IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd November</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher interviews commence for one week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd December</td>
<td>Parent Education Series 8.45—9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th December</td>
<td>Community Graduation Dinner &amp; Celebration of Learning 6—9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7th December</td>
<td>Walk and Talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th December</td>
<td>Montessori Book Club 8.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>Graduation Assembly 11am—12noon / Term 4 concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd December</td>
<td>School will officially close until Monday, 18 January 2016</td>
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Principal’s News

HEALTH ALERT—ONE CONFIRMED CASE OF WHOOPING COUGH IN UPPER PRIMARY (please see today’s emails for information)

Happy Diwali and Perahera to all families!

The school continues to celebrate a number of world festivals as part of our world Montessori curriculum. These experiences embrace our core values of cultural diversity.

“This value is demonstrated when we: celebrate the festivals of our society, are exposed to the belief and festivals of other religions and cultures, study political geography, and study a Language other than English”.

I am sure your children have much to share with you as they learn to recognise and respect difference in culture and diversity.

Fast Facts about Blue Gum Montessori School.

As we move towards concluding the academic year, it provides an opportunity to review our curriculum and its developing opportunities for your family. We would like to share the following fast facts about Blue Gum Montessori School.

BGMS is one of the top performing Primary schools in WA. The school offers the world Montessori curriculum [approved by the Australia Montessori Foundation] that is recognised by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). We are fortunate to also have the WA educational standards and benchmarks that we follow.

Our Montessori curriculum provides unique opportunities for children to develop executive functioning skills.

*Executive function and self-regulation* skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.

“Being able to focus, hold, and work with information in mind, filter distractions, and switch gears is like having an air traffic control system at a busy airport to manage the arrivals and departures of dozens of planes on multiple runways. In the brain, this air traffic control mechanism is called executive functioning, a group of skills that helps us to focus on multiple streams of information at the same time, and revise plans as necessary”. (Center on the Developing Child: Harvard University)

Yes, that’s a Montessori education!

Children learn as individuals under the mentorship of trained specialist teachers that have made an informed decision to teach in a Montessori school.

Children’s development is tracked, and progression to the next level is based on their readiness and not a school calendar.

Children experience a multi-aged classroom that provides other children as mentors and roles models.

Children are encouraged to research their own learning with an emphasis on literacy learning, discovering their passions and learning about practical life.
In 2016 we will be offering the following programs:

**Playgroup sessions—Fridays only**
- 2 sessions for ambulatory children aged 1–2 years
- 1 session for children aged 2–3 years

**Transition Class**
For 3-4 year old children requiring additional time and assistance to ensure that are developmentally ready for Junior Primary. Four sessions Monday to Thursday from 8.30am—12 noon.

**Extend-Ed**
For 3 year old Junior Primary children whose classes end at 12 noon, and whose parents may work or have older children to collect at 3pm. Four session Monday to Thursday from 12—3pm.

**Junior Primary**
Four classes of Pre-Primary (5 full days per week); Kindergarten (4 full days Monday to Thursday) and Pre-Kindergarten (4 mornings Monday to Thursday from 8.30am—12 noon). Individual student placement is based on developmental readiness.

**Middle Primary**
3 Middle Primary classes

**Upper Primary**
2 Upper Primary classes

**Specialist Curriculum**
- Montessori education
- Learning Support and Gifted Education
- Positive Education
- Health & Physical Education
- French
- Chinese
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts

**Outside of School Hours**
- Early Bird Breakfast Club (7.30-8.30am)
- After School Club(3–6 pm)
- Extra curricular clubs based on interests of the children, e.g. cooking, dance, visual arts, sport, drama)

**Parent Education**
- Open mornings and evenings
- Montessori Education Series
- Parents and Citizens Groups (P & C)
- Parent Montessori Library

**A taste of 2016...**
- Exploring our Aboriginal heritage
- Artists in Residence
- Art Exhibition and Auction
- Recycling and Water Wise in action!

We look forward to sharing these new initiatives with you in 2016.

