



# Birralee News



Newsletter No. 2 September 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It had been so enjoyable to see the school so busy and active and the students engaged in so many interesting activities. The children have all settled in well, are busy studying new topics, solving maths problems and writing interesting stories. We are happy to have many new families in the school. It is so wonderful to see new friendships building and to meet enthusiastic students who are so engaged in learning.

We are looking forward to our Forest Day in September. The students will be involved in many exciting and challenging experiences from studying nature, building model boats and testing them on water to finding their way using a map and a compass!

Our new after school activities for the children in Year 6 to 8 are starting up from week 37. On Mondays we offer a homework club where the children can work on their homework together with their friends and with the support of adults. On Wednesday the students can enjoy the activities at Club "Kalven". We also offer a dance workshop on Wednesdays and on Fridays it is time for Spanish Club. The School Choir meets every Thursday. The school choir caters for children from Year 2. They are planning exciting activities and concerts and would be happy for more children to join the choir. We have asked students to sign up for the different after school activities and will be sending out a letter to confirm places as there are limitations on the number of children who can attend.



The Seniors went to Festningen for Activity Day

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Parent Evenings. There will be two different Parent Evenings; one for the Middle School, one for the Primary School. You will find the times and dates in the activity calendar in this newsletter and on our website.

Our Parent Evenings offer an important opportunity for parents to visit your child's classroom and to meet the teachers involved in the education of your child. Parents can view educational materials and will receive information about the educational programme for the class. During the Parent Evening, class representatives from each class will be elected. These representatives will form the Parents Working Committee of Birralee International School Trondheim. They play an important role in the school and we are grateful for their contribution.

*"The Parents' Committee will work actively to create a positive school environment and help ensure good co-operation between school and home. The parents will work together with the administration of the school, the Student Council and the teachers and assistants to create positive opportunities for the children. They will also promote the school in the local community and strengthen the links to the community. They will promote and arrange social gatherings for both parents and students in the school and they will be involved in fund raising"*

*From our Parent Handbook*



Yours sincerely  
Mrs. Farstad  
and the Birralee Staff

### News and information:

#### Harvest Festival

The school will celebrate its traditional Harvest Festival on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The focus of our assembly is the importance of caring for others and for each other and about the importance of sharing, not only with friends and family, but also in a global perspective.

We ask our Birralee families to kindly donate food items, fruit and vegetables. The students make a Harvest Festival display for the assembly before bringing our donated food to the Salvation Army for distribution amongst families in need.

We are very pleased to be able to celebrate harvest together as a big school with all of our Middle School children joining us at the Primary school

#### School Concert

Our Year 3 to Year 5 children were invited to a concert at Bispehaugen Primary School where Bispehaugen Skolekorps performed a programme of popular music and marches.

#### Football trip for Years 5 to 11

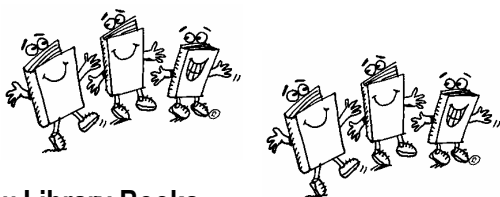
The school is organising a trip to Lerkendal Stadium to see a football match between Rosenborg and Sandefjord on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased that so many children wanted to participate and we are looking forward to a fun filled evening together!

#### Science Day at Torget September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

NTNU is again promoting science and research through an activity day at Torget where several of our classes will participate. It is an interesting and inspiring day for the students when they will also meet contributors from Statoil, HIST, NGU, Telenor and Vitensenyteret.

#### School Book Club

The school is running a book club to help parents get access to a bigger selection of good English books than can be found in the Trondheim. The book clubs make it possible for the school to constantly add books to the libraries as we are allowed to order free books for 20% of the total book order value. The first school book catalogues have been sent out with. We hope that you enjoy browsing through the catalogues.



#### New Library Books

We are constantly adding to our school and class room libraries. We are keen for all students to become avid readers. Some classes are already working on their own reading challenge! Make sure you talk to them about their reading. All students in our school have a reading bag and a reading book. Please help the children bring school books and reading books back to the school so that their friends can enjoy them too.

