



Birralee News



Newsletter No. 1 August 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! I hope you have all had a lovely and interesting holiday and that the children have enjoyed starting school and meeting their teachers and friends.

We are pleased to welcome many new families to Birralee, both local families and families from abroad. We are looking forward to getting to know them all. We are already planning many rewarding and interesting activities for your children. Next week the Primary Children will all be participating in an outdoor activity day to get to know each other and the children in the other year groups even better. The Middle School students will start the year with both fun and challenging activity days and then they will be ready to hit the books! We are looking forward to seeing their achievements this year and we know they will impress us!

At Birralee we have motivated and talented staff who are dedicated to providing a varied, stimulating and secure learning environment for your children. We will encourage the children to develop their special talents, to become inquisitive, independent and enthusiastic learners and to develop the self-discipline necessary to achieve their goals.

We believe that by providing a happy, child-centred classroom environment and by using diverse teaching methods, we will foster the children's self-esteem and self-confidence and help them to develop the skills needed to take responsibility and to care for themselves, each other, and our natural environment, both now and in the future.

At Birralee we promote a positive school culture by teaching and modelling positive behaviour in all areas of the school. This year we continue our focus on the following expectations; we call them the **Birralee Three R's: Respect, Responsibility and Ready to learn**. All students have been reintroduced to the Three R's and all classes will continue to focus on positive behaviour in all areas of the school. We want our children to be successful both academically and socially.

At Birralee, we are fortunate in having children and staff from many different countries. This enables us all to appreciate the diversity of cultural, linguistic and religious differences around us. It gives the whole school community the opportunity to practice peaceful co-existence and is a fine foundation for developing international solidarity and understanding.

To honour our care for each other and our respect for differences we ask all parents and students to please respect that **Birralee is a nut free school**. We have several children with a severe nut allergy and it is vital that we avoid bringing nuts, peanut butter or any products containing nuts to school. We thank you for your understanding and help.

Let us together make this year a wonderful and memorable school year for the Birralee children.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Trude Farstad and the Birralee Staff

IMPORTANT! Swine Flu awareness - please keep your child at home if they are sick.
Additional information follows below.



New Primary staff at Birralee

We are pleased to welcome new staff to Birralee. We have appointed several new assistants to work with the children:

Ms Emily Wall is from New Zealand. She is very enthusiastic about sports and is an active "orienteeing" runner. She substituted in the school last spring so many of you have met her already.

Mrs Robin Conway is from the USA and came to Trondheim after marrying a Norwegian. She has a business background, however she is very keen to be part of Birralee and work with our fantastic children.

Ms Lisa Eeten is a student from Germany who will have her internship with us. She will be in Year 3 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs Jean Readhead is British and has lived in Canada for many years. She enjoys drama and dance.

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Murphy** back after her maternity leave

New Middle School staff at Birralee

Mrs **Natalia Gonzales** is British/Spanish. She grew up in London, however has lived most of her life in Spain where she has been a teacher for many years.

Mrs **Katy Kulseng** is from the USA. She is a graphic designer and an artist and will teach Art this year.

We are happy to welcome **Mrs Braun** back after her maternity leave

Swine Flu

Within the school community it is vital that we are aware of the risks involved with this illness and we protect students and staff members. We therefore request that you follow these guidelines:

- If your child demonstrates any flu like symptoms (fever, cough, diarrhoea, aches, tiredness, sore throat, loss of appetite) please **keep them at home** and seek medical advice
- If your child has been ill, please **keep them at home until fully recovered**. The health service is recommending quarantine for 7days.
- If your child becomes ill during school, we will isolate them and contact you to collect them. **Please come and collect your child immediately**. Due to reorganisation in Trondheim Kommune we will not have a school nurse for the start of the school year
- Parents who are diagnosed with swineflue are not allowed on the playground or in the school building until they are fully recovered.

As a precaution against swine flu and other infections we will have a heightened focus on hand hygiene at school. We will be using anti-bacterial hand wash as well as training students in routines for general hygiene. **Please support us at home** by practicing good hygiene routines and being especially vigilant of symptoms and cleanliness.

