Welcome back to the Blue Gum families and the new families who will be joining our School over the next few weeks. Many of the children have told us of their fun filled holidays and how they were excited to come back to school. I am always delighted with the enthusiasm the children at Blue Gum have for school and getting on with their learning. Unlike adults who work for a living, children work to create themselves and all challenges and experiences are adventures no matter how small or large.

We have returned to a beautifully brushed up school. Thank you to the Busy Bee parents who attended to those mundane chores of sweeping, cleaning and mulching. I am very aware that you probably have something much better to do with your time. I am grateful for your contributions and that you’re modelling taking on responsibilities of community life. As the proverb says, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’.

Besides the activities that help the children learn their 3Rs, reading, ‘writing and ‘arithmetic, the staff have a fun filled programme in place for the term. Starting with welcoming new children or transitioning children into each class and the opportunity for new friendships, the children have new activities in the classrooms and in the outdoor areas. The Friday children will be experiencing drumming circles with their teachers and they will be putting on a performance at the end of term assembly. Fridays continue to be the School’s non-Montessori day as the children swing in their classes through drumming with Trey, sport with Paul and John and French with Madame Melanie. Besides the specialist programmes, this is a chance for the children to experience the life style of a traditional school.

There are a number of excursions and incursions – please refer to the calendar. There are three big whole school incursions – on Monday 17th March, Harmony Day, the children will be learning dances from different continents. This will be followed by Parent Open morning on Thursday between 8.30–9.30. This is a chance for your children to show you what they are doing in class. On Wednesday there is a performance on ANZAC for all the children.

Each class has a Class Liaison who is on hand to help families settle. Please make a point of seeking them out. Their photographs will be on the class notice boards. Otherwise Shelly and Lisa in the office are only too willing to help out.

My best wishes for a fun and exciting term.
Janet
MELALEUCA CLASS NEWS

We have had a calm and enjoyable start to 2014 with everyone happily settling back into the routines and work of the classroom. A warm welcome to our new children who will be starting school in the next couple of weeks – Amelia Greenhill, Willoughby Cacho, Rishinie Vasudevan, Erin Leong and Kensington Mitisek. We look forward to getting to know you and trust that you will quickly feel very much part of the Blue Gum community.

It was very exciting to see some changes in our environment when we got back to school! We have a new compost bin in our garden. Our food scraps from snack and lunch go into that bin and we will soon have compost to put on the vegetables that we are going to plant. Everyone remembered what sorts of scraps are good for the earthworms that will help to make the compost.

There are also some new steps and fences that link Melaleuca with the other Junior Primary verandahs. It is great to be able to walk along the verandahs so easily and visit with the other children in JP! What a great start to the New Year!

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate both the Cacho and Hyndman families of Melaleuca Class on their recent birth of:

James Cacho

and

Archibald Hyndman

All the very best from the school community and welcome to our world boys.
In their first week back to school the Wandoo children spent a great amount of time getting to know each other better. One of the activities they participated in was the Autograph Game where they moved around the classroom to fill in names of children, from the classroom, who met the various criteria on their forms.

The Wandoo children discussed the need for rules and signed The Wandoo Constitution as a pledge to honour the same. They sorted out statements into the rule they applied to, indicating that they thoroughly understood what each rule encompassed.
Wattleuca

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break and have had a great start to term 1. This article is a flashback to term 4, 2013.

Wattle and Melaleuca children, on Wattle Fridays, were learning about money in term 4. After an initial introduction to money, recognising different coins and notes, and talking about what money is used for and why, it was decided, as whole class, that they would like to create a ‘school shop’. In doing so, they would be able to practice what they had learnt about using money throughout the term, as well working collaboratively on group project. As a team, the shop entrance was constructed, a name (Wattleuca) was created by the children and box craft creations were used as items to purchase in the shop. It was such a lovely experience watching the children working together on this project and seeing their enjoyment when using the shop on the last Friday of term.

They were all so proud, and rightfully so, of what they had created.

Constructing the shop entrance:
Creating items to purchase in the shop:

At the checkout:

Working out the change:

“How much is this”?

From top left: Children engaged in creating items for purchase, working at the checkout, calculating change, and asking about the price of items.
At Blue Gum, our educational staff encourage our children to take responsibility for the micro community that is their classroom and to enjoy the sense of belonging they gain, as well as the camaraderie of the whole community of students.