#### Promoting a positive school culture

At Birralee we want all students to thrive both academically and socially. We actively promote a positive school culture by teaching and modelling positive behaviours in all areas of the school. This year we are again focusing on 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.

#### National Tests

Birralee International School Trondheim take part in the annual national tests for children in Year 6 and Year 9. The children are tested in reading in both English and Norwegian and in Maths. Please see the calendar for test dates. More information can be found on [www.udir.no/nasjonaleprover](http://www.udir.no/nasjonaleprover)

The tests offer an opportunity to gain further information about each student's competence and will help the school improve teaching and learning and to better cater for individual students.

#### Joint Assembly

The first joint Birralee-Kalvskinnet Assembly will take place on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the gym. This is our opportunity to present all staff in the two schools, meet the newly elected Student Councils and set the tone for the year. Our next assembly where the students from Year 4 and 3.trinn are responsible for the programme will take place on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to enjoying a wonderful time together seeing the results of their work.

#### Autumn Rain

We have already had quite a few wet days since school start. Please make sure that your child brings rain clothes to school so that they are well equipped for playing outside during playtimes.

#### Safety and Parking in the Primary school



Please make sure that you do not park in the drop off zone or on the pavement outside the school.

## Birralee News

Leaving the car unattended in the drop off zone right outside the school gates can lead to dangerous situations as emergency vehicles also need to use this entrance to enter the playground.



The buses were delayed on Forest Day because of a parked car.

### Fire Safety

Week 38 is National Fire Safety week. All children will talk about fire safety and we will have fire drills both in the Middle School and in the Primary School. The Infant children have already had several fire drills to prepare for our whole school drill in week 38.

### School nurse and vaccinations

Mrs May Skånøy has been appointed as the new school nurse at Birralee: [may.skanoey@trondheim.kommune.no](mailto:may.skanoey@trondheim.kommune.no) Year 3 and Year 7 will soon meet her as they will visit her to receive their vaccinations. A letter about this has been sent home with both classes.

### School Choir Primary School

Our school choir has started their rehearsals and all children from Year 2 are invited to join the choir. The choir meets on Thursday after school from 14.15 to 15-00. We hope that many children will enjoy participating and be part of giving concerts during the school year. Please contact the school if your child would like to join the choir.

### After-School Activities for children in Years 6 - 8

To meet the need of the children who no longer go to SFO, we have been developing a programme for our older children in cooperation with Kalvskinnet Primary School. In addition to the school choir we offer a homework club, a Dance Workshop, Club Kalven and a Spanish Club. Other activities will be run through Trondheim School of Music

## September 2009

and Art (Musikk-og Kulturskolen): a theatre group and a circus group in addition to individual music lessons. Kvikk football club accepts children from the age of 7. For these additional activities, please contact the Music School and Kvikk.

**The homework club** for children in Years 6 – 8 is on Mondays **on the fourth floor**. **Club Kalven** is an after-school club every Wednesday from 14.15 to 16.00. The first Kalven will be on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a “drop in” offer where children do not have to sign up to participate. The Club Kalven activities will be posted on the notice board by the main entrance, so keep checking the boards!

The Dance Workshop will take place in the “Festsal” on the fourth floor every Wednesday from 14.30 to 15.15. The Spanish Club will use a classroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

There is a small cost for the school choir to cover the rental of the choir jumper, costumes and activities. There is also a cost for all activities organized through the Music and Art School. The homework club, Club Kalven the Dance Workshop and Spanish Club are all free of charge.

## News from the Primary classes

**Reception Class** has been working on learning routines and getting used to being in school. They are having a great time singing and learning new things. They are just about to start their new topic: Me and my family, where they are learning about their own bodies, drawing themselves and their family.

**Year 1t** have worked hard during these first three weeks learning about differing kinds of transport. We have sung lots of transport songs and made a large class picture. We also invited our teddybears to a picnic and have made a gallery of their portraits in class. Next week we start our new topic about harvest and will learn about fruits vegetables and how they are harvested. We also hope to go to the forest on a tram together with Year 1S and Year 2. Do come and see our art work in the classroom.

