**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

26th Sept to 13th Oct 2014    School Holidays
11th October 2014 SAT    Busy Bee  8am to 12noon
14th October 2014 TUES    Term 4 Commences 8.30am

**Art with Middle and Upper Primary**

**Art Appreciation**

Painting allows children to explore and express themselves artistically. They learn to develop an appreciation of what is involved in painting. This leads to an appreciation of the artistic works of others.

**Some comments from the students in Middle Primary on Claude Monet:**

**Isabelle H**—“When painting by the sea there was a big storm. There was a big wave and his easel and everything washed away. He didn’t give up and carried on painting.”

**Mia**—“When he painted his garden he used lots of colour and painted at different times of the day.”

**Kayde**—“He painted eight canvases because the light was different. He would paint the first canvas and then move to the next one.”

**James**—“We used watercolour paint on paper and I painted wisteria. It is a plant that hangs off a tree and droops down on the bridge.”

**Lilian**—“He was from France; there are still lots of tourists in his garden. In his garden he has a bridge with a pond and lilies.”

**Lily**—“His paintings are fantastic, they look like photographs.”

**Fletcher**—“Monet had a really big garden and they still try to keep his garden the same way.”

**Some comments from the students in Middle Primary on Henri Matisse:**

**Sasha**—“Other painters called him the wild beast because he painted with bright colours and the tradition was to paint with dark colours.”

**Tahlia**—“He got old and sick so he made up painting with scissors.”

**Poppy**—“He used really big scissors.”

**Madeleine**—“He liked to draw pictures of pretty ladies.”

**Isaac**—“When Matisse was in a wheelchair he started painting with scissors, which was cutting paper. His pictures were wall sized.”

**Paula**—“He wanted to do art the whole of his life. When he was very old he did painting with scissors.”

**Claire**—“I cut out coral and fish with symmetry. I had lots of different coloured coral and fish swimming up and down and a fish hiding behind the coral.”

**Ridyha**—“I did painting with scissors. Matisse makes curvy shapes that are nice so I made coral shapes like that.”

Michelle—Fine Arts Teacher
Children’s Artwork
Children’s Artwork

EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST

-PICASSO

Art is the stored honey of the human soul.
JP Sports Carnival
JP Sports Carnival

[Images of children participating in various outdoor sports activities at a school sports carnival.]
Middle and Upper Primary Sports Carnival
Parent Information

[Images of children playing and participating in outdoor activities]
Dear Families

As Term 3 ends, there are a few things I would like to say.

Firstly, I was delighted to finally be able to announce this week the appointment of our new Principal, who will commence with us in the last week of Term 4. As I said in my email, this represents the culmination of a rigorous recruitment process and a lot of hard work from our HR Committee. I am very grateful to Terence Lee, Andy Vernie and Anna Black for their time, experience and expertise to assist me in finding us an outstanding educational leader to guide our School forward over the next five years.

With so many major changes being made or planned at the moment it is worth reflecting on whether we are actually achieving what we set out to do. This is mapped out in our strategic plan, a full copy of which is available on our website.

The strategic plan was developed through two workshops last year with input from a broad group of Blue Gum staff and parents (including the class liaisons who had each surveyed their classes beforehand). This plans identifies 5 “strategic elephants” (our wonderful facilitator Hannah explained - strategic elephants will crush you if ignored, but can also be ridden to victory if managed correctly). The Board’s Strategic Planning Committee has been diligently working through actions. As the table below shows, all actions are either closed out or deferred until our new Principal starts.

This shows that despite the rapid pace of change that we’ve seen in 2014, this effort has actually been focused on the activities that we committed to do last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Elephant</th>
<th>Outcome to date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the ideal classroom/cycle ratio, and plan towards it</td>
<td>Based on discussions with parents, teachers and benchmarking against other schools, the Board is working towards a 4:3:2 cycle ratio – 2 classes larger than the current school. The creation of a new Upper Primary class for Term 1 2015 is the first step in this direction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve parent education, and promotion of the benefits and expectations of Montessori throughout the cycles, to maintain parents’ passion for BGMS</td>
<td>A parent needs assessment has been completed showing a strong desire to learn more about Montessori education. The incoming Principal is passionate about this and we expect to see more opportunities once she has her feet on the ground in 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore the needs gap between the current BGMS site and future physical requirements</td>
<td>This has been done, with extra classrooms and associated facilities required for the 4:3:2 cycle ratio. The School’s 2016 and interim expansion plans cater for this growth.</td>
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<td>Foster the creation of opportunities for teachers, staff, parents and children to engage more fully in the BGMS community</td>
<td>There are now parent coffee mornings running twice weekly, the P&amp;C continue to run regular events and the parent satisfaction surveys indicates that this meets the needs of most families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a plural academic management structure and begin Principal succession planning</td>
<td>The appointment of our new Principal, who will be starting in the last week of Term 4, is the first step towards this outcome.</td>
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I also want to thank some outgoing Board members for their service to our School. JP Clarenc has been our Treasurer since 2012, and previously served on the Finance Committee. He will be sorely missed by the Board as his children move into a new chapter in their educational lives next term. JP will be replaced as Treasurer by the very capable Sue Cooke, who has served on the Finance
Message from the Board cont.

Committee with JP for the past three years, and has been a member of the Board since this year’s AGM. I would also like to thank Denise Pietersen who has stepped down from the Board. Denise followed her husband David onto the Board and we are grateful for the contribution their family has made to the school over the years.

These movements mean that the Board is looking for at least one new member. The role of the Board is to provide strategic guidance for the School and to effectively oversee and review its management. The Board provides a governance role and has regulatory, financial and risk management responsibilities. The whole Board meets monthly to which its various sub-committees report. The Principal attends Board meetings, but does not have voting rights. If you have skills in policy, law, human resources, planning or finance and are interested in contributing to the School in this way, please email me at board.chair@bluegummontessori.wa.edu.au or the staff in the Office can put you in touch with me.

Finally, I want to extend the Board’s deepest gratitude to Jenny Moyles for so ably stepping in as Acting Principal with her usual grace and enthusiasm, and to all our wonderful staff – those who are in the classrooms and those who support us all from the Office – for their dedication to our children and our School, and for keeping things running smoothly over the past two terms.

I wish you all a safe and happy Spring holiday and we look forward to Term 4 as we consolidate our position before moving into 2015.

Regards
Selina Horrocks
Chair of the Board

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO END TERM 3!

Enjoy your holiday break

Regards
Jenny