Dr Maree Matthews
Principal

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**STAFF INTRODUCTION - Julie Elkes**

Hello

My name is Julie Elkes, I will be in the Finance Department Monday to Friday from 8am-4pm. I have four children, nine grandchildren, and two fur babies who live at home with me and my husband. I have spent the past 7 years working in the mining industry until the economic downturn, but I am now enjoying my new job in a completely different field, and working with some lovely people.

If you need to email me re your account, you can contact me at accounts@bgms.wa.edu.au

I look forward to meeting you all.

Julie

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**Native Arc**

Thank you again to all the families who contributed to our recent Native ARC appeal.

A Native ARC volunteer delivered a certificate of appreciation and thank you card to the school.

These are displayed in Administration.
Upper Primary Turtle Watch School Program Excursion

Today we went to Native Arc to learn about Oblong Turtles. We want to become an accredited Turtle Watch school.

We saw the turtle hospital, which had turtles with diseases and some had been ‘turtle napped’. This means people take turtles out of the mud and take them to Native Arc, but they are only keeping cool in the mud.

We made clay turtles and labelled all the body parts. Then we did an enactment of a turtle making the long journey to lay its eggs.

We went down to the boardwalk, and Dean released two turtles. One was eight months and one was five or six years old.

We were the first school to ever see a turtle being released into the lake. How exciting for Blue Gum Montessori!

Charley Van Vlimmeren, Malu Stewart, Ethan Sun, Joshua Gregson, Giuseppe Mirco

Upper Primary Graduation Dinner & Celebration of Learning

Upper Primary will be holding their Community Graduation dinner at Melville Bowling and Recreation Club on Friday 4th December 2015.

Please come and join the graduates

2015 School Leaders

Samuel Bateman  Alexandria Boccardo  Violet Doak-Devereux
Alexander Doig  Candice Long  Grace Monaghan
Conall Veitch  George Williamson
Bianca Willis-Milne

Tickets $30 per person,
Book at administration

Junior Primary & Transition Class Diwali Incursion

They shook! They swayed! They shimmied!

On Wednesday 4th November all Junior Primary classes and Transition class took part in an Indian dance incursion to celebrate Diwali – the ‘Festival of Lights’. The children greatly enjoyed their hour of movement and music, learning new moves, wearing some fantastic spangly costumes and sharing their dance ideas with each other.
Middle Primary Diwali Celebrations

In Week 5 the Middle Primary children continued their study on celebrations by preparing for and participated in a Diwali celebration. They listened to the Diwali story after which they sequenced pictures of the story and according to their ability matched the words to the pictures or wrote the story in their words. The children used clay to make diyas which they later painted. Henna tattoos were painted onto the children’s arms and hands. After engaging in making an Indian sweet the children sequenced a procedure or wrote the procedure for it. Lighting diyas, sharing sweets and lighting sparklers made the Diwali celebrations memorable.

Uliya and Shani presented Perahera, a Sri Lankan festival, to the Middle Primary children. They learnt that the first Perahera was first held 240 years ago when there was a bad drought in the country. The reigning King believed that the observance of this festival would bring rain enabling the farmers to grow rice, the main food in Sri Lanka. Uliya and Shani showed the children visuals of how this spectacular festival is held through the streets of Kandy with hundreds of decorated elephants (one carrying the Buddha’s ashes), thousands of drummers, traditional dancers, acrobats, stilt walkers, whip cracking, swinging of fire pots, carrying banners and much more.

Thank you Uliya and Shani!

Pen Pals

The Wandoo children continue their communication with the Montessori school in Hamburg. Reading the letters that they receive helps them make connections with the children in the Frog Class through learning about their lives, interests and pursuits. The Wandoo children are in the process of replying to their pen pals.

Middle Primary Graduation

The Middle Primary community felt privileged to participate in the graduation ceremony for the Year 3 children. The parents and staff were very impressed by the confidence and eloquence with which the Year 3 children spoke about their time in Middle Primary. Vinita and Sujatha reminisced about the children’s journey through Middle Primary. A special thanks goes out to the parents who supplied the scrumptious food which contributed towards making the celebrations memorable.

