

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Newsletter

Vol 27, 13th October, 2017

Growing up with us...

... means challenging yourself



FROM THE HEADMASTER

A New Term

Welcome back to all students, staff and families for Term 4 2017. I trust that everyone was able to enjoy a restful break.

Bungawarra Walk – Our community In Action

Last Saturday's Bungawarra Walk was a great community event – an event that makes a big difference to the lives of others. Approximately 190 students, staff and parents met at School at 5.30am for the start of the walk. They were ably supported by close to 50 parents and staff who used their cars as support vehicles and helped out at the various check points along the way. Although it was a long day, all reported that they found it most enjoyable with many comments about how positive the day had been.

Pictured right: Mr. George Vergotis, Mr. Nick Foster and Mr. Trevor Barman.



Mr Nick Foster and Mr George Vergotis, who were the main organisers of the day, are anticipating that more than \$10,000 dollars will be raised by our students for projects locally and overseas in Uganda, Indonesia, Fiji and Leura. This money is able to assist greatly in building various facilities and providing resources to these communities. Previous funds have been used to help build accommodation in orphanages and erect school buildings at Ibulanku in Uganda; to build a generator for Maleke Island School in Fiji that previously didn't have power; plumbing to provide fresh water was also



installed. In Indonesia, funds have been used to provide support for mothers and their babies to help decrease child mortality through medical assistance, pre and post-natal care, food and education. Funds have also been used to assist with the construction of specially designed wheel-chairs for use by patients at Leura Disability Services. When our students and their families have visited and worked with these communities, it has enabled them to form strong relationships and see first-hand how our contributions have been used.

Clearly the funds raised by our students have and will continue to have an impact on the local and wider global community. In modern society, it is important to remind ourselves of the importance of giving, not only in terms of money but also time. Some people are content with what they have. Others are in despair because they have so little. Through giving we help to bridge the gap. We are fortunate that so many of our students, parents and staff are willing to support those who are in need.

I would like to commend all involved last Saturday and thank those who provided support to ensure that the day would be such a success, in particular, Mr Nick Foster and Mr George Vergotis.

Year 12, 2017

We wish our Year 12 students all the very best as they commence their HSC Exams at the beginning of next week.

If the showcases of HSC works and projects viewed at School towards the end of last term are indicative of their level of commitment, enthusiasm and effort as a year group, we can look forward to more excellent achievements in the weeks to come.

Watching our Year 12 students interact at various functions leading up to and during Valedictory Week, both within and outside the School, confirmed that our aim to develop people of conscience, courage, compassion and integrity, who are challenged to make a difference to the community and the world, has been achieved. In particular, their focus over those final few weeks to raise funds for the Save Our Children Fund, the RSPCA and the Senior School Bathroom Project on Wellbeing indicated their willingness to think of others.

We hope our Year 12 students maintain their connection with the School and we look forward to hearing of their personal journeys over the years to come.

Pedestrian Crossings and School Zone Speed Limits Matcham Avenue

A reminder to parents of students in the Senior School to be aware of the Children's Crossing outside the Junior School in Matcham Avenue, to allow for the safe passage of parents with young children who use the crossing before and after school.

There are two further pedestrian crossings on which students have right of way; adjacent to the main gates and adjacent to the Sports Centre car park.

The speed limit is 40kmh in Matcham Avenue and 10kmh inside the School grounds.

NSW Constitutional Convention

Congratulations to Claire Gillman, in Year 11, who has been selected to participate in the New South Wales Schools Constitutional Convention at Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, on Monday, 6th November 2017.

As places are very keenly contested, this is a great achievement for Claire.

Massive Murray Paddle

A number of our students and parents will be participating in this paddling event to raise funds to assist local community-driven programs. It runs from Monday 20th to Friday 24th November from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill on the NSW/Victoria Border.

There are very limited places still available.

Further details from Mr Gregg Borschmann, who is the lead organiser for this event for BMGS, are provided within this edition of the BMGS Weekly Bulletin.

