



BIRRONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

BIRRONG BUZZ
PROMOTING LIFE LONG LEARNING

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9 August 2017

Front Page News!

This is a new section of our newsletter designed to celebrate something extra special that happens at Birrong each time we present you with a newsletter. And for our first front page news we get to have a look at some very kind students at Birrong.

Kings and Queens of Kindness

To celebrate being in Year One for 100 days, 1 Orange collected over 100 acts of kindness.



Our Generous 1 Orange Students

Here are some examples of their acts of kindness:

- **Mohammed** helps dry the dishes.
- **Elina** helped her dad wash the car.
- **Omar** helped an elderly lady with her shopping trolley.
- **Gabriel** helps with chores around the home.
- **Yara** gave her money from 2 money boxes to charity.
- **Lily** helps her mum cut the vegetables
- **Fawzah** shares her toys with her little sister.
- **Selena** cares for her family.
- **Zara** helps take out the garbage bags.
- **Kamal** helps clean his room.
- **Maddison** helps mum hang out the washing.

Ms Boyd and her students also collected \$1 for the first 100 days at school this year which will be donated to Kalkadin, our World Vision sponsor child.



I have been at Birrong PS for 6 years now and this is the 6th time I have been privileged to receive this donation from Ms Boyd's class – such generosity is humbling and it gives me goose bumps. Thank you Ms Boyd and 1 Orange.

Message from the Principal

Coffee & Chat and P&C Meetings

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parents and friends who attend our Coffee & Chat meetings (am) and/or P&C meetings (pm). Your input is greatly appreciated and it is wonderful to have so many supportive parents and community members attending these meetings. Our teachers do what they do because they care about your children. Much of the work that teachers do is often unseen and the meetings held in Weeks 3 and 7 of each term provide you with the opportunity to find out more about what is happening in the school—it is also a great opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful things that continue to happen here at Birrong.

Approaching the School

This is a repeat item in the newsletter given the fact that we have had parents continue to approach children at school about various issues. It is not appropriate to approach children and all matters of concern should be expressed to a teacher or a member of our Executive, including Mr Sperling (Deputy Principal) and Mrs Devine (Principal).

A parent and community guide for seeking information and expressing concerns follows:

Occasionally parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school to:

- discuss the progress or welfare of your own child
- express concern about actions of other students
- enquire about school policy or practice
- express concern about actions of staff members.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner
- ensure that the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld
- support sensitivity and confidentiality
- help reach an agreed solution.

Sometimes concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

Parents can:

- directly contact the child’s teacher either by note, by phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues
- for more serious concerns, contact the office, state the nature of your concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with the appropriate staff member
- contact the principal for other problems.

In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the ‘Enclosed Lands Act’ to:

- direct the person to immediately leave the grounds
- call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse
- withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the principal
- seek further legal avenues.

Concerns About School?

I am more than happy to talk to you about your concerns but I strongly encourage you to talk to your child’s teacher first. Quite often your child’s teacher can answer your questions, particularly in relation to academic progress, behaviour or extracurricular activities.

If you need to talk to your child’s teacher, you can make an appointment either by phoning the school and asking the teacher to call you back or writing a brief note requesting a meeting date and time. In order for the teacher to be prepared

for meeting with you it is important to indicate the subject of your concern. This allows the teacher to be prepared for the meeting and assists you to have some resolution.

In some cases you may not be able to speak to your child’s teacher and you may ask to speak to your child’s Stage Supervisor. Our Assistant Principals supervise Stage teams as follows:

Early Stage One (Kindergarten)	Miss Gavan (Relieving)
Stage One (Years 1 and 2)	Mrs McGavock
Stage Two	Mrs Lopez
Stage Three	Mr Unicomb

Staffing

We have a number of new teachers who have joined us this term. Miss Brien will be teaching Library Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and RFF/Support roles on Thursday and Friday. Mr Matthews will be teaching the beginning teacher component of RFF on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Knoke has started her maternity leave and will be replaced this term by Miss Wright. This term we have also welcomed back Mrs Abdin who has been on maternity leave. She is covering RFF across all stages on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Gymnastics Program—Part of the Curriculum

It has been wonderful to see so many families paying for their children to participate in the Gymnastics Program for Term 3. Some parents have asked if the program is optional and I would like to reinforce the fact that Gymnastics is a strand of our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Key Learning Area and all students are expected to participate. The program costs \$32 for 8 weeks but the school is subsidising this so that you only have to pay \$16 per student. **If your child has told you that he/she doesn’t want to participate this is where we need your help and ask that you remind your child he/she is expected to participate as it is part of the curriculum.** The program utilises qualified gymnastic coaches who provide opportunities for students to work on all aspects of physical development from gross and fine motor skills, spatial awareness, hand eye co-ordination, balance, speed and flexibility. The students will be using a wide range of equipment from bars, tramp, beam, huge foam floor area, wedges, rings and crash mats.

