



Birrallee News

www.birrallee.no

Newsletter No. 1 August 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We welcome all students and parents back to school and to a good school start. We have worked hard to prepare a safe school start for all the Birrallee students.

We have all lived through a very difficult and sad time. It will take some time to deal with the emotions and questions that we have. We will make sure that the children feel safe in school and that they will be able to address their feelings and talk about what happened should they wish to do so. The school will host a School Safety Week in the second week of school to make sure all aspects of school safety is addressed with the children. We will also hold a small memorial ceremony during our first assembly this year.

At Birrallee, we are fortunate to welcome 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 gives us a good foundation for developing international solidarity and understanding. We are very pleased that many new families and students from abroad are joining the school. We are looking forward to making friends with children from Canada, Britain, the USA, Tunisia, Spain, Romania, Iran, Chile, Israel to name a few! We are already planning many rewarding and interesting activities for your children. This week all students will be participating in an outdoor activity afternoon to get to know each other well and next week they will all participate in our Safety Week.

At Birrallee we have motivated and talented staff who are dedicated to providing a varied, stimulating and secure learning environment for your children. You will find information about school and class activities on our website and on the class blogs for Years 6 to 11. There will also be class newsletters and school newsletter. Please make sure you are always updated. For any questions or concerns you may have, please let us know so that together we can make sure that your child is happy in school and that you are well informed.

At Birrallee we promote a positive school culture by teaching and modelling positive behaviours in all areas of the school. We continue to focus on the **Birrallee Three R's: Respect, Responsibility and Ready to learn**. All students have been re-introduced to the Three R's again and all classes will continue to focus on positive behaviour in all areas. We want our children to be successful both academically and socially and to be supportive and caring friends.

We ask all our parents to please respect that **Birrallee is a nut free school**. We have several children with severe nut allergies 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. Birrallee is also from this Autumn a **candy free school**. We have taken on the concerns raised through the Parents' Committee and we will from now on honour the students on their birthday with songs, poems and lots of attention in class. We therefore ask parents not to send any sweets or cakes to school on birthdays.

Let us all support each other in making this school year a wonderful and memorable year for all Birrallee children.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Trude Farstad
and the Birrallee Staff

Birralee News

New teachers at Birralee

We are pleased to welcome new staff to Birralee.

Mrs Voges is a young Australian teacher with teaching experience from Australia and from Oslo International School. She is very enthusiastic about teaching and really looks forward to working with the children in Year 3.

Mrs Jensås is our new Norwegian teacher for the Middle School. She has extensive experience as a Middle School teacher and is keen to work with the Birralee students.

We are very excited about welcoming them both to the school.

The Birralee Staff 2011-2012

Reception	Ms Dragvik
Y1A	Mrs Sund
Y1B	Mrs Borsick
Y2	Ms Solbakken
Year 3	Mrs Voges
Year 4	Ms Utstrand
Year 5	Mrs Murphy
Year 6	Ms Coates
Year 7	Mrs Andersen
Year 8	Mrs Hitchman
Year 9	Mr Santos
Year 10	Mrs Stacey
Year 11	Mrs Nordstrom
Norwegian	Mrs Flatås, Mrs Loe, Mrs Agersborg, Mrs Jensås
Music	Mrs Loe, Mrs Flatås
Spanish Y9-11	Mrs Gonzalez
Assistants	Mrs Bärwald Ms Wall Mrs Fayant Mrs Readhead Mrs Amdahl Mrs Colton Mrs Leismann Mrs Conway Mrs Cheong Mrs Corbishley Mr Ruel
Play Club and ASP	Mrs Colton Mrs Leismann Mr Donnelly Mrs Conway Mr Reilly Ms Gowan Ms Lebrun

August 2011

New teaching assistants

Mrs Corbishley has worked in education in Britain for many years. **Mrs Gowan** is from the States and has worked with children in many different settings, so has **Ms Lebrun** from Belgium and **Mr Reilly** from Britain. You will meet them in the infants and in Play Club and ASP.

Practical information:

School times – Please note!

Infants: 8.30 -14.00

Primary: 8.30 – 14.30

Middle School: 8.30 – 14.45



The Middle School Students will start at 8.30 this autumn to allow for increased possibilities for cooperation with the rest of the school. No students are allowed to enter the buildings before 8.30 unless they attend Morning Club.

Morning Club

Please note that Morning Club is available from 7:30 for children in Reception and Year 1 and children signed up for ASP. Morning Club is located in building 1 on the ground floor.

Play club

Play Club will use the Reception class room on the ground floor of building 1. It is open for Reception and Year 1 children.

ASP (After School Programme) for Years 2 to 5

ASP is located on the second floor of building 1. Children in ASP may join the ASP Homework club once a week.

Pick up time for Play club and ASP

Pick up time is 16.30. Please respect our closing time and make sure that you are on time. **Please note that there is a late pick up fee.**

Bicycles

Please note that we do not allow Primary children to bicycle to school for safety reasons. Middle School children may use their bikes to school and park their bicycles in front of the administration building (building 8).

