BMG NEWS



31 May 2024

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 16

The Podium

Developing Character

This week, I had the privilege, along with Miss Fitzgerald and the Year 10 Pre-VCE Germany in the Twentieth Century class, of attending the Jewish Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick. The museum is dedicated to the memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. The program allowed students to learn about the Holocaust from individual perspectives, connect with Melbourne-based survivors through their testimonies and interact with the recently, newly opened museum. The students were also fortunate to hear from Holocaust survivor Peter Gaspar who, at the completion of his talk, left the students with the following,

"You all have choices, and your choices define who you are to yourself and others."

The program additionally brought to light the character strengths displayed by Holocaust survivors as researched by Melbourne University. As our school continues to develop and research its own Character Education Program, I think it most poignant to reflect on these character strengths, learn the lessons that history holds and ask ourselves the question:

How can these character strengths influence the choices we make each day?



Bravery – Being courageous and facing challenges.



Kindness - Showing care to others



Fairness - Treating all people justly



Hope – Having a sense of optimism and perseverance in creating positive outcomes



Judgement - Making considered decisions



Perspective - being able to see the bigger picture

Mr Andrew Perks - Deputy Principal: Culture and Character Education

Camps Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Final Applications Due

This is applicable to families who hold a valid Centrelink pensioner concession or Health care card number (CRN).

If you are yet to return your CSEF form, please ensure this is returned to the Administration Office no later than 17th June 2024 to ensure ample time for your application to be processed. Further information and the CSEF application form can be downloaded from the School's website: https://www.bmg.vic.edu.au/community/camps-sports-excursions-fund-csef/

Enquiries and soft copy forms should be directed to Sharon de Vries at accountsrec@bmg.vic.edu.au

Ms Sharon DeVries - Senior Finance Officer

WynSpeak – Woodlea Campus

On Thursday 27 May, BMG Woodlea was represented by three students in the Junior category at the WYNSPEAK heat at Lakeview College, Caroline Springs.

WynSpeak is a youth public speaking competition for secondary school students in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. Each student completes a pre-prepared speech of five minutes and then, after a short break, they also perform a short-notice speech of two minutes.

At Woodlea, we conducted our own public speaking competition to decide who would represent our campus at WynSpeak. I would like to congratulate the more than 20 students who participated in this competition. It is evident that we have students with wide ranging public speaking skills at our school.

The winners of the campus competition were Tharul Abeyratne and Surya Sureshkumar, with the runners up including Madeline De Vera, Yashita Garg, Areeba Azam, Tanish Krishna and Tehmina Jazeel Nijamudeen. Our winners then went on to represent the campus at WynSpeak.

On the evening, Madeline De Vera from Year 8 spoke about how boredom can lead to creativity, Tharul Abeyratne from Year 9 discussed the need for nurses to be better recognised in society, and Surya Sureshkumar from Year 9 advocated against the process of cloud seeding.

After a break, our students then delivered their short-notice speeches. It was a wonderful evening to see some of the best young public speakers the west has to offer give a wide variety of speeches.

I wish to congratulate Surya who won the heat in the preprepared Junior Division. Surya will now represent our campus at the WynSpeak final on the 7 June.

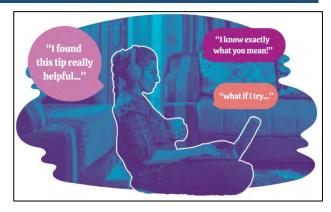
We wish him luck and can't wait to cheer him on!

Mrs Lee Tadic – DAV Debating & WynSpeak Coordinator



Wellbeing News

As parents, sometimes dealing with family challenges can feel isolating and overwhelming. My Circle from Kids Helpline offers a positive peer support network for parents navigating difficult circumstances. By providing a platform for connection, parents can engage with other caregivers facing similar experiences thereby fostering a sense of community and understanding. This platform allows parents to share insights, advice and offer reassurance and guidance in times of uncertainty. Through My Circle, parents gain access to a supportive environment where they can freely express concerns and seek advice from other parents/caregivers.



