RYDE EAST FESTIVAL - Concert Band which is performing this Sunday 24th May

Principal's Report

Tuesday's parent meeting on cyber safety is well worth attending. We hold the event every two years and there is a parent’s perspective following the information note and RSVP.

Teacher Returns On Monday we welcome Mr Nguyen back from his paternity leave. I'm sure KN will be very excited to see him. I would like to thank Miss Gill for the taking such good care of KN and making sure there was always lots of learning and fun going on.

KC have two more weeks until Mrs Copping can return to teaching as her recovery from major surgery has been slower than anticipated. We are missing her and look forward to her return. Luckily KC has enjoyed having Ms Myers and she is able to stay with them for the extra time. Mrs Copping is hoping her doctor will let her come back to us week 8.

Due to today’s rainy weather the Balmain PSSA Cross Country has moved to next Friday.

Congratulations to our Premiers Debating Team who won their debate against Ultimo Public School this week. They took the affirmative side and the topic was ‘Schools should teach computer skills instead of art and music.’ This is particularly well done as they team are all keen members of our Music Program!

Have a great weekend,

Tracy Gray
Dear Parent/ Carer,

**Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online**

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, Birchgrove Public School is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge. Birchgrove Public School is committed to helping students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 5:30pm-7pm in the school hall.

To register your attendance, please return the note below as soon as possible, so we make sure there are enough seats and handouts!. Enrolments will also be accepted on the night.

Yours Sincerely,

Tracy Gray
Principal
Parents’ Perspective on Cyber Safety presentation

On December 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Greg Gebhart from ACMA delivered an engaging and thought provoking information session for parents about the invasive and pervasive use of smart devices in our kids’ and family lives. He was funny, provocative and above all, highly credible in his expertise and knowledge.

He spoke candidly about the challenges facing parents and children today in relation to social media, various popular apps, emerging trends, gaming & cyber-bullying, highlighting the crucial aspects where he felt parents’ awareness should be stronger. By the end of the session he had provided many helpful tips and ideas for ways we can and should be intervening as parents. The bottom line message was that we need to embrace technology in our lives and in those of our children but that we need to do so in ways that align with our family values, the varying maturity levels of our kids and that as parents, we need to actively manage and be on top of what and how technology is impacting our kids.

Highly recommend for parents of all kids of all ages – despite a sense of rising panic from having our eyes opened up, we have made some changes as a result of what we learned from Greg, and are already feeling more comfortable and clear about how to manage going forward.

Audrey McGibbon
Parent of 2 Birchgrove Students

Library News

Thank you for all of the donations to the Library, lots of pre loved books for the fete. A special thanks to Anna Dennis for her kind donation of the whole series of Canterwood Crest, a series of stories for the horse lover. Please look at home for overdue books. I am happy if you replace the book.

Mrs Ilieff
STRINGS WORKSHOP
Thank you to Katy and Jacquie for organising a successful Strings Workshop last Sunday. The students got a lot out of the afternoon. Intermediate Strings learnt a new piece and Senior Strings polished up their Opera House pieces.

RYDE EAST FESTIVAL
Good luck to the Concert Band which is performing this Sunday 24th May in the Ryde East Music Festival. Band members need to be at Ryde East Public School at 11am sharp to perform at 11.40. Please bring your instrument, music and full music uniform ie Birchgrove Music Tshirt, black pants or black skirt with black tights, black socks and shoes.

SOLO SOIREE
Each year Birchgrove Music proudly hosts the Solo Soiree, a relaxed afternoon concert where students have the chance to perform individually or in a duet in front of their family and friends. This year it will be held on Sunday 14th of June. There is no fee. It is a great opportunity to perform in a save and supportive environment to build their performance confidence. They can play a piece that they have been practicing with their tutor, the only requirements are that the piece be no longer than 2-3 mins and that it is not an ensemble piece.
To register please contact lhealy@y7mail.com

MUSICAL DATES FOR THE DIARY
June 4th Music Committee Dinner
June 9th Music Committee Meeting 7pm Staffroom
June 14th Solo Soiree