

## The Podium

### Achieving Optimal Academic Performance – Let's Read



"Madeleine Albright, A Memoir Madam Secretary" is a book that I have recently read. It is a national bestseller and riveting account of the life of America's first woman Secretary of State. This is a wonderful book that had a big impact on my thinking about leadership, relationships, confrontation and gender.

What is your favourite book or one that you have just completed? Maybe it is time to ask your child, "Which book are you reading at present?". Have the conversation with your child, explore their book through their eyes and language. Better still, have a conversation with them about the book that you are reading.

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, the STAR reading program (Students Teachers all Reading) is a highlight at the start of each day and addresses one of the aspects of Optimal Learning Performance, that of education "With Students!". Another key aspect to driving optimal learning performance of our students is "Parental Engagement". What better way to engage with your child's learning than to model the love of reading. Reading ability has one of the biggest impacts on school success and is one of the factors that parents can significantly influence.

Here are 5 reasons why it is so important.

- Studies have shown that reading has numerous cognitive benefits that increase the potential for academic success, particularly the ability to focus or concentrate on one task at a time, rather than the usual multi-tasking that we do every day.
- While reading, we have to remember different characters and settings that belong to a given story. Even if you enjoy reading a book in one sitting, you have to remember the details throughout the time you take to read the book. Therefore, reading is a workout for your brain that improves memory function.
- We can all agree that reading cannot happen without focus and, in order to fully understand the story, we have to concentrate on each page that we read. In a world where gadgets are only getting faster and shortening our attention span, we need to constantly practise concentration and focus. Reading is one of the few activities that require your undivided attention, therefore, improving your ability to concentrate.
- Have you ever read a book where you came across an unfamiliar word? Books have the power to improve your vocabulary by introducing you to new words. The more you read, the more your vocabulary grows, along with your ability to effectively communicate.
- And importantly, and in line with our school's Character Education, reading books teaches us empathy. This allows us to experience realities outside of our lives. They teach us to relate to others by putting us in the shoes of the narrator. This simple technique is called empathy. Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Reading builds on empathy by constantly presenting us with thoughts and scenarios outside of our perspective.

## The Podium continued....

Reading is an essential activity. The benefits to both our students and society are immeasurable. In a world that is increasingly being dominated by technology, it is even more important that we all take time to read. So rather than scrolling mindlessly through social media posts, put down your phone and pick up a good book and, more importantly, let's continue to encourage our children to do the same.

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

## Administration News

### Reporting a Student Absence

Parents/guardians are asked to report their child's absence or late arrival prior to the start of school day. Where an absence of a student has not been explained by 9.20am, the school will send an SMS to the parent/guardian requesting them to contact the school. If parents/guardians do not respond to the first SMS, a reminder SMS is then sent at approximately 10.00am. If no response is received, the School will contact the parents/guardians of Junior School students by phone. Please supply your child's class teacher with a written note explaining any absence once your child returns to school. Students who arrive late to school must personally report to Reception/Main Office/Gatehouse to obtain a late pass before going to class.

You can report an absence via one of the following methods:

**1. Contact the relevant campus absentee line:**

**Maddingley - Absentee Line 5366 4888**

**Woodlea - Absentee Line 5366 4988**

**2. Email the relevant campus absentee email:**

**Maddingley - [maddingley\\_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:maddingley_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au)**

**Woodlea - [woodlea\\_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:woodlea_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au)**

**3. Schoolbox via Quick Links:**

The screenshot shows a grid of quick links for parents and guardians. The 'Log an Absence' link is highlighted with a red circle. The grid contains the following links:

 Log an Absence	 Finances	 My Details	 Interviews	 Events
 EdSmart	 Change Password	 Log a Ticket to ICT	 Chromebook Replacement Parts	 eSafety

## Senior School News - Maddingley

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### GAT and Senior School Arrangements

The GAT will be held on **Thursday 15 June in the John Leaver Gymnasium**. All Unit 3 & 4 VCE and Unit 3 & 4 VM VCE students must complete the GAT.

Due to the early start to the GAT, it is recommended that students do not catch buses and ensure they are at school before 8.30am.

Bacchus Marsh Grammar will have in excess of 360 students completing the GAT. This means that to ensure the GAT runs smoothly, and that students are given the best opportunities to perform well, it will require many senior staff and spaces around the school to be available. Therefore, alternative arrangements have been made for Senior School students not completing the GAT:

- There will be **NO VCE classes** (Unit 1 & 2 or Unit 3 & 4) running on Thursday 15 June.
- There will be **NO Year 9/10 Classes** running on Thursday 15 June.

Year 11 students who are **not** completing the GAT and attending school will have the VCE study room available for them to complete private study for the day.

Any Year 10 students (not completing the GAT) and any Year 9 students who attend school on this day will have the middle level of the L Block as a supervised study space to complete private study for the day. Students must ensure that they have enough study and work with them for six periods. Students without adequate work will be required to complete independent reading.