Life Skills

Kindergarten students will be participating in the Life Skills sessions this term where they will focus on building resilience. The school is paying for this program and all you need to do is return the permission note.

New Look Newsletter

I hope you enjoy this new look newsletter which can be accessed in different languages (web version). It is important to us that we maintain good communication with our parents and carers. If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email.

Jodi Devine
Principal

3-6 Gymnastics Timetable - Tuesdays

Time	Class	Class
9:00-9:30	5S	5/6R
9:30-10:00	6G	6V
10:00-10:30	5M	5/6C
10:30-11:00	3/4E	
11:30-12:00	4J	
12:00-12:30	3/4F	
12:30-1:00	4E	
2:00-2:30	3T	
2:30-3:00	37	

Kindergarten Life Skills Timetable - Mondays

9:15	KR
10:00	KG
11:30	KY
12:15	KB

School Uniform

When our students wear school uniform they are **connected to our school**. We have noticed that some students have started to wear items of clothing that are not part of our uniform policy. Parents and carers, we need your help. Many students are choosing not to wear their uniform, especially the Birrong hat. You can help us by ensuring your child/children wear the correct uniform, including:

- black school shoes (or black joggers)
- sport shoes (black/white) on sport days (bright fluorescent joggers are not school uniform)
- **school hat**

- school shorts or dresses (tights are not uniform—some students may wear tights under their school shorts or dresses but tights alone do not form uniform)
- grey jacket or jumper (other colours do not form uniform).



Our students wear uniform with pride!

There is quite a lot of LOST property at the moment, especially jumpers. Please also label hats and jackets with names.

NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

Rescheduling of School Development Days Term 4

The last two school development days for 2017 are scheduled for Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 December 2017. The school is planning to reschedule the Tuesday 19 December date to two after school sessions. By rescheduling this date, the teaching staff can continue to receive training and development and implement school priorities in a more timely manner.

While this will have limited or no impact on your child directly as the school year concludes on Friday 15 December, the school must consult with the community regarding the rescheduling of any gazetted school days.

Final arrangements of the rescheduling will be announced after the school receives approval from the Director, Public Schools.

The school is involved in a school improvement program called Curiosity and Powerful Learning in connection with the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL). This is a two year program with ACEL where teaching staff focus on quality teaching strategies (called Theories of Action) and how they implement them day to day, lesson by lesson in class. Teaching staff members have currently received training and development in some of these 'Theories of Action'.

Some examples of Theories of Action are:

1. Harnessing learning intentions, narrative and pace
2. Setting challenging learning tasks
3. Framing higher order questions
4. Connecting feedback to data
5. Committing to assessment for learning
6. Implementing cooperative groups

These are directly related to teaching and learning in the classroom. The research behind this approach has identified that these strategies or theories have direct impact on improving educational outcomes for all students. The program also enables school leaders to align resources to support school improvement.

Planning for Next Year

Kindergarten 2018

We are taking Kindergarten Enrolments for 2018 now. If you have a child turning 5 before the end of July next year and you want him/her to start Kindergarten please make sure you enrol him/her now. Enrolling your child now will enable you to receive information about our Kindergarten Transition Program and the Kindergarten Orientation that will be held next term.

Enrolments 2018

As part of our annual planning process, we need to ascertain the number of children who will be enrolled at Birrong PS in 2018 (except Year 6). Enrolment numbers need to include all students from Kindergarten to Year 5 who are presently enrolled and will be returning next year, and all new enrolments for 2018. To assist us with this task parents are asked to notify us now if they know their child/children will not be attending Birrong PS in 2018. If you are aware of any families who wish to enrol their children at Birrong PS next year, please ask them to contact the school on 9644 3078.

Athletics Carnivals 2017

We had stunning weather for our athletics carnivals on Monday. It was a beautiful sunny day with lots of wind. The students were able to compete in many events at The Crest for the 3-6 carnival and I heard that the K-2 carnival at school ran smoothly. These events are made possible because of teachers who go above and beyond to make sure our students are able to participate in high quality activities and events. I would like to thank all of our Birrong teachers who made the day such a success for both the K-2 students and the 3-6 students. I

would also like to thank the parent helpers who were able to help out at each carnival.

