

## Wynspeak Wins!



On Thursday 11 May, BMG hosted Round 5 of the Wynspeak Public Speaking Competition for the first time. Our students were excited to compete on-campus, and we think what they say about 'home turf advantage' is true after all! Of the four awards available, our students took home three.

We had six students from Maddingley Campus and one student from Woodlea Campus speak and all of them presented with maturity and confidence beyond their years.

If you see the following students around campus, please share your congratulations for all their hard work and success.

### Ian Hadsan-Llusala 12C

Winner of the prepared speech section for the Senior Division. Ian wrote an endearing and humorous speech on being a 'jack of all trades' and his ensuing existential crisis.

### Ishnoor Dhillon 9J

Winner of the prepared speech for the Junior Division. Ishnoor shared an interesting take on superstition around the number 13 and the surprising impacts it has on the world.

### Roshyna Attwal 10F

Winner of the impromptu speech for the Senior Division. With only four minutes of preparation, she presented a two-minute talk on her rambunctious puppy which drew a few belly laughs from the audience!

Whilst the following students didn't place within the competition, their level of effort and commitment was unmatched. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

- **Samaira Venkat 8A**
- **Sihan Kalupahana 8I**
- **Jake Parton 11D**
- **Surya Sureshkumar 8WC**



## Wynspeak continued...

The following students from Woodlea also competed in the competition in Round 2 and Round 4 respectively: Geet Mata, Rakshita Vij and Maddie De Vera.

- Congratulations to Maddie who won her prepared speech section and will compete in the final.
- Congratulations also to Geet, who won the impromptu speech section.

Winners of the prepared speech will now advance to the finals which will take place on Friday 2 June at Thomas Carr College (see flyer at the end of the newsletter). Suffice to say, Bacchus Marsh Grammar will be well represented!

**Ms Alyce Coyne, Ms Lauren Baker & Mrs Sarah Hunter**

## The Podium

### Optimal Academic Performance and the GAT

In education circles, there are many acronyms that are used to explain daily events, procedures and “happenings.” This week, our VCE students were involved in the practice GAT at the Maddingley campus. But what is the GAT? The General Achievement Test (GAT) is a pen-and-paper test of general knowledge and skills taken by students in the course of completing their senior secondary VCE studies.

The GAT plays an important role in the quality assurance of VCE assessments and also provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate that they meet the Victorian Literacy and Numeracy Standards expected at a senior secondary level.

No special study is required. However, it is important that the students are aware of the format, past standards and presentation of the GAT so that they are well-prepared on the day of the actual GAT. Past study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History prepares students for the GAT by building their general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning.

As well as providing students with an opportunity to demonstrate that they meet the Victorian Literacy and Numeracy Standards, the GAT plays an important role in the quality assurance of VCE assessments. At the completion of the GAT, a Statement of Results is mailed to each student.

The date for the GAT is Thursday 15 June, and I encourage all VCE students to go into this task buoyed by the knowledge that they are well-prepared and well-supported by teaching and support staff at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. I know that all students will endeavour to give of their best.

**Mr Andrew Perks - Assistant Principal Optimal Performance Learning**

## Australian History - Professor Richard Broome

On Wednesday 10 May, Unit 3 Australian History students had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Emeritus Professor Richard Broome. He spoke to students about the struggle for Aboriginal rights in the period 1957 – 1998. He provided succinct summaries of significant events and linked these events to the achievement of civil and land rights. Richard Broome is an ‘icon’ of the Australian History course, so to meet him in person was a highlight for all involved.

I would like to thank Ms Chelsea Hogarth for her work in arranging this excursion.

**Ms Celia Patterson - Head of Faculty: Humanities**





## Outdoor and Environmental Studies News



Last week, the Unit 3 & 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies classes took part in their Forest Expedition at the Barmah National Park. Students were able to draw links to the theoretical concepts taught in class through the practical application of canoeing, geocaching, bush cooking skills, water testing and biodiversity auditing to understand the overall health of the Barmah National Park. Students were also provided with the opportunity to hear from the local Yorta Yorta Park Managers and develop a greater understanding of joint indigenous management and strategies that can be implemented to ensure a healthy outdoor environment.

**Mr Daine Johnston - VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies**



## Physical Education, Sport and Health Report

### Independent Secondary School Golf Tournament

Bacchus Marsh Grammar had three students enter the Independent Secondary Schools Qualifying Event at Churchill Park Golf Club held last Friday 12 May. **Lachlan Bens 10B, Cooper King 12F and Thomas Bens 12E** all represented the school by completing their round of the course. Thomas Bens was the highest placed competitor finishing 5th in the Senior Boys (Yr 10-12) Division. Well done Thomas!