Please visit the link for more information: My Circle for Parents | Peer Support by Parentline (kidshelpline.com.au)

Mrs Ros Pittard - Deputy Principal: Student Support

Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week has been recognised this week at Bacchus Marsh Grammar, offering our community an opportunity to celebrate and learn about First Nations cultures and histories.

Throughout the week, our students have actively participated in various activities designed to foster understanding and respect. The Woodlea Year 6 Student Leaders spent time reading Dreamtime stories to our Prep students, creating a beautiful moment of connection and shared learning. These stories, rich with cultural significance, provided our youngest learners with a glimpse into the traditions and wisdom of Australia's First Nations people.

Engaging in such activities not only honours the past, but also instils values of inclusivity and respect in our future

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we are committed to continuing this journey of reconciliation, ensuring that every student gains a deeper appreciation of the rich heritage that shapes our nation.





Mrs Sarah Hunter - Deputy Principal: Head of Middle Schooling

Junior School News

Maddingley

The Spotlight on Teaching and Learning in the Junior School

Reading Foundations: Phonological and Phonemic awareness.

'Most children who will struggle with learning to read have underdeveloped phonemic awareness when they enter school'.

Ashby, J. et al. (2022)

Phonemic awareness is the most powerful predictor of future reading ability in young children. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness are aural and oral skills that allow children to understand that speech is made up of words, and that words are made up of distinct sounds and sound patterns.



Phonological awareness refers to the ability to identify (hear or recognise) and manipulate (play with) the sounds in spoken language. This includes words, syllables, onsets and rimes, and the individual speech sounds in words (phonemes).

Phonemic awareness is a subset of phonological awareness that involves the specific skill of identifying and manipulating individual speech sounds within words (phonemes).

Phonological awareness and the more sophisticated sub-skill of phonemic awareness are essential for successful reading. If a child is struggling to learn **phonics**, the alphabetic code, or is having difficulties applying this knowledge to single word or text reading, this could be the result of poor phonological awareness. Strong phonemic awareness gives students an advantage in learning phonics because it makes it easier for students to perceive phonemes and map them to graphemes for reading and spelling.

Phonemes are not always easy to distinguish because we don't articulate them separately – they are buried in a constant stream of speech, or co-articulated (run together). Some phonemes are easily confused so learners, especially those with a diagnosed learning difficulty such as dyslexia should not be left to identify speech sounds in words unassisted. We need to explicitly teach phonemic awareness if children are to benefit from phonics instruction and experience success in reading.

Parents can support their children in developing strong phonological and phonemic awareness by practising these aural/oral skills regularly at home. Ideas for developing phonological and phonemic awareness will feature on the Junior School Teaching and Learning Tile which can be accessed via the Family Engagement page on Schoolbox for each year level. This week's bright idea focuses on the phonological awareness skill of rhyming. Look out for more 'bright ideas' in the coming weeks.

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

Prep – Wild Action

Prep students had the opportunity to take part in a Wild Action Incursion on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 May.

Students participated in a one-hour program in which they were exposed to a wide range of animals such as a koala, barn owl, green tree frog, bettong, freshwater crocodile and a python! Students gained valuable knowledge about different adaptations that allow these species to thrive and were provided with the opportunity to touch and hold some of the



animals. Upon closer inspection, children were encouraged to identify whether the animal had fur, feathers, scales or skin.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed participating in this interactive workshop, as they deepened their grasp of the concepts and the importance of protecting these animals.





Mrs Kelly Connell - Prep Teacher



Art in the Village

The Bacchus Marsh Junior School Art Club has created a beautiful artwork for 2024 Education Week art display in Bacchus Marsh Village.

The theme was STEM so they incorporated all of the areas into a sustainable garden created from recycled Woolworths shopping bags.

If you would like to vote for our amazing art piece, please go down to the Bacchus Marsh Village Education Week Art Display and vote by 5pm on Sunday 2 June.

Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School

Woodlea

Year 2

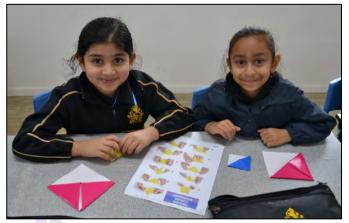
On Friday 24 May, the Year 2 students visited Staughton Vale for a day immersed in Japanese themed activities thus enhancing their understanding of Japan's culture as part of their Global Studies learning.

The cherry blossom, or Sakura, Japan's national flower, inspired the students to create their own artwork using twigs for branches and pink, red and white paints for the blossoms. They will now apply their knowledge gained in their Poetry unit to write Haiku poems about their artwork.

In addition, the students explored origami, the Japanese art of paper folding, by using skills from their recent procedure unit to follow steps and create unique origami bookmarks. (*Continued over page*)



They also delved into karate, a Japanese martial art, where Sensei Ahmic taught them essential techniques such as standing strong, performing blocking moves, counting to ten in Japanese and other key terms used in karate.





Mrs Ashlee Taylor – Head of Year 2 Woodlea

Physical Education, Health and Sport News

New AFL Guernsey

BMG is proud to unveil our brand-new reversible AFL Guernsey (Pictured below: Thomas Morton, Nick Cassar, Oscar Greenshields and Zack Burston). Our Senior Boys will have the honour of wearing it at the ICCES AFL Carnival in Term 3 on Thursday, 25 July. Whether they're playing in Black or White, we're sure the boys will do the school proud!



Mr Matt Harris - Sport/House Administrator

ACS Athletics





BMG took part in its first ACS Athletics Carnival at Lakeside Stadium on Monday 20 May. In what was a grey and bleak start to the day, it became a lot brighter when BMG won its first individual event of the meet with Evie White (9H) winning the Yr 9 Girls Shot Put.

BMG continued to enjoy a successful day of events finishing in 5th place overall. Well done to all our students who competed on the day and represented the school proudly. The school won two divisions on the day, taking out the Year 9 Girls and Year 10 Boys divisions.

The overall results were as follows:

Overall Aggregate Team Scores				
Place	School	Points		
1	St Leonard's	2,901.5		
2	Westbourne	2,747		
3	St Michael's	2,509.5		
4	Overnewton	2,400		
5	Bacchus Marsh	2,369.5		
6	Loyola	1,660.5		
7	St Aloysius	873		

A big congratulations to Mackenzie Estlick ($10I - pictured\ right$) who won the female athlete of the meet with a clean sweep of her events and cumulating the maximum 100points. Mackenzie also set new ACS records in the following events:

- o Yr 10 Girls Long Jump New ACS Record of 5.45m
- o Yr 10 Girls 100m New ACS Record of 12.52sec



Congratulations to the following athletes for finishing on the podium in their events:

Mackenzie Estlick	Year 10 Girls	1 st 90m Hurdles, 1 st 100m A, 1 st Long Jump, 1 st 200m A, 1 st Shot Put	
Leila Stegehuis	Year 9	1 st 80m Hurdles, 1 st 100m A, 1 st 200m A, 1 st High Jump	
Ethan Bloss	Year 10 Boys	1 st 1500m, 1 st 800m, 1 st 400m A	
Abby Pellow	Year 9	1 st Long Jump, 2 nd 400m A, 2 nd 200m B & 2 nd 800m	
Emma Stewart	Year 11	2 nd Triple Jump, 2 nd Long Jump, 3 rd 90m Hurdles	
Jeeva Vijayagopal	Year 11 Boys	1 st Triple Jump & 1 st 200m B	
Ella Bradbury	Year 12 Girls	1 st 100m B & 2 nd 200m B	
Katrina Tau	Year 12 Girls	1 st Discus & 2 nd Shot Put	
Zara Brigham	Year 10 Girls	1 st 200m B & 3 rd 100m B	

