

# Blue Mountains Grammar School

## Newsletter

Vol 9, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

*Growing up with us...*

*...is fun!*



## FROM THE HEADMASTER

### Leading Staff in a School

Last week I received a number of email replies from parents regarding the article about teachers leading in the classroom and the importance of the strong relationships between students and teachers, a feature of BMGS. Some have asked about leading staff at a School such as BMGS and what are the similarities and differences to leading in the classroom. Even some Year 11 students, who are on Leadership Camp this week, asked about the leading of staff at BMGS. As you would expect, there is a lot in common:

1. Offer trust – the main way to gain trust is to give it. Staff members want and deserve to be treated like professionals.
2. Admit mistakes – humility is the ability to forego your status and put the good of others before yourself. We are all human – we all make mistakes.
3. Actively listen – most people do not listen to understand; they listen to reply.
4. Consultative decision making – Staff want to know they have been heard even if a different decision is made.
5. Provide affirmation to Staff – encouraging the heart and giving affirmation to the Staff about the difference they are making in the lives of students.
6. Be visible around the School such as at functions, walking in the playground at recess, or lunchtime. It is another way of building trust.
7. Be consistent in making judgements – which means staying calm and in control, even when you feel very different inside.
8. Being a coach and mentor – a Head must help staff to grow – to grow in their teaching, wellbeing and their leadership skills.
9. Show care for Staff – get to know the Staff and act with compassion and empathy.
10. Maintain confidentiality – this is most important when Staff inform you of issues they are facing or desires they hold for their future.

The above is what I would regard as the top 10 practices for leading a school.

I wish all students, staff and their families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Easter and holiday period - a time of hope where we can reflect on God's infinite goodness, grace and love.

**T. Barman**  
Headmaster

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Next week is traditionally called Holy Week and it is the time we remind ourselves of the events leading up to the Easter weekend. From Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph, to Good Friday, where what seemed an ignominious defeat made salvation possible for Jesus' followers. The capstone of these events is celebrated on Easter Sunday when we rejoice in the glorious resurrection of our Saviour.

In the midst of school holidays, the Easter show and the hunt for chocolate (eggs, bunnies, bilbies and a menagerie of other shapes), it isn't surprising that we might lose focus on the focal point of Easter, but ultimately, it really is all about Jesus!

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, there would be no Christianity and our culture would not celebrate Easter or Christmas. As St Paul, a man who claimed to have met the risen Jesus, put it, "*if Christ did not rise your faith is futile and your sins have never been forgiven*" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Easter reminds us that God's love is manifest in the forgiveness of sins; Easter celebrates that Death is not the end; Easter proclaims that Jesus is the promised Saviour and that He came to set the captives free and bring His followers into the joy of new life here and eternal life with Him.

*"He died, because of sin, once: He lives for God for ever. In the same way look upon yourselves as dead to the appeal and power of sin but alive and sensitive to the call of God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:11).

A. Dane

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## FROM THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

