Harmony Day

It was wonderful to see so many families and friends at our Harmony Day Breakfast this morning. Thank you for taking the morning to share this important and memorable moment with your children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Staff and Community helpers whom made our school look colourful and beautiful for this event.

Special thanks to the Valentine Family and Rachael Mirco for providing the breakfast goodies for the morning.

Disco Fever

Get your dancing pumps ready for the P&C School disco on **Friday 20th March at 5pm to 8pm**. On entry with a gold coin donation you will receive a raffle ticket for the Easter raffle prize. Look forward to seeing you all there to-

AGM

Please come and join us for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association on **Monday 23rd March at 7:30pm**. We look forward to meeting in Kambarra and sharing a summary of activities for the 2014 academic year and electing our new Board. People are nominated to the role of Director, and at its first meeting immediately following the AGM, the Board designates people into the various Board roles dependent on their relevant skills and experience.

Child Care will be provided in Mallee from 7.20 - 8.30 to enable you to attend the A.G.M. The cost of Child Care will be a gold coin per child or $5.00 per family. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle. We will provide fruit. All children need to be signed in to ensure their safety. Bookings can be made at administration.

Sleepover at School!

Middle Primary is having their sleepover on **Friday 27th March, 3pm until Sat 9am**. This is a special time to be part of the MP learning community and a natural rite of passage for our independent learners. Please closely liaise with your child’s classroom teacher if you are unclear about any of the arrangements. I look forward to hearing about the adventures!

End of Term Assembly

Middle Primary children are currently rehearsing there end of term assembly performance. The assembly is scheduled for **Thursday 2nd April from 11.00am to 12.00noon in Kambarra**. We look forward to you being part of our audience.

Regards

Maree G Matthews (PhD)
Kurrajong and Coolibah students had a wonderful time showing their parents how hard they have been working this term. What a terrific effort everyone!

A Photographic essay of Harmony Day
Harmony Day

[Images of various groups of people engaged in activities, likely related to Harmony Day.]
Harmony Day
Harmony Day
## Constable Care Incursion Middle Primary

The Constable Care Puppet show, Fun-Scary, was very well received by the Middle Primary children. The show gave the Middle Primary children an opportunity to revisit the Protective Behaviours lessons they learnt about in the last term of 2014. For the children new to Middle Primary, it was a great learning experience, presented in an entertaining manner.

**Magnus**  
“I learnt about the fun-scary and the bad-scary feelings.”

**Sebastian**  
“I learnt the difference between fun-scary and bad-scary feelings.”

**Jacob**  
“Going down a slide is a fun-scary feeling.”

**Sasha**  
“When you are going on the street by yourself that can be a bad-scary feeling.”

**Jefferson**  
“Every child should have a helping hand.”

**Alex**  
“The people you should have on your helping hand should be those you know and trust.”

**Charlotte**  
“I learnt that you should only tell about your bad feelings to people on your helping hand.”

**Lilian**  
“If a person does not listen to you then you should go to the next person on your helping hand, and then take the person who did not listen to you off your helping hand.

Constable Care visited Middle Primary children this week. The children were introduced to protective behaviour last term and it was good for them to have a review of the early warning signs and the different kinds of ‘scary’ situations. It was wonderful to see the children use appropriate language to describe their feelings and emotions.

**Monica**  
Sometimes you are scared of doing something but you just do it and then in the end it feels like fun. It is type of ‘fun scary’ feeling.

**Usayd**  
I learnt that there are lots of different types of ‘scary’. There is fun scary and bad scary. I also learnt that there are a lot of different early warning signs for both types of scary.

**Archer**  
I learnt about different types of scary. One is when your heart starts beating fast when you are scared. When you go down on a big slide then you are happy and scared.

**Maeve**  
I learnt that sometimes I can have good scary feelings when you are scared but feel safe in the end.
Wandoo News

The Wandoo children had an opportunity to learn about their skeletal system and its function when Tony Cacho, Lilian’s dad, visited the classroom to talk to the children about their physiology. Tony who was inundated with questions, patiently addressed all the relevant and not-so relevant questions posed to him by the inquisitive Wandoo children.

Magnus  "If you break your tail bone you can get very sore. When you are first born the joints in your head are not fully together."

Ridhya  "I learnt that in the spine there are different kinds of bones."

Sebastian  "The skull is hard to break. The bones that have more nerves, hurt more when they break."

Lilian  "Bones are made up of some materials that are in a branch of a tree and some that are in a rock."

Charlotte  "The skull is made up of more than one bone."

Bianka  "Flies have no bones."

Wattle Class News

Wattle and Melaleuca enjoyed some lovely stories from Doug and Ruth about toys that they used to play with when they were young. We saw sock puppets, dolly peg dolls, pop-up books and a Jacob’s ladder puzzle. It was interesting to see which things were different and which were still the same.
It was wonderful to see all the Wattle families at our Harmony Day breakfast this morning. The children loved sharing how their classroom works and spending some special time with you. Even one of our very new additions came along and slept beautifully through the whole thing! Congratulations to the Mathanda family on the arrival of Elle. Afterwards we talked about our favourite part of the morning. Some enjoyed the jobs, others dressing up, some loved the food, and others enjoyed playing in the playground. Thankyou everyone for coming along and we hope to see you again soon.

Gwen and Mereio
Melaleuca Class

Akira  “I showed my baby brother how to do the yellow 100 board”

Calen  “I showed dad the Roman Arch”.

Tate  “Emerald did the constructive triangles with me”.

Milla  “I showed mum the pink tower and the knobless cylinders”.

