



Blue Gum News—5th February 2015
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 12th Feb 2015 Parent Information Evening 6.30pm to 8pm

Principal's News

Dear Blue Gum Community

What a great start to the academic year!

New Classrooms

It was lovely to welcome you and your family to Blue Gum Montessori School (BGMS). Last Saturday many families attended the community gathering to catch-up on everyone's holiday adventures and to welcome in the academic year. We were very excited to see the new classrooms, library and board room. For those families that couldn't make it, we now have Kurrajong, Coolabah and Biarra to add to our list of classroom names. Thank you to all the people who put forward their suggestions. We have kept the list under lock and key for future naming rights!

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to the Board and BGMS team for working so hard to ensure the building was finished in time for the beginning of the academic year. We all know these things don't happen without the collaborative effort of all parties. It was very satisfying to see the delight on the children's faces when they saw their new classrooms. As you know, our work at Blue Gum Montessori School is centred on providing the best possible education for our beautiful children. Providing aesthetic learning environments is paramount.

Setting the scene for learning

This week the BGMS team met to discuss the many future opportunities for our school. We are excited at the prospect of what 2015 holds for our community. We have worked on creating a timetable to support student learning, expand each child's individual opportunities in the best possible Montessori learning environment we can offer. We are looking forward to sharing this information with you at our Open Night on Thursday 12 at 6.30. The team is working on the program and we look forward to sharing it with you shortly. Limited Childcare is available and bookings can be made with Michelle in administration.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Tomorrow our extra-curricular timetable commences. The program will include: Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, French and Library. Each class will have a specialist teacher with a planned curriculum aligned to the Australian National Curriculum. Every effort will be made to align the delivery of these programs to our Montessori pedagogy. At the beginning and end of the day, the homeroom teachers will monitor each child's well-being to ensure there are no outstanding issues causing them any challenges. We all know happy children learn best of all.

Communication Flow

Regular newsletters will be sent to you to keep you informed about BGMS. Each classroom has a communication book and a class liaison representative. We are in the process of exploring other ways to best communicate our message to you. We use emails, our website and the school's phone App for communicating important items.

We look forward to sharing in your child's education and feel proud we can offer a world class Montessori education to you and your family.

With Best Wishes

Maree G Matthews (PhD)

Upper Primary News

COOLIBAH AND KURRAJONG

The upper primary children were very excited to see their new classrooms. Each room has been decorated with an inviting Montessori environment. Many new Montessori materials line the shelves and the children explored many of them and their interest and joy for learning was wonderful to see.

Rebecca Barth is the teacher for Kurrajong. The Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) is a handsome, slow-growing, Summer deciduous tree, indigenous to this area. Its bright yellow seeds were ground and used by the aboriginal people. Early white settlers valued the leaves as sustaining stock feed during drought.

Laura Nicholls is the teacher for Coolibah. Coolibah is an Australian myrtaceous tree, *Eucalyptus microtheca*, that grows along rivers and has smooth bark and long narrow leaves. It is also mentioned in *Waltzing Matilda*.

What a wonderful way to start 2015. Please come and have a look at the new classrooms, they are beautiful.



Melaleuca News

It's so exciting to be back in the swing of things again after what we trust has been a wonderful holiday break for everyone!

We warmly welcome new children and their families starting in Melaleuca this term: Owen Dyer, Mackinley Gregson, Ethan Evans, Harry Barsden, Milla Celesti-Crosby and Jessica McClain. We look forward to getting to know you! Declan's mum, Kristy Wall, is the class liaison this year – thanks Kristy!

I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming Alison Dorr, our new education assistant, who I am delighted to be working with this year!

In Melaleuca we thought it would be great in this Chinese New Year of the Goat/Sheep to practice being wise, gentle and compassionate. We will be thinking about this in the classroom while we work and interact with our friends, especially as we get closer to celebrating Harmony Day and all the people from many lands who live here in Australia!



History is our culture learning focus this term – our own histories, the ancient history of the Perth area Noongar people, and we'll also be discovering who this person was –



Kind Regards
Deb and Allison

Community News

Congratulations



We would like to congratulate and welcome the birth of Victor Langiu on 2nd of January 2015.

Proud parents of John and Lidia, brother to Daria and Elena Langiu whom are all overjoyed with their son and brother.

Welcome to our Blue Gum community we wish you all the very best.

Montessori Café

The Montessori Café will begin this week. It will be 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



“Montessori is an education for independence, preparing not just for school, but for life.”

Morning and Afternoon School Clubs

The school is open from 8.30 for the commencement of supervision and class begins at 8.45. To ensure our children are supervised before and after school, we will be having clubs in the morning and afternoon. These clubs will include:

Monday – Friday 8.00-8.30

Early Bird Breakfast Club to be held in Mallee every morning. Children will enter in the side gate from the car park.

Children will be able to make their own healthy breakfast and engage in practical life activities.

Monday 3.15-5.00

TBA

Tuesday 3.15-5.00

TBA

Wednesday 3.15-5.00—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 3.15-5.00—Poetry Club

Jackson: Words with attitude & soul.

I write and publish poems, songs and prose, perform poetry and music, and edit and teach poetry proximitypoetry.com. The theme of 'Blue Gum Poetry Club' is the enjoyment of poetry as an art form in a friendly, supportive group. Activities include

Reading aloud and discussing age-appropriate contemporary and traditional poems (from books and other media).

1. Writing experiments and activities -- having fun making our own poems, individually and perhaps in pairs and groups.
2. Reading and performing our poems to the group.
3. Students learn about the different techniques and styles of poetry, and about the techniques of confident reading and performance.

We work in Mallee Room and outside, if the weather is nice. Poetry and nature go together.

Parents are welcome to contact Jackson for more info via her website or mobile 0406624578.

These classes have not started, expression of interest are required, forms can be picked up from Admin.

Friday 3.15-5.00

TBA

Children will have to be booked in at administration. A fee schedule will be communicated once the clubs have been confirmed.