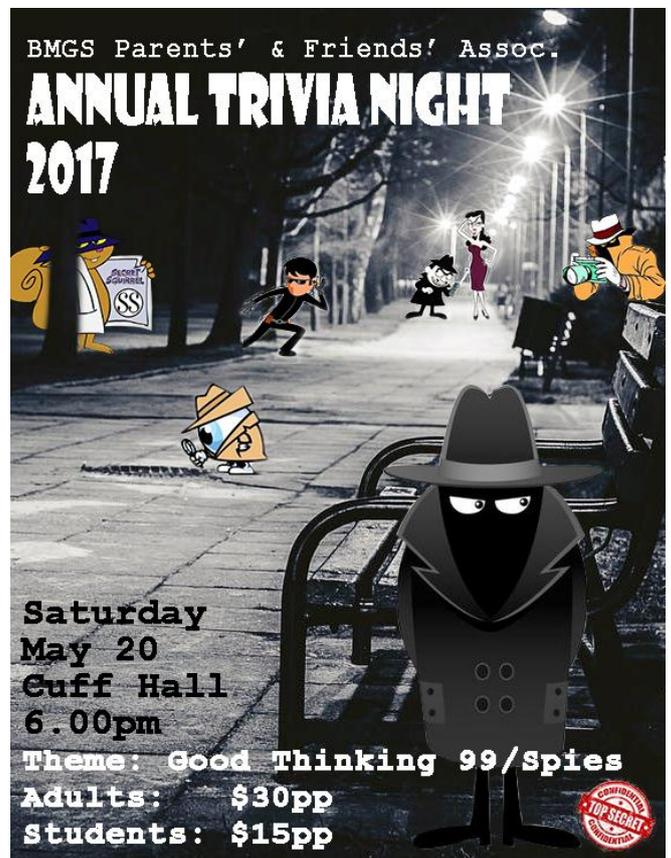
### Save the Date

The next Parents' and Friends' event on our calendar is the fantastic Annual Trivia Night – this is a great night and it will be held on **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May**.

With a nod to BMGS' 99<sup>th</sup> Year, the 'theme' of the evening will be **Espionage/Spies** ("*Good Thinking, 99!*") – so dig out your trench coats and shoe phones and join us under the Cone of Silence as we ask our Agents 86 questions... Keep your table's particular theme on the 'QT', as there will be great prizes for Best Dressed Table/Adult/Student... and these are in addition to the prizes for First Place and Runners' Up (both Adult and Student categories).

Put together a table of 8 players, or we can place small groups together on tables. Further information regarding the event will be provided next term. We look forward to your company, for what promises to be a fun social night for the School community.

With the Trivia Night in mind, we are seeking donations of raffle items or prizes to support the event. If you have any items that you would like to donate, or you would be willing to approach a local business, café, restaurant, tourist destination, etc for vouchers, please email Ms Carole Young on [cyecosteps@gmail.com](mailto:cyecosteps@gmail.com).



BMGS Parents' & Friends' Assoc.  
**ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**2017**

**Saturday**  
**May 20**  
**Cuff Hall**  
**6.00pm**

**Theme: Good Thinking 99/Spies**  
**Adults: \$30pp**  
**Students: \$15pp**

CONFIDENTIAL  
TOP SECRET  
RESTRICTED

## Office Bearers 2017/2018

The position of Secretary of the Parents' and Friends' Association Executive Committee for 2017/2018 has now been filled. We thank Ms Anne Bahnisch for nominating to continue in the role held by her during the 2016/2017 period.

### Mr. Duncan Barrell

Chair, BMGS Parents' and Friends' Association  
[dba23266@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dba23266@bigpond.net.au)

## FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

In consultation with the students in the SRC, the Parents' and Friends' Committee are delighted to be introducing an umbrella system in the Senior School, starting in Term 2. We are donating 30 large BMGS umbrellas to the School, to be placed at the entrances of the Performing Arts Centre, Coorah and the Art building.

During Term 1 we experienced a huge amount of rainfall and students were being affected on their trips between buildings, therefore we are hoping that these umbrellas will help keep our students dry on those future wet days!

This will be entirely an honesty-based system, relying on the students to return the umbrellas to the bins provided at the appropriate entrances, where they will remain until next needed. We will be asking students to monitor the use and storage of these items. We hope this works well for our students and makes for a more comfortable school experience and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Deirdre O'Hara, Senior School Representative  
Parents' and Friends' Association Executive Committee

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## FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD – HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

### Passion and Sacrifice

There is much to be said at this time of year about the people who have walked this earth before us and made it a better place. As we come towards Easter and the greatest sacrifice that has ever been made in the history of the world through Jesus becoming '*a ransom for many*' by giving up His life so humanity could be *restored in relationship* to God and that anyone could have access to eternal life *through faith* in Jesus, we start to reflect upon the world in which we now live and the world we want our families to foster into the future.

One of my great friends is the CEO of a large not-for-profit organisation that works strategically in the worst places on earth to live, where the access to health care is non-existent and where the threat to life is more than real. He recently was speaking about '*passion*'. It really struck a deep cord with me in how we approach our passions and the motivating drivers that influence our dreams for life.

He works specifically with some of the most marginalised people on the planet, yet he says regularly that they are the most passionate people, with outstanding optimism and deeply connected community of faith. We need to remember the word '*passion*' itself is from the Latin root – *pati*, which means suffering or enduring. Quite a contrast to the way a 'passion' is perceived today in society.

