

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Newsletter

Vol 30, 26th October, 2018



Celebrating 100 Years ...

...of enjoying the great outdoors!



Years 2 and 3 building Cubby Houses at Camp (Bungawarra)

FROM THE JOINT ACTING HEAD

Follow your contribution, develop your passions

When I was ten years old, I wanted to be a marine biologist. I spent all my summers with my face down in the water snorkelling, collecting, observing. I read about the oceans and particularly the coastlines. I loved being there. When I was sixteen I wanted to be an actor, and mesmerise the world by the way I would inhabit characters and bring a story to life. I went to Drama classes outside school, I did my school work experience in a theatre in the city, and during my years at University, some friends and I started our own drama group, writing and performing. Both these things, at the time I loved passionately and thought “this is how I want to spend my life”. Clearly neither happened!

“Follow your passion” is a catch-cry we hear throughout our society. Whether talking about career choices, leisure or relationships, it’s the default model – doing what you love will make you happy.

I still love the beach, I still love performing, theatre and the movies, but it’s not where I ended up. When we follow our passions, it can be exciting, but sometimes those passions wane, sometimes things don’t work out or when what you love becomes your work, sometimes it can become harder. Doing what you love is a good start, but if that’s your only motivator, it’s a flawed approach to life.

A couple of years ago, Ben Horowitz, a highly successful investor and company founder in California’s Silicone Valley delivered the graduation address to the students at Columbia University.

Following your passion is a very me-centred view of the world. And when you go through life what you’ll find is what you take out of the world over time, money, cars, stuff, accolades, is much less important than what you put into the world.

And so my recommendation is to follow your contribution, find the thing that you’re great at, put that into the world, contribute to others, help the world be better, and that is the thing you should follow.

When we think about how we spend our time, it’s not about what we take, but what we give that can create real and lasting value. In what we do, how can we make the planet, the people around us at the wider community better?

The idea of following your passion assumes you only have one, and that it will stay the same – we call this approach having a fixed mindset. Our passions change as we grow and change, they are not fixed. Equally when following your passion means struggling, or when you hit that inevitable obstacle, as researchers from Stanford University discovered, people are more likely to give up (O’Keefe 2018). Such a motto also assumes you only have one – which do I choose? When I reframe that question to ask ‘*How can I contribute more?*’, it can provide a whole lot of clarity and a greater sense of purpose. When we rethink what we’re doing from following our passions, to following our contributions, then our passions will develop and strengthen with that stronger sense of commitment.

Just following your passion leads to a self-centred approach to life. It’s about me, making me happy, not about others or the world around us – helping them could be a by-product, but it’s not the motivation. Doing what you love is a good place to start, using your skills and strengths is also really important, but ask yourself, what does the world need?

I can guarantee that those students who walked the 45km to *Bungawarra* were not feeling passionate at the 25th or 34th km – it was hard work! But their sense of purpose drove them on! We have so many students who give across so many areas – Toys’n’Tucker, Red Shield Appeal, the Compassion trip, helping out at church or a soup kitchen – that’s great! Do it again next year, or find another way to give. At BMGS we want all our students to ask how can I serve others? And for those who didn’t find a way to do so this year, that’s ok - I encourage you to step up next time, to be bold, get out, and answer that big question how can I leave this world, this community a kinder, or more beautiful, or healthier place?

Mrs. Megan Hastie
Joint Acting Head

FROM THE ACTING CHAPLAIN

Campfire Stories

It is camp time for many of our students this term. Camp is the perfect chance to detox your heart, simplify your life, and reflect on what matters the most in life. Camp is an opportunity to connect with one another and to build stronger relationships with existing friends, possibly even making some new pals along the way. Many of the camps our students go on are tailor-made just for them. The colossal effort put into organising the Senior School camps and making them so relevant and exciting is largely thanks to BMGS’ wonderful Outdoor Education team. Exploring the outdoors can be magical, mysterious, meaningful, and profoundly spiritual. I have lots of great memories from camps growing up. I fondly remember sitting around the crackling fire at night sharing stories and jokes, singing songs, or at times when I was feeling shy, simply listening to what others had to say. Camps create memories as we explore who we are. We test ourselves in new situations to see what we are capable of, to see what we enjoy, to expand our world views, and to express ourselves. In this same way God wants us to explore who He is. Following on from last week’s newsletter article *Endless Summer*, God desires to see the waves we ride roll onto His shore and the paths we forge to lead to Him.