Evie White	Year 9 Girls	1 st Shot Put & 3 rd Discus
Layla Mauriohooho	Year 7 Girls	00m A
Leon Earnshaw	Year 11 Boys	1 st 100m B
Charlie Del Mastro	Year 8 Girls	1 st 200m B
Ella Ward	Year 11 Girls	2 nd 100m B & 2 nd 200m B
Lily Normington	Year 9 Girls	2 nd 100m B & 2 nd Triple Jump
Gurman Bhangu	Year 10 Boys	2 nd 100m B & 3 rd 200m B
Sadie Barth	Yea r 7 Girls	2 nd High Jump
Jensen Guthrie	Year 12 Boys	2 nd 200m B
Samuel Lillie	Year 11 Boys	2 nd Shot Put & 3 rd Discus
Jack Mau	Year 9 Boys	2 nd High Jump
Justin Trieu	Year 7 Boys	2 nd Long Jump
Keisha Momcilovic	Year 8 Girls	2 nd High Jump
Gus O'Donnell	Year 10 Boys	2 nd Shot Put
Adesh Pannu	Year 7 Boys	2 nd Discus
Charlotte Pellow	Year 7 Girls	2 nd Discus
Jai Copland	Year 12 Boys	2 nd Long jump
Amy De Wit	Year 12 Girls	2 nd 200m A
Matthew Stevenson	Year 12 Boys	3 rd 100m Hurdles
Mahalia Bangit	Year 12 Girls	3 rd Long Jump
Poppy Emini	Year 11 Girls	3 rd 400m A
Keisha Tau	Year 11 Girls	3 rd Discus
Justin Robins	Year 10 Boys	3 rd Discus

BMG also had the following podium finishes in the relays:

		•
1 st	Year 9 Girls	4 x 100m
1 st	Year 10 Girls	4 x 100m
2 nd	Year 7 Girls	4 x 100m
2 nd	Year 12 Girls	4 x 100m
3 rd	Open Girls	4 x 400m



Victorian Secondary Schools Orienteering Championship



Bacchus Marsh Grammar recently showcased its talent at the Victorian Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships. The event was held at Brimbank Park last Friday and saw students from nine schools across Victoria compete in different divisions based on their year levels and experience.

One of the standout performances on the day came from Peyton Woodhall (9G – *pictured left*). Peyton navigated the challenging course with a notable 2nd place finish in the Junior Girls Year 9 Beginners



Division. After a successful return to this competition, Bacchus Marsh Grammar will continue to offer this event on our sporting calendar to promote participation in orienteering, recognising the benefits of the sport in fostering physical fitness, strategic thinking and resilience among our students. Thank you to Mr Daniel Velden and Mr Daine Johnston for managing and coordinating this team.

Student Reflection

On Friday 24 May, several students had the opportunity to compete in the Victorian Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships. The competition was held at Brimbank Park, where students got to try their hand at orienteering, using a map and compass to navigate

courses ranging from 2.5km to 4.5km across the park, while competing against many other schools and their students. Bacchus Marsh Grammar displayed a great amount of effort on the day, with some notable performances including: 2nd Year 9 Girls, 4th Year 11 Boys, and 10th in both Year 10 Boys and Year 11 Girls. Overall, a great effort and a huge congratulations to everyone who competed and represented the school on Friday. We hope to see even more students compete next year! - *Mathew Mamouney, Year 11*

Mr Bryce Durham – Head of Faculty: PE and Health

Woodlea Sport

Woodlea 3-6 Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to the below Age Group & Year Level Champions:

U/09 Female Champion	U/09 Male Champion
Zoe Benyah - KOR	Louis-Felix Witt - DJE
U/10 Female Champion	U/10 Male Champion
Charlotte Vella - DAL	Arjun Vashishta - LER
U/11 Female Champion	U/11 Male Champion
Aarna Yada - PYK	Jaydrien Chand - DAL
U/12&13 Female Champion	U/12&13 Male Champion
Amelia Chan - PYR	Ayhan Senyuvali - DJE



To view more photos from the Woodlea Athletics Carnival, please view on SchoolBox here.

