## Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29/1-8/2</td>
<td>Preschool Start Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Instrument Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>15/2+</td>
<td>Music lessons and rehearsals start</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/2</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/2</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>26/2</td>
<td>Welcome Back BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Brainstorm- Incursion Performance (Anti Bullying) ‘Being Brave’ K to 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/3 &amp; 28/3</td>
<td>Easter long Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/3</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
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Our New Kindergarten’s have all arrived and are settling in well!
Welcome back to 2016 at Birchgrove. It is great to see everyone and I have enjoyed starting to catch up on the holiday stories. There are a number of events over the next few weeks (see above) including Swimming Carnival, The Welcome Back BBQ and our first P&C Meeting for 2016. Don’t forget to put them on your calendar.

Our **Got Game PE lessons** this term are based on: Touch Football/Austag

**Our 2016 classes and teachers are:**

**Early Stage 1 Preschool**  
Preschool Green & Preschool Yellow- Mrs Boyle  
Angela (aide)  
Preschool Red -Mrs Mitchell  
Preschool Blue- Miss Middleton  
Suzie (aide)  
Assistant Principal Supervising- Mrs Weber

**Early Stage 1 Kindergarten**  
KR- Miss Robertson  
KS- Miss Sarina  
KW- Mrs Weber  
Assistant Principal Supervising- Mrs Weber

**Stage 1**  
1/2C- Mrs Copping  
1/2D- Mrs Deans  
1/2F- Mr Fitzgerald  
1/2G- Miss Gill  
1/2K- Mrs Karnaros  
1/2P- Miss Preece  
Assistant Principal Supervising- Mr Fitzgerald

**Stage 2**  
3/4K- Ms Keating  
3/4C- Ms Corliss  
3/4N- Mr Nguyen  
Assistant Principal Supervising- Mr Cormack

**Stage 3**  
5/6S- Miss Shanahan  
5/6C- Miss Carroll  
5/6D- Mr Dodds  
Assistant Principal Supervising- Mr Cormack
Support Teachers
Library- Mrs Ilief (Tuesday to Friday)
Italian- Signora Scutts (Wednesday to Friday)
Learning Support- Ms Thompson (Wednesday , Thursday)
English as a Second Language & Learning Support - Ms Robinson (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
Reading Recovery- Ms Ussher (Monday to Friday)
School Counsellor: Glenn McClymont (Monday, Thursday)
Mr Cormack (AP): Learning & Support Team Co-ordinator

K-6 Teachers Aide - Amanda

Our 2016 Office Staff are:
Office Manager & Finance: Melanie Wales (Mel)
Office Monday to Friday: Karen
Office Monday & Tuesday: Raylene
Office Friday: Angela

Canteen: Karen Peters
Cleaner: Tony
General Assistant: John
Crossing Person: Sam

Composite Classes

What are composite classes?
Composite classes are classes where the children may be from two or more year groups/grades.

Why would we have them?
For a variety of reasons including
- Meeting social needs
- Meeting academic needs
- Allowing children to learn within a more effective group to meet their needs
- Matching children to teachers
- Maximising teacher strengths
- Minimising classroom sizes

What are the benefits?
Composit Class Research shows:
- Students in composite classes are socially more confident
- Can co-operate better as part of a group
- Are more assertive
- Become more independent learners and problem solvers
They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups. In later life, if we have a one year age difference with a friend it is of no consequence.

Australia rates as one of the best educational systems in the world. Teachers who are Australian trained are sought throughout the world. Why? They teach to a stage not an age! They teach what your child needs, not a Year or curriculum from a text book.

**What are the negatives about composite classes?**

There are none according to the research and according to children once they get into them. Research in NZ, the UK and Australia shows that children in composite classes achieve outcomes no different to those in straight year group classes. Educational experts agree that Composite classes are not educationally detrimental for the acceleration of gifted students. Composite classes encourage more of a family or community atmosphere.

