

The Podium

Character Sought

This week at Middle School Assembly the Principal congratulated students who have been heavily involved in the life of the school. These involvements largely fall outside the academic pursuits of students but go a long way in supporting and reinforcing student progress. The co-curricular life of any school is vital in creating well rounded students who can interact and flourish within their community. At Bacchus Marsh Grammar our Character Framework discusses opportunities for students to develop character by being explicitly taught character education, by catching character within the school context and most importantly by being able to be sought through cocurricular activities and extracurricular programs within the school. Character sought involves the desire to discern and freely pursue one's own character development. It involves reflection and ultimately planning and setting your own character commitments – that is commitments to something worthwhile.

An important aspect of students deciding for themselves how their character is to be formed are those choices students make regarding connections with others. While character is a property of an individual, virtues are formed and sustained through positive relationships in the community with others. Virtues are acquired and exercised through interpersonal commitments.

The aims of 'character sought' include making and exercising commitments such as:

1. Setting the right direction for life.
2. Bringing purpose and meaning to actions undertaken.
3. Firming up decisions to act virtuously.
4. Being faithful to relationships.
5. Strengthening integrity.
6. Committing to the virtues as a course of action.
7. Seeking out and consciously cultivating practical wisdom (phronesis).



At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we strongly encourage all our students to seek out opportunities that will enhance not only their education but the development of character. This may be in the form of activities like the School Musical, Chess competitions, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, House Sport, International trips, Explorers Club, Zonta Club and Music Ensembles just to name a few. As parents, please encourage your child to "have a go" and seek out opportunities at school because we know that this will lead to a most fulfilling time at BMG and a character that we can all be proud of.

Mr Andrew Perks – Deputy Principal Culture and Character Education

STEM Night



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Bacchus Marsh Grammar's STEM Night! Your enthusiasm and support made the evening a memorable celebration of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The night was filled with exciting activities designed to inspire and engage the next generation of innovators. We were honoured to have guest speakers from the Astronomical Society of Victoria and the Platypus Alliance, who shared their expertise and passion with us.

A special highlight of the evening was the STEM Showcase, where students had the opportunity to present their impressive projects. The creativity and dedication displayed were truly remarkable, making it a challenging task for our guest judges to select the winners. Stay tuned, as we will announce the results in the coming weeks!

We hope you enjoyed the array of activities and found the evening as inspiring as we did. Your participation and support are crucial in fostering a love for STEM and encouraging our students to pursue their passions. Thank you once again for making STEM Night a success. We look forward to celebrating more achievements and future innovations with you.



Mrs Susanna Mandic – Assistant Principal

Junior School

Reminders

Literacy Week

Bacchus Marsh Grammar Literacy Week is fast approaching, and we are excited to celebrate reading and literacy in all its forms! While literacy is a year-round focus for us, this week will be a special opportunity to highlight the many ways reading enriches our students' lives. We have some amazing guest speakers lined up to inspire our students to embrace literacy and pursue their dreams.

Throughout the week, there will be engaging activities across the sub-schools on both campuses—some individual, some in teams, but all designed to be fun and educational.

Dress-Up Days:

Woodlea Campus: Thursday 29 August

Maddingley Campus: Friday 30 August

This year's theme is "Reading is Magic," offering endless possibilities for creative costumes. We encourage students to get imaginative with what they have at home—there's no need to spend money on a costume. We're looking forward to sharing this exciting week with our wonderful students.



Student Safety

Safety during pick-up and drop-off times is crucial. We encourage all parents to guide and support our students about being safe around cars and when walking in and out of school grounds. Remind your child to always use designated crosswalks, stay alert and follow instructions from staff and crossing supervisors. By reinforcing these habits, we can ensure that everyone remains safe during these busy times.

Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School: Woodlea

Maddingley

Spotlight on Prep-Year 4 Physical Education

It has been a wonderful start to Semester Two, with students enjoying Physical Education in the warm sunshine.

Students from Prep to Year Two have been actively participating in a variety of activities designed to enhance their fundamental movement skills. This included a range of fun rotations and games based around the skills of jumping, jumping rope, soccer and balance. As we approach the end of Term Three and the beginning of Term Four, Year 1 and 2 students will take part in the 'Jump Rope Ninja Challenge.' In this exciting challenge, students will earn their coloured belt certificate based on the highest number of consecutive jumps they perform.



