

# Blue Mountains Grammar School

## Newsletter

Vol 29, 19th October, 2018



**Celebrating 100 Years ...**

*...of life's turning points*



***Best wishes, Year 12, for your HSC Examinations!***

## FROM THE JOINT ACTING HEAD

### The Road to Character

Last Saturday over 200 walkers and a small army of volunteers assembled in Coorah ahead of the Annual 45km Walk from the Wentworth Falls Campus to the School's Wilderness Education Centre, Bungawarra, located on the picturesque Cox's River.

There are many people who contributed greatly to the safe and smooth running of this flagship fundraising event for charitable causes. We are extremely grateful for your support throughout the day.

I would like to make special mention of Mr George Vergotis, Mr Michael Laws and Ms Emily Peters who worked tirelessly to ensure another successful event.

It was very moving to see such a large field walking along the Great Western Highway together and then see so many exhausted yet satisfied walkers at Bungawarra putting their feet up after completing this challenging event.

It seems somewhat appropriate that David Brooks' book 'The Road to Character' found its way to my bookshelf this week. Brooks, a journalist and teacher at Yale explores the inherent value of character formation. Character formation, and especially determination, resilience and supporting your friends were certainly a feature of the day



and will continue to feature in the day to day experiences of students on campus as they develop skills to live deeply fulfilling lives and achieve success within and beyond the classroom.

### **Best wishes to Year 12**

With the 2018 HSC now underway I would like to extend my best wishes to all Year 12 students as they move into their second week of exams. Many teachers have commented on just how hard students have worked to prepare for their final school examinations and I am confident this will ensure they are well placed to obtain some outstanding results which reflect the effort they have put in throughout their schooling.

**Mr A.T. Beitsch**  
Joint Acting Head

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## **FROM THE ACTING CHAPLAIN**

### **Endless Summer**

*Aloha* and a warm tropical welcome to Term 4 - hopefully the Hawaiian-shirt weather will arrive sooner rather than later.

I've always loved The Beach Boys' music and nostalgically longed to visit a time before mine - the 1950s and 60s. In some ways I know it is an illusion and the grass is always greener but life seemed simpler back then and I personally think the cars looked much better. This Summer I would love to learn how to surf on a long board and take my oldest son along with me for a cruise on some small waves breaking off one of our beautiful beaches.

This dream of sun and surf led me to think about how we are all riding on our own waves in this life despite being connected to families, communities, schools, and churches, which of course influence the directions we take. God makes it clear in the Bible that He wants our spiritual wave to lead to Him as He created us and knows what is best for His children. There are so many different stories and analogies for our journey to the Christian God including classics such as *The Lord of the Rings*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and many wonderful short stories by Flannery O'Connor to name only a few. But the image of a surfer swimming out and patiently watching, holding on tight to the board until they are confident enough to stand, and riding a thrilling wave that directs the rider, was one that stood out to me as an exciting analogy for the journey to knowing God.

In this analogy, the surfer of course is you, or me, or anyone who searches for God. The surfer's body represents our soul and is the essence of who we are. The ocean with its wild waves and mysterious depths is God. The beach is our path leading to God. The act of surfing is experiencing a relationship with God. It is not always smooth and easy but is certainly worth the ride as nothing can satisfy our souls like God can.

Surfing requires three things to happen before we can actually call ourselves surfers. First, we must know and learn about the ocean. We must then *want* to go to the ocean. Finally, we must actually go to the ocean, dive in, and let the water wash over us, direct us. Each day our joy increases as we swim in, on, and under the water. These are the three steps you have to take if you want to surf. Find out and learn about surfing, go to the beach to see what it's like, and go into the ocean to begin surfing.

This is like beginning a relationship with God. The relationship thing sounds scary but it's really quite similar to surfing if you catch my drift. First we must first hear about and then actively learn more about God. Next we have to approach God; just as you can't get to the waves without walking on the beach, you can't love God without approaching Him and talking with Him.