Trevor Barman
Headmaster

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Once upon a time (as all good fairy tales start) there was a happy group of people who lived in the country of Incognita. They were good humoured and known to enjoy a joke. They were also well renowned for giving everyone a fair go, regardless of their background or status. Mind you, they didn't take kindly to people who 'put on airs' or were too 'stuck up'. But they had an endearing willingness to not take themselves too seriously and to laugh at themselves (as well as others). They greeted everyone, even complete strangers, as if they were good friends and began all conversations with best wishes for the quality of the other person's day.

Many of the inhabitants of this land engaged in a popular activity which required two teams to build a bridge over the chasm that cut through the land. One team would work on the Eastern side of the chasm using the vines of the Venas tree (that were very flexible), which only grew in the East, and the other team would work on the Western side of the chasm using the wood of the Ares tree (that was very strong), which only grew in the West. When the two teams met in the middle, they would share their materials, strengthening the Eastern side's efforts with Ares wood and providing flexibility to the Western side's efforts with Venas vines. The finished bridge would share the best qualities of both teams and, while it stood, the bridge benefited each community (even those who didn't build it).

Then, one day, some of the people argued that the bridge could just be built of Venas vines, others stated that the bridge could just be built with Ares wood and although the majority of people continued to build their bridges out of a combination, alternative bridges were constructed as well. People referred to these alternate bridges as Ares bridges or Venas bridges (depending on the material), but people recognised that there were noticeable differences between Venas bridges, Ares bridges and the traditional bridges.

This was fine until some of the alternate bridge builders demanded that the government made a law stating that all bridges were exactly the same (even though they were made of different materials); that there was no difference and henceforth they should not be considered 'alternate'. Some argued that they were all just different ways of bridging the chasm, some argued that combined materials made the best bridges, the alternate group called the traditional group bigoted and discriminatory, the traditional group accused the alternate group of being divisive and threatening the stability of the society, some accused others of hate speech and some refused to allow their opponents to speak at all, even threatening them with legal action.

Now there was a new division throughout the land and, rather than trying to bridge their differences, each side demanded that the other side join them or be considered inhumane (and a combination of even harsher descriptions). While there were some reasonable voices on both sides, they were drowned out by a rising tide of anger, blame, abuse and condemnation.

And nobody noticed what had really happened, what they had all *really* lost: Incognita was no longer a land of happy, good humoured people who didn't take themselves too seriously. Strangers were no longer considered good friends, no one wished anyone else a good day and no one remembered that they were all, equally, citizens of Incognita, regardless of their views.

"If you love only the people who love you, what praise should you get? Even sinners love the people who love them... But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without hoping to get anything back. Then you will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God, because He is kind even to people who are ungrateful and full of sin," (Luke 6:32, 35).

Next Monday (9:00am - 9:35am) there will be a special service for Year 12 students before they start their first exam at 10:20am. This will be a time of prayer and support for our HSC students with the opportunity to have communion as well. Parents and other supporters are most welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided at the conclusion of the service.

A. Dane

FROM THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Our final General Meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 14th November, in Coorah (Senior School) at 7:30pm. Parents from all campuses are warmly invited to attend the meeting, which will have a particular focus on the events planned for our Centenary next year.

Duncan Barrell

Chair, Parents' and Friends' Association

dba23266@bigpond.net.au

FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD – HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Strong Minds and Strong Hearts

Welcome to Term 4. I hope the holidays have served each family well with the rest, reflection, relaxation and rejuvenation needed as three terms of the school year were completed. As we draw closer to the conclusion of the school year and the end of another year of outstanding learning opportunities I would like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication and assiduity that our students and staff have shown, working in partnership to help each young person grow a strong mind and a strong heart.

I have been recently undertaking a course through the *Queensland University of Technology* on '**Leadership for turbulent times**'. This course is designed to help leaders across a myriad of spheres in society to better understand the global shifts of instability, change and the fourth industrial revolution'. Out of this course has come many thoughts on how we can better equip students to be able to adjust, stay afloat and confidently navigate their way to living in their passions and areas of personal gifting, whilst creating a better world around them.

