottie, Daisy, Soraya and Ava, had everyone laughing with their hilarious comedy and dance routine to *Everybody*. Taking out the Overall Winner title were our Grade 6 girls – Emme, Stella, Stevie, Rosie, Indie, Imogen, Kate and Mahalia with their very entertaining take on *Let It Go*!

A huge congratulations to our winners and a big well done to everyone who participated in this year's Talent Quest!

Stomp

Our Stomp sessions began on Friday, with high energy on display in the multipurpose room. I was fortunate to see a couple of classes in action and was super impressed by the student engagement levels. We look forward to welcoming them back this Friday for our second session!

2027 Prep Buddy Visit

Our Grade 5 students will now be walking down to Birregurra Pre-School this Tuesday to meet and spend time with some of our 2027 Prep students. This visit was unfortunately delayed due to an unforeseen kindergarten closure, but we are looking forward to it taking place this Tuesday. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our older students to introduce themselves, act as positive role models and begin building connections with some of our newest students ahead of their transition to primary school. We look forward to seeing these friendships develop as we welcome our 2027 Prep students to the Birregurra Primary School community.

Prep Transition

We're very excited to welcome our 2027 Prep students this Friday for their first transition session. Our new students will be onsite from 9:00 to 11:00 am, and we can't wait to start getting to know them!

Staffing Update for 2027

As we begin looking ahead to 2027, we have some staffing updates to share with our school community. Mr Dominic Connor has accepted a teaching position at Murrum Primary School for 2027. We congratulate Dom on his new opportunity and thank him for his contributions to Birregurra Primary School. We wish him all the very best in his new role.

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

We are also excited to welcome Caitlin Smith to our teaching team in 2027. Caitlin is a graduate teacher who will be joining us as she begins her teaching career. We look forward to welcoming Caitlin to Birregurra Primary School.

We are continuing to work through our class structures and staffing placements for 2027 to ensure we provide the best possible learning environment for our students and a positive start to the new school year. Further information regarding classroom structures and student and teacher placements will be shared with families in the coming weeks.



Greater Western Region Cricket Competition

Our boys cricket team will be heading to Ballarat this Wednesday to compete in the Greater Western Region cricket competition. The boys will take part in a round-robin tournament, playing five games throughout the day against schools from across the region. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the students to represent Birregurra Primary School, demonstrate their cricket skills and enjoy some competitive sport.

A big thank you to the parents who will be attending and supporting the students on the day, as well as Mr King, who will be coaching and supporting the team throughout the competition. We wish the boys all the very best and look forward to hearing how they go!

Police Visit – Student Safety Sessions

We are looking forward to welcoming local police officer Josh Goonan to Birregurra Primary School on Thursday 19 November. Josh will be spending time with our students to deliver short sessions focused on safety and other important topics. He will run two separate sessions, one for students in Prep to Grade 2 and another for students in Grades 3 to 6, allowing the information and discussions to be tailored to each age group. These sessions will provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn more about keeping themselves and others safe, ask questions and build positive connections with our local police.

Eating Time Trials – Feedback



This week marks the final week of our trial of the adjusted eating times across the school. We would like to thank students and staff for their flexibility and willingness to trial the changes over the past few weeks. During Week 8, students, staff and parents will be invited to complete a short survey to provide feedback on the adjusted eating times and share their thoughts on how the changes have worked. A survey link will be sent to parents and families via Xuno next week. This feedback will be valuable in helping us evaluate the trial and inform our timetable planning for the 2027 school year.

Professional Practice Day – Pupil Free Day

A reminder to families that Monday 23 November will be a Pupil Free Day, with no students required to attend school. Staff will use the day as a Professional Practice Day, with a focus on assessment and reporting, including reviewing student progress and preparing Semester 2 reports. We appreciate families making the necessary arrangements for this day.