You can read more information about swine flu at www.nhs.uk (in English) or at www.fhi.no (in Norwegian).

Morning Club

Please note that Morning Club is available from 7:30 for children in Reception and Year 1. Morning club is located on the third floor.

School choir

The children from Y2 are welcome to join the school choir. We hope that many children will enjoy participating. Mrs Boyd is responsible for "Little Choir" while Mrs Loe is responsible for "Big Choir". The choir meets on Thursdays. Look out for more information very soon.

Parking

We would like to remind you that cars cannot be parked in the drop off zone just outside the school gates.

The Birralee Staff 2009-2010

Reception	Mrs Bogue
Y1T	Mrs Talbot
Y1S	Mrs Sund
Y2	Ms Solbakken
Year 3	Mr Baumann
Year 4	Ms Utstrand
Year 5	Ms Coates
Year 6	Mrs Murphy
Year 7	Mrs Hitchman
Year 8	Mrs Andersen
Music	Mrs Loe, Mrs Flatås
ICT	Mr Sunde
Norwegian	Mrs Agersborg, Mrs Loe, Mrs Flatås
Assistants	Mrs Bärwald Mr Goulding Mrs Fayant Mrs Wall Mrs Colton Ms Haywood Mrs Conway Mrs Jean Readhead
Play Club	Mrs Colton Mr Goulding Mrs Conway Ms Haywood
Middle School	
Year 9	Mrs Gonzalez
Year 10/11	Mr Oddvik
Norwegian	Mr Oddvik, Mrs Loe
ICT/Science	Mr Sunde, Mrs Jones

Music	Mrs Loe
Social Studies	Mrs Jones
English	Mrs Gonzalez
Religion	Mrs Morehouse Mr Oddvik
Spanish Y9-11	Mrs Gonzalez
Maths Y9-11	Mrs Braun
Gym, Home economics	Mrs Morehouse

Young Writers

Last year our Year 1 children took part in a writing competition: My First Acrostic poem. Poems from around the world. They wrote some fabulous poems. The following children will have this work published:

Milan Emiltan Joy, Matthew Stacey, Jessica Shuyue Liu, Peder Hafsmo. Janne Gjerstad, Anastasia Fløtten, Angelina Davidson
Congratulations!

Bicycles

Please note that we do not allow children to bicycle to the primary school for safety reasons.

School Milk for children Years 3 – 8

The school is providing a milk service for children who like to drink milk with their lunch. An order form is attached to this newsletter.

School Fruit for all children

All Birralee children will receive school fruit free of charge. A variety of fruit will be provided. **Please make sure that you have given information about any allergies** your child might suffer from to the school.

Health and safety

To make sure that we have updated and relevant information about all our children we ask parents to please fill the attached health form and information form and return it to the class teacher as soon as possible.

School Bus Cards

Children who live 4 kilometres or more away from school can have bus cards issued from school. For the children in Year 2 the distance required is 2 kilometres.

Please note that the bus cards are only valid for travel between home and school on school days until 18.00.

Assemblies - All Parents welcome!

Infant assemblies will be held weekly on Thursdays at 13.30 in the TV room on the third floor in the main school building.

Junior/ Senior assemblies will be held bi-weekly on

Wednesdays at 13.45, also in the TV room. The first assembly will take place on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Middle School Assemblies will be held monthly at Falkenberg. Dates will be announced.

Information about Birralee Whole School Assemblies and Joint Assemblies with Kalvskinnet will be published in the newsletter and on our web site

Keep our school clean and tidy!

This year we are keen to become an even tidier and cleaner school. All the children will wear slippers or indoor shoes when inside and we kindly ask parents and visitors to put on the blue plastic socks on entrance to the school building. The socks can be found just inside the entrance doors. Also we kindly ask parents to support their children in keeping their cubbies in the corridor in order. Help them take home dirty and wet clothes regularly. Also please help them keeping track of their belongings. We have such an abundance of lost property in the school... Please see further about what you can do.