Declan  “Mum walked in the maze with me but her foot touched the middle”.

Willoughby  “Dad’s favourite was the blue knobless cylinders”.

Harry  “I showed dad how to sweep the kinetic sand”.

Eban:  “I played tic-tac-toe with dad”.

Left: Three generations of the Vernie family with class family picture gallery and a portrait of Maria Montessori.

Right: Akira and Harry enjoyed the delicious breakfast!
**Tuart Class News**

Thank you to the Firemen!

With the recent bush fires around us, the Tuart children wanted to do something to thank the local firefighters for the very brave work they do. Over the past three weeks, the children in Tuart have been baking biscuits with Maria. They baked 105 biscuits! Maria kindly packaged up the biscuits and we made a card to go with them. Maria’s daughter delivered the biscuits this weekend to a firefighter she knows at Success Fire Station. We hope the Firemen enjoyed their biscuits … the children mostly want to know how many firemen there are at the station so they can work out how many biscuits each fireman got.

**Melaleuca News**

Who knew that doing chores in the olden days could be so fun!

Lucas’ dad, Andy, leant us an old-fashioned wash board for our history studies, thanks Andy and the Vernie family! Washing must have taken a long time in those days and we are so glad that we now have washing machines – you just press the button and it does all the washing for you! Using the wash board is good hard work for our muscles, and there are lots of steps to follow – filling the buckets, wetting the cloth, soaping the cloth, rinsing, wringing and pegging it out to dry. And then doing it all again! Here you can see Eban doing his laundry while the others wait their turn. We also learned that a wash board can make great music after the laundry is done!

1. Soap the damp cloth.
2. Wash the cloth.
3. Rinse and wring the cloth.
4. Peg the cloth to dry.
Golden Orb Weaver Spider - *Nephila edulis*

Mallee has some exciting news, a Golden Orb Weaver Spider has set up house! Come and have a careful look in the corner native bed. You will see her magnificent web, with the spider in the middle. We know she is female because the males are ~7mm long and the females ~40mm long.

Things to notice:
- look at her large abdomen (she needs to produce a lot of silk for her web!);
- she has two body parts—cephalothorax and abdomen, both silver-grey, and eight legs;
- see how the web is secured to the blind and the wall with strong threads;
- see how she sits in the middle of the web, waiting for her next meal to come along;
- she is very tidy—see the trails of debris leading away from her? They are the remains of her previous meals!
- take a look at the web from the “side view” and see what you can see… a clue is in the spider’s name… “Golden Orb Weaver.”
- we take care of our Golden Orb Weaver Spider by:
  - not spraying sprays near her (it is sign of the health of our environment that she is here);
  - not disturbing her;
  - watching respectfully from a distance and reminding others to do the same.

### Classification

- **Kingdom:** Animalia
- **Phylum:** Arthropoda
- **Class:** Arachnida
- **Order:** Araneae
- **Family:** Nephilidae
- **Genus:** Nephila
- **Species:** edulis

Common Name: Golden Orb Weaver Spider / Golden Orb Weaving Spider

Thank you everyone; we hope you enjoy “our” magnificent spider.

Melissa and Tara
Band Club News

The Band Club was presented with this magnificent Music Chair, the chair was so very kindly made by Paula Krause’s dad, Robert.

Children sit on this chair to present their music news. Music news is anything to do with Music, listen to a CD, sing a song, dance or play an instrument. Two students per class present music news each week.

I was overwhelmed when presented with the music chair, it is so very special and a beautiful way to be welcomed into the school.

Kindest Regards
Leanne

Playgroup News

Harmony Day was celebrated in Playgroup this week. Many families came in their countries of birth traditional dress, all look beautiful, thanks for sharing your cultures with our community this week.

BGMS Harmony
Schools Earth Hour Day
28th March 2015
8.30pm

Throw your support behind Aussie food and farmers for Earth Hour 2015.

This year, Earth Hour is shining the spotlight on the impact of climate change on food and farming in Australia.

What schools can do:
Lights out events
Screen the 2015 Earth Hour Documentary
Earth Hour Assembly
Enter the Schools Competition by creating a video, billboard image or info-graphic highlighting the impact of global warming on food or farming in your region.

Register your school at https://earthhour.org.au/schools/default.aspx

Curriculum Toolkit – Australia Curriculum aligned lessons, which are free to access from http://www.coolaustralia.org/.

Next Term’s After School Clubs

Monday – Kidz n Sport
Tuesday – Tennis and Drama
Wednesday – Art
Thursday – Kidz n Sport
Friday – Cooking

A full schedule will be available shortly. Enrolment forms are available from the Administration office.

Congratulations
On behalf of all the Blue Gum community we would like to congratulate:-
Tim, Jodie and Ethan Evans from Melaleuca class on the arrival of their new baby daughter and sister Aleia.

We all look forward to meeting Aleia in the near future.

IT’S DISCO FEVER
Get you dancing shoes on its disco time tomorrow Friday March 20th for an evening of dancing and fun in Kambarra from 5-8pm. This year our disco will also feature an Easter Raffle – think baskets of chocolate and Easter crafts plus some donations from local businesses… mmmmmmmmmm!

Raffle tickets will be included in your entry fee of a gold coin donation.

Look forward to seeing you all there tomorrow night!!

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUE GUM APP
Blue Gum Montessori School now have a phone App for communications.

Please go to the APP Store on your phone and download the Blue Gum Montessori School phone APP today. This APP will be used to communication all news from the school and you can communicate to us via the APP also. Therefore if you haven’t already done so, download the APP today and start receiving communications instantly via your phone.