**Mrs Erin Thornton – Head of Senior School & Mrs Natalie Desira – Deputy Head of Senior School: Maddingley**

## Middle School News

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### Co-curricular at Woodlea

The 2023 Semester Two Co-curricular activities for Years 5 to 9 have been launched on Schoolbox for student sign ups.

Activities range from academic support to extension opportunities, as well as development in artistic and musical pursuits, in addition to development in sports skills. Woodlea staff eagerly organise activities for co-curricular and also host external coaches in the areas of Chess Club, Futsal and Cricket Academy.

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is keen to ensure that all students across the Middle School have access to opportunities in an area of personal interest. This ensures engagement, connectedness, and improved outcomes for each child.

Please see the list below of current activities. Sign-ups close on June 16.

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
Monday	Musical	Thursday	Mathematics Support
Tuesday	Science Support	Thursday	Mathematics Extension (invitation only)
Tuesday	Languages Club	Thursday	English Support
Tuesday	Chess Club (GS Chess)	Thursday	Futsal (Woodlea Soccer Academy)
Tuesday	Sports Club	Thursday	Origami Club
Wednesday	Cricket (Cricket Star Academy)	Thursday	Art Club
Thursday	Community Service	Thursday	Mathematics Support

**Mrs Sarah Hunter – Deputy Principal & Head of Middle Schooling**

## Student Wellbeing

### Supporting your child or young person with screen time and social media

Social media is creating a world that is more open and connected, enabling people to share the most important parts of their lives with families and friends. As parents or carers, this can be confusing and confronting, and sometimes putting pressure on relationships at home. Social media and the online world are here to stay so how do we ensure that our children and young people stay safe and understand the limits to screen time and this digital space.

The [eSafety Commissioner](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/screen-time) offers advice on helping your child achieve a healthy balance in their online and offline activities, discussing how much is too much, signs to watch out for, setting boundaries and what to do if you are concerned. Please click on the link to learn more about a healthy approach to screen time <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/screen-time>.

If your child is older, [Reach Out](https://parents.au.reachout.com/skills-to-build/wellbeing/social-media-and-teenagers) offers helpful advice around understanding why teenagers use social media so much. Please visit Reach Out to learn more about what social media is, understand why your young person uses social media, what they are doing when they are on there, and the risks and benefits of teens using social media: <https://parents.au.reachout.com/skills-to-build/wellbeing/social-media-and-teenagers>.

Student Support Team

## Junior School News

During Semester One, a big focus across both campus' has been inviting parents and family members back onsite to celebrate and share in the amazing learning going on every day in classrooms. We value our parents and families as partners in the learning process and enjoy sharing our successes with you.



Coming up in Week 8 is Ancient Dress Up Day at the Maddingley Campus. Take this opportunity to discuss with your children their knowledge of Ancient civilisations. Our goal is that our students have deep knowledge, that has transferred to their long term memory. Students should be able to share their learning at home too!

Early next Term Parent Teacher Interviews will be held at both Woodlea and Maddingley. Parents have the option of online or face to face. Please look out for the Edsmart broadcast and book in with your teachers to get an academic and behavioural review of your child so far this year.

Once again, in the next fortnight, students will also get the chance to take home a pack of holiday books. We encourage families to take up this offer and read with your child every day. Children will be encouraged to read up to five books over the holiday period. This will mean they may re-read the same book until they can read it fluently – or in a ‘talking voice’, adding expression and attending to punctuation. It is important that you also engage in reading, modelling reading enjoyment, expression and fluency. Please look out for the Ed Smart note which explains the Holiday Reading Program.

**Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School: Maddingley & Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School: Woodlea**

### Spotlight on Maddingley Year 4

This term, the Year 4 students have been engaged in their knowledge-based learning. They are continuing to develop their independence as learners and leaders of the Junior School.

During Term 2, the students have been learning about the Middle Ages and what life was like in Medieval Europe. The students were able to link the information they were learning across their subjects within reading, writing and History & Geography.

The students are working on planning, drafting and revising an opinion paragraph based on their knowledge of the Middle Ages unit. It is great to see students have their own opinions about an historical period of time and incorporating persuasive devices in their writing.

## Spotlight on Year 4 continued....



The Year 4 students had the opportunity to attend Kryal Castle in Ballarat to discover what life was like during the Middle Ages. They participated in a range of activities that were directly related to the topic of the Middle Ages. During the excursion, the students were exposed to the vocabulary they have been learning in their reading and History and Geography lessons.



The students will be creating a coat of arms based on the history of their family. The students will have the opportunity to present their creation to their class and discuss the design and creativity they have incorporated into their project. Students are very excited to share their final designs with their class and use it on the Junior School Ancient Dress Up Day.

The numeracy topics throughout this term have focused on chance, location, shapes and angles as well as multiplication and division. The students learnt how to identify shapes and angles and had hands-on experience with creating a 3D object using match sticks and plasticine. This enabled students to identify the sides, edges and vertices of an object.