Food At School

Allergies

We have a number of students enrolled at our school who have food allergies or intolerances. These students are allergic to foods such as peanuts, fish products, kiwi fruit, and egg and dairy/milk products. Some of these students' allergies can be LIFE THREATENING (Anaphylactic) and over exposure to some food products can cause these students to go into anaphylactic shock. Anaphylactic shock is a serious medical emergency, which requires immediate treatment with adrenaline (an EpiPen injection) to prevent permanent injury or loss of life. **We want ALL members of our Birrong community to be aware of this when selecting foods to send to school.**

Birthday Cake

Some parents like to bring a cake to school to celebrate their child's birthday. If you do decide to do this, it is essential that you include a list of all ingredients used. Please also note that cupcakes are more preferable given the time it takes to cut up a cake. Prior arrangements with the class teacher must be made before bringing cake to school as teachers need time to consider the daily timetable.

Education Week

Last week we celebrated Education Week with the theme being "I Learn, We Learn". It was wonderful to see so many parents attend different activities. Thank you to the organising committee for the background work which ensured we were able to showcase what we do at Birrong PS – every week for us is education week as we all strive to give our students an excellent education inside and outside of the classroom.

Payments Due

Due Date	Activity/Event
OVERDUE	Gymnastics \$16 Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
OVERDUE	3-6 Athletics Carnival \$12
15 September	Camp Balance Payment Years 5 and 6 \$215

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
9 August	Peer Support Starts
9 August	Michelle Buckman – Speech Pathologist @ Birrong
9 August	Aboriginal Partnership Agreement Signing @ Sir Joseph Banks HS
10 August	PBL Assembly 2pm
10 August	Touch Football Competition
10 August	Life Skills ES1 #3 (made up from Monday)
11 August	PSSA Winter Round 12
11 August	Kindergarten Assembly @ 2pm
11 August	Kids2Kinder
11 August	School Banking
14 August	NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test (all week)
14 August	Japanese Soccer Team Visit
14 August	Life Skills ES1 #4
15 August	Maths Competition
15 August	Gymnastics 3-6 #3
15 August	NUDE FOOD DAY
16 August	PEER SUPPORT
18 August	PSSA Winter Semi Finals
18 August	Kids2Kinder
18 August	School Banking
21 August	Book Week (all week)
21 August	Life Skills ES1 #5

Date	Event
22 August	District Athletics Carnival
22 August	Gymnastics 3-6 #4
22 August	NUDE FOOD DAY
23 August	PEER SUPPORT



From the PBL Team

Our PBL Team works hard to support the teaching of expected behaviours. Over the next two weeks we will be focusing on being safe and respectful learners, and using the toilets in a hygienic manner and at the correct time.



We Are Safe and Respectful Learners

Away from School at Sport and on Excursions

When we are traveling away from school, we need to remember to be safe and respectful. When we are traveling to sport we need to be quiet on the bus so the bus driver can concentrate on what they have to do. Stay seated and take care when getting on and off the bus.

When you are at sport, you need to make sure your teacher can see you, so nothing bad can happen. To show great sportsmanship, you listen to the referee's decision and don't argue. Respect the area that you're in by throwing rubbish on the bin.

At excursions we need to be respectful to the educators. We need to listen to the educators so we can learn new and interesting information. Respect the area you are visiting and make sure you don't hit or break anything that is special. At excursions we need to stay with our teacher so no one gets lost.

By Lily and Javaria 6 Violet



We use the Toilets Hygienically and at the Correct Time

When we use the toilet we have to be respectful and safe. Respect other people's privacy when they are in the toilet.



Respect the resources and use it hygienically. Make sure you walk in the toilets or you will slip and hurt yourself. Remember to wash your hands and don't wait the soap. Use the toilet paper appropriately as well and go to the toilet at the right time. You should not play in the toilets because you can hurt yourself.

You should tell the teacher if you see anyone doing something wrong. Don't splash water as it may make the floor slippery and be safe with the water.

Mahmoud & Ayman 6V

Out and About @ Birrong

This section of the newsletter is designed to share more with you about what is happening inside and outside of the classrooms. Teachers are invited to contribute to the newsletter each fortnight. Options for contributions include photos, stories, videos and work samples.

6 Violet Students Work It Out

Look at the fabulous work from some of our students in 6 Violet. Please note that due to technical difficulties these samples were omitted from the previous newsletter distributed in Week 2.

Keisha's basketball team must decide on a new uniform. The team has a choice of black shorts or gold shorts and a black, white, or gold shirt. What possible combinations of shorts and shirts are there? What is the probability the uniform will have the same-coloured shorts and shirt?

