Dear Parents

What a great fortnight of learning!
The students have been focused on their learning through a number of Montessori mini-lessons and jobs across the school. We have had children arranging flowers as part of practical life and sharing cultural experiences. Many students have been on excursions and had incursions over the last fortnight to extend their learning about life. I was intrigued to read the Upper Primary students' reflections about the incursion ‘Tales of the Past’. Unfortunately, I recall one of the experiences shared by Grace, Estelle, Mitchell and Giuseppe. I was one of the many Primary aged students that experienced milk being delivered to the school. I recall having to drink the warm milk that had sat in the sun all morning. It was so bad that I use to place strawberry essence in the milk so I could drink it. Even as an adult, I can only drink chilled or very hot milk.

We would be interested to hear your tales of the past and include them in the next newsletter.

Keeping our School Safe
We have been practising our evacuation and drills to ensure all members of our community are safe. In the event of an emergency situation, we will make every effort to ensure these processes and procedures are followed. Your children may have come home and shared some of these experiences with you. We do not wish the children to worry about these events but use them as an opportunity to learn and feel reassured that in the event we need to evacuate, they know what is going on. Our evacuation point is our Car park and students will be supervised throughout these procedures.

Staff Professional Development
Last Friday the BGMS team worked through a Professional Development program with a focus on first aid, curriculum, assessment and reporting. This is critical work that impacts directly on your child. Staff reviewed procedures for Anaphylaxis, general first aid, curriculum, assessment and reporting. The day finished off with some team building at the Fremantle Chocolate factory here in Bibra Lake. We discovered how a different business works, how the team supports one another to produce the product, the peak times of the business and how as a team everyone has different jobs which contributes to the end product. Everyone enjoyed the free samples and looks forward to sharing the different aspects about the ‘micro-economy’ with the children. I can assure you that the Chocolate was in demand last Friday!

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
We are looking forward to our AGM on Monday 23 March at 7.30. This is an opportunity to be informed about the key priorities for our school. In partnership, we can all make a difference to achieve the very best for our children in their learning journey.
Tales of the past

Kim and Jo visited Coolibah and Ruth and Jean visited Kurrajong to talk with the students about life in the past and what school was like for students in the early 1900’s.

Thank you to our visitors for such a fascinating glimpse into the past.

Charlie: “I learnt that someone came to collect the human waste in the night”.

Grace: “I thought it would be gross having curdled milk because they left the milk bottles delivered to school on the verandah”.

Lexie: “I think it would be very annoying having to dip your pens in ink all the time”.

Sam: “Kim used to live on Garden Island and did school by Correspondence”.

Hannah P: “I learnt that they didn’t have fridges they had ice chests”.

Alex: “I didn’t know that people had chamber pots under their beds”.

Estelle: “That the teachers used to force the students to drink the milk even if it was hot and off”.

Mitchell: “I found it interesting that no-one stole the money left out for the milkman”.

Giuseppe: “I learnt that was a milkman who delivered milk to everyone”.

Ethan: “I didn’t know that the toilet had to be 50 yards from the house”.

Ella: “I think that going to the movies for twenty cents, two shillings, was really cheap”.

Jayden: “There was a special name for the chamber pot – a ‘Gozunda’ it goes under the bed”.

Hannah M: “I learnt that they used dipping pens with ink”.

George: “It must have been hard to write because of the dipping pens”.

Joshua: “I would have hated to empty the chamber pots every morning”.

Crystal: “I found it very interesting that they used sheep knees for games”.

Matilde: “I didn’t know that the pens they used were called fountain pens”.

Isabelle: “I really found the senior citizens really great and that they used real knuckle bones for games”.

Malu: “I found it very interesting about how people lived in those days and how they still used English Currency”.

Conall: “There was electricity, but it was expensive and not everyone had it in their house”.

Bianca: “I thought that their school life was very interesting because it was very different to school today”.

Violet: “It was extremely interesting”.

Estella: “I found out that the toilet had to be outside the house not inside. It had to be at least 50 yards away from the house. Also, the irons were made of iron and it had to be left on the fire to be heated up before it could be used”. 
Wattle Class News

It has been a busy few weeks in Wattle class. We said goodbye to the wonderful Catherine, as she embarks on her own parenting journey. One of the cooking groups made apple and strawberry jellies to share at her farewell. The children remembered the times they had shared with Catherine and sang some songs.

Our cultural focus for this term is families and personal history. We have started to look at our own families, families around the world and even animal families! As part of this work, Daryian’s Mum and sister came to visit and shared with us how their family celebrates Chinese New Year.

This week we also welcomed Mereio, our new educational assistant, to the class. She has been busy getting to know the children. I know she will be an indispensable part of our Montessori community. Please feel free to come and introduce yourself.

Kind regards

Gwen and Mereio

Tuart Class News

Hi

I would like to introduce myself. I am Mereio Hughes and I am a fully trained Montessori teacher. This year I will be assisting Gwen in Wattle. I am delighted to be part of the Blue Gum Montessori School family.

Warm regards Mereio.

Flowers in Tuart

A very big thankyou to Daria, she brought in the most beautiful flowers on her flower day. Daria thoroughly enjoyed arranging her flowers into various vases and placing them on tables around the room. With a vase of flowers on each table, the room looks so wonderfully inviting and homely.

Arranging flowers is a practical life job that many children enjoy. Like many practical life jobs, it lays the foundation for future academic work. It involves estimating, measuring, sequencing (what comes next); all skills that are needed for numeracy and literacy. In addition, cutting stems strengthens fingers for writing, and arranging and placing the flowers encourages creativity. Having flowers and plants in the class room also provided a springboard for learning in botany, such as parts of the plant, parts of the flower.

Please check our class roster to see when your child is rostered on to bring flowers for flower arranging.
School Nurse

Sugary Drinks
How much sugar is your child consuming? Below is a link with indicators on how much sugar drinks contain. Please take the time to go into the link and prepare to be alarmed.


Raising Children Network
Children are as individual and as different as their parents and making decisions about what’s best for raising children is very personal.

The Raising Children website offers up-to-date, research-based material on more than 800 topics spanning child development, behaviour, health, nutrition and fitness, play and learning, connecting and communicating, school and education, entertainment and technology, sleep and safety.

It covers grown-ups, newborns (0-3 months), babies (3-12 months), toddlers (1-3 years), preschoolers (3-5 years), school-age children (5-9 years), pre-teens (9-11 years), and early teens (12-15 years).

There are tips, videos and other useful resources.

The Raising Children Network provides information that can help parents with the day-to-day decisions of raising children. It also provides information to help parents and carers look after their own needs. The information is based on the best science in parenting, child health and development, presented in language we can all understand.

This is a website for Australian mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone else who has responsibility for the care of children.

www.raisingchildren.com.au

P&C News

The P&C had our second meeting of the year yesterday and welcomed many new faces to our group. The new boardroom was overflowing! It was great to be able to have our meeting on site straight after drop off.

We have many fun events planned for the year; the first of which will be the annual School Disco! Pencil in 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…. mmmmmmmmmmm! Raffle tickets will be included in your entry fee of a gold coin donation.

Look out for posters with more details outside the classrooms next week!!

Community News

Congratulations
On behalf of all the Blue Gum community we would like to congratulate:-

Dharren, Archana and Kailash on the birth of their child Aniya on Friday 20th February 2015.

Paul and his wife —Kidz n Sport, on the birth of their child Amelia.

We wish you all the very best and look forward to meeting Aniya.