IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

13th May 2015  Walk n Talk 9am (weekly, every Wednesday during the school term)
20th May 2015  School Open Evening for Prospective Parents 7.15pm to 9pm

Principal’s News

To all our beautiful mothers, aunts, grandmothers or special friends,

Happy Mother’s Day

Mother’s day is often shrouded in commercialism. But for us at Blue Gum Montessori School, we celebrate the love for our mothers... The children delighted in preparing the afternoon tea as part of practical life. It was very satisfying to observe the children and their mothers... selecting their afternoon tea and then joining the wider community for the celebration. Thank you to all the staff who also cooked and prepared our ‘Montessori Café’.

For those mothers who are not here with us today, we also celebrate their love and what they have done for each and every one of us.

Enjoy your Mother’s day and special time with your family.

The mother of our school is essentially Dr Maria Montessori. Her early mothering proved to be significant for mankind. Please read the short article on page 8, which recognises her groundbreaking research.

I wish my teacher knew...

An elementary school teacher who received 'heartbreaking' notes after she asked her students to share their worries, has inspired other teachers to use her trick and better understand their own pupils.

Kyle Schwartz, teaches a third grade class at Doull Elementary in Denver, Colorado. The majority of her students come from underprivileged homes, as 92 per cent are entitled to free or reduced school lunches, she told ABC News.

“As a new teacher, I struggled to understand the reality of my students’ lives and how to best support them. I just felt like there was something I didn’t know about my students,” she told the broadcaster...

The BGMS teachers recently posed: I wish my teacher knew. Our findings were astounding and proved to be very informative for some teachers.

I wish my mum knew...

This summary was found in our playground during our afternoon tea today. One teacher decided to pose: I wish my mum knew... This is what we found and it is in its original form.

I wish my mum knew that when I grow up I’d like to be a dermatologist and join the waso with paula and I’d like to go to Perth Modern school and enter paula to and Id love to live with paula to and Id love to live with her on a farm with ponys.

Kind Regards
Dr Maree Matthews (PhD)
Principal
Anzac Day
Handwriting and Writing Paper

At Blue Gum Montessori the children are taught handwriting using the Victorian Modern script. When children write at home it is important that they use this script. Writing using the correct formation is imperative, as is grasping the pencil appropriately using the dynamic tripod grip. If you need help with supporting your child with their letter formations or pencil grasp it is a good idea to speak to your child’s teacher.

In Middle Primary the children do most of their written language work on dotted thirds. As the children gain fluency in their writing they are provided with dotted thirds of decreasing width. Please encourage your child to use this paper at home as well.

At the end of every term your children might bring home their Language books, which will contain pages they have not used during the term. Many parents have conveyed that they find this unused paper very useful, to their children, for doing numerous home writing tasks. This spare paper ensures that parents do not have to source this paper from educational book stores. A list of writing tasks that these unused sheets could be used for: handwriting practice, spelling practice, journal/recount writing, story writing, letter writing, making lists, making books about topics the children are interested in and writing notes and reminders for school and home. This paper can also be converted into note pads which the whole family could use!

Regards
Vinita DeSa

WASO Concert

On Friday 1st May Junior Primary went on a musical journey with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra at the Kid’s Cushion Concert. The 15-piece ensemble introduced us to the four families of instruments: brass, strings, woodwind and percussion. We had a chance to listen to their sounds and join in with some fantastic songs and movement. Afterwards the children had the opportunity to meet the musicians and have a go on their instruments!

Declan: I liked the sound of the trombone.
Daryian: I liked the harp. It sounded like magic.
Mattheus: The trumpet makes a really nice sound.
Calen: My favourite part was the instrument that made the swan sound and duck sound – the oboe!
Phoenix: I loved the sound of the whole band!
Amelia: I loved trying out the musical instruments, the tuba and the flute.
Lucas: I loved the drums – the sound!
Noah: I loved the sound and the shape of the French horn because it was a spiral.
Saskia: I liked the sound of the trombone too.
Owen C.: I really liked the sound of the tuba.
Eban: I liked going on the bus.
Ocean: The flute made a nice sound.
Alex: I liked the blowing of the trumpet, the buzz you make with your mouth.
Owen D.: My favourite was the trombone.
Junior Primary
Morning and Afternoon School Clubs

The school is officially open from 8.15am for the commencement of supervision and class begins at 8.45am. To ensure our children are supervised before and after school, we have clubs in the morning and afternoon. These clubs will include:

Monday – Friday 7.30am—8.30am
*Early Bird Breakfast Club*
Held in Mallee every morning. Children enter through the side gate from the car park.