### ICCES Winter Tour

The ICCES Winter Tour will once again take place in Shepparton this year on the final two days of term (22 & 23 June). Athletes are busy training for teams in:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Hockey
- Netball

The Winter Tour involves two days of competition and teams will stay together overnight in Shepparton. Notices for successful athletes will be distributed upon team selection in the coming weeks.

**Mr Bryce Durham - Head of Faculty: PE and Health**



## Food Studies News



On Thursday 4 May, the Unit 1 Food Studies students embarked on an excursion to the iconic Queen Victoria Market to explore the bustling market which acts as a hub for a wide variety of fresh produce and multi-cultural foods. Throughout the excursion, students were encouraged to ask questions and engage with the vendors to deepen their understanding of the influence of different cultures on the Australian cuisine. At the Meat Hall, students observed a variety of different cuts of meat and learnt about the various cooking techniques associated with them. While at the Dairy Hall, students were exposed to a wide variety of cheese, milk and foods from a variety of countries. Finally, at the fruit and vegetable shed, students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of high-quality ingredients and the impact they have on the final dish.

After lunch, students embarked on a visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens where they undertook a tour to gain insights into the rich history and thriving culture of the local first peoples, their connection to plants, and the traditional uses for food, tools and medicine.

**Mrs Shelley Frislie**



## Elevate Education Parent Webinar

Elevate Education's next free webinar will be taking place on Wednesday 24 May, titled 'Ask Elevate Anything'. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you feel have been unanswered by Elevate in their webinars so far, whether that relates to your child's study space, their motivation levels, the way they study – sign up to their webinar for an opportunity to have your question answered! [Click here to register for free](#)

**Date: Wednesday 24th May @ 6:30 pm - Ask Elevate Anything**

Elevate Education works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how you can help better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

**Mrs Ainslee Grinter – Head of Year 10 (Maddingley)**

## News from the English Department

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### Extension English Flying High

Year 12 students participating in extension English activities each week continue to show an outstanding attitude towards the challenging learning being completed during these sessions. Over the past four weeks, the BMG 40+ Club has met to work on analysing the structural elements of persuasive texts and to look deeply at the author's purpose. Many students have reported that they have been able to immediately apply the higher-level skills they have acquired during our weekly sessions to their written practice.

### English Hacks Supporting our Twelves

Each Thursday lunchtime, a large number of Year 12 students gathers in L8 to eat together and re-read their set texts to thoroughly prepare for their English assessments and examination. This group continues to show an excellent attitude to their academic responsibilities by attending each week on time, with the correct materials and ready to learn. Ms Kos, who has been leading these sessions, has been keeping a record of attendance each week and students have been given commendations after attending voluntarily for a number of weeks. Keep up the great effort!

### Rewards for English Effort

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who have recently received a commendation and a gift in recognition of the outstanding effort they have been putting into their work in English, Literature and English Language. In an assembly, teachers have recognised students who have consistently gone above and beyond in their completion of class work, homework and additional work. All students who received this recognition will be given a book which will support their academic success in their chosen English discipline.

### After-School English Fun!

Students of all ages are invited to join after-school English each Tuesday in L7 and L8. Every week, there is an organised workshop or screening taking place in L7, while students seeking support with their class work or homework can work with a teacher in L8. In week three, students learned a range of memory games to help them learn quotes in the lead-up to an assessment or examination, and practised playing these memory games with their peers. For a list of what's on, students are encouraged to look at the timetables posted all around campus.

**Ms Leigh Radbourne – Head of Faculty: English**

## Junior School News

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### Spotlight on Year 1

The Woodlea Year 1 team are incredibly proud of how well students have settled into Term Two. So far this term, our students have been working on procedural texts with a focus on using verbs effectively to create easy-to-follow instructions. We have begun sowing grass seeds into our Hairy Harry plants for our students to have an authentic experience that they can develop into an informative procedure to share with others. Our students are looking forward to having the responsibility of watering, maintaining, and observing the flourishing of their Hairy Harrys!

**Woodlea Year 1 Team**





## Spotlight on Teaching and Learning in the Junior School: Maddingley

### Parent Reading Helpers

We are very excited to welcome parents/guardians into our Junior School classrooms to support reading. Last week, parents/guardians who previously attended the online reading information sessions were invited to a workshop where they learnt the routine for guiding and supporting students before, during and after reading.

