

BMG NEWS

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From the Principal

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is this year celebrating its 30th Anniversary and in the next few weeks the school will be promoting various aspects of the school. One area that the school has been working on is its basic structure. When the school was founded it was constituted as an Incorporated Association. This is similar to the arrangement that would exist with a small sporting or social club. It was an ideal structure for an organisation that was limited in size and a relatively small business operation. Our Incorporation has served the school well for the first 30 years.

The school is now, thirty years on, a very different entity both in terms of size and complexity of its operations. The school has taken professional advice, all of which make a strong case that for the protection of the school and families the school should become a Company Limited by Guarantee. This change can only occur with the approval of the current members.

Over the next few months you will be receiving information explaining the reasons behind proposed changes in the structure of the school and the perceived benefits and safeguards such a move will bring.

In a real sense this change will have limited to no effect on the day to day running of the school. Just as most families don't see or are not directly impacted by the school being an Incorporated Association, it is my belief that will be the same with the school if it becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee. The difference is that it will provide the governance and administrative framework to better serve the school for the next 30 years.

Further information will be sent to families in the near future.

Andrew A Neal – Principal

Mother's Day in the Junior School

What a fantastic morning the students, parents and teachers had on Thursday morning at the Mother's Day craft activities morning for students in Prep to Year 4.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and other significant people who came along to join in all the fun and creative activities with their child/ren. There was certainly a very positive and happy feeling within all classrooms as I walked around. In fact, I think some of the parents were having more fun than the children colouring in, gluing and cutting, and there were smiling children's faces everywhere. I hope all involved had a pleasant and rewarding morning, and that all Mother's enjoyed their delicious cup cake, unless your child ate it first of course. Thank you once again for your participation on this day. Have a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday!

Jan Loftus - Head of Junior School

“My child has been diagnosed with Dyslexia.”

Hearing that your child has a diagnosis of Dyslexia, can bring a mixture of emotions:

It can be the moment of ‘mystery solved’ or it can be the moment of ‘solve this mystery’. Dyslexia is often a misunderstood term, Eve Binnie, Educational Psychologist at BMG, has offered the following definition:

Dyslexia affects one’s ability to adequately learn, process, and retain information. Dyslexia, specifically, causes problems in spelling, reading, and writing by affecting word recognition, reading comprehension, phonological awareness and recognition, and decoding of words. This inhibits a child’s ability to learn to read, even with normal intelligence and classroom instruction. Dyslexia affects 10-15% of the population and occurs twice as often in males.

The causes of dyslexia are usually genetic in nature; however, a much less common cause is head injury or trauma. Some children with dyslexia appear to process information using a different area of the brain than children without a learning disability: However, this is not characteristic of all children diagnosed with dyslexia. Some types of dyslexia may decrease in severity as a child ages.

https://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/49_Dyslexia.pdf

Thank you to Leonie Hegarty, for sharing the following short video clip, **please take the time** and be inspired by the most famous talented people who happen to have something in common – dyslexia

<https://www.dyslexiadaily.com/blog/like-a-dyslexic-12-year-old-isley-vid-worth-sharing/>

Most importantly

Dyslexia will not go away and there are no quick fixes, coloured lenses or coloured paper, motor and eye exercises, an on-line memory game are **not** the answer. Dyslexia requires commitment from parents to put aside 10 – 15 minutes each day to reteach decoding of words through letters and sounds. It requires the teacher to build on the strengths of the child and also deliver a strong spelling and reading program. Here are some recommended programs for Parents to consider if their child has a diagnosis of dyslexia – but remember it needs commitment!

- “Teach your child to read in 100 easy lessons” by Siegfried Engelmann (a shortened version of the Level A part of the Reading Decoding program. This program can be purchased for approximately \$25.
- Michelle Hutchinson also provides the Smart Spelling and Literacy Restaurant program. These can be purchased from her website and training courses on how to deliver the program are also available. www.michellehutchison.com
- The 10 Minute Tutor is an online program that is very user friendly and tracks progress. <https://thetenminutetutor.com/>

Wendy Green
Assistant Principal – Education Services

Cyber Safety

To supplement the curriculum at Bacchus Marsh Grammar Brett Lee, a former Cyber Crimes Policeman, was invited to speak to students and parents about how to be safe while navigating the digital world. Throughout his presentations he was able to bring to life possible online dangers and responsibilities which are a part of your child’s digital world.