We look forward to Term 3 and continuing to watch the students develop as independent learners.

- **Reading vocabulary:** medieval, feudalism, fief, peasant, monarchy, noble
- **Writing vocabulary:** fact, opinion, persuasive, main idea, topic sentence
- **Numeracy vocabulary:** degrees, perpendicular, parallel, prism, pyramid, divisible, product, multiples, factor, quotient
- **History & Geography vocabulary:** serf, nobleman, conquest, vassals, manorialism.

**Maddingley Year 4 Team**

## Reminder for Maddingley Junior School - Ancient Dress up Day



Prep to Year 4 students are invited to **dress up** in an Ancient Costume representing the ancient world/s they have been studying and exploring within their year level. This special dress up day is to showcase and celebrate student's enthusiasm and learning in History and Geography this semester.

The Ancient Dress up day will be held on **Friday 16 June 2023**.

We encourage all students within the Junior School to participate in this fun celebration by dressing up in the following themes:

- Prep:** Animals from different continents of the world
- Year 1:** Ancient Mesopotamia or Ancient Egypt
- Year 2:** Ancient China
- Year 3:** Ancient Rome or Vikings
- Year 4:** Medieval times / The Middle Ages

Please refer to full information outlined in the EdSmart notification sent on 5 June 2023.

## Spotlight on Woodlea Year 2

On Wednesday 30 May, the Year 2 students participated in the Marvellous Minibeasts IncurSION. This term they have been learning about life cycles and habitats in their Global Studies lessons. During the incurSION, the students were able to interact with many Minibeasts. They were also introduced to a stick insect named Stephanie. There was a wonderful enclosure set up where each student was given the opportunity to hold a butterfly and touch a yabby – which we learnt had an exoskeleton! There were three tables set up for the students to explore. Table one had a tub full of jumping crickets which some students were fast enough to catch. It took a lot of patience to find the transparent shrimp which were hiding in the water tubs. Table two was set up with magnifying glasses for the students to have a closer look at some dried insects. They also had the opportunity to look through bug-eyed goggles which showed what it would look like to see through compound eyes. Table three had a plant with two caterpillars, a chrysalis and a praying mantis. The praying mantis had to be kept separate because it is a carnivore. The students also made their own colourful warning bracelets to scare off predators. The students had an amazing time exploring and learning about the different kinds of Minibeasts.

Woodlea Year 2 Team



## The Premier's Reading Challenge is open to all students from P to 12

All Prep to Year 2 classes at Bacchus Marsh Grammar will do the Challenge together as a class.

Students in Years 3-6 must read 15 books to meet the Challenge. Two-thirds of the books for all students need to be from the 2023 Challenge booklist.

Logon details have been provided to Year 3-8 students. Year 9-12 students who wish to complete the Challenge should email Mrs West at [westf@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:westf@bmg.vic.edu.au) for their details.

The Challenge ends on 8 September 2023.

Students who complete the Challenge must advise Mrs West either via an email from a parent or a signed printout of their completed Challenge list. The entry will then be verified.

Students who have recently completed the Challenge:

**Annabelle Evans 5A**

**Mrs Feona West : Teacher-Librarian**



## Snow Australia - Interschools Victorian Championships

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The 2023 Snow Australia Interschools Victorian Championships will be held at Mt Buller from the 21 – 27 August.

Building on the school's success in this competition over the past few of years, we will again be entering a team to represent our school at this prestigious event.

The Snow Australia Interschools Victorian Championships is an excellent opportunity for students to participate and compete in a state level competition, and test and develop their snowsports skills against students from other Victorian schools.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please visit the Victorian Interschools Snowsports at <https://www.interschools.com.au/home-victoria/>, and then contact Mr Nick Sher at [shern@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:shern@bmg.vic.edu.au) by Monday 19 June.

**Mr Nick Sher - Snow Australia Interschools Co-ordinator**

## BMG Equestrian Update

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On Friday 2 June I competed in Round 2 of the Victorian Equestrian Interschool Show-Jumping Series that was hosted by Braemar College at Riddles Creek Pony Club. It was a very cold and wet day, but my horse Opi and I put in our best effort. We cleared all three rounds with no penalties, to finish 3rd overall. I set myself a goal at the last competition to complete a round in under one minute. I didn't quite achieve this goal this weekend, however, I did knock 4 seconds off my best time. We are now completing a round in 1.04. The next round of the competition is the VEIS Grand Final on the Saturday 17 June, at Werribee Park Equestrian Centre.

**Mackenzie Estlick – Year 9**



## Conveyance Allowance

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Please note that Conveyance Allowance claims for Semester One will be processed for payment at the beginning of Term 3. Any new Conveyance Allowance claims submitted will be assessed for payment in Semester Two.

Please direct any queries to [conveyance@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:conveyance@bmg.vic.edu.au).

**Mrs Nicole Tandy**

## 2024 Term Dates

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

## 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

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### Woodlea Campus

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Aintree VIC 3336

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### Woodlea Early Learning Centre

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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