

Term 4 Week 5 2025

This Buzz in Bullets...

Click straight through to what interests you!

- Principal's message
- New BPS website launch
- Upcoming Event: <u>St John's Christmas Concert</u>
- BPS Kindy / Preschool 2026 Orientations
- BPS transition to SchoolBytes / Library returns
- In the Classroom: SSC STEM club visit
- In the Classroom: Poetry & Preschool
- In the Classroom: ES1 / Stage 1
- Buzz Newsfeed
- P&C 2nd Hand Uniform -new & improved store
- P&C 2026 call to arms
- Thank you BPS P&C
- BPS after hours programs
- DoE Calendar and school attendance
- Contact and useful links

BPS Merit Board





Congratulations to Sophie O (Waratah class). Sophie's artwork was selected for the Operation Art '50 Exhibition' from over 600 artworks from schools across NSW.

For your calendar

Term 4 2025:

17-21 Nov Years 2-6 School Swim Program

28 Nov P&C Colour Fun Run

02 Dec Preschool End of Year Concert &

Morning Tea (Wallaby/Platypus)

04 Dec Year 6 Picnic Day - Raging Waters

04 Dec Preschool End of Year Concert &

Morning Tea (Quokka/Wombat)

05 Dec Christmas Concert at St John's Church

05 Dec BPS Volunteers Thank You morn. tea

05 Dec Final day – after hours classes/ tutors

08 Dec Stage 3 end year assembly/morn. tea

09 Dec Stage 2 end year assembly/morn. tea

10 Dec Stage 1 end year assembly/morn. Tea

10 Dec Year 6 Graduation Dinner

11 Dec Kindy end year assembly/morn. tea

17 Dec Christmas T-shirt Day

18 Dec Class Parties & Yr6 T-shirt signing

19 Dec Year 6 Graduation Assembly / farewell

19 Dec Final day for all students and staff

We acknowledge the Wangal people of the Eora Nations, the traditional custodians of the land on which we play, learn and grow.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.

Message from our Principal

Dear Birchgrove Families,

Exciting news! The Department of Education has been rolling out new school websites and our new website is now live. We would love for you all to have a look and let us know what you think. Thank you to Mrs Boyle and Columbine for all the work they have done to get the website ready to go from liaising with the Department website team to the collation of information and images. It looks fantastic!

Our kindergarten and preschool orientation programs have been running over the last few weeks. Thank you to Mrs Boyle, Mrs Copping and the preschool team for the fantastic program you put together to welcome our new learners and their families to Birchgrove Public School. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the orientation program, especially from our 2026 Kindergarten families. They love the orientation t shirts.



As mentioned previously we have had a strong focus on attendance rates this year. Our attendance rate to date is 92%. Thank you to all the families who have submitted their child's absences on Sentral or lodged an extended leave application if their child is going on a holiday.

House points for term 4 week 5:

Evatt	Fraser	Jackson	Robinson
186	168	164	170

Congratulations to Sophie O in year 6 for having her artwork 'Waratah' selected as one of the top 50 artworks for 2025 Operation Art. Sophie's artwork will be on display at the Children's Hospital.

Thank you to all the families who completed the parent survey. Data from the survey will be used to inform our future planning. Results from the survey will be shared with the school community at the next P&C meeting, Wednesday 26 November 2025, 7 pm.





As we head towards the end of the year, I kindly ask that if you are not returning to Birchgrove Public School in 2026 and you have yet to inform the office that you get in touch with us as soon as possible so that we are able to ensure we have the most up to date information when finalising our plans for 2026. Thank you for your assistance.

Kylie Mitchell, Principal (rel)

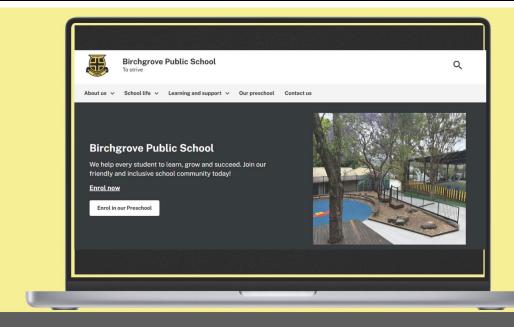
Frankie M accepts the Principal's Trophy for excellence on behalf of Snow Gums class. Full story here.

Principal's trophy for excellence:

Snow Gum class -for their powerful and emotive poetry based on the artwork Anguish by August Friedrich Schenck.

BPS Student Stars of the Week: Oliver L and Vincent G for going out of their way to congratulate a younger student during the Public Speaking Competition.

Upcoming News and Events



Our website just got a makeover!