We must then *personally choose* to be with God, to trust in Him and have faith that He is our Father. We don't have to know everything about the ocean in order to begin surfing just as we don't need to

be theologians to love and be loved by our Creator. As the weather heats up, why don't you take a walk along the sand and dive into the cool water to discover the thrill of being with God? Or perhaps you already spiritually surf but want to frequent the beach more often? Don't hesitate to grab a board and start spiritually surfing because God is always excited for us to hang ten and spend our endless summer with Him!

L. Webb

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## FROM THE PARENTS' & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

### Diary Date:

All parents are warmly invited to our final General Meeting for the Year (Term 4) which will be held in Coorah, Senior School, on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, at 7:30pm.

Please mark in your calendars – we look forward to your company!

### Duncan Barrell

Chair, Parents' & Friends' Association

[dba23266@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dba23266@bigpond.net.au)

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## FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC

### Young Symphonists

Congratulations to Miriam Cooney (Year 11) who has been accepted into the Young Symphonists Program for 2019.

Miriam will join the country's best young musicians for a week-long residential program (13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April), in Mount Eliza, Victoria. During the course of the program musicians will attend tutorials with some of Australia's most respected tutors; and orchestral and chamber rehearsals led by conductor Richard Gill, a leading figure in music education in Australia. At the end of the program, participants will showcase their newly-honed skills in an exciting public performance in Melbourne.

Miriam has also been placed on reserve for the International Tour, reserve for the National Music Camp - Orchestral program, and reserve for the AYO February Season.

### Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing

*Vocalocity* Miriam Cooney (Year 11) and Annika Bertinat (Year 11) were featured performers at the opening ceremony of the annual ANATS (Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing), conference held at the Fairmont resort on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October. *Vocalocity* also participated in a singing workshop during the conference.

Leila Harris (Year 11) participated in the Classical Singer's Masterclass, which was conducted by the eminent Brian Gill, Associate Professor of Voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. This was a wonderful opportunity for Leila to perform and expand her knowledge of contemporary classical vocal techniques.

### Australasian Double Reed Society

Congratulations to Miriam Cooney who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Senior section of Australasian Double Reed Society Competition at the Conference which was held at Scots College in Melbourne in the holidays. This was a wonderful achievement and Miriam gained valuable experience attending Masterclasses and performances and playing for internationally acclaimed oboists.

## Diary Dates

Soiree#3 – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

D. Smith

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# FROM THE HEAD OF ZIELE HOUSE

## Stepping Out For Steptember

### Final Update

We finished our Steptember journey on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, and what a journey it was! Collectively our 15 BMGS teams stepped **eighteen million, two hundred and sixty nine thousand, seven hundred and forty eight** steps in 28 days!

The team placings were in a state of flux right up until the last minute!

1<sup>st</sup> place – BMGS Performing Arts (Staff) with 1,581,270 steps – the Performing Arts team were also the highest fundraisers

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Niesenlauf Staff (Staff) with 1,514,281 steps

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – The Step@rons (Year 12) with 1,498,066 steps

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Prep'n'Step (Staff) with 146,940 steps (coming from behind at the last minute)

By stepping our 18,269,748 steps, we ended up ranked 185<sup>th</sup> place in Australia (out of just under 800 registered organisations)! This is an outstanding effort when were up against much bigger organisations.

We also ended up raising \$4,033.50 for Cerebral Palsy research and funding! Particular mention must be made of our top three fundraising teams, Performing Arts who raised \$966.50, and two of our Year 12 Teams, The Step@rons and Walk Till We Drawp who raised almost \$1,000 between them.

I would personally like to thank everyone who came on this crazy journey; all the Steppers, those who donated, and especially Tara Shiels and Taylor Cameron (Year 12, Ziele House) who have been challenging me to sign up for the last four years. When I sent out an all staff email two months ago looking for a couple of people to round out a team, I was not expecting the response I received!