The Year 3-4 students have particularly enjoyed the AFL unit, in which they learned how to execute a drop punt, as well as mastering the skills of marking and handballing. The pop-up target was a huge hit, with several students managing to kick a bullseye. To wrap up the term, students will participate in the Striking and Fielding unit. During this unit, they will learn the correct technique to perform a two-handed strike, while further developing their fielding skills and teamwork.



The Junior School Physical Education Team

Science

This week in Junior School Science, we celebrated National Science Week with a bang! Literally! At our STEM Showcase night on Wednesday evening, there were epic explosions, spectacular STEM Competition entries from all levels of Junior School students, a wide variety of Science-themed rooms to explore and a fun-filled and vibrant Junior School space for the younger students to play, make and learn in with their loved ones.

Our wonderful and dedicated Junior School Science staff created a colourful space with a variety of learning spaces including air dry clay creatures, UV Pen secret messages, spinning colour wheels, Bird Beak play, microscopes with slides to view, once-living resin samples, a Spaghetti Bridge construction task, Shadow Puppet play, 'Make Your Own Scientist Name' card station, Science-themed music, photos of our up and coming JS Scientists, a photo booth and more!

Thank you to the families and students who came to explore the JS STEM Showcase Extravaganza and demonstrated their love of learning and passion for Science!

Junior School Science Team

Woodlea

Woodlea JS House Day



On Wednesday 14 August, Woodlea Junior School students came together to celebrate House Day events. Throughout the day, students earned points for their House. The end-of-day events were a fantastic way to demonstrate all our school values.

It was wonderful to see all students working together and cheering each other on in their House groups. Events like these foster a sense of teamwork and respect, help develop peer relationships, and allow our students to get to know others across the Junior School. Congratulations to our winning House on the day, Parwan!

Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School and Mrs Courtney Williams – Deputy Head of Junior School

Science

This term, Year 3 students have been learning about Chemical Science. They have been discovering the unique properties of substances and categorising them as either solids or liquids and even gases! Through engaging experiments, they have been investigating how altering the state of matter involves either adding heat to melt or freeze substances, or removing heat to cool and shape them differently.

Examples of practicals include making gooey oobleck and timing how long it takes for ice to melt with different kinds of heat sources. In the upcoming weeks, they will research everyday examples where materials are melted, frozen, heated or cooled, transforming them into new forms. Additionally, students will explore the significance of these state changes in recycling materials like glass or plastics, as well as traditional uses by First Nations Australians of substances like beeswax and resins.



Mrs Marina Buatti – Teacher

Junior School Writing Focus: A Foundation for Success Across All Subjects

Writing is an essential skill that underpins success across all subject areas and plays a crucial role in students' academic development and communication abilities. At our Junior School, we place a strong emphasis on writing as a cross-curricular priority, ensuring that students develop the skills they need to express themselves clearly and effectively, regardless of the subject.

From the very beginning, in Prep, our students are introduced to the concept that writing is more than just putting words on paper—it's a powerful way to communicate with an audience, with a specific purpose in mind. Our approach to teaching writing is comprehensive and structured, beginning with an introduction to various genres. Students learn that each genre has its unique structure and conventions which they must understand and apply in their writing.

As students progress through the Junior School, they are taught to recognise and use specific literacy devices and sentence structures to enhance their writing. These elements are introduced in a way that is appropriate for their age and stage of development. For example, in the early years, students learn how to use descriptive language to make their writing more vivid, while in Year Four, they focus on more complex devices such as metaphor and simile.

By Year 4, our proficient writers are adept at crafting texts that not only inform, but also persuade and entertain their readers. They understand how to tailor their writing to suit their intended audience and purpose, drawing on the skills and knowledge they have acquired throughout their time at our Junior School. Whether they are writing a narrative, an informative piece or a persuasive text, our students are equipped to communicate their ideas effectively and with confidence. Our focus on writing ensures that all students, regardless of their abilities or interests, are provided with the tools they need to succeed across the curriculum. Writing is not just a skill for English lessons, it is integral to learning in every subject, helping students to articulate their thoughts, demonstrate their understanding, and engage with the world around them.