Middle School News

Maddingley - Year 8 at Staughton Vale

'Guardians of Staughton Vale' Erosion Monitoring Project Launch

This week, our Maddingley Year 8 Geography and Social Science students embarked on an exciting fieldwork project to identify various landforms around our Staughton Vale campus. Students collected data and reflected on the impact of human activity and environmental processes on these natural features.

As part of their studies, students explored different campus areas, noting how elements like paths, buildings, and recreational areas have shaped and continue to change the landscape. This initiative also marks the beginning of an exciting long-term project to monitor active erosion at Staughton Vale, with this group being the first to gather baseline data including a soil texture analysis of key spots at Grandma's Gully. Their observations and recordings will set the stage for future classes to track changes over time, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental processes and stewardship.

We are very proud of our student Geographers for playing a part in looking after our beautiful campus and thank all Staughton Vale staff for their high level of support and expertise.





Ms Agata Kula - Head of Humanities

Woodlea – Year 6 Canberra Trip

BMG says thank you to the Australian Government for the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate

Students from our Woodlea Campus will be undertaking an educational tour of the National Capital in June. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$45 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Senior School News

Outdoor Education - VCE

Over the last two weeks, both Units 1&2 and 3&4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies classes took part in their Forest expeditions. The Unit 1&2 students visited Grampians National Park whilst the Unit 3&4 students visited Barmah National Park.

Across the two locations, students were able to draw links to the theoretical concepts they had learnt in the classroom and apply their knowledge through the practical application of a range of activities including canoeing, rock climbing, bushwalking, bush cooking, cultural education and investigative type activities to assess the health of the environment.

Students were also provided with the opportunity to engage in conservation as a way to give back to the communities and environments they were visiting. A huge thanks to all the staff involved in making these programs such a huge success.





Mr Daine Johnston - VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies Teacher

Co-Curricular

Maddingley

BMG Gun Club – Clay Target Shooting

The following students recently competed for BMG at the South East Zone Gun Club event held at Lillydale High School: Nick Casser, Blaire Copeman, Harry Peterken, Tom Morton and Hailey Carlesso (Pictured).

The team competed in the 3 events shooting clay targets: Down the Line, Skeet and Sporting classified events. Nick Casser was the overall winner of the event and Hailey Carlesso the overall female winner. The team also came in second place overall with over 100 students



competing from across Victoria. We are very proud of our student's achievements. Congratulations to all students on such a fantastic achievement and overall results.

The next BMG Gun club event is to be held on August 6 at Frankston in the Victorian Clay Target South East Zone event. Winners from this event will go on to state tittles to be held in Echuca in September. We wish all our shooters well in this co-curricular event. (*Continued over page*)

If any students are interested in competing in these events, please contact Rachel McMahon: mcmahonr@bmg.vic.edu.au.

Students must have a Junior gun licence to be eligible to enter any of these events.

Students are able to register for practice at the Werribee Gun Club. Please contact Ian Urch from Werribee Gun Club on 0417121589

Ms Rachel McMahon - Director of Camps and Experiences Programs



BMZ Club – Bake Sale

This term, the BMZ Club at Maddingley is spearheading a bake sale to raise awareness and funds to aid women and children in war-torn communities. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to Human Appeal Australia which provides emergency relief including medical aid, food and shelter, and helps reunite families.

The Bake Sale will occur at lunchtime on Friday 31 May from 12.50pm until sold out. There will be 3 stalls with the locations listed below:

Senior/Middle School: Outside of N1

Senior/Middle School: Outside The Hive

Junior School only: Outside of Wilson Hall

Please refer to the poster for menu and price information. All items will be made onsite at school following Food Safety policies. Items may contain traces of Gluten, Egg, Wheat, Dairy and/or Soy. BMG Staff members will be present to assist in the supervision of purchases. Please be advised that the Bake Stall will be cash only.

