‘Tis’ The Season’

The Christmas season is in full swing and I can feel the excitement from the children and community as we come to the end of 2013.

I take this opportunity to thank all our Teachers, Assistants and Administration Staff for their continued support and dedication to our children and the operations of our school. The calendar has been full each term and all events have been a wonderful success due to the planning and organisation. May you have a well earned holiday and bring your knowledge and fabulous ideas to the New Year 2014.

Thank you to our School Board, Class Liaisons and P&C for their dedication in communications and community spirit they bring to our school. With your creative and motivated spirit we have achieved successful family events, fundraisers and a community feel about our school, we appreciate your precious time that is required to fulfil these roles.

Schools are living organism and like the seasons, always changing, new shoots appearing and leaves falling. Blue Gum is no different. The Board has undertaken a parent survey to establish which direction the school will go in the next three years. I urge all of you to be involved in the survey and give your opinion.

To our children and their families we wish you a safe and happy festive season. If you are travelling enjoy your experiences and we look forward to sharing your journey next year.

Best Wishes Janet
Reuse, Reduce and Recycle
Art Exhibition

Boab, Wandoo and Karri students were very busy this term creating beautiful two and three dimensional artworks from discarded materials. The second week of November was National Recycling Week and the students were made aware of the importance of recycling in our community.

Plastic bottles were turned into penguins, cardboard (thanks to a newsagency) become robots and buildings, newspapers became castles and cityscapes and old magazines were used for bird collages. A big thank you to all the parents for collecting coloured bottle tops that were used to make colourful murals.

New talents were discovered, Sam Bateman, created an intricate bird wire sculpture (so much better than mine) and Ethan Rigoli made a jellyfish collage he was very proud of.

Scraps of fabric became clothes on a washing line, some boys insisted on designing and cutting underpants for their washing lines.

Students learnt that not all rubbish ends in a bin and that with some creative thought they can be turned into recycled artworks.
Boab Comments

Emily: I think that all the work is good and everyone tried hard!
Alex: I think everyone put a lot effort into their art!
Conall: I thought everyone did the best they could.
Josh: My favourite thing in the entire art exhibition was the bottle top art.
Conor: All the art work was amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!
Matt: Everyone put a lot of effort and thought into their work.
Noah: I liked doing the bottle top art.
Alexandria: I liked Wandoos’s Magpie bottle top art.
Anita: I enjoyed making the newspaper castles.
Candice: I really like the gecko Wando did.
Anabel: I liked making the bottle people!
Nathan: I liked doing wire art!
Amelia: I enjoyed doing everything but most of all I liked doing milk bottle art!
Bianca: All the art is amazing but my favourite is the sand pictures!
Emma: Every piece of art work that I saw was beautiful and I know that everyone put a lot of effort into it!
Madeleine: I loved the tissue box monsters and the bottle people but my favourite piece of art work was the bottle top magpie.
Middle Primary Graduation Ceremony

Yesterday the Middle Primary Community had the opportunity to say farewell to the children moving up to Boab and those leaving the school. It was wonderful to see the confidence with which the Middle Primary Graduates to Upper Primary delivered a short speech to their community. The leavers were equally impressive and addressed everyone present, to express their thanks and say goodbye. The speeches were well received and appreciated by everyone. The Middle Primary Community also got a chance to say kind words to the leavers. Everyone had sumptuous meal soon after.

Thanks Mike from all the Blue Gum Children

Malu, Hannah and Joshua gave Mike Lee—Sports Teacher, from Kidz-n-Sports, a card with Bunnings vouchers, in appreciation for his dedication and hard work with Boab, Wandoo and Karri. We wish Mike the very best for his future and hope to see him at Blue Gum for a visit.
Middle Primary shows their work to Melaleuca
The Wandoo children love to show their work, done during the term, to the attentive Melaleuca children.

DENTAL CLINIC XMAS ARRANGEMENTS

The clinic will be closed from the 19th December 2013 until the 27th January 2014.

Emergency Arrangements from 19th December until the 20th December 2014 – emergency dental treatment is available at Swanbourne phone 93840855 on 19th December 2013 or Caralee phone 93376818 on the 20th December 2013.

Should an emergency arise outside these times or during a public holiday, please contact:

The School Dental Service Emergency Clinic – Mt Henry Dental Therapy Centre – 43 Mt Henry Road Como phone 9313 0555 between the hours of 8.15am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

Thank you.
NEWS FROM THE BOARD

2013 has been a busy year for the Board. Much hard work was put into the successful completion of the new Three Year Strategic Plan; a copy of which can be found on the following link: http://www.bluegummontessori.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Strategic-Plan-final-2014-2017.pdf

The school has grown rapidly in the past few years and the Strategic Plan highlights the continuing growth of our school and the work required to achieve this. Many people have been, and continue to be, involved in the implementation of the Plan and the Board wishes to acknowledge and thank all those involved.