To support all children to become skilled readers, we encourage parents to implement a similar routine for nightly home reading.

### Reading Routine for Decodable Texts

#### Before Reading

1. Phoneme-grapheme correspondence

Locate the phoneme-grapheme focus on the front or back pages. Ask your child to point to each grapheme (letter) and say the sound (phoneme). Ensure that your child says the sounds not the letter names. They will need to apply this knowledge to read the book.

2. High Frequency Words – Heart Words or Common Words

Ask your child to read the high frequency words located on the front or back pages.

3. Decoding warm-up

Refer to the single words on the front or back pages to practise decoding. Ensure that your child sounds out and blends to read the words if they cannot read them automatically yet.

4. Talk about the book

Ask your child to read the title out loud, tracking under each word as they read it from left to right. Check for vocabulary comprehension. Does your child understand the meaning of the words in the title? Explore the cover image. Ask: What do you think the book might be about? Why? This brief discussion allows your child to make connections to their knowledge and experiences, and to make predictions about the text or story.

#### During Reading

1. Tracking

Make sure your child tracks the text by placing their finger underneath the words as they read. Skipping words is very common and results in children not fully comprehending the meaning of the text.

2. Decoding

Support your child if they get stuck or if they read a word incorrectly by encouraging them to sound out the word and then blend the sounds together to say the word. Help your child to break up longer words into syllables, for example 'fantastic' can be broken into 3 syllables - fan-tas-tic. Decode each syllable, one at a time. Then say each syllable to read the whole word. After your child has successfully decoded the word, go back to the start of the sentence and read again. Re-reading is important to improve fluency, including expression.

#### After Reading

1. Comprehension questions

Some decodable texts include questions inside the cover. Select enough of these questions to generate discussion and check your child's understanding.

2. Vocabulary

Some texts list less-common vocabulary with a child-friendly definition and a question to check for understanding. Ask: Can you think of other similar words? or Can you use this word in a sentence?

Further information about reading with your child can be found on the year level Family Engagement Pages on Schoolbox.

If you are interested in volunteering as a classroom reading helper, but were not able to attend the reading information session or reading workshops, please contact Sian Rawlinson [rawlinsons@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:rawlinsons@bmg.vic.edu.au).

**Ms Sian Rawlinson - Deputy Head of Junior School, Teaching and Learning (Maddingley)**

## SRC News

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Through my involvement with Bacchus Marsh Grammar's School Representative Council (SRC), I have been fortunate enough to be selected as an executive committee member on the Victorian Student Representative Committee (Vic SRC). The Vic SRC comprises 15 students from across Victoria who work closely with state government and provide a voice for students to advise on reforms relating to education.

From my work within the Vic SRC, I was honoured to be asked to be a part of the National Student Voice Committee (NSV) which is comprised of two members from each state or territory in Australia. The group aims to advise Federal Ministers on the reforms that students need to improve both their schooling and general well-being.

As a part of this committee, I have attended multiple Federal House of Representative hearings into various reforms for both VET and VCE in schools, advised on mental health for youth, as well as state-wide consent education.

Part of my role within the NSV is to meet monthly with the State Education Minister Hon. Natalie Hutchins and the deputy secretaries of the Education Department. During these meetings, I provide a student voice to contribute to the development of the state education system to ensure its improvements are meeting the needs of students.

In addition to this, I have been fortunate enough to be able to be a youth advocate for body confidence and education around eating disorders at the International Body Confidence Collective where I worked closely with Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt.

Isabelle Holmes 11E

## Western Ranges Division Regional Swimming Carnival

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Western Ranges Division Regional Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday 28 March at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre in Geelong.

The six students who represented Bacchus Marsh Grammar were **Jack Soley, Jack Coy, Chace Hildebrand-Brown, Akikat Brar, Isabella Bao and Isabelle Gent.**

We had a fun time and merchandise was available to help remember the day!

The weather was good and the atmosphere was supportive! Thank you to all the parents who came to support us.

Students representing Bacchus Marsh Grammar gave it their all but, unfortunately, none of us got to the next round. There were some amazing swimmers on the day that inspired us to try even harder next year.

Jack Soley 6D

## 2024 Term Dates

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The 2024 Term Dates have been published on the [school's website](#).

## School Policies

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The School's Photography and Video Policy has been reviewed and updated. This document is available to view on the School Policies page in Schoolbox and on the School's website.

Ms Kerry Brown, Risk, Compliance and Policy Manager

## Events Calendar

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Dates for upcoming events and excursions can be viewed via the events calendar on the [school's website](#).