Thank you to BMGS (from across all three campuses) for getting on board.

### Staff Steppers

Mrs. Annette Charter, Mrs. Cindy Pecovnik, Mrs. Debbie Smith, Mr. Scott Bishop, Mr. Chris Ingold, Mr. David Rajasekar, Mr. Michael Laws, Mr. Nic Webb, Mrs. Rachel Hyslop, Ms Leah Opie, Ms Lauren Wade, Mrs. Yukie Evans, Mr. Luke Webb, Mr. Tristan Forsyth, Mrs. Valerie Huston, Mrs. Andy O'Doherty, Mrs. Elaine Manners, Mrs. Catherine van Gelderen, Mrs. Adele Stubenrauch, Mrs. Jenny Barman, Mr. Andrew Phillips, Mrs. Elissa Boros, Ms Alicia Brace, Ms Nina Gonzalez, Ms Laura Hall, Ms Jacqueline Haines, Mrs. Victoria Morgan-Hort, Mrs. Megan Harris, Mrs. Belinda McLaurin, Mrs. Kylie Hunter, Mrs. Samantha Coultas, Mr. Trevor Barman, Mrs. Megan Hastie, Mr. Andrew Beitsch, Mr. Nigel Cockington, Mrs. Julie Cooney, Mrs. Tina Hanlon, Mr. John Forbes, Mrs. Anne Bell, Mrs. Bronwen Knebel, Mr. Scott Bell, Mrs. Lori Gerrard, Mrs. Danielle Roberson, Mrs. Danni Hilder, Mrs. Allison Watts, Mrs. Alicia Michielsen and Mrs. Katrina Knight.

### Year 12 Steppers

Rose Clifford, Alice Knight, Nick Van Tilburg, Cian Rowntree, Abbie Lucas, Tara Shiels, Taylor Cameron, Emma Jinks, Jess Dance, Emily Goodlet, Olivia Holmdahl and Lloyd Goodlet (Year 11)

**D. Evans** (458,453 steps in total), BMGS Performing Arts Team  
Head of Ziele House

## FROM THE LEARNING SUPPORT 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@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:almichielsen@bmgns.nsw.edu.au) so that I can prepare best for the time spent together.

A. Michielsen

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## FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the deadline for all hired Athletics Singlets is next week - Week 2 - (Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October).

K. Arrell

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## FROM THE HEAD OF SPORT

Welcome back to Term 4 and the start of the summer season for sport. It is hoped that everyone kept active over the holidays so that all those who are playing summer sport will be fit and ready to get into the season.

The Round competition for ISA will commence on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October. Those who are members of a Firsts team will need to check with their MIC regarding any pre-season tournaments that will be held this weekend.

Our 15 Years Cricket XI are to commence their competition this weekend, however, please confirm your game by checking Team App as, at this stage, this is likely to be a washout.

### Uniforms

All Firsts Basketball uniforms, Touch Football and Cricket uniforms have arrived at the Uniform Shop. Junior Basketball uniforms are set to arrive next week. Please go to the Uniform Shop on either Monday or Tuesday to pay for your uniform so they can be distributed when they arrive.

Parents are also able to ring the uniform shop to have their payments processed by EFTPOS.

### Congratulations

In the last week of Term 3, a number of BMGS students competed at the NSW All Schools Athletics Championships.

Congratulations to Bronte Pickering (Year 11) who achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the finals of the 17 years 100m and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the finals of the 200m, and Max Lucas (Year 8) who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 14 years 400m with a PB



of 56.27 seconds. These are outstanding achievements in a competition that attracts the best athletes in the state.

Meanwhile, Oliver Freeman (Year 8) took part in the Australian Orienteering Championships during the recent holidays. The championships started in Renmark and finished in the Barossa Valley, SA. Oliver was part of the NSW team which finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, behind ACT and Tasmania. Oliver managed some good results, including 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Australian relay championships with his NSW M14 team, and 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 23 finishers in the individual M14 Australian middle distance championships.