(Continued over page)

Parents play a vital role in supporting their child's writing development at home. One of the most effective ways to do this is by creating a positive environment for writing, where children feel encouraged to express themselves. Parents can engage their child in daily writing activities such as keeping a journal, writing letters to family members, or creating stories together. It's also important to link writing to authentic situations, helping children see the real-world relevance of their writing. For example, you can involve your child in writing shopping lists, thank-you notes, or even a plan for a family outing. These activities not only make writing more meaningful but also demonstrate how writing is a valuable tool in everyday life. By supporting these authentic writing experiences, you can help your child understand the purpose behind their writing and inspire them to become more engaged and confident writers.

We are proud of the progress our students make in writing each year, and we remain committed to fostering their development as confident, capable writers who are prepared for the challenges of the future.

Please see Rio Mylavarapu's illustration (right) from PWD.

Mrs Courtney Williams - Deputy Head of Junior School (Woodlea)



Middle School

Woodlea

Year 5

On Friday, the Year 5 Woodlea students travelled to Staughton Vale for a range of interactive Maths-related tasks which allowed them to build on their teamwork skills as well as their creativity.

"Staughton Vale was very fun with a variety of outstanding outdoor activities including fraction cookies, planting trees, completing a Maths scavenger hunt and Maths games. Each activity taught me lessons like how to plant trees or calculate my average speed. My favourite activity was the fraction cookies as I got to show my creativity by putting the icing on the cookie. Another activity I really liked was the Scavenger Hunt because when we had to create Maths equations, we had to use our problem-solving skills and use sticks and rocks to make the equations."

Caleb Reddy 5WB

"My favourite activity at Staughton Vale was the planting. I really enjoyed it because we got to work together to plant seedlings. I enjoyed it even more because I already love planting at home. Another activity I really enjoyed was the Maths Athletics. I liked it because we got to play many games including Octopus and Rob the Nest. I loved the Scavenger Hunt as well because we got to make Maths equations and shapes with things we could find at Staughton Vale."

Aaron Fernando 5WB

Ms Samantha Bowden – Teacher



Physical Education, Health and Sport News

Elite Sport Applications 2025 – Maddingley

Thank you to all students/athletes who applied for the Elite Sporting Program for Years 9 and 10 in 2025. The testing afternoon concluded on Monday with the current Year 8 cohort participating in ten different fitness tests to determine their athlete profile. This data will now be collated with their applications for next year's program.

Information regarding successful candidates will be released over the coming weeks after the review process has been completed by our panel of staff which consists of former Commonwealth Games, national level and high-performance coaches and an independent review by the WestVic Academy of Sport Executive Officer and team.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer a place to all candidates. However, we encourage all athletes to continue to train hard and strive for success. As in previous years, we will review all applications and grade each one on the following criteria:

1. Level of competition in which the athlete is currently playing and consistently competing.
2. Quality of the athlete coach's reference.
3. Performance of the athlete at the testing afternoons and their meeting of benchmarks.
4. Commitment to representing their House and the School in events (e.g. ICCES/ACS).
5. Approach to studies, attitude and results within Physical Education and Sport classes.
6. Behaviour and approach to studies within their academic subjects.
7. Meeting subject selection criteria as per the requirements of the Year 9/10 program.



AFL Herald Sun Shield Div.2 – Intermediate Boys

In blustery conditions at Casey Fields on Tuesday, the BMG Boys intermediate team competed in the Herald Sun Shield Div. 2 Competition. The team fought hard in the first half of each game but found themselves outpaced as the matches progressed. It was great to see the team bounce back in the final game and nearly snatch a win in the dying moments against eventual grand finalists, St Ignatius College Geelong. Well done to captain, Riley Peldys (10I) for kicking the most goals on the day, including 3 in the final match. Riley Dilges (9H) for his work up forward, James McDaid (10E) for his hard work on and off the field and Gus O'Donnell (10I) for the goal of the day against Salesian College. Special thanks to Head Coach, Mr McMahon for his work with the Intermediate Boys over the last 2 Terms and Mr Rubino as Team Manager. The team certainly gained valuable experience and will be eager to return stronger in the future.

