IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

27th Nov 2014  Student Reports out to Parents
28th Nov 2014  Pluck A Duck tickets returned from parents
1st Dec to 12 Dec Parent/Teacher Conversations
5th Dec 2014  French Performance in Kambarra 8.45am to 9.15am
14th Dec 2014 School Xmas Family Party 3pm onwards

Kathie’s Retiring

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a loyal and trusted colleague, true friend and wonderful lady. With heartfelt appreciation and love we wish Kathie Stevenson a very happy and much deserved retirement.

When Kathie joined Blue Gum, she was the sole office person, her office was a small space partitioned off in the Upper Primary classroom (what is now Karri classroom). During her 6 years at Blue Gum Kathie has seen the school grow and change, she has witnessed the students’ progress through Junior to Upper and as the Principals right hand, Kathie undertook the roles of personal assistant, receptionist, bookkeeper and payroll officer.

We would like to thank you Kathie for your quick wit, wonderful stories and unwavering support, for laughing with us and at us and contributing to our team in such a positive way.

We will all truly miss you!
Middle Primary News

The Middle Primary community celebrated the children who were graduating from Middle Primary, and said goodbye to those leaving the school. All the children had the opportunity to say a few words to the community. These children received many words of praise, thanks and encouragement from the others in the community.
Middle Primary News

We wish all the graduates the very best for their future.
Congratulations to Gwen for being appointed teacher in Wattle class while Catherine is away on Maternity leave next year.

Gwen and Catherine will be team teaching for the first 4 weeks of term.

Message from Gwen

After six wonderful years in Melaleuca with Sally Wimbridge and Deb Dwyer I have been given the opportunity to help continue the fantastic work that Catherine and Louise do in Wattle while they are on maternity leave. I am looking forward to starting in Term 1 and getting to know more of the Blue Gum families that make up our lovely school community.

Warm wishes for the holiday season, Gwen

Healthy eating for children

The Australian Dietary Guidelines provide up-to-date advice about the amount and kinds of foods and drinks that we need regularly, for health and well-being.

By providing your child with the recommended amounts from the Five Food Groups and limiting the foods that are high in saturated fat, added sugars and added salt, your child will get enough of the nutrients essential for good health, growth and development. A healthy diet reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity and some cancers. Your child may also feel better, look better, enjoy life more and live longer!

The amount of food your child will need from the Five Food Groups depends on their age, gender, height, weight and physical activity levels. For example, a 3-year-old boy requires 1 serve of fruit a day, but an 11-year-old boy needs 2 serves of fruit a day. A 9-year-old girl needs 4 serves of grain (cereal) foods a day, and a 14-year-old girl needs 7 serves a day.

Children who are taller, more physically active or in the higher end of their age band, (and not overweight or obese), may be able to have additional serves of the Five Food Groups or unsaturated spreads and oils or discretionary choices. For further information go to www.eatforhealth.gov.au

What should our children eat?

Try and follow these basic guidelines when deciding what to feed your children:

Include 2 fruit and 5 vegetable serves into the daily routine.

Serve lean meats, fish, chicken and dairy. Remember eggs and nuts!

Choose wholegrain bread and cereal.

Limit saturated fat intake and reduce total fat intake.

Limit fast food like chips and pastries.

Limit sugary drinks and offer water or low fat milk instead.

Limit lollies and foods with a high sugar content

Following these guidelines will help our children to be healthy children.

Kind regards

Leona Stephens | Community Nurse District Schools | CACHSCZ | Department of Health
Board News

Plans are drawn and work will commence next week to make way for two Upper Primary classes for Term 1 2015.

You will notice the builders and work personnel entering through the car park double gate from the 8th December 2014.

We have received a number of good suggestions of names for the new classes to date and look forward to receiving your suggestions by emailing admin@bluegummontessori.wa.edu.au.

FRENCH PERFORMANCE

The children are looking forward to presenting to you their French performance on Friday 5th December 2014 from 8.45am to 9.15am in Kambarra.

We look forward to seeing family and friends at the performance.

Merci

Madam
PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey. We didn’t have quite as strong a response as last year but it still yielded valuable information on how the school is tracking in many areas. Congratulations to Lidia Langiu, Geoff Harris and Melinda Issakov as the randomly-selected prize winners. Their families will be exempt from term job and busy bee duties for 2015.

Initial highlights from the survey include:

The vast majority of respondents felt that the school was delivering on its values and were happy that they chose to send their child/ren to Blue Gum;

Parents are very happy with the teaching and the development of their child(ren) in all areas (89% of respondents said that teachers are meeting or exceeding their expectations);

Parents are generally satisfied with all aspects of communication especially the admin team and the frequency of Board communications. Some comments indicated more regular and detailed communication with teachers about their individual children is desired;

There is still demand for extra-curricular activities including music/choir, sports, gym/dance and drama and a number of families are interested in on-site before and after-school care options;

A broad range of events were cited when asked for a favourite BGMS event indicating that parents and children enjoy different types of events and variety is appreciated. It has been acknowledged that parents are keen for more frequent social events;

Strong positive feedback was given in relation to opportunities for parents to learn about Montessori education and there is a strong demand for more;

Strong agreement with the principle of providing additional classroom capacity in the short term and the long term growth option including the opportunity to improve school facilities; and

Some parents are keen for a greater level of parent consultation and significant uncertainty around both the short term and long term proposals were expressed (a parent information evening has been held since the survey based on this feedback).

The Board will be looking at the results more closely over the next few weeks and will identify action items for follow up in the New Year.

Regards

Selina Horrocks – Chair of Board