## Uniform Shop

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Uniform information and shop business hours for both the Maddingley Campus Shop and Rushfords in Werribee are listed on the [school's website](#). Please note that uniforms can also be purchased online via <https://www.noone.com.au/>.

## Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – The Y Ballarat

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The Y Ballarat operates the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the [school's website](#).

**Email:** [chrissie.ashmore@yballarat.org.au](mailto:chrissie.ashmore@yballarat.org.au) Phone: 0490 178 638 W: <https://yballarat.org.au/>

**Maddingley:**  
[maddingley.oshc@yballarat.org.au](mailto:maddingley.oshc@yballarat.org.au)

0438 154 842

Located: South Maddingley Road, Bacchus Marsh.

**Woodlea:**  
[woodlea.oshc@yballarat.org.au](mailto:woodlea.oshc@yballarat.org.au)

0490 490 362

Located: 111 Frontier Avenue, Aintree.

## Regular Contacts

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### Maddingley Campus

South Maddingley Road  
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

P +61 3 5366 4800

F +61 3 5366 4850

### Woodlea Campus

111 Frontier Avenue  
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4900

F +61 3 5366 4950

### Woodlea Early Learning Centre

111 Frontier Avenue  
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4999

F +61 3 5366 4850

General School Email: [school@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:school@bmg.vic.edu.au)

School Website: [www.bmg.vic.edu.au](http://www.bmg.vic.edu.au)



Doctrina Vitae

Bacchus Marsh  
Grammar



## Community News

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### Notice from VLINE

We know some of your students rely on V/Line trains to get to and from school so wanted to advise of a rail disruption on the Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough lines.

Due to V/Line maintenance and upgrade works, coaches will replace all Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough line trains between Bacchus Marsh and Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough from **Wednesday 17 May to Sunday 4 June**. Trains will run between Southern Cross and Bacchus Marsh.

Coaches will depart Ballarat, Wendouree, Ballan, Ararat and Maryborough stations up to 30 minutes earlier than usual times. Students can plan their journey using the V/Line or PTV journey planner. There is also a PDF temporary timetable available to download from the V/Line website.

To help ensure students are informed, would it be possible to please share the above information this week on your channels? You can provide this link for more information - [V/Line - Regional public transport for Victoria - Coaches replace Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough trains for part of the journey \(vline.com.au\)](https://www.vline.com.au/Regional-public-transport-for-Victoria-Coaches-replace-Ballarat-Ararat-and-Maryborough-trains-for-part-of-the-journey)

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact [Customer.Relations@vline.com.au](mailto:Customer.Relations@vline.com.au).

Kind regards,

V/Line Corporation

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### Notice from YMCA and Wyndham Youth Services

#### Free Public Speaking Workshop with the YMCA

#### Looking to become a more confident and effective public speaker?

Look no further than our upcoming workshop! Led by youth peer workers from the Y, this workshop will provide you with the tools and techniques needed to improve your public speaking skills. Through a series of exercises and activities, you'll learn how to structure your speeches, improve your delivery, and connect with your audience. Plus, you'll learn how to overcome common fears and anxieties associated with public speaking, all in a supportive and encouraging environment.

**WHEN: Monday, 22 May 2023**

**WHERE: YRC Activity Space (86 Derrimut Road, across the road from AquaPulse in Hoppers Crossing)**

**TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 pm (workshop starts promptly at 6, please arrive earlier to be seated and enjoy some refreshments)**

Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your communication skills to the next level. **Please complete the form to sign up!**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-WzER1n1kyjgopSpYKvc47JNvgA4W\\_0ChMALwfzMu6yc3dw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-WzER1n1kyjgopSpYKvc47JNvgA4W_0ChMALwfzMu6yc3dw/viewform?usp=sf_link)



**Final of the 2023  
Wyndham Youth Public Speaking  
Competition  
Friday 2nd June**

**A community project proudly sponsored by the Rotary Club  
of Hoppers Crossing**

**&**

**the Hoppers Crossing Apex Club and hosted by  
Thomas Carr College**

**supported by Rotary Clubs of Caroline Springs, Melton, Altona City, Bacchus Marsh  
and Toastmasters**

**COME AND SUPPORT OUR BEST STUDENT PUBLIC SPEAKERS IN THE  
WESTERN REGION FINAL TO BE HELD AT**

**THOMAS CARR COLLEGE**

**Fr MORAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE ON Friday 2nd JUNE 2023  
6.30pm START**

**FREE ADMISSION – no bookings required**