Shirts

- black
 - gold
 - black
- white
 - gold
 - black
- gold
 - black
 - gold

a) there are 6 possible combinations
b) the probability of having the same coloured uniform is $\frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$

Spinner 1

Spinner 2

a) If I spin both spinners, what possible combinations are there? 15
b) What is the probability of landing on red and an even number? $\frac{2}{15}$
c) What is the probability of landing on either blue or yellow and an odd number? $\frac{6}{15}$

red

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

yellow

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

blue

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

By: Haroon

Voila spins the arrow 100 times.



Which table is most likely to show her results?

Shape	Number	section of spins
+	15	
●	10	
▲	10	
■	60	

A

Shape	Number	section of spins
+	10	
●	25	
▲	25	
■	40	

B

Shape	Number	section of spins
+	25	
●	10	
▲	25	
■	40	

C

Shape	Number	section of spins
+	25	
●	25	
▲	25	
■	25	

D

Explain your reasoning: I chose D because

the + and the ● looks like one quarter each which equals $\frac{1}{4}$ half. The ▲ is less than a half and if you add the ▲ to the square it will become one half. So half + half = 1 whole. I got this answer because the plus and the triangle are equal which are a quarter that equals one half. Triangle is the smallest and square is the biggest.

+ = plus
 ● = circle
 ▲ = Triangle
 ■ = square

Sydney Harbour Bridge

One Orange was inspired by the Indigenous shell artists from La Perouse to paint and decorate models of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We worked in small groups to complete the art works. We think our bridges are beautiful.



Spectacular Harbour Bridges

From 4 Jade – Our Future Authors

Once upon a time there lived a handsome boy named Collins who was a fantastic super hero. He lived in the Pacific Ocean in an underwater base. Collins had a very special talent because he could control the sea with a staff. One awful day, Collins' staff snapped in half when a fierce shark swam into it. Collins felt very angry because without his staff he couldn't control the sea and save marine life. So he went to the shed and grabbed a few materials and with them he made another one.

Adam A

Once upon a time there was a dog named Buster who was so curious about everything. Buster got lost in the wild where other wild animals live because he went off chasing an animal. His special talent was talking. He had no owner and he did not eat for days because he had to hunt for his own food. Buster felt lonely and sad and thought that he would never find a way out of the wild. But Buster found an owner by talking to a man who came into the wild and went home to live with him.

Amirah

Once upon a time there was a kind princess named Rosita Dandafila. She lived in a beautiful palace but everyone inside was cruel and heartless. Rosita had a heart of gold and she could create the most magnificent, sparkly dresses. She wanted to live in the small village and sell her gorgeous dresses to the villagers. Unfortunately, the heartless guards would not let her out of the palace. One day she snuck out and gave one of her dresses to a lady and then everyone wanted a dress, so the king let Rosita out of the castle to sell her dresses in the village.

Emily

Once upon a time there was a dwarf named Louis. He lived in a very busy city called Dorito City where he lived in a big beautiful beach house. He was a clever magician who loved doing magic. Unfortunately his weather trick would never work for some reason. He always felt failure every time he tried to do it. So he went to magic school to learn how to do it and he got better and better.

Kara

Once upon a time there lived a talented young boy. He lived in the famous outback of Australia. His talent was making beautiful works of art for people to look at. He wanted to be famous and make a career out of illustrating children's books. He felt sad that nobody had noticed his art works. One day he sent a letter to a famous author who got him to illustrate his picture books and he loved his job.

Yousef

Once upon a time there was a ghost named Jack. He lived in a little cottage in the forest. His special talent was sneaking into people's houses and scaring them and taking their things. But this made him lonely and sad because everybody was scared of him. He felt bad taking people's things but he couldn't do anything else. Then one day he met a friend who gave him a job and he never snuck into people's houses again.

Adam E

Stage 1 History Excursion – Barangaroo

From Mr Sperling – Deputy Principal



The bus ride into the city.

On Friday the 23 June I was lucky enough to join Year 1 students and teachers, on an excursion to Barangaroo Sydney. Students were very excitable, with many stating that they had never been on a bus, before eagerly waving their goodbyes to their parents.

The students became increasingly excited upon sighting the Sydney Harbour Bridge and travelling through a tunnel. Soon we arrived and as we sat and ate our lunch; with the harbour in front of us, Barangaroo beside us, and the buildings behind us, one student mentioned to me that some of the buildings looked like Lego. I laughed but had to agree.

We met Henrietta our Aboriginal guide from far North Queensland. She let us know that she was from the Kuku Yalanji - Rainforest and Salt Water people near Cairns. We learned that Barangaroo was the name of an Aboriginal woman who was a fisher woman in Sydney during early European settlement and that in NSW alone; there were in fact 29 Indigenous nations and languages.