I remember reading the great missionary and theologian C.T. Studd talk about '*passion*' when he was speaking about the first inland missionary to China – Hudson Taylor. Taylor's passion was that people in China were worthy of hearing the great love that Jesus has for them and that not just the elite were entitled to understand and have education. C.T. Studd said this when asked about the prerequisites for Taylor's trip;

*“He verily believed that the LORD had been searching throughout the length and breadth of the land to find someone ignorant enough, weak enough and humble enough that He Himself could use, and who would give Him the glory, and that then He hit upon him (Hudson Taylor) and said: ‘This man will do! He has all the requirements; he is ignorant, weak and helpless enough, so I can use him.’ These are the only three degrees absolutely necessary to the man of GOD!”*

**Passion** can look crazy sometimes, it can look unorthodox and it can often even look out of place, but we need to teach our students that there is a world around them that they can influence with their inspired **passion**, creating lasting and effective change, that not only changes minds but changes hearts also. As we grow together this year may we not be too quick to jump and judge each other because we don’t understand or have the wrong context or only a small part of the story, but may we be people who champion each other and the students we care for, propelling them forward into their **passions**.

As a school, we have the exceptional ability to positively influence the lives of all the students in our care. I had the privilege this week of presenting several awards at the Junior School Assembly. Two student’s passions were visible when they prayed. They prayed for the tragedy of the continuing flood in northern NSW and Queensland, they prayed for the school as a community and they prayed for one another. To stand with boldness and say these prayers displayed a contagious faith, an inspired heart and a commitment to the betterment of others in our nation; far away and closer to home. Exceptional **passions** on display each day at BMGS.

For more information on organisations mentioned in this article visit:

<http://www.faimission.org/landing/>

<https://www.opendoors.org.au/get-involved/youth>

<https://www.opendoors.org.au/assets/08-Resources/01-Frontline-Faith-Magazine/2017-FrontlineFaithIssue1-TheBookOfActsEdition.pdf>

A. Osborne

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## FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD – HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Made it!

As usual, it’s been an action-packed term! Lots of learning and lots of celebrations, including wonderful days like Grandparents’ Days in both the Junior and the Preparatory Schools. Year 12 students have completed their half-yearly exams, Year 7 and 11 students have been away on camp. It’s been a rollercoaster ride!

As you come to the end of Term 1 for 2017, may I encourage you and your children to reflect on the term, look for the strengths in learning, look for the areas for improvement and celebrate, and feed-forward into next term’s learning.

### What’s the difference between feedback and feed-forward?

**Feedback** provides information to learners about where they are in relation to their learning goals. This enables them to evaluate their progress, identify gaps or misconceptions in their knowledge and take action. Generated by teachers, peers, mentors, supervisors, a computer, or as a result of self-assessment, feedback is a vital component of effective learning.

**Feed-forward** is equally important to learners’ progress. While feedback focuses on current performance (and may simply justify the grade awarded), feed-forward looks ahead to the next learning experience or assignment. Feed-forward offers constructive guidance on how to improve. A combination of feedback and feed-forward ensures that assessment – both informal and formal – has an effective developmental impact on learning (provided the student has the opportunity and support to develop their own evaluative skills in order to use the feedback effectively).

Classrooms have their own cultures – you will often hear us talk of our “culture of thinking”. As such, they are made up of groups of people, and the way we work as part of that group – whether in collaborative or independent activities, has an impact on those around us. How have you helped shaped the culture of your classroom this term? What can you do to add positively to the environment to help you and your peers learn?

**So, what have you learned from this term that will feed-forward into your learning next term?**

Consider the following questions:

- What aspect of your learning have you been most proud of this term?
- Have you been a collaborative group member?
- Have you encouraged your peers in their learning?
- How have you coped with struggle?
- How have you got back on track after being distracted?
- Did you leave enough time to complete homework and extended tasks?
- How have you balanced your co-curricular, family and other commitments?
- Is there any subject you have struggled with more than others?
  - Can you pinpoint why? Are the ideas or skills difficult? Is it who you sit next to?
- What subject/s have you found easiest?
  - Why? How can you help others in the subject who may find it more difficult?
- How would you rate your contributions to class discussions? Can you be more involved (or should you talk less!!)?