We've rebranded and refreshed it to better showcase what makes our school special. Visit us online and see what's new!

https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au



BPS Kindy / PS 2026 Orientation Days









We've had an exciting week at Birchgrove Public School welcoming the newest members of our community!

Our final kindergarten 2026 orientation session and two preschool orientation sessions were filled with joyful energy and eager smiles. It was wonderful to see so many happy and excited faces as our young learners took their first steps into school life.

We can't wait to continue supporting our new students and their families on this exciting journey ahead!

Rebecca Boyle - Assistant Principal







Buzz Newsfeed



BPS transition to SchoolBytes.

Birchgrove Public School is moving to SchoolBytes as our main platform for communication, attendance, payments, and permission notes. This will give families a single, easy-to-use place to access all school information while also reducing administration and paper use.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to register for the SchoolBytes Parent Portal App if you haven't already. Registration ensures you will receive all important updates, including attendance notifications, event details, and permission notes.

From Term 1, 2026, SchoolBytes will fully replace Sentral and Seesaw. All communication and processes will be managed exclusively through SchoolBytes. Families who are not registered risk missing crucial school information.

If you need help with registering, please contact the front office and our staff will be happy to guide you.

Jane Araga - School Administrative Manager (rel)



Time to return the Library Books.

With the end of the year drawing closer, the hunt is on in the homes of BPS families!

Overdue Loans

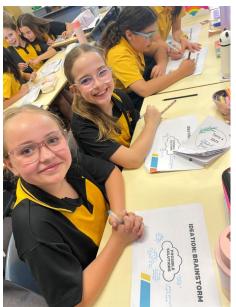
Please return all overdue BPS library books to the book return tubs asap.

Current Loans

Please return all other BPS library books to the book return tubs by Friday, Week 7. Student loan overviews have been sent home by your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you! Melissa Sarina - Teacher - Librarian

In the Classroom: SSC STEM club visit







On Monday 10 November, the girls' STEM club from Sydney Secondary College - Balmain campus paid a visit to the Birchgrove 5/6 classes (Snow Gum, Waratah and year 5 Wollemi) to teach us about design thinking.

In the Snow Gum classroom, we worked on designing effective solutions to everyday problems (such as cleaning our bedrooms) using problem solving and creative thinking skills.

Next door in the Waratah classroom, we learnt about the satellites that circle our earth. Our task was to design and make a parachute which would allow a water balloon housed inside a 3D printed 'satellite' to land without bursting.

We had a lot of fun working with the high schoolers (we even got lollipops as a reward) and it even inspired some of us to join the girls' STEM club when we go to high school.

Definitely a highlight of the week!

Dani Corliss - Teacher Waratah





In the Classroom

Poetry Appreciation

The Snow Gum and Waratah classes have been studying a literacy unit on poetry appreciation.

Here are some of the poems from our budding young poets and a link to the painting that inspired them.

https://www.ngy.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/43

https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/43

Benjamin Dodds – Teacher Snow Gum Dani Corliss - Teacher Waratah

"Anguish"
After August Friedrich Schenk

Snow bearing the message to the mother Lamb laid down to rest but not to sleep Crows like a church choir Each caw is a reminder
The cold weather the coroner

Like a dagger to the heart but this brings more pain The woollen bedsheets on a snowy bed the last rest Ewe still hanging on for what is left

The cruellest funeral for a mother.

By Xavier P (Yr6 Snow Gum)

"Anguish"
After August Friedrich Schenk

Why! Why!

Will bleating in the dead of night help, A poor soul like me?

Why? Why? His fluffy white pelt, Won't last much longer!

why.

Does grief come my way?
The crows are swarming to carry my son away.

WHY?
WHY?
Does the devil rise,
Just before my clouded eyes.

Why do I suffer when crows quiver In excitement for a new treat? I guess crows do not understand. Anguish.

By Catherine M, (Yr6 Waratah)

Preschool: Growing Together at Birchgrove Public School

We are thrilled to be using the beautiful new Preschool gardens.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing P&C for their generous support and hard work in making this project a reality. The gardens provide a vibrant, hands-on learning space where our little ones can explore nature, nurture plants, and develop a love for the outdoors. We're excited to watch our preschoolers grow alongside their garden!



Rebecca Boyle - Assistant Principal



In the Classroom: ES1 and Stage 1

Stage One have been exploring the book *Giraffes* Can't Dance by Giles Andrede and Guy Parker-Rees.

They have been identifying how authors use animals as characters and using information to create descriptions of appearances and characteristics.





This week the Wattles created their own versions of Gerald from the book! The finished versions will be hanging up outside the classroom soon!

Emma Taksa - Teacher Wattle

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 made spooky masks and had a boogie at our Halloween disco.