Thinking deeply and richly about this has led to further investigation into how we can as a community continue to help young people have the following two traits:

Strong Minds - BMGS students becoming the thought leaders of tomorrow.

The essence of a strong mind is not just a strong intellect or robust intelligence but a mind that is able to articulate, create, perceive and adjust as needed and be resilient. It has been such a pleasure this year to see how students are encouraged, coached and equipped in different subject areas and school initiatives by staff to train their minds to become strong.

Strong Hearts - BMGS students become the leaders in renewal and restoration in society.

Speaking with Year 12 students individually last term on their aspirations and ideas for their future, a large majority spoke of how they wanted their future and lives to influence the space of 'heart' issues within society. They had passion to make changes in areas such as constitutional changes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, youth homelessness, the Syrian conflict, the Mental Health of young Australians and numerous issues around human rights.

As we continue to grow together towards the end of the year, it is my prayer that each student will have the ability to be encouraged in their mind and heart and that we will see the students who leave our School at the end of Year 12 go on to become the **thought leaders of tomorrow**, influencing each sphere of society.

All the best for the Term ahead.

A. Osborne

FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC

Encore

Thomas Weaver, who studied the HSC Music 1 Course, and Diana Babajanyan, who studied HSC Music 2 and Extension, have had their HSC Music Performance programs nominated for Encore. Encore, the annual concert held at the Sydney Opera House, showcases a selection of exemplary performances and compositions presented for the HSC. Congratulations to both Tom and Diana on this wonderful achievement.

Co-Curricular Music

A reminder that it is essential students attend all rehearsals this term in preparation for the various end of year functions including Presentation Evening.

Choral Performance

Abraham Darley (Year 11) performed in the Gondwana Choirs' "Songs of My Country" concert, with Sydney Young Men's Choir combined with the Vienna Boys' Choir, Gondwana Indigenous Choir and Sydney Children's Choir at the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday, 10th October.

Soiree #3

Our final Soiree of 2017 will be held on Tuesday 14th November in the Recital Room from 7:00pm. If you are keen to perform, please come to the Music Office and add your name to the program!

Diary Dates:

Soiree #3: Tuesday, 14th November 2017, 7:00pm
Presentation Evening: (including afternoon rehearsal) Wednesday, 6th December, 2017

D. Smith

FROM THE HEAD OF HUMANITIES

Weekly Quiz

The Email Quiz is back for Term 4. The prize is still the ever popular \$5 canteen voucher. Check your student email account for a question based on the history of Blue Mountains Grammar and join the 24 people who have already entered. The winner will be drawn at random next Tuesday and, if they have the correct answer, may be enjoying some delicious goodies from the canteen that lunch time!

Year 7

Students have started to learn about Water and the World. To commence the unit of study we have looked at our local situation with the aid of Jenny and Emma from the Blue Mountains City Council, understanding that water is essential to this magnificent World Heritage Area in which we live. Did you know that the Jamison Creek catchment is unique in the Blue Mountains as the only catchment which stretches both north and south of the Great Western Highway?

J. Madgwick

FROM THE LEARNING ENRICHMENT DEPARTMENT

A reminder that I will be in the Library Resource Centre (LRC) on Tuesday this term after School. This after school assistance is for homework help, however can also include help in organising a study plan or just general assistance in organising your workload.

If you are interested in attending, it is a great idea to contact me on email almichielsen@bmg.s.nsw.edu.au so that I can prepare best for the time spent together.

A. Michielsen



CAREERS NEWS

Website

Careers information for students is available on the BMGS Careers FROG Learning Management website. This website is accessible by all students and staff in the Senior School. Here you will find the link to the MHS Careers website, which provides an extensive careers information service. Can't access FROG? Please see Mr Huxley for technical help.

Library Resource Centre (LRC)

In the Library Resource Centre there is a self-serve Careers corner for your use. Here you can find the Handbooks from the various universities. You are welcome to take these books home! On the notice board you will find a copy of the weekly MHS Careers newsletter.

