



BLUE MOUNTAINS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2019 End of Term 2 Letter - Preparatory School

Dear Parents and Carers

Term 2 has been a wonderful time of learning and adventure at the Preparatory School. Thank you all for your continued support of the School and our students and for partnering with us as we continue to collaborate and connect as a community. Term 2 has seen the students participate in a wide range of events beginning with our involvement in the ANZAC Service in Springwood and the Service held at the School. We then had the P.I.E. Productions performance at our Wentworth Falls campus, the Mother's Day stall and breakfast, NAPLAN testing for Year 3, National Simultaneous Story time in Library, a Responsible Pet Visit for our Pre K to Year 2 students, the Athletics Carnival for Years 2-6, Pyjama Day to raise funds for Asthma Australia, a visit for everyone from Healthy Harold and the Life Education team and finally, the Preparatory School disco.

Vacation Care and Code Camp

During the upcoming holidays we are launching our new Vacation Care program, for students from both our Preparatory and Junior School campuses. The program will be operated on our Wentworth Falls campus with transport from the Valley Heights campus for the first week (Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July) and for the last few days (Monday 22 July – Tuesday 23 July) of the holidays. Also on our Wentworth Falls campus we will be hosting a Code Camp from Monday 15 July to Tuesday 16 July for Year 3-6 students from both campuses and for external students. If you would like to avail yourselves of one of these holiday opportunities, or indeed have questions about any of the aforementioned events, please contact the School for further information.

Changes to Sport Days and Gymnastics Program

During Term 3 a team from 'School Gymnastics' will run an exciting eight week program at the Preparatory School. This means that all students will be required to wear their Sport uniform on Tuesday and Wednesday for the duration of Term 3. It is also important to note that the program will begin on the first day of Term 3, Wednesday, 24 July and students will need to come to School in their Sport uniform ready to dive straight in.

School Leadership

The School is growing consistency in the structure of student leadership between its three campuses. For the Preparatory School that will mean the establishment of a Sustainability and Wellbeing portfolio from the beginning of Term 3. Further discussions are also in train in regards to how to enhance the leadership opportunities for our students.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent/teacher interviews will be held at the Preparatory School on Wednesday, 7 August from 3:15pm to 8:00pm. The purpose of these interviews is to meet with staff in relation to your child's progress, discuss any matters relating to the Semester 1 academic report and raise any other questions or concerns. On this evening, parents will also be able to book a time to meet with me should they should they have any commendations, questions, concerns, feedback, or any other matters they would like to discuss. Information on booking interview times will be sent to families in Week 1 of Term 3.



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Uniform

Thank you for your support of School guidelines with regard to uniform. The School believes that a high standard of dress, applied consistently, allows the students to maintain focus on their learning. Your diligence with these requirements at home will foster an effective partnership that supports our core focus of keeping learning at the forefront of what we do. Uniform guidelines can be found in the School Diary and in the Preparatory School Handbook.

Please be advised that during Term 3, all students in K-4 must wear Full Winter Uniform. Please ensure that all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with his/her name. Blazers are a mandatory part of the Full Winter Uniform and must be worn to and from School. Students must also be wearing a blue brimmed School hat whenever they are outdoors. Spare hats are available from Reception if a student forgets to bring his/her hat; however, these are an interim and not a substitute measure. All School clothes must be clean, tidy and in good repair. A note from a parent/carer outlining the reason for the alternate attire must cover any variation to the prescribed School uniform.

Boys' hair must be neat, tidy, off the collar and eyes and cut to be clear of the face. Girls' hair, if long, should be well groomed and tied back in an appropriate manner. Hair ties should be dark blue or matching the School uniform. No student should have an extreme hair colour or style and hair colour should appear natural. Girls may wear one small set of silver or gold studs or sleepers. Nail polish and make-up are not to be worn.

School Reports

School reports have been published and can be found on the Parent Portal. Please contact Preparatory Reception if you require assistance accessing the Portal and we will be happy to assist you.