Results as follows:

Game 1	Luther College 6.7.43 d. Bacchus Marsh Grammar 1.0.6
Game 2	Salesian College Sunbury 6.4.40 d. Bacchus Marsh Grammar 2.1.13
Game 3	Padua College 7.2.44 d. Bacchus Marsh Grammar 1.3.9
Game 4	Bye
Game 5	St Ignatius College Geelong 5.1.31 d. Bacchus Marsh Grammar 4.5.29

We look forward to the girls taking part in next week's Herald Sun Shield Div. 2 Intermediate Girls Competition on Tuesday 27 August. CommunityTV will once again be live streaming matches from this competition.

Mr Bryce Durham – Head of Faculty: PE and Health

Co-Curricular

BMZ Club

In collaboration with Literacy Week (Week 7) and Indigenous Literacy Day (Wednesday 4 September), the BMZ Club at Maddingley is running a Book Drive to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

From Tuesday 20 August until Thursday 5 September, the BMZ Club will be running collection points on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime for students to bring their book donations in exchange for a raffle ticket. Each book donated goes to helping promote reading and literacy for Indigenous children.

We do accept new and second hand:

- Picture books – new titles, classic titles, favourite authors, award winners
- Early readers – popular series, cardboard books
- Fiction – new titles, popular authors, classics
- Non-Fiction (current and relevant to Indigenous culture)

Age levels:

Books suitable for children from 0-16 years of age.

We do not accept books that have:

Binding that is frayed, covers and pages that are torn or missing, food stains, been chewed on, been written in or highlighted, mould, dirt or water damage, battery operated sounds, or an accompanying CD, but the CD is missing.

Every book donated will receive a raffle ticket for a prize draw to take place on Monday 9 September!

If you would like to learn more about the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, please visit their website:

<https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/>

Thank you in advance.

BMZ Club Maddingley

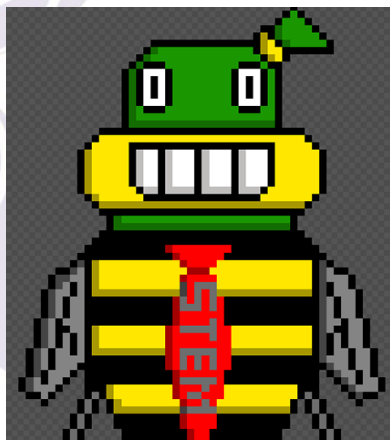
Sustainability Mascot - Pixel Art Challenge - Winners Announced!

Thank you to all the students who entered the competition - we were amazed at the creative and well-thought-out options for a mascot!

Here are the winners of the classic Lego kits!



Years 5/6 - Annabelle Evans



Years 7/8 - Rhys Vella



Years 9/10 Kuspreet Kaur

Maddingley Junior Landcare Group partners with Greater Western Water

It was great to see so many students contribute to the Maddingley Working Bee on Thursday 15 August. With the support of Cherie Salmon from Greater Western Water, the group was successful in its bid for \$500 of indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses that were subsequently planted on the hill below W block.

The new vegetation now complements the work of the Junior Landcare Group, which has been busy reinstating the garden beds and the surrounding area at the front of the school. Students who have an interest in horticulture, conservation or sustainability can join in the work of the group by attending the Club every Thursday, meeting at Q3.

Students up to Year 6 are also invited to enter the "National Water Week" poster competition. The competition is open to all students in the Greater Western Water region, with entry information available at

<https://www.nationalwaterweek.com.au/greater-western-water>



Mr David Gorton - Director of Student Engagement / Head of Staughton Vale Campus

ICAS

ICAS Assessments – Update for registered students only

Information has been sent to parents/guardians via EdSmart notification 6 August 2024.

Please be advised that registered students will sit their subject assessment/s during school hours on the allocated dates below, at times determined by the Heads of Campus and Class Teachers. Due to the volume of students participating and the challenge of coordinating the assessments within the school's existing timetable, there will be no opportunity to provide parents with additional notice of the exact sitting time for your child.

MATHEMATICS

- Tuesday 27 August - Years 2 to 4
- Wednesday 28 August - Years 5 to 10

Students in Years 2 to 4 will be supplied with a school Chromebook to complete their assessment. All other year levels should ensure they have their Chromebooks ready and charged on the day.

Refer to [Schoolbox](#) for more detail.