As a way of connecting with each other, of strengthening this great community we have here at this school, it is important to talk to each other and to listen to each other’s campfire stories. Our campfire stories are those tales that excite us and confront our fears and vulnerabilities. Our campfire stories are the ones we find genuinely funny, moving and meaningful. As we listen to these stories we learn to respect each other’s journeys along the different trails we take. However, these trails do cross paths and bump into each other, never do we travel alone. Our individual journeys alter and influence each other much more than we realise. Because of this I want to encourage you to build each other up as you walk together. Build one another up by enjoying the gift of giving to each other just as Jesus gave us a clear path to God. I’m reluctant to use acronyms but I found the following acronym for the idiom *BUILD UP* so positive that I want to share it with you here.

This idea was kindly borrowed from <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/7-christian-tips-for-building-others-up/>:

(B) Be warm and inviting from the heart

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

(U) Use your gifts from the Holy Spirit for discernment

"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them?" (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

(I) Instil the word of God wisely in order to build each other up

"The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:8).

(L) Listen carefully to what they are saying

"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).

(D) Demonstrate encouragement with your attitude and actions

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

(U) Understand their difficulty instead of downplaying it

"Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none" (Psalm 69:20).

(P) Press towards the positive

"Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!" (Ecclesiastes 9:4).

As we trek out on our camps and forge new paths with our lives let the building process begin!

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

L. Webb

FROM THE PARENTS' & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Bungawarra Refurbishment

Last week, the foot weary, but triumphant, *Bungawarra* walkers arrived to find that the Dick Austen Outdoor Education Centre building had undergone a major refurbishment and acquired a bright shiny new kitchen, the result of the Parents' and Friends' Association's latest project carried out over the winter months. While still retaining the building's 'shearing shed' character, the work has brought the building up to standard.

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In addition to the kitchen refurbishment, the work schedule included repainting the interior floors and veranda, upgrading the plumbing and electrics, repairing and renovating the ramps, floors, roof and guttering, along with much needed blackberry clearing.



Special thanks must be given to the School's Director of Operations, Mr. Ray Lowe, Property Manager Mr. Stuart Collins and Mrs. Alison Collins who planned and guided the work, in addition to personally completing much of it themselves.

And of course, thanks to the many parents, volunteers and students who gave of their time attending the work days and also all those parents who have laboured over the years to raise the required funds to complete a project of this scope.



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, 13th 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

FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC

Assembly Performance

Thank you to the members of the Stage Band for their performance of "Faith" from the movie "Sing" at last Wednesday's Sports Colours Assembly. It was another thoroughly entertaining performance by these talented students.

National Music Camp

Congratulations to Miriam Cooney (Year 11) who has been accepted into National Music Camp. The camp is held in Adelaide during the January school holidays and students must undergo a rigorous audition process to be considered for the camp.

We Will Rock You

The BMMS Production of 'We Will Rock You' opened at the Hub in Springwood last Saturday Evening. Annika Bertinat (Year 11) and Diana Babajayjan (Alumni, 2017) perform in the Ensemble and Featured ensemble respectively. The production runs until 4th November.

SYO Summer School

Registrations for the SYO Summer School and SYO HSC Preparation Program are now open. The Summer School is held at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield and Sydney Conservatorium of Music from Monday, 7th January – Friday, 11th January 2019, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Students aged 6-18 years are most welcome to attend. For further details see the Music Office or contact Alex Siegers (Marketing Co-ordinator): E: alex.siegers@syo.com.au or 02 9251 2422

Western Sydney Youth Orchestra

Auditions for the Western Sydney Youth Orchestra 2019 program have commenced.

Western Sydney Youth Orchestra accepts musicians aged 12+ who play **string, woodwind, brass** and **percussion instruments**. We recommend that they are of a minimum of Grade 5 AMEB standard or equivalent. WSYO rehearsals are based at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta and take place on Monday evenings.