School Banking

The Preparatory School participates in the School Banking Program operated by the Commonwealth Bank. We would like to extend our thanks to Ms Kerin Singleton for all the time that she has contributed to administering this program, as a volunteer, for the past 18 months. From the beginning of Semester 2, the program administration will be taken over by Mr David Sommerville. If you would like more information or would like to participate in the program, please see Preparatory Reception.

EFTPOS Payments

Preparatory School Reception is now able to offer parents the option of making payments via EFTPOS. This facility may be used to purchase items from the Uniform Shop and pay for things such as co-curricular clubs, Preparatory School events and excursions as well as P&F events.

Book Week 2019

The theme for Book Week 2019 is 'Reading is my Secret Power'. We will be holding our Book Week parade at the Preparatory School on Wednesday, 21 August (Week 5, Term 3). Holidays are a great time to begin thinking about costumes!



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Dates for Your Diary

Please take note of the separate list of Dates for all Preparatory and Junior School Families for Term 3. Where unanticipated events occur during the term we will notify you as details are confirmed.

Salutation

Term 2 has flown by so quickly and was filled with many events and activities. The staff and I hope that during the upcoming break you will all take time to rest, reflect and safely enjoy the holidays. We look forward to continuing to work together to build and maintain meaningful partnerships throughout Semester 2.

Yours sincerely

Alicia Brace
Head of Preparatory School

Information from this point forward applies to all three campuses

Important Whole-School Dates

Wed 24 Jul	Start of Term 3
Fri 2 Aug	Whole School Music Concert, Cuff Hall, 6:00pm to 8:30pm
Tue 20 Aug	P&F General Meeting held at the Preparatory Campus
Sat 24 Aug	Parents' and Friends' Association Annual Trivia Night, Cuff Hall, 6:30pm to 10:30pm
Fri 27 Sep	Valedictory Day
Fri 27 Sep	End of Term 3

Term Dates

Mon 14 Oct	Start of Term 4
Wed 4 Dec	End of Term 4

Please note that 2020 term dates can be found on the School's website



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Community Surveys

Blue Mountains Grammar is an excellent school and is committed to improvement and innovation focused on the needs of every individual in our community. To enable us to better understand the School, review and reflect on current practices, and better appraise the effectiveness of our School improvement efforts we must be committed to listening to the feedback we already receive, as well as instituting further means of collecting regular and ongoing feedback. One way we will do this is through annual School stakeholder surveys.

For this reason, I am excited to announce our School's participation in the Association of Independent Schools NSW (AISNSW) Perspectives suite of surveys. This is a school-wide industry standard survey tool intended to provide all staff, all parents and guardians, all students in Years 5-12, School leaders, and Board members with the opportunity to assist in the growth and development of our whole School community. The surveys focus on five important domains: School Environment, Teaching and Learning, Student Wellbeing, Leadership, and Community. Gathering information about these areas will be of significant benefit to us as a community to help identify our School's strengths as well as any opportunities for improvement, as we seek to ensure we are meeting the needs of all. Details about accessing the survey, data security, and confidentiality will be sent to parents by email.

I encourage every member of our community to engage with the Perspectives survey during Weeks 2 and 3 of Term 3. Should you have any questions please contact the Perspectives Liaison, Janine Hanrahan in the Coorah Office or at perspectives@bmgns.nsw.edu.au.

Whole School Music Concert

Our students and their Music teachers have been eagerly rehearsing numerous items in preparation for the Whole School Music Concert on Friday 2 August commencing at 6:00pm. Students performing in the various ensembles have been given information pertaining to this event, and we hope that many families will be able to join us in Cuff Hall for this wonderfully entertaining evening. This concert is the children's opportunity to showcase their musicality and it is hoped that families will stay until the conclusion of the event (about 8:00pm) as a mark of respect for the student performers.

Parents' and Friends' Association Annual Trivia Night

Our Parents' and Friends' Association is a wonderful supporter of the School. A favourite annual event is the Trivia Night held in Cuff Hall on Saturday 24 August. The theme for the evening is Cartoons, Caricatures and Comics, so come along and dress up in theme. You may even win a prize for best dressed or best table. Get together with friends, form a table of eight, and challenge yourself to a fun night of competition and community.