As a school we will be dedicated to recycling and reusing materials as well as keeping our school environment clean and tidy.

Naming children's clothes

Please make sure that all clothes and footwear are named, so that the children are able to look after their own belongings and so that lost property can find their way back to the owner. Order forms for a variety of labels can be picked up from the shelves outside the office.

Keeping in touch

All children will have a communication book in their school bag. We ask all parents to please check the book for messages and to use the communication book for messages to the school. For sickness, please ring or mail the office and we will inform the teachers.

The school will host its first Parent Evening of the school year in September and arrange parent teacher conferences in November. Parents will be kept informed about school life through our web site and through regular newsletters. These can also be read online at www.birralee.no

Parents who have any concerns about their child should contact the class teacher so that matters can be addressed as soon as possible. Appointments can also be made to meet subject teachers or the Principal.

School Office Opening Times

Please note that our school office is open in the morning and in the afternoon. The office will be closed between 10.00 and 13.00 to enable necessary administrative work to be undertaken. You can, however, always reach us by phone or mail and set up appointments to meet with us.

Our teachers are available for messages before school start in the morning. For meetings please make an appointment with the teacher or with the Principal.

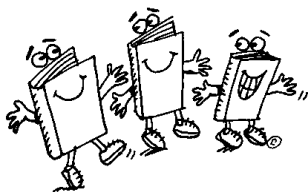
Parental involvement

Parents are welcome to come to our assemblies and to visit the classrooms. Parents can join their class on trips and outings when possible or volunteer their talents and expertise. Parents are welcome to give talks and demonstrations for the children. Last year we were fortunate to have doctors, architects, geologists and others sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and we had visitors speaking about different countries, cultures and religions as well as teaching the children crafts or cooking.

If you would like to contribute as a parent helper or visit the class room, please contact your teacher to make arrangements and find suitable times. We are grateful to all parents for their many contributions and look forward to new and interesting experiences.

Reading Volunteers Welcome!

At Birralee we have a keen interest in and a passion for reading. We have developed an excellent home/school cooperation reading scheme, where the children bring books home and share their reading with their parents. The benefits of an early start in literacy are reflected in the children's work throughout the school.



We welcome volunteers who would like to come into school on a regular basis and listen to readers. Please contact your class teacher or the office if you would like to support our emergent readers in this way.

News from the Middle School

The Middle School will start the year with an introductory

day on Monday, where the students will work together on fun problem solving challenges. We will then have an Activity Day on Tuesday, August 18th. They will go to the forest for a day of activities, games and fun. These days are a chance for us to get to know all our new friends as we have had a number of new students starting in our Middle School.

On Wednesday we will be ready to get to work! We look forward to getting started on all our exciting new topics. The teachers are all keen to introduce the students to new and interesting experiences!

Lunch in the Middle School.

The students have access to a kitchen and can make hot lunches (soup, grilled sandwiches, pasta etc). At times the students may cook for each other or make waffles as a treat. Fruit is available for all students free of charge; however there is no milk service. Students who wish to drink milk, may keep milk in the fridge located in the kitchen.

IGCSE results

Congratulations to our first IGCSE students who achieved 100% pass rate with all A and B grades in Maths, English and History. They worked very hard with their teachers to get their grades. We are extremely proud of their achievements and wish them luck in the next stage of their education at Trondheim Cathedral School.

August calendar

	Event / Activity
17	School Start
18	Activity day at the Beach - Middle School
27	Birralee Back to school Primary Assembly
28	Cool Friends Care - Activity Day; Birralee and Kalvskinnet

September calendar

	Event / Activity
8	Joint Birr/Kalv Forest Day
15	Parents Evening: Rec – Y2
16	Middle School Parent Evening
17	Student Council
17	Parents Evening: Y3-Y8
18	Birralee Assembly: Harvest Festival
24	Joint Assembly Y4/3-4 tr.
25	Forest Day