The P & C entered its second year and what a year it has been. All will agree the Birthday Bash was a huge success and the forthcoming Christmas Party is promising to be equally as enjoyable. Many thanks must go to the volunteers who make these events a reality. Without their dedication and hard work we would not have the P & C we do. Many hands make light work and they are always looking for helpers so please get involved, if you are able.

Fees and Business Arrangements for 2014 have been finalised and you should all have received information on this. Next year’s fee increase is lower than educational CPI and that imposed by comparable schools. This has been made possible by significantly improved financial management in recent years and, I am sure you will agree, is a very good result for the school.

Our AGM will be held on the 24th of March 2014. There will be Board positions becoming vacant and we welcome and encourage you to consider nominating for a role. By doing so, you become a part of a community whose purpose is not only the betterment of the school and your child, but also to provide you with the opportunity to make new friends and be involved in what is happening.

Of course, the Board could not function without the wonderful support received from Janet, the administration staff and the teachers, so a huge thank you to all staff.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a happy end to Term 4, a safe Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

Nicole van Blommestein
Secretary

30TH ANNIVERSARY BLUE GUM YEAR BOOK

The fabulous year book has been printed and is available for purchase from Michelle in the Administration office for $35 per book. Every child at Blue Gum is featured throughout the book.

Purchase now for a Keepsake for you and your child, Birthday and Christmas presents.
NEWS FROM THE BOARD

As part of the school’s recently adopted strategic plan, there are a number of priorities that need to be informed by the parent body. To prevent you having to complete multiple surveys, the Board has prepared a single survey covering:

• Your satisfaction with the school
• Your impressions regarding the school’s communication and sense of community
• How much you know (and want to learn) about Montessori education
• What you think of the school's site and facilities

This survey will give a powerful insights into how well the school is performing and inform critical decisions including how school fees are set, how involved we want to be as parents and whether the school should be expanding or consolidating.

All responses will be treated confidentially and it should only take about 15 minutes to complete.

The survey is online and can be accessed here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q33G2XF.

We thank you in advance for your time and commit to sharing a summary of the results with the parents that participate.

Thanks
The Board

A Playgroup Merry Christmas Poem

“We wish you a Merry Christmas,
with play dough and lots of biscuits,
with snack time and gluey craft time,
hand shakes and good cheer”.

“Good tidings we bring
Let’s get together and sing
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And we’ll see you next year”.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Blue Gum parents for helping me prepare and make sure our Playgroup equipment, setup, laundry is in order. I appreciate your continued support throughout the year and look forward to the New Year 2014.

Cheers
Melissa Beeck-Goulding
The Wishing Tree Project

The Wishing Tree Project is a pilot leadership project Blue Gum has run this year for the children who will be the ‘leaders of the school in 2014’.

The project kicked off with a discussion with the children about what Christmas means to them personally and then moved on to how children in other circumstances may be celebrating Christmas. The children then selected two groups of children who they felt need support – the children in the Philippines and the homeless children in Western Australia.

The children were charged creating an information handout about their project. Armed with the pamphlets and coloured Christmas trees, they gave presentations in each class and encouraged the children to make a wish for either the children in the Philippines or the children in Western Australia. The team tallied the wishes and the monies they raised will be going to the Red Cross for the children in the Philippines.

One five year old’s wish – Dear Santa, please can you bring the children of the Philippines clothes money

The children’s Christmas trees were used to decorate the School Christmas tree which on the stage.

Next stage, the children have baked ginger bread men to sell at the P&C Christmas party. Jim Valentine (Joshua, Charlie, Poppy and Archie’s Dad) helped the children by lending his expertise and bakery facilities. Whilst I was taking photographs, customers stopped to watch the children and ask about them. The children received their first donation of $4 from one of the shoppers! The gingerbread men will be decorated this afternoon in readiness for sale on Friday evening.

The project will finish at assembly on Thursday when the 2014 leaders – Amelia, Anita, Emily, Joshua and Noah will announce how much money they have raised to send to the Red Cross for the children of the Philippines.

From the start of the project it has been very rewarding to watch the children bond into a cohesive team, listen more closely to each other, take care of each other and be more mindful.

The leadership project will continue in 2014 with the children taking up whole school responsibilities in a variety of areas including buddy ing younger children, peer support, and duties in the Gunyah area.

Congratulations to Amelia, Anita, Emily, Joshua and Noah for stepping up and taking up the challenges.
The Wishing Tree Project

Ginger Bread Charity Sale

The children will be selling their ginger bread tomorrow morning outside the office for $2 each. Please support the childrens project and all donations will go towards the children in the Philippines.
Let’s get Festive!

It’s time to PARTY!

Remember:

Baked Goods

Old CDS, books, DVDs

Soft, low seating

Long limbed, light coloured clothing

Insect repellent

See you tomorrow night at 5pm!