Natalie Robinson - Teacher Banksia











Buzz Newsfeed

Assembly awards

Week 4 Assembly saw an array of awards earned by our student body.

Congratulations to our 2025 Inner West Debating Competition team, Maths Explorers and Mathematical Olympiads. Well down to each and every one!







International Soccer Trip

What a learning life adventure for Toby S (Yr6 Waratah class) on his soccer tour to Germany earlier this year.

Toby was in camp with the team for a week, playing against some of the best professional academy teams and certainly learned a lot.

Thank you for sharing your experience with us Toby and well done!





P&C News: 2nd Hand Uniform Store

The P&C are pleased to announce the relaunch of the new and improved BPS 2nd hand uniform store.

Buying 2nd hand is both good for your pocket and the planet. The store has been moved to a fresh new location on the same level as the office and it has never been so easy to order. Simply:

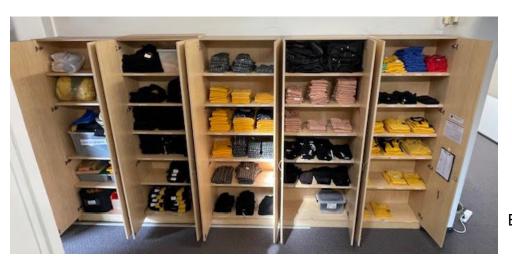
BARGAIN!

Did you know ALL BPS

2nd hand items are priced
at only \$5 a piece!

- 1/ Access the 2nd hand uniform store through P&C website or scan QR code here on this page. The QR code is also displayed on the breezeway noticeboards at the school entry on the 2nd hand uniform cupboards and on the last page of every newsletter.
- 2/ Make your selection and pay in advance.
- 3/ Your order will be sent to the P&C 2nd hand uniform team who will pick and pack orders on Friday mornings.
- 4/ The order will be sent to the office who will distribute to your eldest child at the school to take home in their school bag.
- If a parent would prefer to pick the pieces of clothing themselves in person, they should visit the 2nd hand uniform shop on a **Friday morning between 8.30-9.00am** ONLY.

NOTE: All orders must be placed through the 2nd-hand uniform shop QR code, regardless of method of delivery/pick up.





Scan QR code for link to BPS P&C website including 2nd hand uniform store.

If you have any donations to the 2nd hand uniform store, these can be left at the school office. Please label if they are washed or unwashed.

We hope you enjoy this new and improved initiative by our BPS P&C.

A message from our P&C

Our P&C is at a crossroads, and we need new hands-on deck to keep it thriving next year.

Where we need help:

This year, several of our executive members are finishing up, including our President, Secretary and one Vice President. Without a full executive team, The P&C is automatically disbanded and all the money raised is redistributed to other school's P&Cs. That's tens of thousands of dollars that would be lost to the students of BPS.

We're also looking to fill a number of non-executive roles that keep things running smoothly behind the scenes.



Scan QR code for link to BPS P&C website

Executive roles open for 2026: President | Vice President (x2) | Treasurer | Secretary

Other key volunteer roles: Parent Coordinator / Communications | Fundraising | Sponsorship | Gardens | Grants | 2nd Hand Uniforms

A full description of P&C roles and responsibilities can be found here.

How you can get involved and why it matters:

You can help by joining the P&C (just \$1 per year) and consider nominating for a role.

Even a small commitment makes a difference; attending meetings, sharing your ideas, or helping out at an event, all help to keep our community strong. Whatever your skill set is - trust us, we'll find a way to use it! So, if you've ever thought "Someone should do that!", then please; this is your moment! Fresh faces bring fresh energy, and a strong P&C means better opportunities for every child at Birchgrove PS.

For more information about everything the BPS P&C achieves together, see bpspandc.com
Join BPS P&C Now

Thank you for helping us keep Birchgrove P&C thriving. We (quite literally) can't do it without you.

Warm regards, Birchgrove PS P&C Association.

More BPS P&C FAQs:

What does the P&C do?

The Birchgrove P&C funds and supports the programs, equipment and experiences that make our school special. From classroom resources and playground improvements to community events and fundraisers, every bit of it happens because parents volunteer their time and ideas.

OK, I'm considering nominating for a role. What now?

All you need to do for now is ensure you have joined the P&C. It would also help to come along to our next meeting (Wednesday 29 October). We'll keep you updated ahead of our AGM on 2 December 2025, with more details on how to nominate for a role.

How much time does it take?

There's no set expectation. Ideally, members can make it to some meetings (held twice per term). For position holders, it depends on the role; from just a few hours a month through to around 10 hours for the more involved exec roles.

Do I have to come to every meeting or volunteer at every event?

Absolutely not - come when you can. Some parents love helping at events (like BBQs), others prefer to work quietly behind the scenes with planning or organisation.

