Gong Xi Fai Chi: Happy Chinese New Year to all Families!

Maree read’s her note from a Chinese New Year Fortune Cookie!

“There is a prospect of a thrilling time ahead for you!”
I was delighted to be invited to the Chinese New Year Luncheon, held by Coolibah and Kurrajong. The children presented me with a special invitation to meet them at 11.30am. To my surprise, the tables were decorated beautifully. The buffet lunch was fit for a king! I felt very honoured to participate in this celebration. The intent behind the celebration was even more important. It was about our community recognising different cultures, listening to stories from the children about Chinese culture and words in mandarin. This conversation led to discussions about favourite dishes from other countries, halal food and even what some children were allergic to. I look forward to my next celebration of culture and diversity with our children.

Parents and Citizens
The Parents and Citizens Convivium (P&C) met today with the primary responsibility for discussing the most effective ways to build our parent community. Did you know the P&C plans several projects to encourage parents’ participation and build parent community? We recognise that everyone gives the best they can. We are very grateful for parent support as it enriches our school through working in collaboration with the BGMS team.

The P&C operates via delegation from the Board. As Principal, I attend the P&C meetings to ensure we are all aligned for the betterment of the school. Today, we mapped out the P&C calendar which we look forward to sharing with our Class Liaison Representatives in the Board Room at 8.45am on Wednesday 25th February 2015. Once these dates and activities have been confirmed, we will then send out this information to you. This will assist you in planning for the rest of the year and provide you with opportunities to engage with our community. We look forward to providing regular P&C updates in our Newsletter.

Clubs...
Our Early Bird Breakfast Club began this week. As we roll out the clubs, we will make every effort to ensure we are meeting the children’s needs. We have already had parent requests to start the club earlier. Generally, if we have a minimum of ten children interested in commencing earlier, then it makes it a viable option. We welcome your expressions of interest. Please let Michelle know in the administration office. Your feedback will be considered.

Trumpet Tingles!
During Upper Primary’s Performing Arts Class, we were treated to Leanne playing her Trumpet. We all felt the tingles of excitement of what is to come. Our inaugural lunchtime Band Club is up and running. Just a gentle reminder to book in at the administration office and for children to bring their instruments.

Many wonderful learning opportunities for our children as we celebrate learning for life!
HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCHEON

Rebecca from Kurrajong helped the children to practice their practical life skills and cooked with the upper primary children to prepare a feast to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The children also bought in some delicious Chinese food to share from home. Thank you to our upper primary parents for helping us.

Maree was the children’s special guest and everyone enjoyed trying the different foods. Well done to all the Kurrajong and Coolibah children – what a terrific lunch and clean up job too! Special thanks to our wonderful Rebecca!

“ Gong Xi Fa Chi” – Happy New Year!

Comments from our children in their last year of cycle three:

“ It was so much fun!” – Candice
“ It was a very educational day” – Grace
“ It was the best day I’ve had at school in ages” – Lexie
“ YUMMY!” - Sam
“ It was really good” – Violet
“ It was delicious” – Conall
“ Chinese New Year is a great celebration” – George
“ I really like the food and the cooking “ - Alex

Upper Primary News

Jarrah News

Thank you to all Jarrah parents who attended the Open night. It was interesting to see various responses to walking on the line. The activity was aimed at allowing us to reflect on the child’s readiness in their learning journey. Walking on the line can be endless, as it is with all learning journey: there are those who stumble along the way, walk slowly/fast, need time to observe others (which is why they are reluctant at first), walk straight from the start... everyone is different. Let’s observe the child & take note of what help they need, if they do need it, because not all help is helpful.

Regards
Maria and Patricia
At the start of each year we assess the Pre-Primary students using PIPS - Performance Indicators in Primary Schools.

PIPS is an aid for teachers, giving them valuable information about a student’s progress. It identifies students who may have speech, hearing or learning difficulties and need support. It also shows students who have made exceptional progress and will need to be extended. The class teacher works individually with each student and records their responses on the keyboard. It takes about 20-30 minutes and is tailored to each student’s ability.

PIPS is currently used in Australia, Netherlands, the UK, Scotland and New Zealand. It assesses the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness. It covers general vocabulary and phonics - understanding sounds, hearing sounds and repeating words that are all important for later reading ability. Some of the aspects covered in the Numeracy assessment are numbers, counting, sums and the knowledge of shapes.

The Junior Primary teachers assess their students again close to the end of the year. The feedback provided gives the teacher an indication of the growth that has taken place over the year in reading, numeracy and phonics. It also provides data to indicate in which areas students are achieving or under achieving according to the ‘year level’ benchmark. This feedback is shared with the teachers who will be teaching the students the following year in Middle Primary.