**How can you make the learning space a happy place?**

Enjoy your holiday break; I hope it is refreshing and relaxing and I also hope that the Easter weekend provides an opportunity to celebrate the great gift of God’s love and is a wonderful reminder to live life to the full!

**M. Hastie**

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## **FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC**

### **Music Amongst the Autumn Leaves**

Our Stage Band will be performing at *Music Amongst the Autumn Leaves* from 1:15pm to 3:30pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at “The Old Farm” Yellow Rock. Co-ordinated by Springwood Rotary Club, the afternoon will feature a number of performances from local schools. Please bring a picnic basket and come along and support our musicians.

### **ANZAC Day Service**

A reminder to singers and instrumentalists that the ANZAC Day Service at the Wentworth Falls Cenotaph commences at 6:30am. All performers need to arrive at 6:15am in immaculate school uniform. This is the day before we return to school after the holidays.

### **Orpheus Strings**

We extend a huge thank you to Geraldine Weiss (Year 11) and Indigo Franklin (Year 8) for joining Orpheus Strings at their concert of Serenades on Sunday afternoon at Katoomba Public School.

### **Department Happenings**

Next term we welcome Miss Briony Davidson (Alumni, 2013) who will be covering the Music Administration position whilst Mrs. Christine Davidson takes some very well deserved long service leave.

## **Pinchgut Opera Tickets**

Pinchgut Opera is kindly giving away tickets to its June 2017 season – funny French operas by Rameau. Up and coming singers in Years 10 to 12 can apply for free tickets. Enquire at the Music Office for more details.

### **Diary Dates**

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April: Music Amongst the Autumn Leaves, Springwood Rotary (Stage Band)

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June: Soiree No. 2, 7:00pm, Recital Room, PAC

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June: Year 8 Performing Arts Music Theatre Production, PAC

**D. Smith**

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## **FROM THE HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Springwood (UK) Tour**

The Springwood School from Norfolk (UK) will be returning to BMGS in July this year. This school visits us every 2-3 years with a troupe of actors and musicians. They develop and devise an original show and take it on tour around Australia. In the past, families from our School community have generously hosted students for the four days that they are in the Blue Mountains.

A letter has been sent to all families of our Year 10 and Year 11 students, calling for expressions of interest to host. This letter has also been emailed to all parents and caregivers. We need at least thirteen families to help. This tour has always been a very positive experience in the past. Our students have the opportunity to meet talented young performers and form international friendships.

The letter has all of the important details on it and I ask our wonderful community to help ensure the success of this event.

### **Opening Soon – Years 10 to 12 Major Production**

In recent weeks, students in Years 10 to 12 have been rehearsing their upcoming production of The Threepenny Opera. Come and join us for a wonderful night in the theatre! Performances will be in the Drama Theatre (Studio 1) in the Performing Arts Centre from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May** (7.30pm each night). There will also be a **matinee** performance on **6<sup>th</sup> May** at 3.00pm. Tickets are on sale now, in Coorah: Adults \$18:00; Students/Conc: \$8.00.



THE  
THREEPENNY  
OPERA

**C. Pecovnik**

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## **FROM THE HEAD OF HUMANITIES**

### **Humanities Happenings**

Coming next term... a weekly Humanities Quiz question!

We will be emailing a quiz question from one of the Humanities areas, such as Legal Studies, History or Geography, to all staff and students. Simply respond to the email with the correct answer and you are in the draw to win a canteen voucher! You can do an online search to solve the quiz, ask someone 'in the know' or even solve it as a family.

This Quiz is open to everyone in the BMGS community – join the fun!

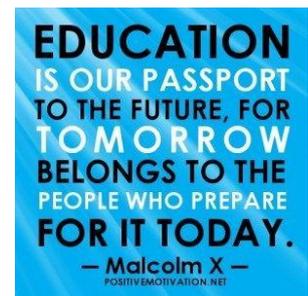
**J. Madgwick**

## FROM THE LEARNING ENRICHMENT DEPARTMENT

After-school tutoring is starting up again and will be in the Library Resource Centre (LRC) every Thursday afternoon from 3:15pm to 4:45pm.