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

*Monday 3.00–5.00pm*
*Mandarin Club*
The Chinese Programme will allow children to develop a perspective for Chinese language as well as Chinese Culture. Class run by Richard. Enrolment forms at admin. Cost $150.00 per term.

*Monday*
*Kidz ‘n’ Sports*
Programme run by Paul. Paul supplies a fruit snack. Please ensure your child has a water bottle that is able to be refilled prior to sport commencing. Please discuss timetable and fees by calling Paul, phone 0421606425 paulr@kidznsport.com.au

*Tuesday 3.15—3.30pm—School supervision for tennis children only.*
*Kyle Mackin’s Tennis Club 3.30–4.30pm*
Kyle is Certified and Registered with ATPCA and has attained official accreditation with the Australia Tennis Professional Coaches Association.

*Tuesday - Drama Class 3.00—5.00pm*
Jenny Moyle runs this Club. Classes include vocal exercise, improvisation, mime, puppet work and movement to music. There will also be some stage performance using scripts.

Enrolment forms at admin. Cost $150.00 per term.

*Wednesday 3.00—5.00pm*
*The Art of Drawing*
Judith runs the art club. Classes are about passing on basic drawing and observational skills to the children, but more importantly these sessions are about encouraging confidence to explore visual expression without judgement.

Enrolment forms at admin. Cost $150.00 per term.

*Thursday*
*Kidz ‘n’ Sports*
Please discuss timetable and fees by calling Paul, phone 0421606425 paulr@kidznsport.com.au
School Club News

Friday 3.00—5.00

Cooking Club
Cooking class run by Andy Vernie in Mallee. Children are to supply an apron and a container to take home their wares!
Enrolment forms and a copy of this terms menu available at admin. Cost $150.00 per term.

The Micro Kitchen cooking club for Term 2
Menu Planner:-
Week 1: Anzac biscuits (relating to ANZAC day the next day) and Crepes
Week 2: Trio of eggs
Week 3: Creative Cupcakes (relating to Mother’s Day)
Week 4: Frittata and Bruschetta
Week 5: Vegetable Pasties
Week 6: Spinach and Ricotta puff pie
Week 7: Baked Potatoes with Cauliflower Cheese
Week 8: Veggie Burgers
Week 9: French Toast and Madeleines (relating to upcoming Bastille Day)
Week 10: Tarte Tatin (Bastille Day?)
Week 11: "Surprise Dish!!!"

Look forward to your joining us
Regards
Andy

Late Fees
As the ‘After School Clubs’ are not run by BGMS staff, it is important that children are collected on time. A late fee will be incurred to pay for the relevant staff members time.

P&C News

The P&C met again last week and we hope to bring the school community some announcements soon about upcoming events!
We are continuing fundraising with the Scholastic Book Club, our initial sales at the Term 1 assembly allowed the teachers to buy $400 worth of books!
Catalogues are published twice a term and are now available! Orders can be made through the Scholastic website - http://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/ClubManagement.aspx

The P & C are proudly continuing to sponsor The Montessori Café (aka Cuppa & a Chat) on Monday mornings in Mallee and Wednesday mornings outside Mallee, there’s plenty of room for your little ones to have a play while you have a cuppa and chat with other Blue Gum parents.

This week we launched the Walk n Talk Club, also on Wednesday mornings, it’s a lovely way to start your morning, enjoying a walk through the beautiful bush land near the school. We hope to see more morning walkers while the sunshine is still about! Walkers gather outside the office after school drop off.

“Play Is The Work of the Child”
Maria Montessori

2015/16 Entertainment Books are available from the Administration office today. Each book purchased will earn $13 raising funds for our school library to purchase books.
Pioneers In Our Field: Maria Montessori - A Sensory Approach to Learning

"Now, what really makes a teacher is love for the human child; for it is love that transforms the social duty of the educator into the higher consciousness of a mission." - Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952)

When she was only 10 years old, a seriously ill Maria Montessori told her mother, "Do not worry Mother, I cannot die; I have too much to do." With such a strong will, it's not surprising that Montessori's achievements were so extraordinary. She began by becoming the first female doctor in Italy, but today she is known worldwide for her work with young children.