These are outstanding results for Oliver, when one considers he is only 13 years of age this year, and therefore competing against older athletes.

### Summer Sports

Training has commenced for all summer sports. Please check the screens each week to be aware of any changes.

Please ensure you only wear BMGS gear to training and if you do not have the correct uniform to go home that you change back into your full school uniform.

If you have not already done so could you please join Team App to keep up to date with any notifications.

M. Harris



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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome back to all families. I trust you had an enjoyable break. Term 4 is here and is packed full of exciting events so be sure to keep an eye on the calendar and the *Dates for Your Diary*.

Next week our Year 2 students are looking forward to a day of swimming instruction on Monday and then joining Year 3 for an outdoor experience at Bungawarra on Thursday. Year 3 are looking forward to camping out that night on their first overnight school camp.

Year 5 and 6 are also looking forward to camp and are off to Port Hacking from Wednesday to Friday.

For all the primary classes, our postponed *Tour de Montagnes Bleues* is on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October on our Junior School Oval and all spectators are welcome to come and cheer along our cyclists.

At the end of last term our Parents' and Friends' Association held a popular Pancake Day that was enjoyed by many. Our thanks to Bonnie Mamo and her team of helpers: Mrs. Hayley Clifton, Mrs. Linda Emmerson, Mrs. Tina Erne, Mrs. Justine Hampartzoumian, Ms. Suzanne Janine, Mrs. Raelene Lord and Mrs. Louise Westwood.

N. Cockington

### Student Awards

At Assembly this week the following awards were presented:

Bronze – Jessica Nutt (3R) and Gaia Pattison (5/6F)

# FROM THE HEAD OF THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Welcome back to another term at the Preparatory School! I trust everyone had a lovely and relaxing holiday and you are all ready for the last term of 2018. This year has gone by very quickly but we are not at the end just yet. Term 4 is a shorter term and full of activities for both staff and students.

All families would have received a 'Notes for Your Diary' for Term 4 2018. Please keep this somewhere handy so that you will be up to date with everything happening.

## **Year 2 and 3 Camp:**

We are fast approaching our annual Year 2 day and Year 3 overnight camps at *Bungawarra*. Permission notes need to be returned to Preparatory School reception as soon as possible. If there are any questions relating to either camp, please come and speak to Reception.

## **Toys 'n' Tucker:**

At the Preparatory School we like to encourage the students to participate in a range of activities that provide them the opportunity to serve others.

During Term 4, the Preparatory School will be partnering with Anglicare to run a collection for new toys and non-perishable food items. These items will then be placed into hampers so Anglicare is able to provide food and gifts to families in need.

The collection will begin on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October and run until 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Please place any new toys or food items in Preparatory Reception where a collection area will be located.

Participation in this service project is entirely optional. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Reception.

## **Uniform Reminder:**

A reminder that this term is a 'sun smart' term. Students are required to wear their hats when playing outside during break times and when participating in outdoor learning tasks.

Please ensure that you child/ren remember to have their hats with them each day and that they are clearly labelled.

## **Late Arrivals:**

At the start of each day, teachers complete a class attendance roll. All students are expected at the School by 8.30am. Students who arrive late must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver to Reception and complete a late arrival slip before proceeding to classrooms.

## **A. Brace**

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –OCTOBER 2018

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October to Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November** – HSC Examinations

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October** – Semi-Finals, Finals of Blue Mountains Debating Competition

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 10 Wilderness Education to Clarence, Climbing/Abseiling

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Year 2 Swimming Program, Katoomba Aquatic Centre

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Year 8 Wheelchair Basketball

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October** – Stage 3 Camp, Port Hacking

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 2 Camp Out, *Bungawarra*

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 3 Camp Out, *Bungawarra*