Parking

Please note that “Trondheim Fylkeskommune” has rented building 7. This is an adult education centre part of Thora Storm high school. Their

Birralee News

staff have access to the parking lot. We therefore anticipate that parking may be more challenging this autumn.

School Milk for Years 3 to 11



The school provides a milk service for children who like to drink milk with their lunch. Parents sign up on line; you will find the link on the website.

Health and safety

To make sure that we have updated and relevant information about all our children we ask parents to please contact the school if their child's medical situation has recently changed.

School Bus Cards

Parents of children who live 4 kilometres or more away from school can apply for a free bus card. 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. The school bus service will run as last term. Please see the web site for details.

Join the School choir!

The children from Y3 to Year 8 are welcome to join the school choir. We hope that many children will enjoy participating. Mrs Loe is responsible for the choir this year.

For further information please visit our website to sign up.

Homework Club

Children in Years 2 to 5 have the possibility to sign up for homework club. The club will run once a week: Please note that this is not a drop in offer, only those children who have signed up may attend. Please see our website to sign up.

The school Homework Clubs run once a week and the sessions will be held after school. Students will be supervised in a quiet, orderly environment whilst they work on their homework. The exact organisation of the groups depends on the number of students interested. More information about this will be provided once we have an overview over students signed up.

Parents/Guardians should choose whether they wish their child to attend the Homework Clubs and sign up using the link on our website.

August 2011

Homework Club will take place on the following days:

Tuesday 14.00-14.30 Year 2 (Year 2 classroom)
Tuesday 14.30-15.15 : Year 3 – Year 5 (Year 4 classroom)

Wednesday 15.00-15.45: Year 3 – Year 5 (children attending ASP)

Thursday 15.00-15.30: Year 2 (children are attending ASP)

Spanish Club for students in Year 6 – 8

Birralee will continue to offer Spanish Club for students in Years 6 to 8. The club will run every Thursday after school. If you are interested please sign up online as soon as possible due to limited places: www.birralee.no

Assemblies - All Parents welcome!

Infant assemblies will be held weekly on Thursdays at 13.30 in the music room in Building 1.

Primary assemblies will be held bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 14.00, in the Hall on the 2nd floor of Building 3.

Middle School Assemblies will be held monthly. Dates and times will be announced later.

Green, clean school!

We are keen to become an even greener and cleaner school. We will be much more conscious about recycling and reusing materials as well as keeping our school environment clean and tidy. 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.

Avoid the lost and found box!



Order forms for a variety of labels can be picked up from the office. You can also order online. Please make sure that all clothes and footwear are named, so that the children are able to look after their own belongings.

Keeping in touch

All children from Reception to Year 5 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 Y6 to Y11 parents must check the class blog for information and respond by email. More

Birralee News

information about the class blogs for Y6 to Y9 will follow soon.

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 October/November. Parents will be kept informed about school life through our website 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 quickly so that matters can be addressed as soon as possible.

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.

For meetings with teachers, please make an appointment with the teacher or with the Administration.

Parental involvement

Parents are welcome to come to our assemblies and to visit the classrooms. Parents can join their class on trips and outings or volunteer their talents and expertise and give talks and demonstrations for the children. If you would like to contribute as a parent helper of 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.

August 2011

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 emerging readers in this way.

Forest Day

The children in Years 2 – 8 will enjoy the annual all day forest day on Tuesday September 6th in Bymarka. The Infant classes (Y1 & 2) will have their day out on Friday September 16th, also in Bymarka. More details will follow.

The Reception Class will have an outdoor activity day in school with a picnic on the grass and lots of time to play games.

Parents are welcome to join us on these outings as class helpers. Please contact your class teacher to make arrangements.

We are all hoping for a fabulous sunny autumn day. Nevertheless, let's be well prepared. Please make sure that the children are dressed for the weather. They will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink together with a little mat to sit on. A few extra plastic bags always come in handy for all those exciting finds!

Congratulations to our Middle School Students

The following students took their IGCSE exams with fantastic results. We are extremely proud of their achievements.

We congratulate: Ada Aalmo, Anna Struck, Axel Kvistad, Katja Hannula Mo, George Hitchman, Maren Bøe, Julie Guldahl, Hallvard Echemeyer, Shreeram Akerkar and Saria Wail.

August calendar

Date	Event / Activity
August 22th	School Start
August 24th	Middle School Activity afternoon
August 26th	Infant/Primary Activity afternoon

September calendar

Date	Event / Activity
Sept. 1 st	Student Council meeting Start Spanish Club
Sept. 2 nd	Birralee Welcome Assembly
Sept. 6 th	Forest day Y 2 - 8
Sept 16 th	Infant Forest Day Y1 and Y2
Sept. 20 th	Infant/Primary Parent Evening
Sept. 21 st	Middle School Parent Evening