As parents, we don’t want to miss out on the warm and fuzzies and we want to support our children in their environment, so the P & C try to create opportunities for parents and families to be involved as the wider Blue Gum community.

Last year, these efforts were met with resounding success, with the BBB and the Christmas party enjoyed by the majority of families, and lots of muffins, sausages, spices, biscuits and books sold, so that we were able to raise enough funds for:

- A new video camera for the Boab students, as well as software to make the most of it;
- $2k set aside as the P & C contribution towards the school’s new gate (in honour of the parents and staff who helped create Blue Gum and bring us to where we are today); and
- $3k budgeted towards our exciting **Water Play Feature**, which is currently in design phase (see our piece in the 28/11/13 newsletter if you haven’t heard about this yet).

This year we’re planning lots of fun events to get us together and hoping to raise funds to:

- Finish the water feature;
- put shade sails over the bicycle stand and the new decking between Melaleuca and Wattle; and
- put fans in Kambarra.

We’re busy brainstorming ideas and liaising with the educational staff to ensure that we don’t disrupt their delivery of the curriculum. When we’ve finalised it, we’ll put the P & C calendar of events in the newsletter, onto the website and up on the P & C noticeboard for everyone to read. We can, however, tell you about our first event for the year.... drum roll please.....
Blue Gum’s Car Boot Sale, Sunday 9\textsuperscript{th} March.

Are you running out of places to put stuff after Christmas?

Do you make, bake, grow or sew stuff you want to sell?

Want to raise awareness of your business?

We have the answer! Book yourself a space and offer your wares to the Blue Gum community.

Logistics are as follows:

A map of car park bays ($10), or coveted shady spots ($15) in the grassy area beside Mallee will be released (put on the P & C noticeboard) to Blue Gum families exclusively on Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} Feb.

They are available on a first come - first served, no money - no goods basis. Club together with a friend (or go it alone if you’ve got lots to sell), choose your spot, write your name on the map, rip off the corresponding tag, put it in an envelope with your name and your money and put it into the P & C tray in the office. The tray will be cleared daily, and only spaces for which money has been received will be reserved.

On Saturday 22\textsuperscript{nd} Feb, any remaining spaces will be made available at $15 to local businesses, friends of friends etc. if you know a rep for Thermo mix, Tupperware, Enjo, Lorraine Lea.. feel free to give them a heads up.

On the day in question, “stall holders” will be allowed in to set up from 7am. You can park your car in your bay and open the boot, or set up a table (those who’ve paid for a spot in the grassed area will be restricted to tables).

It’s BYO everything, tables, shade etc. although there will be refreshments for sale (and hopefully, some of our bakers will be selling goodies). During set up, cars will be allowed to drive to their reserved spot, but they will be asked to leave before we open for business if they’re not parked in their allocated bay.

We will be open for business at 8am. Customers will be charged $2 entry (obviously, this can’t really be policed, so we’ll be relying on good faith and if people are feeling generous, they’re welcome to donate more!)

Next meeting: 28 March 5pm for 6pm meeting. 31 Rainer Mews Willetton, kids welcome, BYO dinner.
Welcome to the new school year. My name is Leona Stephens and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school.

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.

If you have a concern about your child’s health or development, please contact me on 0893391362.

School Entry Health Assessment

All children in Western Australia are offered a health assessment during their first year of primary school. This usually occurs in kindergarten.

A Community Health Nurse will check your child’s vision, hearing and general development. A form will be sent home sometime during the year.

Parents please complete and sign the forms. Please return the form to the school office or class teacher.

Immunisation - information for parents

Immunisation programs in our community are designed to keep everyone well and safe, especially those people who are most at risk, such as babies.

Parents or legal guardians who do not immunise their child should note the following:

In the case of a Measles or Pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak, Western Australian schools are required by the Department of Health, to exclude students who have not received the appropriate vaccination.

Please make sure your school-aged child is fully immunised and that you have provided a copy of the ACIR immunisation record to the school.

Did you know that as parents you can ring the National registry or go to the web site to check out your child’s immunisation status? All you need is your Medicare number. Phone 1800 653 809 or access the web site: www.humanservices.gov.au or email acir@humanservices.gov.au
Head lice

Tips for preventing head lice

Check your child’s hair regularly for head lice and eggs (‘nits’). Use a metal fine tooth ‘nit’ comb and plenty of hair conditioner applied to the dry hair, to make the task easier and more effective. To help children sit still for this, offer distracting activities, e.g. play a favourite video, provide games, encourage reading, offer a head massage.