Mrs Casey Ryder – Executive Assistant: Maddingley

From the Library

BOOK CLUB NEWS AUGUST 2024

Issue 6 is out now!

The latest issue of the Scholastic Book Club catalogue is out now. Click on the link below to go to the How to order page.

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

Check out all the wonderful books available and place your order and have it delivered to your home.

If you have ordered before here is the link below to both Issue 5 and Issue 6

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/issue-preview/>

Mrs Diane Dunn – Scholastic Book Club Coordinator Maddingley

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.

Students who have recently completed the Challenge: All Year Prep, Year One and Year Two students at both campuses, Keerit Padda 3WA, Elodie McMillan 4D, Zahra Chandurwala 5D, Samaira Grover 6C, Annika McMillan 6C, Ishnoor Kaur 3WB, Kesmirah Gobi 3WC, Mahi Gajadhur 3WD, Isabelle Dilges 4A, Sophie Dilges 4B, Dhruvan Jagajyothi 4B, Jimmy Kent 4D, Yuvraj Singh Walia 6WC, Saoirse Sandoval-Roche 8B, Vaishnavi Poduri 9WB.

Mrs Feona West – Teacher Librarian

Bus and Transport Updates

PRIVATE BUS TRAVEL 2025

We are currently rolling over students from 2024 private bus travel to 2025 private bus travel.

If your child/ren's current bus travel arrangements are going to change, or require to be changed, (eg you are moving house or no longer requiring private bus travel) for 2025, please contact the School Bus Services Administrator on 5366 4800 or email bus@bmg.vic.edu.au to discuss your changes. If your child/ren will not require a private bus service in 2024, and parents do not advise us, your child/ren will be allocated to a private bus and fees will apply.

ALLOCATED ROLL CALL STOPS

If you have changed your child/ren's stop that they board or disembark as a permanent change, and have not notified the school, please contact the School Bus Services Administrator on 5366 4800 or email bus@bmg.vic.edu.au. This information needs to be up to date on roll call for emergency services and will assist in the planning for 2025 routes/timetables.

COUNTRY BUS TRAVEL 2025 – MADDINGLEY CAMPUS

Applications for Permission to Travel forms have been sent to families last week via Edsmart notification to parents for children who are eligible to travel on a Country bus to Bacchus Marsh Grammar Maddingley Campus in 2025. Application forms are due back by Friday 6 September 2024. Please note that failure to submit this form to the office by the due date may result in your child/ren not being eligible to travel on a Government Operated Bus Service in 2025.

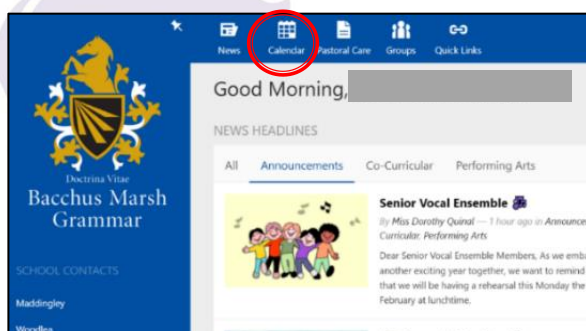
Mrs Leanne Robertson – School Bus Services Administrator

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 [school's website](#). Please note that uniforms can also be purchased online via <https://www.noone.com.au/>.

Health Centre

New Contact Method for Maddingley and Woodlea Health Centre

We would like to inform all parents that the Maddingley and Woodlea Health Centres have transitioned to using mobile phones as the primary means of communication with parents. This change is intended to streamline and improve the efficiency of our communication.

Contact Information:

Maddingley Health Centre Mobile Number: 0409 660 290

Woodlea Health Centre Mobile Number: 0448 281 290

Please save these numbers in your contacts to ensure you can easily recognise calls from the health centres.

Families can still reach the Health Centre through Reception if they wish to do so.

We encourage all parents to update their contact lists and ensure that these numbers are accessible. This change aims to provide a more direct and prompt communication channel between the Health Centre and parents. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Health Centre Team

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 [school's website](#).

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

Maddingley:
maddingley.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0438 154 842

Woodlea:
woodlea.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0490 490 362



Regular Contacts

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

School Website: www.bmg.vic.edu.au