Can I help occasionally instead of taking a formal role?

Yes! You can join as a member for \$1 a year and pitch in whenever it suits.

Can I chat to someone informally before I nominate?

Yes, please do. We're always happy to chat about what's involved. Stacey Fisher at secretary@bpspandc.com is the best person to reach out to.

How will I be supported if I take on a role?

You won't be thrown in the deep end; there's a proper handover, plenty of guidance, and lots of support from the outgoing team.

Thank you to BPS P&C



Birchgrove Public School staff and students wish to thank our never tiring and ever smiling BPS P&C

From crazy colour fun runs, enrichment tree treasures for our classrooms, the planet and pocket friendly second hand uniform store, productive garden working bees, securing school sponsorships, fun for the 'big kids' at the annual Birchy Big Night Out, our renowned BPS music program - complete with music expo recruitment night, weekend music workshop and musical performances throughout the year

and ANY excuse to sizzle a sausage at ANY event in the name of fundraising!

Thank you for all you do!



For more information on any P&C programs including music enrolements and the second hand uniform store

OR to join the fun P&C team

and make a real valuable difference to our school community, just scan the QR code here.



BPS after hours 2025



The kids at the ARThouse have been busy little bees this spring making wonderfully colourful tie-dyed T-shirts. This ancient technique began in India over 6,000 years ago. It was called "Bandhna" which means to tie or bond in Sanskrit.

The Kids At The
ARThouse runs an
afterschool art program at
Birchgrove Public on
Tuesdays and
Wednesdays from 3pm to
5pm.

Enrolments for 2026 are now open. Please TXT Sabina on 0403 768 282 to enrol.







The programs above are offered by third party companies utilising BPS facilities. Birchgrove Public School is not directly affiliated with and does not endorse any events, services or products represented.

BPS after hours 2025





Level 1 30A George St. Burwood 2134 Office: (02) 9745 1170

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion!

Coaching for students at Birchgrove Public School is held on Fridays from 8:00am to 9:00am, starting on 17 October 2025. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment.

Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Each student in the Chess program will also receive access to Chess Squad (https://www.chesssquad.com/) which is an online teaching/playing platform.

If your child is interested in taking part in the class, please email office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com for an enrolment form.

For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.



VIP Music - Bringing music culture to primary schools since 1984



es are held outside normal school hours (Monday to Saturday) in 18 centres across NSW. Classes commence on Monday 10th February 2025 The annual program provides each student with 37 weeks of quality Italian lessons, a textbook and interactive activities starting from \$595. As a registered provider of the Creative Kids Program you can redeem you voucher whe enrol in our program. For less than \$9 per hour students engage in fun educati hour, students engage in fun, educational ences that allow them to explore the wonders asses cater for:
Children aged 5 to 17 currently enrolled in a day school;
All levels from absolute beginners to advanced learners.

About the curriculum and the teachers **How to enrol**

Italian classes are run 3.30 – 5.30 pm Tuesdays, (supervision from 3.00pm). If your child is interested, please contact Casa d'Italia directly.

The programs above are offered by third party companies utilising BPS facilities. Birchgrove Public School is not directly affiliated with and does not endorse any events, services or products represented.

Dept of Education Notice

NSW Department of Education



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents and carers

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and requiarly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time

- ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents

What if my child had to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may

- · Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious
 holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance e.g. attending a funeral.



education.nsw.gov.au Compulsory sch

Compulsory school attendance - English 1

NSW Department of Education

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to lilness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principat. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's

My child won't go to school, what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Llaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

 Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

· Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Telephone interpreter service

Please contact the school if you would like more information. If you need interpreter assistance to contact the school, please call ISI 450, let Ihem what language you need and ask the operator to phone the school. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

education.nsw.gov.au

Compulsory school attendance - English 2



Contact us and useful links

Please contact the school with any queries:

Phone: 02 9810 2469

Email: birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

You can find important updates and further information on our website,

via the Sentral app, and the BPS Facebook page:

Website: https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/

Facebook: @BirchgrovePS



NSW school term dates inc. Staff Development Days (pupil free)

Camp Australia before and after school care: Phone: 1300 105 343

The School Canteen: An external company supplying canteen service to our school Thus-Fri each week.

Extended Leave form: To apply for leave beyond what is available in the school holiday periods please fill and return this form for Principal approval prior to travel:

Administration of medication at school: Information and paperwork required for support at school

Prior Birchgrove Buzz Newsletters

BPS P&C contacts and sponsors

BPS P&C contacts and further information, including the second-hand uniform store, can be found on the BPS P&C website here.

or by scanning the QR code below. Our P&C would like to thank our local sponsors for their ongoing support.