For parents he discussed and shared simple and easy strategies of protection and prevention that will empower them to reduce online risks within their home. For more information on these strategies please visit Brett Lee’s company Internet Education and Safety Services. www.iness.com.au

Another useful website to visit is for the Office of the eSafety Commissioner. This is a Federal Government organisation committed to empowering all Australians to have safer, more positive experiences online. The Office was established in 2015 with a mandate to coordinate and lead the online safety efforts across government, industry and the not-for profit community. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Dean Peplinkhouse - Head of Middle School

The Rise and Fall of the Bargainmart King

Congratulations to the cast and crew of **The Rise and Fall of the Bargainmart King**, who performed last Thursday and Friday at Altona Theatre, and in particular to Ms Stratakos and her production team.

It was clear that much work had been done in preparation for the performances, from the set design, costumes, sound, hair and makeup, the backstage crew executing set changes efficiently, the performers delivering of their lines clearly and confidently and acting their parts well. The students and staff



involved enjoyed all that goes into such a production once the lights come on, as did the audience. What was particularly pleasing for me was the large number of students involved in the many aspects of the production. There were also a number of new faces to the stage - some I had not seen performing before; the production being a play this year allowed those not confident in singing or dancing a chance to perform on stage. So, once again, well done to all of those involved in this year's Secondary School Production.

Jennifer Jovanovic – Deputy Principal



Youth Art Award Winner

Mikaelah Falzon entered the 2018 Moorabool Youth Services 'Youth Art Awards'. She competed against the talented artistic youth of Moorabool and was awarded First Prize in the 'Paint and Charcoal' category.

Mikaelah's artwork was shortlisted and she attended the awards presentation dinner to receive her award. Congratulations Mikaelah.

Nicole Heywood



DAV Debating News

On Monday 30 April, Round 2 of the DAV debating competition for 2018 took place. Six BMG teams represented the school at the competition held at St Bernard's College Essendon. Our VCE teams lost (on the extremely challenging topics that *That Spain should grant independence to Catalonia* and *That the West should lift all sanctions on Zimbabwe*).

Both Year 10 teams won, on opposing sides of the topic *That Australia and New Zealand should unify as a single country*, which is very exciting. Our Year 9 teams spoke on opposing sides of the topic *That we should ban gambling advertisements*, and we came out with a win and a loss.

The students who participated in Round 2 included: Katelynn Condon, Nicole Wright, Andrew Donohue, Mirko Latinovic, Rachel Jackson, Jaime Patterson, Ally Eley, **Elana Penny (Best Speaker Award)**, Ubaid Ahmed, Irena Loh, **Chantal Thomas (Best Speaker Award)**, Declan Xerri, Kate Streeter, Molly Koorn, Todd Robinson, Lily Trethowan, Lloyd Slimmon and **Sophie Wall (Best Speaker Award)**.

Congratulations to all teams, on preparing and presenting some high quality debates. We look forward to seeing how you approach Round 3, with some Secret Topic debates coming up for our senior students.

Aine Murphy, Alyce Coyne and Silvy Wantania

French Cultural Exchange 2018

The 2018 French Cultural Exchange began on 24 March for seventeen very excited students and three staff. After three seven hour flights, the group finally arrived in Paris.

After quickly settling into the hotel, the group journeyed into the heart of Paris, via the Metro. Walking up the stairs from the Metro we had our first glimpse of 'real Paris', seeing the start of Champs-Élysées and the Eiffel Tower in the distance.

Navigating Paris Metro was a new experience for students, who faced the challenge with maps in hands, excitement and a desire to 'Master the Metro'. Over the next few days, students navigated their way to Paris' well-known destinations, the Louvre, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower. We climbed the seven hundred and four steps of this mammoth tower in freezing rain and felt triumphant when we were finally at the top.