This week in the mail

For Year 12 students, this week we have details regarding free courses for students enrolling in CSU. For Year 11 students, this week we have information about a \$20,000 scholarship at WSU (for a current high achieving academic student in Year 11 who wants to study at WSU in 2019) and ADFA calling for applications from students doing the HSC in 2018. For Year 10 and 11 students, there is an invitation to study at Cambridge University for a short period of time, a link which contains information about becoming an architect in NSW, a web page where you can read about the career of a Cyber Security Consultant, maybe you will enter the NSW Young Achiever Awards, look at the information about jobs in Woolworths, in medicine or read a comparison between a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist.

Discussing your options

Send an email to jmadgwick@bmgs.nsw.edu.au to arrange a time to meet and discuss your career options.

Looking forward to:

The BMGS Careers Expo on the morning of 15th November, 2017 in Cuff Hall. All are welcome – Years 10 and 11 have class time set aside to attend and the visitors from universities, TAFE and UAC will also be available during recess to other years. Year 12 students are more than welcome to come to school and attend the Expo too! More details will be available closer to the date.

J. Madgwick

ANNUAL 45KM WALK TO BUNGAWARRA

190 participants enjoyed a fantastic day on Saturday, 7th October, on our annual BMGS to Bungawarra 45km Charity Walk.

The walkers set off at 6:00am from the School in quite cold temperatures. This led to a cracking pace though, set by Paddy Trihey (Year 12) at the front of the group. As the day warmed up, muscles got sore and blisters grew in size but the feats of endurance continued with the walkers finishing between 1:00pm and 5:00pm in the afternoon.



Of course, this event would not run without the generous support of parents, friends of the School and teachers who all donate their time on the day to be at checkpoints, mark out the course and provide encouragement and supplies to the participants.

This is a real community event and this year, we also were fortunate to have Mr. Ron Simpson and his Rapid Relief Team provide morning tea and lunch for the event. They volunteered their time after hearing about the event and both food stops ran very smoothly throughout the day. Our thanks go to Ron and his team for their help this year.

Special thanks to Mr. George Vergotis who manages the event on the day. It is a pleasure to work with George as he is impeccably organised and nothing is too difficult. He was even able to somehow organise a water truck to water the dirt road to Centennial Glen so that it was not too dusty for the participants. Thank you, George.

Of course the Walk is not over until the last sponsorship dollar is collected, so can I encourage you to collect and bring your sponsorship money to Coorah by 20th October.

Thanks again to everyone involved and I hope you can join us again next year.

N. Foster



FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

Due to personal circumstances the Uniform Shop will be closed on Tuesday, 17th October, but will open on Wednesday, 18th October from 8:15am to 1:45pm. I apologise for any inconvenience.

K. Arrell

MASSIVE MURRAY PADDLE (MMP)

The Massive Murray Paddle (MMP) is an amazing, annual five-day outdoor education adventure and paddling race on the Murray River that aims to 'connect people, river and country'. It is a charity event that raises funds to assist local community-driven programs.

Each year, since 1968, hundreds of individual kayakers, relay teams, schools and community groups from around Australia have paddled the Murray River, from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill, covering a distance of 404km over five days.

This year the event will be held from 20th to 24th November (inclusive).

BMGS has entered teams in the event since 2013. This year, the School has again registered a team of 20 students and 20 parents.

There are very limited places still available so please talk to your son or daughter about whether you would like to be part of the action this year!

BMGS participation in the MMP is parent driven with strong support from the School, including the participation of at least one supervising teacher.

The majority of our paddlers have no experience, but everyone has fun and we all learn a lot about ourselves, and each other, and raise some very worthwhile funds for community projects along the way.

Each day on the river is divided into four legs. A normal day's kayaking for a relay paddler is one leg of 20-30 km. It takes approx. two to three hours to complete each leg (depending on how fast the river is flowing, and how fast the crew are paddling). It is a challenge but not impossible, even for a novice! We paddle past tall river red gums, quiet billabongs and sweeping bends, with flocks of screeching cockatoos for company. Each evening, we camp at beautiful riverside locations along the way.

