IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, 28 October
New family Open evening

Tuesday, 27 October
Montessori Book Club in Boab 8.45am

Tuesday, 3 November
Staff & students Pink themed hat parade & fundraiser

Wednesday, 4 November
JP incursion—Diwali Indian Dance

Wednesday, 11 November
Remembrance Day

Friday, 13 November
Pupil free Day

Principal News

Blue Gum Montessori announces an additional Middle Primary Class for 2016.

Dear Families

On behalf of the Board, I am excited to announce that we will be adding a new Middle Primary class for Term 1 2016. This year has seen demand for places at our school continue to grow thanks to our solid Montessori curriculum, excellent teachers, fantastic leadership from our Principal, the newly added before and after school clubs and our outstanding NAPLAN results.

This will see us achieve our ideal class ratio of two Upper Primary, three Middle Primary and four Junior Primary classes.

I am also pleased to announce that the Directress of the new Middle Primary class will be Cecile Sjardin. Cecile has been the Education Assistant in Wandoo for three years, ably assisting Vinita while completing her teaching qualifications. Cecile will be an excellent asset to the Middle Primary teaching team in her new role and we congratulate her on her appointment.

I am really proud of the growth of our School which helps to ensure our future sustainability. I extend my thanks to Maree, the staff and Board members who have worked hard to make this possible for our children.

 Regards
Selina Horrocks
Chair of the Board

Term 4 was off to a great start with many learning opportunities for our beautiful children. As you know Blue Gum Montessori School aims to provide a wide variety of life learning skills to our students. This was evident recently when the school recognised ‘Be kind to animals week’. The school recognised the amazing work of Native Arc. All students have been working on this project and share their ideas and discovery about this project in this edition.

Thank you to all the parents for their support.

Student Reports

The academic team has commenced writing student reports. This process involves collecting all the necessary learning data on each individual child. This data is then discussed and analysed amongst the academic team to inform the report writing process. At Blue Gum Montessori School, we take particular care and attention to child observation, mastery of Montessori lessons (jobs) and participation in internal and external tests to inform this process. Tests are done with sound reason and not for the sake of busy work. As always, in our Montessori school it is about life-long learning and supporting children in their learning journey. Parents will have the opportunity to read reports prior to their parent/teacher interview.
Additional Learning Support
As a result of our continual evaluation of our curriculum, it has become apparent that in order to achieve their personal best, some students require further support. In 2016, Michelle de Bruin will be working three days in Learning Support and we will appoint a new Visual Arts Teacher. Michelle has done a wonderful job balancing these two portfolios.

Attendance
Please be reminded that school commences promptly at 8.30am. Children entering class after this time can be disruptive and impact on other students’ learning.

Extend-Ed Class
In 2016 Extend-Ed will continue to be offered from a Monday to Thursday between 12-3pm for those Junior Primary children requiring additional time at BGMS due to their parent’s commitments.

Transition Class
Commencing in 2016, the Transition class will operate from 8.30 – 11.30am on Monday to Thursday.

Playgroup
Commencing in 2016, Playgroup will operate on Fridays. There will be three sessions offered: the 8.45-10.15am & 10.45am-12.15pm sessions will cater for ambulatory children, and the 12.45-2.45pm session will cater for children aged 2-3 years. We look forward to Melissa continuing her dedicated work with our Playgroup families.

We look forward to sharing updates about further initiatives as the term progresses.

With best wishes
Dr Maree Matthews
Principal

New Staff
My name is Rebecca Exham and I am the new Business Manager at the school. I have 5 years experience in schools and really enjoy the amazing role we play in educating future generations.

I am married with two children, Zoe (4.5) and Ben (17 months). We have two cats and live local to the area.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding financial matters, or would just like to say hi, please feel free to email, call or visit me in the Administration building.

My contact details are as follows:
Email: businessmanager@bluegummontessori.wa.edu.au
Phone: 9417 4060

I look forward to meeting you all!

Rebecca
Native ARC

(Be kind to Animals Week)

What is Native ARC? Native ARC is a volunteer organisation that rehabilitates sick, injured and orphaned Australian Wildlife.

During ‘Be Kind to Animals Week’ Upper Primary is raising money and much needed items for Native ARC.

Each class has a container where specific items can be donated: TUART – sunscreen
JARRAH – laundry powder
WATTLE – dishwashing liquid
MELALEUCA – paper towels
WANDOO – disposable gloves
KARRI – rubber gloves
KURRAJONG – hand sanitizer
COOLIBAH – ‘Eye Shields’ safety glasses (Bunnings)

Staff: 70 and/or 100 watt bayonet halogen light globes
Other items needed are second hand towels, bowls, plates, spoons, forks & newspapers.

Our raffle and collection to support Native ARC to continue with their rescue and treatment of our precious wildlife has been extended to give families time to bring in their class item and purchase tickets in the raffle.

The raffle prizes are beautiful framed works of art produced by our talented students in each class – tickets are only $1 each and may be purchased each morning from Upper Primary students outside reception. If you are not at school in the mornings and would like to purchase tickets, please arrange this with reception by phoning 9417 4060.