Tie long hair back. Braid long hair and/or put it up if possible.

Consider applying hair gel or mousse. These do not prevent or repel lice but may help to keep stray hair strands from contact with other heads.

Avoid sharing combs or brushes.

Remind your child to avoid head-to-head contact with other children, e.g. when working at the computer with others, or when playing, or hugging.

If your child has head lice please notify their teacher.

For more information:

- The Head lice Fact Sheet available from the school

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

There are many ways to be a good parent. Managing children’s behaviour can be challenging at times, however it is an essential part of good parenting. The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) may help you raise happy and confident children, through small changes and simple routines.

Programs offered include:

- Seminar Series Triple P
- Group Triple P

All programs are at no cost to parents or carers. To find out more, or to register in a program near you phone 1300 550 879 or email positiveparenting@health.wa.gov.au


Leona Stephens | Community Nurse District Schools | CACHSCZ | Fremantle/Cockburn Health Region

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Delivering a Healthy WA
Parenting Workshops
First Term 2014

Kensington & Belmont

You and Your New Baby
Antenatal to 3 months
This workshop will explore normal brain development in relation to verbal and non-verbal cues, sleep, wakefulness and feeding patterns. Group discussion will allow time to reflect on your relationships and your plans for your family and the community supports available. Babies under 7 months welcome to attend.

Saturdays 9.30-11.30am:
• 18th January (Belmont)
• 1st February (Belmont)
• 15th February (Kensington)
• 15th March (Belmont)
• 12th April (Kensington)

Tuesday 1.00-3.00pm:
• 14th January (Kensington)
• 4th March (Kensington)

And so to Sleep
7 Months to 2 Years
This workshop explores children’s sleep patterns and rhythms which evolve as their brain continues to make sense of their world. Participants will explore and help identify both the parents and child’s role in relation to sleep and nutritional requirements for this age group. Practical ideas will be discussed which will assist you to coach your child through the upheavals that may arise in everyday life in your home that challenge family sleep patterns.

Mondays 7.00-9.00pm:
• 8th January (Kensington)
• 10th March (Kensington)

Wednesday 7.00-9.00pm:
• 11th February (Kensington)

Food Glorious Food
Babies to the First Year
Focuses on when to introduce solids, what types of food are suitable, how much to offer your child. Information is provided on developmental changes that occur in the first year of a child’s life and how this affects eating behaviours.

Tuesday 10.00am-12.00pm:
• 21st January (Kensington)
• 25th February (Kensington)
• 18th March (Kensington)

Sleep and Your Growing Baby
3 to 7 Months
In this workshop we provide information on the essential developmental changes that are occurring in your child’s brain and how this dramatically impacts on sleep/awake time for everyone. This workshop will explore ways for parents to approach this exciting and exhausting stage.

Babies under 7 months welcome to attend.

Saturdays 9.30-11.30am:
• 18th January (Belmont)
• 1st February (Belmont)
• 22nd February (Belmont)
• 15th March (Belmont)
• 5th April (Belmont)

Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm:
• 8th January (Belmont)
• 5th February (Belmont)

Now in a Bed
2 to 5 Years
This workshop aims to explore with participants why existing sleep patterns may noticeably change when a toddler moves to their own bed. This workshop will explore sleep information that will assist the family to adjust to your toddler’s next stage of development.

Wednesday 7.00pm-9.00pm:
• 22nd January (Kensington)
• 20th February (Kensington)
• 10th March (Kensington)

Tasty Toddler
1 to 3 Years
The toddler years are a time for exploration and experimentation, which includes food. This workshop will explore how your child’s developing senses shape their feelings and attitudes to the process of eating, and how you as parents contribute as role models in providing the appropriate opportunities for healthy food choices.

Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm:
• 14th January (Belmont)
• 4th February (Kensington)
• 11th March (Kensington)

Venues
9 George Street, Kensington / 275 Abermethy Road, Belmont

Bookings Essential

Like’ NgalaParenting 9368 9368 or online ($25 single / $35 couple)
Helpline 9368 9368
or 1800 111 546 (country callers)
www.ngala.com.au

Updated December 2013 - subject to change