Some of the children’s speeches are below:

Tahlia: In Year One I learnt how to do Math cars, Geometry and many more things. My friends were Poppy, Alani, Lily and Kayla.

In Year Two my highlight was the sleepover. I loved roasting the marshmallows. I made more friends this year. Their names are Ridhya, Leilani and Haylee.

In Year Three I loved being challenged by doing hard tests and hard times tables. I also enjoyed the city excursion and being able to play in the Upper Primary playground.

I am very thankful for learning lots, having great friendships and most of all having amazing teachers. Vinita and Cecile are very smart, helpful and very kind. I am thankful to Vinita and Cecile for everything and for preparing me well for Upper Primary. I am looking forward to new challenges, making new friends and lots of exciting things happening in Upper Primary.

Alex: In all of my three years in Middle Primary I enjoyed every second of it. I also learnt a lot by doing lots of hard jobs in the classroom, and of course it was three years but to me it felt like three months. I would like to thank all my friends for sometimes playing with me at playtime. Thank you Vinita, Cecile, Sujatha and Belinda for preparing me for Upper Primary and for planning all fun things. I’m very sad to leave all of my friends behind in Middle Primary but of course happy to graduate up to Upper Primary.

Sasha: I came to Wandoo two and a half years ago. During those years I made many good friends and good memories. Dear Vinita and Cecile, I would like to thank you for your patience, support and advice. With your encouragement I have learnt to be more independent and more curious in learning new things. I will always remember you. I would also like to thank the other teachers for making learning fun for all of us. Lastly, I would like to thank my good friends for making these past years enjoyable for me. I am looking forward to go to Upper Primary. I will miss all of you but I am sure I will see you again.
Halloween Celebrations

In preparation for a Halloween celebration, the Middle Primary children used their practical life skills of weaving and wrapping to create spider webs, and their skills of wrapping and tying to make cute little ghosts. A spectacle of bats adorned the classrooms after a maths lesson on symmetry. As part of their literacy curriculum the children engaged in writing scary stories and cinquain poems.

On the day of the celebration, skeletons, devils, witches, warlocks, vampires, ghosts, super-heroes and other interesting beings descended on Middle Primary. The children read out their scary stories to everyone, some of them used a microphone to do so. Paper cones were made by the children to hold popcorn that they enjoyed during the story narrating session. The task of making the paper cones led to a discussion on volume, when the children realised that the size of the cone impacted on the amount of popcorn it could hold – the bigger the better! A science lesson on why the heated popcorn kernels turn into fluffy, white shapes followed soon after. The children had an opportunity to vote for the costume they liked the best.

Constable Care Performance ‘Celebrations’

The Middle Primary children participated in a cultural diversity and intercultural awareness Constable Care performance called ‘Celebrations’. The show aimed to enlighten and help the children appreciate the different ways in which people from different cultures celebrate occasions.
Transition Class News

Ginger Bread Men

“Transition class had so much fun making ginger bread men with Sophia’s Mum, Rachel. We practised our rolling and cutting skills as well as strengthening our fine motor skills through icing and decorating the biscuits. Thank you Rachel for sharing your wonderful cooking skills with us, we really enjoyed it!”

General News

Remembrance Day

Thank you to the families who joined us for Remembrance Day on 11 November, and special thanks to Elizabeth-Anne Williamson for playing ‘The Last Post’.

‘We shall remember them’

P & C News

Please remember Pluck-a-Duck tickets are still available to be purchased at the cost of $25.00 per ticket.

This year the prizes are as follows:-

First Prize $7000.00
Second Prize $2000.00
Third Prize $ 500.00

Tickets are on sale between 02/11/2015 and 06/12/2015.

The draw will take place at the school on Sunday 6th December at the school Christmas party.

Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party is on Sunday 6th December 3.00pm—6.00pm at Blue Gum.

- Pluck-a-Duck winner will be drawn at 5.00pm
- BYO Picnic Dinner
- Face Painting and entertainment by Fairy Sandy

Lots of fun to be had by all. Come along and join us celebrate Blue Gum Montessori’s Christmas Party!