Excursions give real world experiences!

Barangaroo was a teacher, a warrior and the first Indigenous freedom fighter. Her story was so incredible that it was recorded by the early Europeans, so future generations could learn about her. She sadly only survived for 3 years after the English first arrived due to new illnesses that were introduced during settlement. In those 3 years, she had a lasting impact and as a result, now has the headland named after her.

Henrietta taught us about different Aboriginal artefacts, tools and items used traditionally by Indigenous people across Australia. We also learnt about sustainability including the plants that were used to make fish traps and tools used for gathering and preparing food.

Henrietta also showed us how to mix water with ochre to make traditional paints for ceremony. We also learned that ochre comes from sandstone and can be made up into at least 70 different colours for painting, and can also be used as a natural sunscreen when painted onto skin.

We also then met Mary who talked about the marine life in the area and regeneration of the headland. We learnt that there are over 1000 types of wattle tree in Australia and when they flower they tell us about the migration of different animals. For example, one particular wattle blooms in Barangaroo at the time that whales come through Sydney as they migrate north. We also learnt that you can eat the seeds from different wattle trees including baking them into damper – a type of bread, and we looked at other bush tucker foods and how to find them.

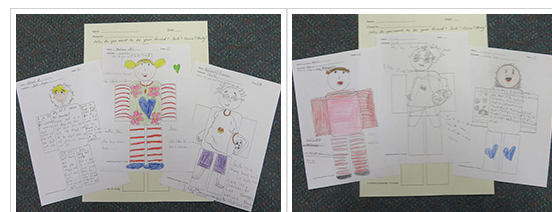
We also learnt that Aboriginal people cannot eat any animal that is their totem. A totem animal represents their mother's, father's or their own Country and therefore isn't hunted or eaten.

Clarence demonstrated different types of boomerangs, spears, and a bullroarer that is spun to clear the air. It was one of his many artefacts that weren't allowed to be used by children and was reserved for use by aboriginal men only. He then demonstrated a woomera to help throw a spear further.

We thanked our guides and had some lunch before heading back to school.

Thank you to Mrs Boyd for her excellent organisation and to the Stage One teaching team and parent helpers who made today a wonderful learning experience for our students aligned to Aboriginal history and culture.

select one character to draw and describe and give reasons why the chosen character could be a friend. The students were engaged in learning. Self and Peer Assessment was conducted after they presented their work to the group.



Measuring in 1 Aqua

I Aqua students have been measuring, comparing and recording masses of objects. We placed objects on a pan balance to obtain a level balance in order to find items of equal mass. We drew our findings in our maths books and discussed what we had found.



A Challenging Task

From K. Leung (ESL Teacher)

The students in the New Arrivals Program were working on a challenging question which was 'Who do you want to be your friend? Jack? Cassie? Molly?' Previously the students had read stories and descriptions of Jack, Cassie and Molly. They had also researched about Making Friends in School. To complete the task, the students had to be familiar with the characters and they had to apply the skills and knowledge to

Library News

Book Week Advanced Notice!

The Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week theme for 2017 is ESCAPE TO EVERYWHERE.



Have a look in the Library from this week for a selection of the shortlisted titles for this year. Follow this link to read about the shortlisted titles: www.cbca.org.au/short-list-2017

Which book do YOU think will win Book of the Year?

Children's Book Week will be celebrated in Week 6 this term, from August 21 to 25.

This year Birrong PS will be celebrating Book Week with a book character parade on Thursday 24 August and story-time in the Library. Who is your favourite book character? Which exciting characters will be visiting us and sharing their stories this year? How do YOU 'Escape' with books?

Happy reading,

Mrs Wedgwood
Library Teacher

Coming Up

BOOK CHARACTER PARADE

9.15am

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST

Come dressed as your favourite book character and carry your chosen book during the parade.



SEE YOU THERE...



School Dances
with NEON
Theme
K-2 Wed. 6 Sep.
3-6 Thur. 7 Sep.
6-7:30pm

Don't Forget...



Absentee Form



Birrong Public School

132 Auburn Road, Birrong, NSW 2143
Phone: 9644 3078 Fax: 9743 8143
Email address: birrong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Website: www.birrong-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Promoting Life Long Learning

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please provide an explanation for your child's recent absence/s from school by returning this section or telephoning the school.

Name of Student: _____ Year/Class _____

Date/s of absence: _____

Reason for absence:

Parent / Carer name: _____ Signed _____ Date: _____

(Please Print)



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(Please Print)