Student Leadership

Students are at the heart of our School; their insight and enthusiasm bring energy and authenticity to School life and thus the School is committed to providing them with opportunities to progressively develop skills in leadership, beginning in the Preparatory and Junior Schools and continuing into the Senior School. Through the various leadership roles made available to students we provide them with meaningful opportunities to make positive changes to their peer's lives, to School life, and to society. As such, the school is progressively developing opportunities for our students to lead student culture in activities that align with their own interests and with the School's core commitments in areas such as learning, wellbeing, and sustainability. Opportunities available at each campus will evolve over the coming years.



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Smart Devices

Smart Devices include tablets, mobile phones and smart watches, all of which are a part of modern life, and whilst there are risks associated with them, they have many potential benefits, including the improvement of communication and safety. The School is committed to providing students with a safe and highly engaging learning environment and recognises that smart devices offer great value for some educational activities and so the School wants to provide students age appropriate guidelines for their use. The School intends to partner with families to progressively teach students to use these devices responsibly as they grow. Students in the Preparatory and Junior Schools will continue to be expected to keep any smart devices in their school bags or at Student Reception.

Commencing next term, students in Years 7 and 8 will be required to keep any smart devices secured in lockers between 8:30am and 3:00pm, whilst students in Years 9 and 10 will place smart devices in tubs provided by teachers during lessons. For Year 11 and 12 students there is an expectation that they will regulate their own use of smart devices under the supervision of teachers. All students are asked not to use smart devices for entertainment during breaks. In the event a student does not follow these guidelines, their smart device will be placed in Student Reception and collected by the student at the end of the day. Repeated use outside guidelines will lead to communication with parents and carers.

Change of Student Leave Arrangement

The School's leave procedures previously required parents to apply to the Headmaster for leave for any planned student absences. From the start of Term 3, applications are to be directed to the administrators in each School. Heads of School will approve short absences and refer extended or overseas absences (requiring a School application form) to the Headmaster for his approval and the issue of a Certificate of Extended Leave, as required by the NSW Premier. If the children are in more than one School, email to one of the administrators and they will liaise with other relevant staff. In such cases School administrators will provide approvals separately. The relevant email addresses are as follows:

prepschool@bmgms.nsw.edu.au
juniorschool@bmgms.nsw.edu.au
absencess@bmgms.nsw.edu.au

Alumni Events

The School organises a range of annual and periodic events for its alumni and some of these will take place in Term 3. On Saturday 17 August we will hold a 10 Year reunion for the class of 2009 and on Saturday 21 September we will host the annual Alumni Reunion Day to which all Alumni are welcome. Both of these events will be held at the Wentworth Falls campus. We encourage Alumni to stay connected to the School's Facebook page and website, where information regarding these events will be published.

Keep Informed

Our primary means of communication with parents is via our newsletter, published every Friday during term time, providing parents with regular news and updates as to the happenings at School. Accessing the Parent Portal is another excellent way to keep in touch with events at the School, or to locate a required form or information letter. Please avail yourself of any or all of these methods to keep in touch, and always feel free to contact Reception with any queries.



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Keep Us Informed

Parents have many options by which they can communicate with the School, however if parents are unsure, or if other channels do not seem to be working, a School has introduced a new option. Parents with feedback, either positive or negative, and parents with questions, are encouraged to email us at our new email address:

feedback@bmgns.nsw.edu.au

This could be a commendation about our beautifully behaved students on the train, or a question about where to locate a particular form, or a complaint that you have not had a reply from the Headmaster having called the School three times. Our commitment is that once you email us through this address, our administrative team will respond during normal business hours. Of course this will require users to provide us with their name, and if we don't have contact details, a telephone number also.

The Term 3 School Calendar of Events follows

Term 3 Dates

Pre-K – Year 6 Families



Blue Mountains
Grammar School

This schedule contains important dates for students from the Preparatory (P) and Junior (J) School campuses.