After-school tutoring can help with completing assessment tasks and doing some extra work in literacy and numeracy. This afterschool assistance 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 our time spent together.



A. Michielsen

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## 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.

### In the Mail

Check out our FROG careers page for information on the Youth Agents of Change running in the holidays (14-18 years old), free holiday courses in Art and Design and Engineering at UNSW, bonus ATAR points for Macquarie University, early entry at WSU, wonderful cadetship opportunities in Business and Engineering/Technology, information on the upcoming US College Fair in Sydney and a Meet the Leaders in Business evening at Luna Park. There is also a unique opportunity to try medical studies for one day at Notre Dame University (by nomination only) which includes having a try at suturing and plastering!

### Discussing your Options

Careers discussions are available in the LRC every Tuesday afternoon between 3:15pm and 4:45pm during term time.

J Madgwick

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## FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

### Athletics Singlets

Athletics Singlets that were hired for the Triathlon need to be returned to the Uniform Shop by 28th April. A refund of \$5 will be given to each student who returns their singlet by the due date. If singlets are not returned, families will be invoiced for the cost of replacement singlets.

### Uniform Shop Hours – Term 2 commencement

The Uniform Shop will open on the following days in Week 1, due to ANZAC Day Public Holiday, etc:

- Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 8:15am to 3:30pm
- Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 8:15am to 1:45pm

K. Arrell



## **PITT HOUSE MUFTI DAY & CAKE STALL**

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April (Term 2, Week 1)**

Please bring a gold coin donation and money for the cake stall.

Wear **BLACK and WHITE**

Compassion T-shirts for sale on the day for \$25 (fair trade cotton)

All profits from the day go to the Compassion Project

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### **FROM THE HEAD OF SPORT**

#### **ISA 2017 Winter Sport**

Winter sports draws are in the process of being completed by ISA. Once these are received they will be forwarded to students. Please be aware that Round 1 of the winter competition commences on the 29<sup>th</sup> April which is the first Saturday back at school in Term 2.

All students will be expected to attend training in Week 1 in preparation for these games.

#### **Cross Country Carnival**

The Senior School Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May from 8:30am until 12:15pm. Rotary will be running a BBQ on this day in support of Compassion.

#### **ISA Swimming Carnival**

Last Wednesday a team of 35 swimmers from BMGS competed in the ISA Swimming Carnival at Homebush. Many of our swimmers were very competitive on the day and I would like to congratulate the following students on being selected to represent ISA at the CIS Carnival this week: Matthew Van Horen (Year 12); Mirah Larkin (Year 8); Jessica McNair (Year 8); Max Lucas (Year 7); Eliza Huckel (Year 7); Henry Weaver (Year 7).

Congratulations to the Junior Girls' team, who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 and to the Girls' Team overall who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 1. This was a fine achievement, considering the size of the schools that are also in Division 1.

Those students who have nominated their times to compete at the NSW All Schools' Carnival can check their nominations on the CIS website. Confirmation for those who have qualified for NSW All Schools events will be received at the start of next term.

#### **Team App**



During Term 2 the School will be conducting a trial with an application called Team App to notify all those who have downloaded the app of updates to sport. This is to reduce 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' Football team you would choose 2017 13 Boys' Football for team specific notifications as well as Boys' Football for

sport notifications such as Presentation Night information, etc.

If you could download the App at the start of next term we will have all our winter teams loaded and ready to go.

We are looking forward to a more effective way to communicate with our sporting community and hope that this will make life easier for everybody. Once the app is up and running, if you have any feedback, please send me an email so that we can discuss. Thanks in advance for your support whilst we introduce this new form of communication.

**M. Harris**

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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

At the time of writing, the Junior School is looking forward to Grandparents' Day and ending the term on a festive note. We hope there will be many visitors to join us on this wonderful community day.

Easter celebrations began early with a visit from the Year 10 RAVE students who engaged with all of our students large and small in sharing learning and activities around the theme of Easter.