If you are not able to purchase your class item, but would still like to contribute, please drop in the estimated cost of the item to reception and a bulk purchase of items will be made on parents’ behalf.

All donations help the sick, injured and orphaned animals.

AFTER SCHOOL COOKING CLUB

This week we celebrated United Nations Week in the After School Cooking Club run by Master Chef, Andy Vernie. Students created a feast of delicacies to share with members of our community. Thank you to all those families who participated by bringing along a dish from their ‘Homeland’ to share. Cooking classes are held on Thursday & Fridays from 3–5pm.
Upper Primary School Camp

Upper Primary Camp

Upper Primary had their annual camp ‘overseas’ this year to Rottnest.

The children participated in many bike riding activities, explored the history of Rottnest with visits to the museum, the old prison and took a tram ride to Oliver Hill Battery.

The children stayed in the dormitories at Kingstown Barracks and saw a movie at the old picture hall.

The culmination of the camp was the hiring of a charter boat where they saw sea lions and dolphins and had an amazing adventure surfing on the back of boat!

Thank you to our parent volunteers and staff: Mike Rowe, Brett Willis, Simon Long, Doug Bateman, Fran Boccardo and Maria Fahy. Special thanks to Maree and Evelyn Chin for joining us on our boating adventure.

Principal Comment:

The highlight of the school camp was swimming on the back of the catamaran.

After several requests, I joined the staff and children for a swim.

Thank you Upper Primary for a great memory!
Middle Primary Visual Art

In Term 3 Middle Primary students investigated art works from different time periods and cultures. They explored the ways people express themselves through art symbols as a means of communication. Year 3 students designed geometrical patterns based on Traditional African cultures. They had to choose symbols they could identify with and presented their artwork to the class. They were then given the opportunity to do a peer assessment.

The Year 3s explain why they chose their symbols for their artwork:

Alex: "I chose excellence and knowledge because I have learnt many things that I did not know. I know how to do maths especially dynamic addition and subtraction".

Sasha: "Safety, put safety first! I also chose knowledge because I know a lot about maths, planes and ships from documentaries, books, Vinita and Cecile".

Ethan: "I chose friendship because I like my friends and they help me. I also chose greatness because I want to be a great carpenter like my dad and I want to help him".

Asher: "I chose loyalty and safety. In this country you feel safe because there is not a war going on. My life is very safe".

Edward: "I chose loyalty and knowledge because I am smart. You have to be smart to be an ENT specialist and that is what I want to be. I was born in the year of the dog and I’m loyal like a dog".

Leon: "I chose patience and loyalty because those are some of the qualities I have. A lot of the time we have to wait a long time at the doctor".

Sebastian: "I chose excellence because I come up with good ideas and knowledge because I know a lot about books and I read a lot".

Tahlia: "I chose patience because I was very patient in a line for two hours and I chose encouragement because I don’t give up and keep going".

Michelle de Bruin
Visual Arts Teacher
Middle Primary News

Travelling on public transport to visit the sculptures in Perth city was a good learning experience for the Year 3 children. They observed the roles people play within our social systems, such as Transperth workers, mounted police and construction workers. They used their practical life skills, self-awareness and community awareness throughout the trip, including when eating in public places, walking along the streets and shops and sharing facilities with others. The children were empowered to explore confidently and asked questions to make sense of their surroundings.
The Silly Scientist

Micheal the ‘Silly Scientist’ who visited the Middle Primary children enthralled us with some quirky but captivating science experiments whilst highlighting many aspects of science with a unique blend of Science, The Arts and a few magic tricks and illusions thrown in. The children used their skills of teamwork and their ability to read and follow instructions to perform the very same experiments.
General News

**Term Jobs**

We are in desperate need for families to volunteer for term jobs. As term 4 is the busiest for all teachers and students, all and any help is appreciated. Term jobs will be on display as of Monday outside of the administration office. Many hands make light work.

Please, please, please ...

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**MONTESSORI PARENT LIBRARY**

Books are able to be borrowed from the ‘Parent Library’ on any school day.

Located outside the administration office on the blue trolley.

Please sign out the book you wish to read and sign back in during the last week of term.

Happy reading!

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**New Families Open Evening**

**Wednesday, 28 October**

7—8pm

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**HEALTH WATCH**

Please be advised that a confirmed case of Chicken Pox has been reported in Upper Primary.

Please advise reception if your child has Chicken Pox.

City of Cockburn and Skateboarding WA are offering

FREE Skate Clinics from 4.30pm—6.30pm

Boards & helmets provided free if you don’t have your own.

Please see the flyer on display outside of the administration office.

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**Scholastic Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair was a great success again this term with more variety than Term 1.

We would like to thank you for supporting the school, as we raised just under $500. With those funds we were able to purchase new books for the school library! These were individually picked by the teachers, so look out for the great new titles coming home with your children soon.

Many thanks,

Natalie Gregson

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**Woolworths Earn & Learn**

Thank you to everyone who helped us collect the Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers. We collected enough stickers for 7260 points! We are looking forward to all the new sporting equipment to arrive now that we have redeemed the points.