The group travelled to Lyon to meet their host families. Students were excited and nervous about meeting their host families and parting from the safety of the group. The first night apart was challenging and everyone was happy to see each other the next day at school. The students had the opportunity to enter French classrooms and experience a different type of learning as well as help younger French students with their English classes. Day trips included visiting a chocolate factory where students attended a chocolate tasting workshop and a day to explore Lyon. We had the opportunity to visit the United Nations Office at



Geneva. This was an incredible experience for the BMG students as well as their host students who accompanied us on the trip. We visited the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, decorated by famous artist Miquel Barcelò; The Assembly Hall, the largest room in the Palais des Nations and The Council Chamber, where many important historical negotiations have taken place. This visit an informative eye opener of what is currently happening in the world beyond Bacchus Marsh and Australia.

The following week was spent with host families where students had varying holiday opportunities including visiting the south of France or Germany. This week was challenging but rewarding. It was seven days of being fully immersed in another family and culture, experiencing their everyday lives and being separated from the familiar. When it came to saying goodbye to host families, there were more than a few tears.

After arriving back in Paris, we took the opportunity to see the light show at the Eiffel Tower. It was initially quite wet and miserable, but by the time the lights started flickering on the enormous tower, it had cleared up and we had a magnificent view from The Trocadéro. We then took a leisurely stroll down towards the Eiffel Tower where we stopped to warm up on Nutella Crêpes before taking a lovely ride in a lit-up carousel and witnessing the light show, this time in full dark, before retiring for the night.

The following day we visited Château de Versailles where we sat in the spectacular Royal Opera House and listened to the history of the room and the palace. The afternoon was spent at Monet's Garden, where we entered another world, surrounded by nature, art and history.

Highlights and unforgettable memories include Mr Howell's group lining up for three hours and twenty-four minutes in the cold wind to be able to experience the vast Catacombs of Paris. All learned patience, endurance and resilience during the wait. Mrs Erhardt's group exploring the wonderful Musee des Arts et Metiers and my group exiting George V Metro at Champs-Élysées to see amber lights flashing and police cars everywhere... after a little concern, we watched as the President's motorcade passed by (to our excitement).

This was a magnificent trip that placed everyone in new, unfamiliar situations, requiring all of us to be resilient. The trip also developed independence and confidence throughout the group. Seeing students step up and become leaders in their own right was my personal highlight. This group of students and teachers were a wonderful bunch to share the French Cultural Exchange with.

Nicole Heywood

Raising Kids with Gratitude

Gimme, gimme, gimme

It is a sad fact, but true, that we live in a society of instant gratification. Our Western consumer culture says we can have everything...now... this minute...and if we cannot we are led to believe we are somehow deprived. Most kids understand that the world revolves around them. And why wouldn't it? They're mostly catered to by adults, many are made comfortable with material goods, and an increasing number entertained by technology. For kids it's all happening, and unless encouraged to be appreciative, we cannot blame them for thinking the world owes them, which unfortunately means they may also grow up with a sense of entitlement.

Getting vs giving

Kids are rarely into delayed gratification any more than many of us adults. With a click of the mouse, stuff is ordered and delivered, and it is unthinkable (to most kids and many parents) that a child has a birthday party minus presents. But birthdays are a good example of an occasion where, with a bit of effort on our part, we can encourage our kids to change the focus from getting to giving. For example, they could:

- write one thing they like about the person they are inviting, on the invitation
- hand make a small present of appreciation to those invited to the party
- write thank you notes or emails
- we can put a cap on the amount of money others should spend on our child

Appreciate the small stuff

Gratitude works like a muscle. The more we flex it, the stronger it gets. Raising kids with gratitude is a two-way deal. We model, they learn. Getting their head around being thankful and grateful can be quite complex for little kids, so we can start with the basics of please and thank you, and gradually work up from there.

- thank kids often for cooperating, showing care or thinking of others
- encourage a 'thankful' vocabulary and work gratitude into daily conversation
- volunteer as a family
- keep a lid on pocket money and encourage giving to a trusted charity of choice
- suggest kids donate clothes they have outgrown to others less fortunate
- downplay presents at festive times and concentrate more on family traditions
- share successes and achievements and thank those who have supported
- encourage generosity and sharing

Gratitude, as a way of thinking, supports optimism and resilience. Kids who appreciate the small stuff are less likely to be defeated by adversity or dwell on the fact that life is unfair. Stopping every now and then to reflect on what's good about our day, helps to remind us (and our kids) that it is what it is and there will always be things in life over which we have absolutely no control. And that's OK. Because every day has so much on offer...and even more to be grateful for.