For further details, an information brochure can be downloaded from the School's website via: http://www.bmgs.nsw.edu.au/files/Article_images/2017%20-%20MMR%20Information%20Report.pdf

To book your place, please contact Mr David Horwood via Coorah Reception (02) 4757 9000 or direct by email: dhorwood@bmgs.nsw.edu.au

Gregg Borschmann
MMP Organiser

DEANE HOUSE FUNDRAISER

Deane House is once again supporting Bandana Day for CanTeen.

This year, the day falls on Friday, 27th October 27. On that day, the students will be allowed to wear Mufti (for a gold coin donation) and Deane Year 12 students will be selling a selection of Bandanas for \$5 each.

A. O'Doherty

FROM THE HEAD OF SPORT

Welcome back to a new and busy term with pre-season games commencing this weekend for our Firsts teams. The First V Boys' Basketball team will be competing in the pre-season tournament at Oakhill College and the First V Girls' Basketball will be doing the same at Sydney University.

The First XI Cricket squad is taking part in the Pink Day at St Patrick's College at Strathfield.

Although this is a short term, we still have six weeks of games ahead for our summer sports. Please note that due to the Years 7-9 Drama Production during Round 6, all games have been arranged to be played at home to ensure students meet **BOTH** their commitment to their summer sport as well as to the production.

Summer Sports

The training schedule for 2017/18 summer sports is set out below. Training times have been set to work around school-based activities. Please ensure that your son/daughter is available to attend all training and games.

How will you style your support this October?
Buy a \$5 bandanna

www.bandannaday.com.au

canteen | national bandanna day | friday 27 oct

Students are required to wear School gear for training and may only leave the School in school shorts/polo or full School tracksuit. If training gear is not correct students are required to change back into their full School uniform.

A number of students have not returned their bus pickup form to their manager/MIC. This needs to be returned this week so that rolls can be compiled for AWAY games. If, on a given day, a student needs to be at a different location to that stated on their note, they must bring a note stating this change of drop off/pick up.

If a student wishes to go home with someone other than their own parents, once again a note must be given to the MIC to allow this. I thank you for your support in these matters as the safety of your children is our priority.

Uniforms

Sports uniforms will be arriving at the Uniform Shop over the next week. These will not be distributed to students unless payment has been received. A reminder that the Uniform Shop is open each Monday from 8.15am to 3.30pm and each Tuesday, from 8.15am to 1.45pm.

Uniforms will be required for Round 1 on Saturday 21st October, so please ensure you have collected your uniform by this date.

Summer Sport Training Schedule 2017

	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Court 1	3:15pm- 4:45pm	5/6 Boys Basketball	14B Boys' Basketball Junior C Girls	14 and 17 years Boys Basketball	13 and 15 years Boys' Basketball	5/6 Girls' Basketball
Court 1	5:00pm - 7:00pm		First V Girls' Basketball	First V Boys' Basketball		
Court 2	3:15pm - 4:45pm	3/4 Girls' & Boys' Basketball	Open C and Intermediate A Girls' Basketball	Junior B Girls Basketball	Open B and Junior A Girls' Basketball	3/4 Girls' and Boys' Basketball
Ziele Oval	3:15pm - 4:45pm	Cricket			Cricket	
Junior School Oval					Cricket	

Canteen

A canteen roster will be sent to all parents once game times have been set for the season. It would be greatly appreciated if you could give an hour during the season to assist in the canteen.

Team App

Many players and parents have joined Team App over the school holidays. If you have not already done so you are encouraged to join as this is an excellent tool for up to date information regarding changes to anything in the sporting calendar.



If you did not receive a copy of the email with the instructions attached for installation of the app, could you please email me on mharris@bmgns.nsw.edu.au and I will send you a copy.

This app has been very good in reducing the need for constant emails when changes are made to game times or games are cancelled. Once you have downloaded Team App you will be able to choose the teams that you wish to receive notifications about. For example if your child plays in the 13 Years Basketball team you would choose 2017 13 Boys' Basketball for team specific notifications as well as Boys' Basketball for sport notifications such as presentation night info etc.