Students who play **string instruments** who are age 6+ and who are below Grade 5 AMEB standard or equivalent, are welcome to audition for our Orchestral Fundamentals Program. Rehearsals for our OFP program are based in Strathfield and take place on Saturdays:

Stage 1 is for young musicians up to grade 2 AMEB or equivalent

Stage 2 is for young musicians up to grade 3 AMEB or equivalent

Stage 3 is for young musicians up to grade 4 AMEB or equivalent

Stage 4 is for young musicians up to grade 6 AMEB or equivalent

For further information contact info@syo.com.au or 02 9251 2422.

Diary Dates

Soiree #3: Tuesday, 13th November

Presentation Evening: Wednesday, 5th December

D. Smith

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 so that I can prepare best for the time spent together.

A. Michielsen

CO-CURRICULAR PHOTOGRAPHS

School Co-curricular group photographs were taken recently. These groups may include sports teams, prefect groups, bands or other Co-curricular groups and these group images are now available for purchase at the **advancedlife** Blue Mountains Grammar Senior School Community Portal with the link below. Please order over the next two weeks to avoid delay.



Simply follow the link below and click order now to go directly to the community portal.

The Online Order Code for the 2018 Senior School Co-Curricular Photos is **DQ8 FJY 77A**

Online Order link:

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=DQ8FJY77A>

Important Information:

- Extra-curricular group photos can only be purchased online DO NOT return payment to school
- If your child's group or team has not yet been photographed and is scheduled to be photographed at a later date, you will receive an additional email notification when the images are ready to be ordered
- Photos will be returned to School for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are ordered
- Past years' photographs including sports, extra-curricular and representative groups are also available at the School's *advancedlife* and your *advancedyou* photo sites (follow the link above)

advancedlife offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure your peace of mind. We would also love to receive your feedback or resolve any issues you may experience as fast as possible, to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your *advancedlife* experience please contact them at enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

Photos for the groups below can now be ordered using the link above.

- 1st V Boys' Basketball 2017/2018
- 1st V Girls' Basketball 2017/2018
- 1st VII Netball
- 1st XI Boys' Football
- 1st XI Cricket 2017/2018
- 1st XI Girls' Football
- 1st XI Hockey
- 1st XV Rugby
- BMGS Athletics
- BMGS Cross Country
- BMGS Debating
- BMGS Swimming
- Boys' Basketball 2017/2018
- Boys' Football
- Chamber
- Chess
- Concert Band
- Cricket 2017/2018
- Girls' Basketball 2017/2018
- Girls' Football
- Handbells
- HICES Debating
- Hockey
- ISA Cross Country Representatives
- ISA Swimming Representatives
- Netball
- NSWCIS Cross Country Representative
- Orchestra
- Rugby
- Senior Choir
- SRC
- Stage Band

K. Hunter

FROM THE HEAD OF SPORT

This week is Round 1 for all summer sports so I would like to go through a few housekeeping matters:

Uniform

Students are only permitted to wear BMGS gear on game day. When playing matches at home this can be any form of BMGS clothing (except for the Firsts). The Firsts will be required to be at the venue in full School uniform.

When travelling away all Firsts players must wear their full school uniform including blazer. All other players may wear their yellow polo and shorts or the full school tracksuit.

Bus Pick up/Drop off.

Depending upon the number of teams travelling by bus, the first collection point will commence at either Blackheath or BMGS. Please check carefully the times each week to confirm.

The allocated bus stops going east are Blackheath (TBA), BMGS, Lawson, Springwood Station and Blaxland (just past McDonalds).

The allocated bus stops going west are Glenbrook (Tourist Information Centre), Blaxland (at overpass), Springwood Station, Lawson, BMGS, Blackheath (TBA).

Training

Training is compulsory for all players and it is requested that the allocated training time is not used for other appointments. This is a 10-week season so the training and development period is limited. Please also remember that a number of our coaches need to leave work early to attend the after school training so we do not want to have them turn up to train half a team.

Most importantly, please remember that you are a representative of Blue Mountains Grammar School and all that you do both on and off the court reflects on the School. At all times it is important that we are setting a positive example for others. If you need to think twice about whether or not you should do something, then perhaps it is the wrong thing to do!