Date	P	J	Event
M1 - F5 Jul	Y	Y	Vacation Care at the Wentworth Falls Campus; 8:00am – 5:00pm
M15 – T16 Jul	Y	Y	Code Camp at the Wentworth Falls Campus; 8:30am – 3:30pm
M22 - T23 Jul	Y	Y	Vacation Care at the Wentworth Falls Campus; 8:00am – 5:00pm
Wed 24 Jul	Y	Y	Term 3 commences
Tue 30 Jul		Y	IPSHA Performing Arts Festival Rehearsal, Ascham School Edgecliff; 8:00am – 4:00pm
Fri 2 Aug	Y	Y	Whole School Music Concert, Cuff Hall; 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Wed 7 Aug	Y		Preparatory School Parent-Teacher Interviews; 3:15pm – 8:00pm
Sun 11 Aug	Y		Vietnam Veterans Day March, Springwood
M12– F16 Aug		Y	Science Week Celebrations, Junior School
Wed 14 Aug			IPSHA Performing Arts Festival, Sydney Town Hall; 6:45pm – 8:00pm
Thu 16 Aug		Y	WAS Athletics Carnival, Scots All Saints College, Bathurst
Tue 20 Aug		Y	Write A Book In A Day, Selected Students, JS Library; 8:00am – 6:00pm
Tue 20 Aug	Y	Y	General P&F Meeting held at the Preparatory Campus
Wed 21 Aug	Y		Book Week Book Parade, Preparatory School
Tue 22 Aug		Y	Pre-K STEPS Vision Screening
Tue 22 Aug		Y	Book Week Parade and Author Visit, Junior School Library
Sat 24 Aug	Y	Y	Parents' and Friends' Association Annual Trivia Night, Cuff Hall; 6:30pm – 10:30pm
Mon 26 Aug	Y		Pre-K Stay and Play Morning, Preparatory School; 9:00am – 11:00am
Wed 28 Aug		Y	HICES Athletics Carnival, Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC), Homebush
Thu 29 Aug	Y	Y	Early Learning Sports Carnival at the Preparatory School
Thurs 29 Aug	Y		P&F Father's Day Stall, Preparatory School
Fri 30 Aug		Y	P&F Fathers' Day Stall, Junior School
Fri 30 Aug	Y		P&F Fathers' Day Breakfast, Preparatory School
Fri 30 Aug		Y	Tour de Montagnes Bleues, Junior School; 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sat 31 Aug		Y	Tournament of Minds Regional Competition, Western Sydney University; 7:30am – 5:30pm
M2-W4 Sep		Y	Stage 3 Canberra Trip
Fri 6 Sep	Y	Y	P&F Combined Prep & Junior School Bowling Night
Mon 9 Sep	Y		Preparatory School Book-a-Tour Morning
M9-W11 Sep		Y	Life Education, PK-Year 6, Junior School; 8:30am – 3:00pm
Thu 12 Sep	Y		Tour-de-Vallee, Preparatory School
Thu 12 Sep		Y	CIS Athletics Carnival, Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC), Homebush
Sat 14 Sep	Y		Preparatory School Open Morning
Sun 15 Sep	Y		Tournament of Minds State Finals, University of NSW; 7.30am – 5.30pm
Mon 16 Sep	Y	Y	Year 5 2020 Information Night, Junior School; 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wed 18 Sep		Y	Early Learning Stay and Play Day, Junior School; 9:00am – 11:00am
Thu 19 Sep		Y	Parent-Teacher Interviews Pre-K & K, Student Led Conferences Years 1-6, Junior School
Fri 20 Sep		Y	P&F Mexican Fiesta Disco, Junior School
Wed 25 Sep		Y	Years 5/6 PA Class Soiree
Thu 26 Sep	Y		Compassion Mufti Day, Preparatory School
Fri 27 Sep	Y	Y	Valedictory Day
Fri 27 Sep	Y	Y	End of Term 3