**Year 1s** are just starting their new topic on Autumn colours. We will have lots of fun mixing colours and producing lots of nice art work.

**Year 2** are working on the topic Happy, Healthy Me. We have reviewed body parts vocabulary and talked about teeth and how to keep them clean and happy. Next week we will talk about healthy food and the digestive system. We will start our next topic the following week. We will then look at autumn and study seeds and seed dispersal.

**Year 3** is trying to find the essential markers to identify a tree. They are looking forward to staying a whole day

## Birralee News

outside on our Forest Day for further studies. In English, Year 3 just started an inspiring creative writing project after reading the story "Flat Stanley" by Jeff Brown.

**Year 4** have started their collaboration with 3. trinn at Kalvskinn for their joint assembly on September 30<sup>th</sup>. In class they are exploring the topic of Harvest in Social Studies and changes of matter in Science.

**Year 5** are currently studying Formation of the Earth, including mountains, volcanoes, erosion, weathering and more in Social Studies. In Science we are Keeping Healthy and looking at the effects of exercise on the body. We've also begun our Writer's Workshop and have focussed on story openings last week and character descriptions this week.

**Year 6** has been learning about the Ancient Romans and just how far their empire and influence spread. They have also been preparing for the National Test in Math, English, and Norwegian.

**Year 7** are studying the Author, Anne Fine and reading Bill's New Frock at the moment. The students have written a narrative themselves called Gill's New Trousers, where they've had to explore and think about what it would be like for a girl to wake up to find that she has changed into a boy. In maths they are studying position, grid references and direction. In art they are studying the artist Wassily Kandinsky. The students have made their own interpretations in their paintings using Kandinsky's 'Squares with Concentric Circles' as inspiration.

In Science, **Year 8** has been studying health and nutrition, looking at the food pyramid and the nutritional value of the various food groups, learning to read labels on food items that we commonly eat and interpreting what those mean to our health and well-being. Year 8 has also done several personal and social skill-building lessons. They have examined what it means to take ownership of their education, and the importance of making good choices each and every day and how these can impact their education and future. In addition, they have begun to examine the topic "Bullying", how to recognize it and what they can do to help prevent it. They have discussed how they can take responsibility for one another and improve their own classroom environment.

## News from the Middle School

We have had a wonderful start to the year at the Middle School. We began the year with two fantastic 'getting to know each other' days, including a trip to the forest. All our students have been reintroduced to the 3 Rs – 'Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn' and have been working hard to maintain these values. The students have already had their first assembly. We will continue to have

## September 2009

assemblies once a month where students will present items from their studies. Parents are welcome as usual!

### Class news

Y9 and Y10/11 have both been learning about the Norwegian election and created a wiki to publish an introduction to the Norwegian political parties as well as the process of the election. All students are enjoying the Reading Challenge, and the Y9 students have started reading Holes while Y11 students are investigating George Orwell's Animal Farm. Y10/11 students have been to Vitenskapsmuseet to learn more about Charles Darwin's life and work as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Theory of Evolution and continue to study anatomy in Science. Year 9 are currently exploring strategies to save the planet in Social Studies – watch this space!

### Parents' Committee

The Parents' Committee will have their first meeting on Monday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 in the staff room on the ground floor. We look forward to meeting this year's committee and to working together for the benefit of us all.



### In September we look forward to:

Weeks 36	National Test Year 6 English
Weeks 37	National Test Year 9 English
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Primary School Forest day Y2 – Y 8
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Assembly
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Forest Day
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	National Test Y6 and Y9 Norwegian
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Parents' Evening at 19.30 Reception – Y8
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival
Week 39	National Test Year 6 Maths
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 to Y11 to visit a Rosenborg Match
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Middle School Parents' Evening at 19.00
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Assembly Y4/3-4 tr.
September 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Science Days Town Square
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	First Parent Committee Meeting at 19.30

### In October we look forward to:

October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cissi Klein
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Student Council Meeting
Week 42	Autumn Holiday (school closed)
Week 43	UN Week
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	UN Day Celebration.
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween

## Respect -- Responsibility - Ready to Learn