M. Harris

Saturday Sports Fixtures 27th October - Round 1

	Team	Opponent	Venue	Time	Court/Field	Bus INFO
Cricket	1st XI	St Spyridon	Home	10:00am	Main	N/A
	15s	W/F Demons	Top Reserve	8:00am	Main	
Touch Football	1sts	Oxley	Scots College Bathurst	10:00am	6	Springwood Station 7:30 am Lawson 7:45 am BMGS 8:00 am Blackheath 8:15 am Bus return approx. 3:30 pm
	1sts	SAS		11:40am	1	
	1sts	Barker D		1:20pm	1	
	Junior A	Chevalier		11:40am	3	
	Junior A	Redlands B		12:30pm	5	
	Junior B	SAS		10:00am	5	
	Junior B	Chevalier		12:30pm	4	
Basketball Boys'	1st V	SACS	Home	11:00am	1	N/A
	U17	SACS	Home	9:00am	1	
	U15 Gold	SACS	Home	10:00am	1	
	U14	SACS	Home	10:00am	2	
	U13 Gold	SACS	Home	9:00am	2	
	U15 Blue	BYE	BYE	BYE	BYE	
	U13 Blue	BYE	BYE	BYE	BYE	
Basketball Girls'	1st V	Oxley	Oxley	11:00am	1	BMGS 7:00am Lawson 7:10am
	Junior A	Oxley	Oxley	10:00am	1	Springwood Station 7:20am Blaxland 7:30am Bus return approx. 3:00pm
	Open C	BYE	BYE	BYE	BYE	N/A
	Inter	St Paul's	St Paul's	8:30am	1	Own Transport
	Junior B	St Spyridon	St Spyridon	1:30pm	1	BMGS 11:00am Lawson 11:10am Springwood Station 11:20am Blaxland 11:30am Bus return approx. 4:00pm

CRICKET

1st XI Cricket Annual Pink Day



On Saturday the 1st XI travelled to St Pius X for the Annual Pink Day, raising funds for the McGrath Foundation. Using the day as a good trial before the season starts there were a lot of positives to come out of the game. Ethan Cusick batted well, scoring 50 runs before being retired, Tom Bloodsworth 46 off 23 balls. Henry Horwood, Mitchell Browne, Charlie Campbell and Christian Wright all showed good signs with the bat. Bowling first was always going to be difficult with a damp ground. Early on our control wasn't the best but the second spells by our bowlers showed that we have the potential to bowl sides out. St Pius eventually won the game by 7 runs in an exciting match. Our first match of the ISA season is at home against St Syridon's this Saturday.

BMGS U/15 XI v Hazelbrook

There was a bright start to the season for the junior cricket team with a win over Hazelbrook at Gloria Park. A 52-run partnership between Oliver Freeman (33) and Luka Donnelly (10) paved the way to a score of 89 from 25 overs, with Archer Norman and Jackson Edwards contributing some useful late order runs. The match was won with accurate bowling from the whole team, restricting Hazelbrook to 78. Max Anicic and Oliver Freeman took two wickets each, with Max also providing a run-out. Luka Donnelly (1 wicket), Will Stacey and Xavier Busch all bowled very consistently to restrict the Hazelbrook batsmen. The game was played to a high standard, with fine spirit from both sides.

S. Collins – MIC Cricket

FROM THE PARENTS' & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Bungawarra Refurbishment

Last week, the foot weary, but triumphant, *Bungawarra* walkers arrived to find that the Dick Austen Outdoor Education Centre building had undergone a major refurbishment and acquired a bright shiny new kitchen, the result of the Parents' and Friends' Association's latest project carried out over the winter months. While still retaining the building's 'shearing shed' character, the work has brought the building up to standard.

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(See photographs published earlier in the Newsletter)

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Duncan Barrell

Chair, Parents' & Friends' Association

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

At the time of writing we have just farewelled a very excited coach-load of Year 5 and 6 children and their teachers as they head to Anglican Youthworks campsite at Port Hacking for three days of fun, outdoor education and camaraderie on their annual camp. Our Year 2 and 3 children are equally excited about their camp at *Bungawarra* also on this week and I look forward to reporting back with stories from camp in next week's Newsletter.