Montessori turned her attention to education for the first time while working with mentally disabled children as a doctor at the Psychiatric Clinic of the University of Rome. Although the children had been dismissed by both teachers and doctors as unteachable, Montessori viewed their disabilities as a failure of teaching methodology rather than a medical problem. She established a special form of education for these children using the principle, "First, the education of the senses, then, the education of the intellect." The nation was shocked when her students learned to read and write and passed the same examinations given to "normal" children of the same age!

Her successful work with these children inspired her to undertake a new project in education: to understand how best to educate children in ordinary classrooms. During Montessori's time, classrooms were crowded and teachers used rigid drill methods for teaching young children. Montessori insisted that teaching involved great devotion and an understanding of how young children learn.

Surprisingly, Montessori's famous first class, the "Children's House," was actually a child care center in an apartment in a poor neighborhood. Montessori refused to impose arbitrary tasks on the children. Instead, she showed them ways to develop their own skills at their own pace, a principle she called "spontaneous self-development." Her classroom had low cubbies where children could take out and put away their own supplies, child-size furniture, a garden and pets for them to care for, and assorted objects to encourage children to teach themselves.

Montessori made a breakthrough in the education of children when she realized that the way to teach a skill is not to have a child try something over and over but to prepare the child to learn skills by teaching the movements and actions necessary to perform them. For example, to teach her students how to write, she cut up large sandpaper letters and had children trace them with their fingers, and later with pencil or chalk. Soon, her 4-year-old students were able to write letters and then words - on their own! The Montessori classroom was the first of its kind, with its emphases on cultivating a warm and comfortable environment and on independent and active learning.

Today, schools worldwide have discovered the wisdom of Montessori's methods, grounded in her own belief that - "early childhood education is the key to the betterment of society."
Dear Parent/Guardian,

May is National Family Reading Month!

Now in its 19th year, National Family Reading Month is designed to get more kids reading with their families.

We know that reading role models and shared reading time are critical to a child’s learning and literacy development. In fact, research shows that family reading time is one of the BEST ways to grow a child’s interest in the wonderful world of books. Kids who read, succeed!

Our class will be participating in the Scholastic Read More In May Challenge, where we encourage children to read for at least 10 minutes with their families, every day during May.

To participate, your child simply writes down on the supplied Reading Log the number of minutes spent reading on each day in May. From June 1-15, tally up the total minutes spent reading in May and enter this online for a chance to win some great prizes—your family could win $250 worth of book vouchers and our school could win $600 worth of books!


I hope your household is filled with hours of delight as you experience the pleasures and benefits of reading every day during the month of May. Good luck and happy reading!

Kind regards,

(YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER)

This year, award-winning author and illustrator Aaron Blabey is our official spokesperson for National Family Reading Month. See Aaron’s video message at [www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm](http://www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm)

[Logo: Scholastic, open a world of possible]
May is National Family Reading Month!

Scholastic is committed to helping your school inspire a lifelong love of reading in all children. To help motivate your students, we invite your school to participate in National Family Reading Month!

Scholastic is giving away $10,000 worth of prizes to the families, classrooms and schools that read the most in May.

The child in each State and Territory that records the highest amount of Reading Minutes during May will WIN $250 worth of vouchers for their family to spend on Book Clubs and Book Fairs. Plus the winning child’s classroom teacher will receive a class set of books worth $400!

The school in each State and Territory that records the most Reading Minutes will WIN $600 worth of books and a perpetual trophy with the school name engraved on it, to keep for a year!

TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Download the Reading Log available online or photocopy the log on the reverse side of the enclosed poster.
2. Send the Reading Log home with your students along with a letter to parents (sample on reverse side) and the enclosed invite.
3. Students record the number of minutes they spend reading on each day in May.
4. From June 1–15 students, parents and teachers can enter the competition online at www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm. All winners will be announced here in July.

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED:

- Special Book Fair invites for May Fairs.
- A sample letter to parents on reverse. Send home with the invite and Reading Log.
- Posters. Display them around your school to encourage students to enter the Read More In May Challenge. Find a handy reproducible Reading Log on the reverse side of the poster.

Information supplied will not be used for any purpose other than the identification of winners. For full terms and conditions visit www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm

SCHOLASTIC
open a world of possible

Plus visit www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm to find handy resources for students, parents and classrooms.