Veronica Johnston

School Photos 2018

2018 School Photos will be taken during Term 2 on the following dates:

Years 7-12

Tuesday 22 May and Wednesday 23 May

Prep Reception - Year 6

Tuesday 5 June and Wednesday 6 June

All students from Prep/Reception to Year 12 will have school photographs taken. Students will be required to wear full Winter uniform, which includes jumpers, blazers and ties for students in Years 5 to 12, and jumpers and ties for students in Prep Reception to Year 4. Letters and ordering forms will be sent home to families shortly.

School Leadership Photos

School Leadership Photos will be taken in Term 3 on Monday 30 July from 9.00am. Please note Year 6 and Year 12 Graduation Photos will be produced in a composite format. The size of the Year levels have grown and the traditional group photos were becoming an OH&S and logistical given the size of the scaffolding and stands required.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Careers Expo

With over thirty-one exhibitors attending the school on Friday 11 May, students in Years 9-12 will be well-exposed to a variety of post-school options to plan and aspire towards. This event can help students determine what pre-requisite subjects are required and also inform them of what future training and educational requirements lay ahead.

Careers Newsletter

Edition 3 of the BMG Careers Newsletter has been compiled by Prefect, Aarnav Venkatesh. Senior Students from Years 9-12 have been emailed this latest edition and it can also be downloaded from the school website.

Senior School Instrumental Music Concert Series

The Senior School Instrumental Concert Series is to be held between **Tuesday 29 – Thursday 31 May (Week Seven)**. All Years 7-12 students who learn an instrument or sing (they may be part of the school instrumental program or learn outside of school) are encouraged to perform.

Students who receive lessons at BMG are to complete entries online via their Instrumental Music teachers. All entries for students who are not currently part of the BMG Instrumental program should be collected from and handed back to Administration. Once all entries have been collated, parents will be sent a notice outlining the performance details for students i.e. night, venue, time etc.

We look forward to a wonderful showcase of our up-and-coming young musicians.

Steven Bell

Junior School House Music:

This year **Junior House Music** is taking place on **Monday 4 June** in Wilson Hall. All students who learn an instrument or sing are encouraged to get up and perform to score points for their house. Entry forms are available at Administration or alternatively, you can contact the Music Department. Parents and family are most welcome to attend on the day and the performances will run in the following order:

Years 3 & 4 - 9:00am – 10:50am

Years 5 & 6 - 11:15am – 12:45pm

Years 1 & 2 - 1:35pm – 2:30pm

If you require any further information regarding Junior House Music please send me an email at westgartht@bmg.vic.edu.au looking forward to seeing you there.

Troy Westgarth

Middle School Musical - Peter Pan - Term 2 Rehearsal Schedule (Weeks 5-7)

Rehearsals - Week 5 - Wednesday 16 May

Students Required: Wendy – Abi Bradford/John – Tristan Kleiner/Michael – Murphy O'Connor/Peter – Ashley Siketa/Hook – Abbey Xerri/Smee – Joss Emini/Chief Tiger Bamboo – Lochie Pantazis/Tiger Lily – Eloise Driver/Performing Arts Captains - Marlee Wilson/Kristina Bogic

6 Pirates/3 Indians/6 Lost Boys/6 Mermaids/Pirate Chorus/Indian Chorus/Lost Boys Chorus

Rehearsals - Week 6 – Wednesday 23 May

***ALL STUDENTS REQUIRED**

Rehearsals - Week 7 - Wednesday 30 May

***PHOTO WEEK – ALL STUDENTS REQUIRED**

REGULAR CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Absentee Line - 5366 4889

Health Centre direct number - 5366 4873

The Learning Hub - 0408 548 058

The Sport Hub - 0428 315 081

Email - hubprograms@bmg.vic.edu.au

Senior School After School Classes

Tuesdays – English (NBlock) and Science (Room01)

Thursdays – Mathematics (MBlock)

Visit the [BMG Events Calendar](#) for the latest upcoming events.

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