Reminders

- Ice-creams available at lunchtime today - $1
- Toasted Sandwiches available Tuesday at lunchtime - $2
- Lunch orders due by Wednesday morning 9:00am via Spriggy Schools for Friday lunch (Simplified Menu).
- Breakfast Club is on Thursday morning @ 8:15am

Thanks for your ongoing support. Please contact either your child's teacher or me if you have any questions, queries or wonderings. Have a wonderful week.

Alistair Burrell & team

Dates for the Diary...

TERM 4	
Monday 16th November	- Melty Mondays - Ice Creams $1
Tuesday 17th November	- Toastie Tuesday - Cheese toasties $2
Wednesday 18th November	- Greater Western Cricket - selected students
Thursday 19th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 20th November	- 2027 Prep Transition Session 1, 9am - 11am - STOMP
Monday 23rd November	- Common Professional Practice Day - No students at School
Tuesday 24th November	- Toastie Tuesday - Cheese toasties $2
Thursday 26th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Grade 6 Small Schools Transition Day
Friday 27th November	- 2027 Prep Transition Session 2 - 9am -11.30M - STOMP - Assembly 2.45pm, Grade 6 Class Presentation
Monday 30th November	- Melty Mondays - Ice Creams $1
Tuesday 1st December	- Toastie Tuesday - Cheese toasties $2 - Grade 6 Country Transition Day @ Trinity College
Wednesday 2nd December	- End of Year Excursion
Thursday 3rd December	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 4th December	- STOMP
Monday 7th December	- Melty Mondays - Ice Creams $1 - School Council 6pm
Tuesday 8th December	- Statewide Transition Day - Step Up Day 9am-2pm
Thursday 10th December	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 11th December	- STOMP - End of Year Concert
Monday 14th December	- Grade 6 EOY Excursion
Tuesday 15th December	- Grade 6 Graduation @ Birregurra Hall
Thursday 17th December	- Students Last Day, 3.15pm finish - Final Assembly 1.15pm - Colour Run

Students of the Week

Respect	**Matilda M**	For always showing respect to your peers and our classroom resources. You help others, put away resources and treat everyone with kindness. Thank you for being so respectful Matilda!
	Violet P	For the way you consistently show respect for our classroom expectations and encourage others to make positive choices. You always lead by example and are a wonderful role model. Thank you for showing our school values every day, Violet!
	Fleur H	For consistently demonstrating respect and kindness by being so helpful and supportive towards Mrs Mac while she was teaching the class. You always make others feel welcome and help create such a positive classroom environment. Thank you for being such a thoughtful classmate, Fleur!
	Clementine D	For always showing kindness and respect to everyone around you. Your lovely manners and considerate ways make our classroom a better place. Keep being your wonderful self, Clem!
	Fletcher L	You treat others with kindness, include everyone and are always willing to lend a helping hand. Thank you for making our classroom such a positive and welcoming place!
	James G	For stepping up and lending a hand when it is needed. You consistently show our school values, which you should be proud of. Keep up the great effort James!
Excellence	**Otis F**	For showing excellence across all maths sessions, always trying your best and wanting to be challenged. I love the way you explain your thinking as you solve equations. Amazing work Otis!
	Georgia P	For your precise measurements using informal units! You made thoughtful estimations and confidently compared your results to identify which object was longer. Awesome work, Georgia!
	Levi R	For showing confidence and courage by performing solo at the Talent Quest. You sang beautifully, Levi! Well done!
	Oliver M	For consistently working hard and challenging yourself to extend your learning. You take pride in completing your work to a high standard and are always willing to make improvements. Keep up the fantastic work, Ollie!
	Ava R	You approach tasks with a positive attitude, stay focused and strive to produce work of a high standard. Keep up the fantastic work Ava!
	Emme D	For your terrific Writing Moderation piece that featured complex vocabulary and a terrific and creative storyline! Awesome work Emme!
Art	**Jack L**	For your careful clay base design and for your clever and detailed 'under the ocean' creatures. Great work Jack!
Indonesian	**Mahalia M**	For using known words and context clues to work out the meaning of new vocabulary when reading about buying *apel* at the *pasar.* Your careful thinking shows confidence in Indonesian. Baik sekali, Mahalia!
Phys Ed	**Byron S**	Well done on your outstanding batting performance in the Grade 6 Cricket Lightning Premiership victory! Your efforts and contribution helped make it a successful and memorable day for the team.
Phys Ed	**Roy C**	Congratulations on your amazing bowling performance in the Grade 6 Cricket Lightning Premiership win! Your outstanding performance added to an extremely successful day for the team!
STEAM	**Logan S**	For your determination to complete the spring-loaded component of your Cardboard Sculpture Project design. You showed great problem-solving skills as you trialled a range of materials! Well done Logan!