This is a more effective way to communicate with our sporting community and hope that this will make life easier for everybody.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding sport at BMGS.

M. Harris

CRICKET NEWS

On Saturday the 1st XI Cricket team will be playing the annual Pink Day for the McGrath Foundation at St Pius' playing fields at Oxford Falls. The side will be playing two T20 games against St Pius and Oakhill College.

S. Collins

FROM THE ACTING HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome back to all our families for a busy Term 4. As you are no doubt aware, Mr Cockington is having a well-earned break overseas for the duration of Term 4 and I will be Acting Head of Junior School during this time.

Welcome to the six new students starting at the Junior School this term. The first day at a new school can be daunting, so it was lovely to observe the way our current students welcomed and took care of our new students in their class.

Pancake Day

A Pancake Day fundraiser was held last term yielding a profit of \$74.35. Our thanks to the following parents who organised and co-ordinated the day: Mrs. Bonnie Mamo, Mrs. Raelene Lord, Mrs. Louise Westwood, Ms Dallas Snedden, Mrs. Justine Hampartzoumian, Mrs. Linda Emmerson and Mrs. Hayley Clifton.

Early Learning Enrichment

In Term 3, Early Learning Students enjoyed a variety of activities during our exciting 'Enrichment' sessions. Activities on offer have included 'Gnome Bridge Building', Chess, 'Creation Station', 'Baking Soda Science', Gardening, 'Ancient Egypt', 'Lego City', Dragonwood and even more Science! These groups have provided wonderful opportunities for the students to explore ideas and experience themes outside the usual curriculum and get to know students from other classes. The Early Learning Staff would like to thank all the parents involved who co-ordinated and helped with these groups, giving up so much time and thinking up such wonderful activities.

S. Goodlet

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

Due to personal circumstances the Uniform Shop will be closed on Tuesday, 17th October, but will open on Wednesday, 18th October from 8:15am to 1:45pm. I apologise for any inconvenience.

K. Arrell

FROM THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Our final General Meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 14th November, in Coorah (Senior School) at 7:30pm. Parents from all campuses are warmly invited to attend the meeting, which will have a particular focus on the events planned for our Centenary next year.

Duncan Barrell

Chair, Parents' and Friends' Association

dba23266@bigpond.net.au

FROM THE HEAD OF THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Welcome to Term 4. 'Notes for Your Diary' will be sent home shortly.

One upcoming event is the Outdoor Education Camp for Years 2 and 3 at Bungawarra. Year 2 students will travel out with Year 3 on Thursday 26th October and return the same day. Year 3 students will camp overnight and return on Friday 27th October. Bungawarra is Blue Mountains Grammar School's Outdoor Education Centre located near Hartley. Kindergarten will enjoy an excursion to the Fire Museum on Friday, 20th October.

Mrs Elissa Boros will take well-deserved Long Service Leave for the first three weeks of this term. Families, children and staff will be looked after by Miss Sally Gorman.

E. Flett

Student Awards:

Pre-Kindergarten - Sebastian Nicholls

Kindergarten – Michael Kelly, Jack Lowe and Carlia Diskin

Stage 1 – Jaiden Marsh

Stage 2 – Chase Davidsen and Zachary Filla

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – OCTOBER 2017

Friday, 13th October - All Schools' Athletics Championships (Day 2)

Friday, 13th October - Year 7 Water Excursion to Wentworth Falls Lake

Monday, 16th October - Year 12 HSC Chapel Service

Monday, 16th October to Tuesday, 7th November – HSC Examinations

Monday, 16th October – Year 10 Wilderness Education (Class 1) Practical, Mt. Boyce

Wednesday, 18th October – Year 10, Wilderness Education (Class 3) Practical, Mt. Boyce

Friday, 20th October – Kindergarten (Preparatory School) Excursion to Museum of Fire

Friday, 20th October – Year 10, Wilderness Education (Class 2) Practical, Mt. Boyce