Our school strives to provide the children with an environment which encourages them to learn. PIPS is used to help teachers in their curriculum planning. It predicts future performance and identifying individuals who might benefit from early intervention. Not all schools implement PIPS.

Middle Primary went on an excursion to the Anzac Cottage this week. This historic Cottage was built in one day back in February 1916 as a war memorial commemorating the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli and as a home for a wounded soldier named John Cuthbert Porter.

Monica - “I learnt how the house was in the olden days”.
Lisa—“It was very interesting how they built the house in just one whole entire day”.
Hayden - “I found it interesting that the house is 99 years old”.
Miuccia - “I had so much fun doing all the activities”.
Paula—“I like the pattern on the ceiling which was very ice”.
Edward—“There were 6 people in the house and they had to share beds or sleep on the floor”!
Community News

Montessori Café
The Montessori Café is open every Monday and Wednesday at school drop off time from 8.30am until 9.15am. The Montessori Café will be held in the Mallee playground to enable our youngest friends to have a play. Families will then exit from Mallee side gate. Please ensure that the last person to leave has closed the gate to maintain our children’s safe environment.

Please Note
No school age child should be in the Montessori Café unless it has been arranged in consultation with their teacher as part of the Practical Life curriculum.

Briony Hills
Montessori Café Coordinator – Term 1

Morning and Afternoon School Clubs

Monday – Friday 8.00-8.30am
Early Bird Breakfast Club is held in Mallee every morning. Children enter in the side gate from the car park.
Children are able to make their own healthy breakfast and engage in practical life activities.

Monday 3.00-5.00pm
TBA

Tuesday 3.00-6.00pm
Kidz n Sport
Paul Riley— Kidz n Sport co-ordinator will be taking sport classes at Blue Gum, enrolment forms are available from our administration office.

Wednesday 3.00-5.00pm— The Art of Drawing Club
Judith Price is a graphic artist and illustrator. She teaches drawing and art to children in schools and workshops, visit her website to view her work: www.judithpriceartist.com.
Term 1 2015, commenced on Wednesday 4th February in Mallee Room, with the last class on Wednesday 1st April 2015. If you are interested in joining pick up a joining form from Admin.

Thursday 3.00-6.00pm
Kidz n Sport
Paul Riley— Kidz n Sport co-ordinator will be taking sport classes at Blue Gum, enrolment forms are available from our administration office.

Friday 3.15-5.00pm
TBA
Montessori Playgroup
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9am—11am
Term 1 2015: Tues 3rd February—Thurs 2nd April (9 weeks)
(Term 2 2015 begins Tues 21st April)

Welcome Back!
Welcome back to all Playgroup parents, carers and children. I hope you had a lovely break. This term our themes for Playgroup include Valentine’s Day/Friendship, Chinese Year of the Goat, Sea Week, Autumn/Leaves, St Patrick’s Day, Harmony Day and Easter; and we will have crafts to match.

We are continuing with our new jobs this term, including one placemat job; one flower job and the salt job. I will give a group lesson on the salt job during the term. Please could the first children to arrive get onto these jobs as we will pack them away as soon as they’re done. I hope you are enjoying this term; I look forward to working with you and your child.

Summer Time!
Summer Time is here!
A reminder that with this warm weather, it is very important adults and children wear hats and keep shoes on at all times in the playground, due to ants, bees and potentially, snakes.

Signing In and Out
Please sign in at Administration office prior to arriving at Playgroup in Mallee room. You are require to sign the register on arrival to playgroup also. Please note; if you leave playgroup before the 11am finish time, please sign out at playgroup and the administration office.

Thank you

Sunflowers, Sunflowers, Sunflowers & Sunflowers!
Did anyone miss Mallee’s wonderful sunflowers? Weren’t they gorgeous? Many, thanks to Andrew for building the bed, the hardworking parents who de-weeded and filled the bed and to the Playgroup parents and children who filled the bed with sunflowers, dwarf sunflowers, chives, basil, silver beet and Chris’ strawberry plant. Our new garden bed is looking fabulous! If you are early enough in the morning, you will catch a magnificent (and cheeky) “twenty-eight” parrot munching down a nutritious breakfast of sunflower seeds! The sunflowers will be remaining in the bed for a little while longer, while the seeds harden off and then we will be harvesting sunflower seeds, and basil seeds, too “What this space.

Playgroup Co-ordinator—Melissa Beeck