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Imogen M & Freddie L

For doing a fantastic job hosting our Talent Show! You showed great confidence, enthusiasm and responsibility, speaking clearly and helping the event run smoothly. You should be very proud of the way you stepped up and entertained our school community. Well done!





The Impact of Social Media on Children

Social media can be a fun and connecting space, but for children it can also have a range of harmful effects on their mental health, wellbeing and development.

Potential Impacts on Children

Increased anxiety and stress

Constant updates, comparison and pressure to fit in can make children feel worried or overwhelmed.

Poor sleep

Late-night scrolling and screen time can make it harder to fall asleep and get quality rest.

Lower self-esteem

Seeing others' 'highlight reels' can lead to unrealistic comparisons and negative self-beliefs.

Online bullying

Children can be exposed to unkind, harmful or threatening behaviour, which can have a lasting impact.

Reduced focus and learning

Frequent notifications and constant access can be distracting and make it harder to concentrate at school and at home.

Exposure to inappropriate content

Children may come across content that is not age-appropriate, misleading or upsetting.

How We Can Help

As a school community, we can work together to support children to use technology in safe, balanced and healthy ways.

- Have regular conversations about what they do online.
- Set clear and consistent screen time boundaries.
- Encourage a healthy balance with offline activities (sport, hobbies, family time).
- Use privacy settings and parental controls where appropriate.
- Keep an open, non-judgemental dialogue so children feel comfortable seeking support.

BIRREGURRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

END OF YEAR CONCERT

Friday 11th Dec | 5.15pm Picnic 6pm Concert | Birregurra Hall



Grade 6 Graduation

Tuesday 15th December 2026 | 5.15pm for a 5.30pm start | Birregurra Hall

Dinner to follow

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

TheirCare

PUPIL FREE DAY

Day/date: MONDAY 23th NOVEMBER

Opening Times: 7am - 6pm



Team games/challanges

MORNING

Active team games

- Relay races
- Obstacle course
- Tunnel ball

AFTERNOON

Team work challenges

- Cup stack
- Toliet paper mummy
- Marshmallow tower

Book into service at TheirCare.com.au for a fun filled day at TheirCare!

Contact your service Coordinator at 0484 062 363
Customer Support: 1300 072 410 | info@theircare.com.au

TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

Frogwood Arboretum

OPEN DAY

Sunday 22 November 2026

Open 10am - 4pm

- Explore up to 10km of grassy pathways winding through 40 hectares of some of the world's most remarkable tree species
- Enjoy avenues of trees and vistas stretching the full width of the fledgling Arboretum
- Have a quiet sit in the "Neolithic" rock Henge
- Bring a picnic blanket and refreshments ready to laze away a couple of hours in your favorite grove of trees
- Explore an undulating access track along a rehabilitated section of the Deans Marsh creek

12 Deans Marsh – Lorne Road, Deans Marsh

Entry opposite Martian's Cafe
Parking at Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve on Pennyroyal Valley Road

Map of planted tree species available at the entrance gate. Dogs on a leash at all times.