Join us in making a positive impact for those in war-torn communities!

BMZ Club - Zonta Club of Melton Bunnings BBQ

On Saturday 18 May, students from the Maddingley BMZonta Club volunteered to help at the Zonta Club of Melton's Bunnings BBQ fundraiser.

Students had the opportunity to help with sales, cooking and preparation. Overall, around 65kgs of sausages and 90 drinks were sold, leading to a total of \$2,188 being raised. The money raised will go to local projects supporting women in need.

Well done to Tanisha, Sharanya, Kiarah and Kenisha for your amazing work on the day!

BMZonta Club



Woodlea

ACS Chess Competition





Student reflection by Niraj Prakash:

On Monday 13 May, my peers and I had the opportunity to represent Bacchus Marsh Grammar at the ACS Chess Tournament at Westbourne Grammar School. Although it was an extremely tough competition with a marvellous display of young talent, we were awarded equal 4th place at our first ever ACS Tournament. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the assistance of the staff who helped organise and oversee this event (Mr Evan Long and intern, Sri Bobbya).

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's reading challenge is open to all students from Prep to Year 12.

The Challenge ends on September 6, 2024.

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. Please note that student names will not be published in the list below without prior parental consent.

Students who have recently completed the Challenge are: Akalvir Mand 3WD and Rhythm Deveshwar 6A

Mrs Feona West - Teacher Librarian

Book Club News

Edition 4 Out Now!



Check out the latest edition and find out how to order from Book Club by <u>clicking here</u>.

You can place your order online and have it delivered to your home. Commission from our sales goes towards new books and resources for the school.

Scholastic Book Club Coordinators - Diane Dunn (Maddingley) and Feona West (Woodlea)

Bus and Transport Updates

Parking

A reminder to parents it is recommended that parents pull off the road into a service road or designated car park (where possible) while picking up or dropping off their children at the bus stop.

We request that parents are mindful not to park their cars in the way of the bus and ensure that the bus has enough space to safely drive into and pull out of the stopping zone. Also, as our buses stop in a residential area, it is important that parents DO NOT park in or across a driveway, and always respect residential property.

Parents are reminded to be mindful of the turning area of the bus in residential streets. This may mean parents need to park their car a short distance from the stop and walk to the stop to drop off or collect their child as a courtesy to the driver and others.

Student Permission Cards

Students in Prep – Year 6 require a green permission tag on their bag if they are to disembark the bus to be picked up by someone other than their parent/guardian. Students in Grade 5 & 6 can disembark the bus on their own if they have a green permission tag on their bag for the driver to check. Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notices are available on Schoolbox under School Letters. Please return Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notices to bus@bmg.vic.edu.au. Calls on the day to advise that someone else will be collecting your child will not be accepted.

Student ID Cards

Students MUST use their Student ID card to tap on/off their private bus. Student ID cards are compulsory when boarding a private bus or attending all school excursions/camps etc and they must be carried at all times.

Students who board the bus repeatedly without their ID cards will receive a detention or further consequences. If a student has lost or misplaced their Student ID card they are to go to ICT to have a new card printed.

Rockbank Station Private Shuttle Bus Service to Woodlea Campus

Bacchus Marsh Grammar has a private Shuttle Service available for students and staff to utilise between Rockbank Station and the Woodlea Campus. There are 2 shuttle services available each school day both in the AM & PM. This is a free shuttle service. A timetable is available on the school website for shuttle times. For any further information regarding the shuttle service please contact Leanne Robertson 5366 4800.

Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

2024 & 2025 Term Dates

Both the 2024 and 2025 Term Dates are published on the school's website.

Events Calendar

All upcoming events feature on the Schoolbox Calendar for both students and parents/guardians to view.



Uniform Shop

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

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) - The Y Ballarat

The Y Ballarat operates the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the <u>school's website</u>.

Email: chrissie.ashmore@yballarat.org.au Phone: 0490 178 638 W: https://yballarat.org.au

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