**Don’t we have a curriculum for each year group?**

No. We never have. We have a curriculum separated into levels. The curriculum was designed in the knowledge that learning is not linear and children, regardless of their age have differing needs and learn at different paces.

**Benefits of Composites**

- Older students can benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations and increasing their skills in the subject.
- Younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it (just in time learning).
- Allows more flexibility in students grouping and learning styles.
- Encourage children to help each other and work collaboratively and cooperatively.
- Role models and leaders can come from both the younger and older children; the children who excel at these traits do so irrespective of age.

**Quality of the teaching/teacher quality**

- The most important variable determining student success is the quality of the teaching (qualities of the teacher).
- Australian teachers are trained to teach in ability groups - the hallmark of good teaching is teaching to meet individual needs.
- Composite classes draw attention to individual needs and student development and facilitates learning programmes (personalised learning pathways).
- The quality of the teacher - student relationship has the most influence on student achievement.
EVENYONE IS INVITED!
KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
"MONKEY BUSINESS"
CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR 2016

Chinese Gardens of Friendship Darling Harbour
THIS IS AN ASSOCIATED EVENT WITH THE CITY OF SYDNEY'S CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS 2016

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE ENROLMENTS
FOR TERM 1 2016 ARE NOW OPEN!
WED. AND THURS. 3:15PM - 5PM BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL
AN AFTER SCHOOL VISUAL ART PROGRAM
OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FROM K-6
CREATIVE AND FUN CLASSES RUN BY A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST.
AFTERNOON TEA AND ART MATERIALS PROVIDED.
The program includes painting, drawing, printmaking,
digital art, sculpture and fabric art.

CONTACT: SABINA e: sabina@kidsatthearthouse.com
m: 0403768282

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
WINNER & SECOND PRIZE: CHILDRENS BOOK WEEK POSTER COMPETITION 2015
WINNER AVANT CARDS “CALLING ALL ARTIST’S” COMPETITION 2013
COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN NUMERACY AND LITERACY FOUNDATION 2013
FINALIST AUSSIE ART COMPETITION 2013
WINNER SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY POSTER COMPETITION 2012
WINNER SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2011
COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE TAFE ULTIMO SCREEN PRINTING DEPARTMENT 2011
WINNER AVANT CARDS “CALLING ALL ARTIST’S” COMPETITION 2010 & 2014
Come play rugby league.

Leichhardt Wanderers Junior Rugby League Club is currently looking for players to join the Club for our 2016 season in the Balmain District, teams start from under 6’s to A Grade, so if you are interested in playing Rugby league and joining this great Club then contact the club on the following details:

New & returning players can register on line by going to our web site and clicking on the link:
www.leichhardtwanderers.org.au or
You can attend one of our registrations day on:
• Sunday the 31st of Jan from 10am to 2 pm or
• Sunday the 7th Feb from 10am to 2pm.

Contact David Foster at david.foster1@optusnet.com.au or 0418 114 532 for further information on how to register.

Registration will be taken at Blackmore Oval, Canal Road Leichhardt (off Darley). Registration fees include a jersey, shorts, socks and NRL game pass. New players need to bring down proof of age (birth certificate or passport).

Registration Fees' Under 6’s - $60, Under 7’s to 19’s - $105.

Join Drummoyneshire in Season 2016

Located at beautiful Drummoyneshire in Sydney’s inner west, Drummoyneshire welcomes all junior players – boys and girls – between the ages of 4 and 17.

Sydney Juniors City 'Club of the Year 2014 & 2015', we have a great community spirit and the emphasis is always on fun, fitness, friendship and performance.

Information and Registration Days

Saturday 6th February 2016 – 11am to 2pm, Drummoyneshire Oval.
Sunday 14th February 2016 – 11am to 2pm, Five Dock Park.

Registration can also be completed online. For further information visit www.drummoyneshire.com

Contact us at at info@drummoyneshire.com or call 0466 099 AFL (235)