Informational talk by the Arboretum Designer at 11.30am at the Henge

Guided creek walk at 2pm from north gate

Gold coin donation entry



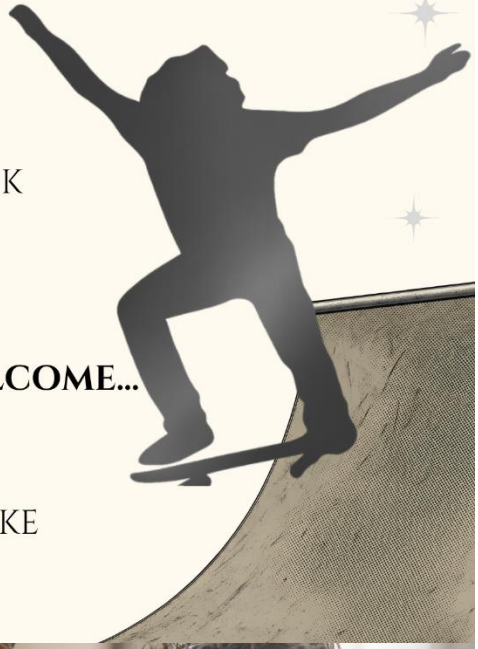
WWW.FROGWOOD.COM.AU

UNVEILING OF THE KLAY McCORMACK PLAQUE AND STONE

AT THE BIRREGURRA SKATEPARK

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, 2026

AT 12 NOON



FREE SAUSAGE AND SOFT DRINK AFTER THE UNVEILING

EVERYONE WELCOME...

BRING YOUR SKATEBOARD, SCOOTER, OR BIKE

SEE YOU THERE!

JUNIOR BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC

THURS 26 NOV 5-6PM
BIRREGURRA P.S.

For Current Summer Domestic Competition Players

Players from Birregurra, Beeac, Deans Marsh and Forrest Primary Schools are invited to attend an advanced basketball skills clinic.

AGE GROUPS

UNDER 12 & 14

BORN 2014-2017

CLINIC FOCUS

- ADVANCED BALL HANDLING AND FINISHING
- SHOOTING TECHNIQUE AND GAME SHOOTING
- DECISION MAKING UNDER PRESSURE
- OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE CONCEPTS
- COMPETITIVE DRILLS AND GAME SCENARIOS
- MATCH-PLAY SKILLS AND BASKETBALL IQ

DELIVERED BY FORMER WNBL PLAYER LOUELLA TOMLINSON

Coaches Welcome

Domestic coaches are welcome to attend and observe the session, gaining ideas and insights to support player development.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE DEMONS BASKETBALL CLUB

Numbers are limited, registration essential!
Email BirreDemonsBC@outlook.com to register.



DIGITAL TATTOO NEXT GEN

Regional Parenting and CatholicCare Victoria – Warrnambool together with Leigh Bartlett of Park Bench Solutions present, Digital Tattoo Next Gen.

A workshop for parents, carers, grandparents and others supporting a young person with technology.

Technology keeps changing but the need for calm, confident, open family conversations hasn't. Following recent social media law changes, regular 'check-ins' matter more than ever, especially as some young people explore workarounds. We also draw on early years research to guide conversations about screen use for younger children.

What we'll explore:

- Supporting healthy relationships online.
- Connection before correction.
- Boundaries and holding space for emotion.
- The impact of fear, shame and guilt.
- Algorithms, self-agency and cultural humiliation.
- The importance of modelling healthy behaviour.
- 'Where to next?' for under-16s.
- Practical AI conversations.
- Things to consider before introducing technology.
- Navigating tech discussions within friendship groups.

CatholicCare Victoria | Warrnambool | Children's & Family Services

headspace Warrnambool | Parent Pathways | are-able | ozchild

MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER

7.00pm–9.00pm

VENUE

Warrnambool Library
8 Kepler Street, Warrnambool

BOOKINGS

Scan the QR code or visit geelong.link/DigitalTattoo

This is a FREE event open to all parents, carers and families, but bookings are essential.

Regional Parenting Services | City of Greater Geelong