As always, these activities were well received and it was great to see how well our Year 10 students conducted themselves as they led their tasks.



On Monday, Xavier Busch and Will Zakis (both 6G) joined other boys from fellow HICES schools in competing in the Combined Independent Schools Football Championships. The HICES team won two games and lost two, finishing fifth overall. What a great experience and well done, boys.



Of course, Term 1 would not be complete without a visit from the Easter Bunny and, after a fantastic Easter Hat Parade, the students in Early Learning were surprised and delighted by a visit from the Easter Bunny, who left a trail of carrots for the children to follow. My thanks to Mrs. Bonnie Mamo, Mrs. Raelene Lord and Mrs. Catharine Tierney for all they did to ensure such a wonderful morning for our children. I also thank Mrs. Mamo, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Louise Westwood and Mrs. Erica Gander for the Hot Cross Buns and 'Guess How Many Eggs in a Jar' stall, which was another highlight of today and which raised \$76.00 for the Junior School Parents' and Friends' Association.

After a busy term, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable school holiday period and a Happy and Holy Easter. Remember that School returns the day after ANZAC Day on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**N. Cockington**



## Student Awards

Presented at Assembly this week were the following awards:

Citizens of the Week:

Isabel O'Hare – For sorting out how to keep the playground free of litter when bins were overflowing  
Samuel Gander and Fred Horwood – For taking charge of packing away the EL Sandpit spontaneously.

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## YEAR 4 STREET ART WALK

On Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, Year 4G went on a Street Art Walk through Beverly Place in Katoomba. The Street Art Walk displays world standard street art from all aerosol disciplines. International, national and local artists of varying experience painted large-scale artworks in this precinct through a curated process of proposal and selection.

The purpose of the walk was for the students to identify the core theme and possible interpretations of each of the artworks. The students understand that artwork is a powerful tool for communication and it was 4G's job to uncover the core message of each artwork.



The students thoroughly enjoyed the walk. They identified their own favourite artworks and explained why they felt a connection to those artworks.

The students also viewed the street art on the water tank at Katoomba which was completed by Peque, who is an international artist.

Thank you to Lily's mum, Danielle, for joining us on our excursion.

L. Gerrard

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## FROM THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

### Save the Date

The next Parents' and Friends' event on our calendar is the fantastic Annual Trivia Night – this is a great night and it will be held on **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May**.

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### **Mr. Duncan Barrell**

Chair, BMGS Parents' and Friends' Association  
[dba23266@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dba23266@bigpond.net.au)

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## **FROM THE HEAD OF THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Congratulations to Charlotte James and James Reynolds, our new School Leaders. They are reflective of a most enthusiastic and responsible Year 4 cohort.

The RSL Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League of Australia has invited our students to take part in the ANZAC Day Commemoration March in Springwood on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April.

The Parade will congregate at the **Springwood Post Office** at 10:15am and at 10:30am will proceed along Macquarie Road to the Cenotaph in Buckland Park. The Service will commence at 10.55am. Students from Blue Mountains Grammar Preparatory School will present a gift at the Cenotaph.

Children from Kindergarten to Year 4 are invited to participate. Parents can leave the children with our staff at the Assembly Point, and then watch the Parade along Macquarie Road.

**We ask that parents of Kindergarten and Year 1 children collect them after the Parade.** Years 2, 3 and 4 children are welcome to stay with Staff for the Service at the War Memorial.

The children are asked to assemble at 10:15am wearing **Full School uniform, including blazer and hat.**

The Staff wishes our School community a rewarding time together with family and friends. Thank you for your ongoing support this term. We look forward to seeing you in Term Two, commencing Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**E. Flett**

### **Student Awards:**

Pre-Kindergarten - Sebastian Nichols

Kindergarten - Carlyle Magee, Elliot Wisman Santmaria and Edie Jensen

Stage 1 - Ariel Reeves, James Klein and Xavier Stephens

Stage 2 - Charlotte James, Luke Johnson-Liebbrand and Peter Moore

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – APRIL 2017**

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Service, Assembly

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Junior School Grandparents' Day

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Term 1 concludes

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April** – ANZAC Day

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April** – Term 2 commences