Weather permitting, our twice postponed *Tour de Montagnes Bleues* is scheduled for next Monday, 29th October. After such a long time waiting we are anticipating a fun morning of cycling and croissants. We are also hosting the Blue Mountains One-Day Chess Tournament on Tuesday and our keen chess players are looking forward once again to an opportunity to test their skills against fellow Blue Mountains schools.

Finally, next week, the Parents' and Friends' Association Fun Run is happening on Friday during sport time, so all those children who are keenly raising sponsorship have one more week to garner support.

On Sunday, 4th November, Blue Mountains City Council is hosting a Grandparents' and Elders' Day at Wentworth Falls Lake and we are partnering with BMCC to ensure the day is a successful one. A number of our choristers and musicians will be providing some musical entertainment and two very talented bakers in Year 6, Hayley Ling and Kate Fraser, will be putting their expert culinary skills to work and operating a cake stall for the event. Thank you to all children and families who are donating their time and expertise to help in this community building event.

N. Cockington

Student Awards

At Assembly this week the following awards were presented:

Bronze - Henry Laurie (3R)

Silver – Kane Emmerson (1/2K), Hayley Lord (1/2K)

FROM THE EARLY LEARNING DEPARTMENT

Students in Years 1 and 2 worked with the Healthy Waterways team from Blue Mountains City Council last term, as part of our Geography and History units on our local environment.

This was a fantastic learning experience for the class!

We discovered the story of Blue Mountains Swamps – why they are so special and what amazing creatures live there. We were scientists, explorers and artists, all in one day!

During our excursion, we made sketches of what we saw and then in collaboration with Blue Mountains City Council, we created this ‘Town Tracker’ guide for Wentworth Falls Village. This is available in the local community for tourists to use when they come to visit our beautiful Blue Mountains.



B. Knebel

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Basketball – Round 1

5/6 Boys' Gold played Mountain Royals Blue - Mountain Royals Blue won 27 to 20.

3/4 Mixed Red played had a Bye.

3/4 Mixed Gold played The Little Hoopers - The Gold team won 16 to 6.

3/4 Mixed Blue played The Cheerios - The Cheerios won 16 to 13.

5/6 Girls' Red played The Gliders - The Red team won 10 to 2.

L. Gerrard

FROM THE HEAD OF THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Seussical

The students have been hard at work continuing to rehearse for our end of year performance of *Seussical*. As we have now begun to incorporate the choreography, it would be greatly appreciated if parents could encourage their children to rehearse at home and practise the movements that go along with the songs.

2019 Early Years Orientation Morning

On Thursday, 1st November we will be holding an Early Years Orientation Morning from 9:00am to 11:00am. In past years we have had parents of our current Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students attending to help with morning tea and welcoming our new parents to the School. If any parents from Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten would be able to assist on the day, please fill in the note that was sent out earlier this week and return it to your child's classroom teacher or via the Preparatory School Reception.

Year 2 and 3 Camp

It was with great anticipation that the Year 2 and 3 students set off earlier this week for their day and overnight camp to *Bungawarra*.

This camp is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the wonders of our unique world heritage site and begin forming connections with their peers from our Wentworth Falls campus. Watch this space for a camp report from some of our students next week!

A. Brace

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – OCTOBER 2018

Friday, 26th October to Friday, 9th November – HSC Examinations continue

Friday, 26th October – Year 3 Camp Out, *Bungawarra*, concludes

Friday, 26th October – Garden Party Chamber Music, Greystanes, Leura

Monday, 29th October – *Tour de Montagnes Bleues*, Junior School

Monday, 29th October – Year 9 PDHPE Tree Tops Excursion, Yarramundi

Tuesday, 30th October – Year 11 NIDA HSC Projects Study Day, NIDA

Tuesday, 30th October – Blue Mountains Primary Schools' One Day Chess Tournament, Junior School

Wednesday, 31st October – Year 11 Geography Coastal Dunes Fieldtrip, Stockton

Wednesday, 31st October to Friday, 2nd November – Year 9 Camp

Wednesday, 31st October – Junior School Early Learning Orientation Morning

Thursday, 1st November – Preparatory School Early Learning Orientation Morning

Friday, 2nd November – Junior School Kindergarten visit to Katoomba Fire Station

Friday, 2nd November – Junior School P & F Fun Run