



Birralee News



Newsletter No. 7 February 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to thank all parents who attended our recent Middle School Parents' Evenings and hope to see many of you tonight at our Primary Parents' Evening. These evenings are important events in the school. They give you, as parents, the opportunity to find out more about the educational programme for your child, ask questions and raise issues as well as looking at equipment and seeing samples of the children's work. We value these meetings with you and we feel them to be an integral part of our home-school cooperation.

We are now looking forward to welcoming you back into the school as we celebrate literacy in week 7. The Celebration of Literacy at Birralee International School is a time for teachers and students to share with friends and families just how much fun we have reading and writing in our school each and everyday! We are keen to promote an environment where young readers and writers thrive. Developing good skills in reading and writing is vital for success in school. We encourage all of our children to develop a love for books and stories. We hope that you as parents also find enjoyment in reading and discussing books with your children at home.

Our Book Day will take place on Wednesday February 17th. You will be introduced to a variety of writing from books, posters, reports, poetry and art displays. Come and read the wall story created by our Reception class children or join in the world of Dr. Seuss in Year 1. Read books created by students from Year 2 to the Middle School and see wall displays and art work. Several classes have worked on illustrated picture books and I am sure you will be amazed by the results! The school libraries will be open for you to browse, there will be book displays in the class rooms and you are welcome to visit our book café. Also make sure you do not miss the children performing with readings and drama. Please see your invitation for more information.

The children at Birralee International School Trondheim have days full of activity and learning. To ensure that your child is not missing out on any of these enriching activities and learning experiences and to ensure the best possible start to their day, it is very important that your child arrives on time to be present for the first lesson. This is a vital part of the school day that we do not want any children to miss. It sets the tone for the day and gets them ready to learn. It may be difficult for a child who arrives late to get involved in the activity that is already taking place. They will have missed their introduction, the instructions and will have to join half way into an activity they may not fully understand or have the time to complete. Unfortunately children who arrive late also create a disruption for their class mates. The teacher might have to stop, go back and restart and may also be unable to give your child the individual attention they receive during the morning session. We therefore ask you to please help your child/children come to school ready to learn in good time for the first lesson at 8.30. We thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

After the winter break, during the month of March, we will arrange our parent-teacher conferences where you will be able to discuss the progress of your own child. We are looking forward to seeing you all and to sharing your children's achievements with you.

Week 8 is our winter holiday week. Please make sure all of your child's belongings go home to facilitate the cleaning of the school.

We wish you all a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you again on Monday March 1st 2010.

Best wishes from Trude Farstad
and the Birralee Staff

News and information:

Congratulations to our Middle school students Hanna Valen, Matilda Osafo Aduo and Axel Kvistad.

Hanna, Matilda and Axel recently took part in UKM, a local music and art competition. Hanna, who is a young aspiring artist, entered one of her art pieces into the competition while Mathilda shared one of her favourite songs. Axel performed a solo percussion piece. We are extremely proud of their achievement.

Congratulations to our young writers

Maren Bøe and Sarina Loinsworth Jenssen from our Middle School have been successful in an international writing competition. They will be published in a poetry anthology this spring.

Year 8 drama work shop

Year 8 had the pleasure of working with local actor Roar Jenssen on a drama project about Tibet. They used a more experimental approach to drama to give us a glimpse of Tibet's history and Dalai Lama's teaching. They performed their play for the other students on Friday and they will show it again on Literacy day.

Year 5 to Sverresborg Museum

Year 5 had a very successful and active day at Sverresborg learning about the Sami people and their culture. They took part in a baking workshop, studied the exhibitions and enjoyed a story telling session.

Year 6 and 7 supporting Haiti

The students in Years 6&7 really wanted to do something to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. They organised a cake sale in school and in addition the Year 6 students collected money in their neighbourhood. They raised an impressive 12 300 kr in support of Haiti. We are very proud of their initiative.

Book Fair

Make sure that you do not miss our Literacy Day. As part of our celebration we are hosting a Book Fair with fantastic books - both fiction and non-fiction. The prices are very reasonable and the selection should suit both infant and older children.

Snow days and ski days

In March all the children will have their ski day or snow day in "Bymarka". Please let us know if your child needs to borrow skis and boots as we have a small supply in school. If any families have skis, boots or skates that their children have outgrown, and would like to donate these to the school, we would be most grateful.

Valentines' Parties

We continue to focus on being caring and responsible friends. To celebrate friends and friendships, we will again host out traditional Valentines parties for all Primary

children including the Year 1 children. The party will take place this Friday February 12th after school. Please note that the Reception class will have their own class party during the school day and will not take part in the after school party.

Thank you to the Parents' Committee

The Parents' Committee is actively supporting the students in organizing the Valentine's Party. They provide help with supervision as well as providing the food and helping with the tidy up afterwards. We would like to thank the Committee for their generous contribution towards a positive school environment for all.

Middle School Work Experience week

Our Year 9 and 10 students will have an interesting week following our winter break. They have been very active pursuing different job opportunities for their work experience week and we are very pleased with the possibilities created.

Year 11 International Trip

Year 11 will be visiting Copenhagen International School in week 9. They will take part in lessons and meet with other international students as well as visiting museums and other places of interest.

Ideas for the winter holiday

Week 8 is our winter break and the school is closed. Many of our families choose to go abroad during the holiday; however there are many families who will remain in Trondheim. Get in touch with other Birralee families and enjoy the many activities available together! We are crossing fingers for sunshine and newly fallen snow!

Gråkallen Skileik – a wonderful ski area with lots of fun for children and adults. More information: www.skiklubben.no

Vassfjellet Ski Center – alpine and cross country skiing. Children's lifts and cafeteria. More information on www.SkiNorway.no

Trondheim Torg/Trondheim Town square – free open skating rink. It is possible to rent skates and helmets.

Bowling There are several bowling alleys in Trondheim: Centrum Bowling at Trondheim Torg, Bowling 1 at Heimdal and Dora 1 Bowling

Vitensenteret – Eksperimentklubb

Children from Year 7 and 8 are invited to enrol in a Science club during the Winter Holiday. To sign up: eksperimentklubb@viten.ntnu.no

Zitrus Indoor Playground at Solsiden open every day from 10.00 to 20.00 for children up to 12 years of age

Museums Sverresborg offers exhibitions and work shops for children For information please call 73 89 01 10. Other Museums like Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Vitenselskabet, Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum are open.

The library is open every day and offers story time for children aged 3-7 usually on Mondays.

The cinema is offering a variety of films for children and **Pirbadet**, the swimming pool, is always a treat!

February calendar

Date	Event / Activity
11 th	19.30 Curriculum Evening (Rec-Y8)
12 th	Valentine's Parties 17.00-18.30 Year 1 – Year 4 19.00-21.00 Year 5 – Year 8
17 th	Book day and Book Fair
22 ^h – 26 th	Winter Holiday
March 1 st	First day back after the holiday