

BMG NEWS

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Staughton Vale

What vegetables should we plant as we move into the winter months? What pH level and soil structure produces the best vegetables? How has the Staughton Vale farm been used over time and how has it altered since BMG took ownership of the property? How is energy created and how is solar energy used at Staughton Vale? These are all questions that Year 8 students have been discussing and working through over the past few weeks in their Staughton Vale program.

The ability to have firsthand experiences, make observations, conduct tests and collect data is a key feature of the program and students have engaged positively with the different challenges. A highlight has been the challenging walk up the hill, but the reward of the beautiful scenery soon changes student focus. The time used looking out over the western plains enables students to take a quiet moment to reflect and practice the skill of field sketching, taking in the detail of our neighbouring Mt Anakie. A 'make-over' to our bus terminal garden has commenced, with students gaining an appreciation for the effort that goes into maintaining a garden and the satisfaction of achieving a common goal together.

As we move into the winter months a reminder to all students to rug up with approved BMG sports jumpers, anoraks and tracksuit pants to tackle the cooler weather conditions.

Remember "there's no such thing as bad weather - only the wrong clothing choice!"

Bryce Durham - Staughton Vale Coordinator



Thank you to Jai Pilbeam of Year 11 – Jai is providing many of the photographs included in the 2018 newsletters

Oceania Karate Championships – Congratulations to Ben De Bortoli and Eliza Wales

Two very talented BMG students, Ben De Bortoli 12B and Eliza Wales 10D recently competed in the Oceania Karate Championships in Auckland, New Zealand. Here are their reports detailing their events and success:

Ben De Bortoli

On 19 May I competed at the Oceania Championships in Auckland, New Zealand, as a member of the Australian Team.

The Oceania Championships is the biggest competition in our continent, featuring the likes of Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Nauru and Fiji. The rivalry between Australia and New Zealand is fiery to say the least.

My weight division had not been selected for the Oceania Championships when the provisional team was selected, as the coaching committee had decided to select the team following the Australian Open, due to selection issues. I knew I just had to trust the process.

I was coming off the back of a brilliant 2017, I had won both the Australian Open and National Championships, medalled at the Austrian Open in Salzburg and represented Australia at the Junior World Championships in Spain.

In my first year as a senior, my 2018 campaign had gotten off to a good start, I'd beaten some big scalps, collecting two silver medals at the Australian Open and had defeated Australia's best fighter, a man who had not been defeated by an Aussie in 10 years. That was a huge win and cemented my selection in the team. That was pure relief.

Oceania was a competition in which I had never won, it was the 'one that got away'. In 2014 I had broken my wrist, in 2016 I had lost in the final on referee's decision.

Competition day had arrived, I had won my first two rounds against French Polynesia and New Zealand, and I was up in the final against one of my best mates and fiercest rival, and a fellow Aussie. I had been in control for most of the fight until a brain fade with 4 seconds remaining. In that moment I thought I had cost myself the match, so I decided to go for it. I launched myself and scored on the buzzer. Finally, I had won the Oceania Championships. It was pure relief.

Winning this competition keeps the Olympic dream alive, 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games are firmly in sight. The future is bright!



Eliza Wales

A little under two weeks ago I had the opportunity to travel to Auckland, New Zealand to represent Australia at the 2018 Oceania Karate Championships. The best athletes from New Zealand, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Nauru, Fiji and Australia were in attendance.

In my own weight and age category I competed against New Caledonia and New Zealand, coming away with a bronze medal. I was then fortunate enough to be selected in a team event, along with a few other girls from Australia in my age group.

My team won against both New Zealand and French Polynesia to bring home gold.

Overall, I had an amazing experience and am taking away valuable lessons and lifelong friendships.



Photo: Eliza with her Coach, Wayne Noble.

2018 School Photos

School photos for all students have been completed. Online orders are still being accepted through the MSP Photography [website](#) and will close on Monday 11 June 2018. Should you have any questions relating to orders and payments please contact MSP Photography Ballarat on 5333 5577. School photo orders will be distributed to families early in Term 3.

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 issue given the size of the scaffolding and stands required.

Communicating with your child

We often speak to parents who tell us that communication between themselves and their Middle School-aged child is not as positive as it once was. This is very common in adolescence as children grow and their reference point shifts from parents to peers and they develop more independence.

It can be challenging to communicate with your child as they develop their own views and opinions which may be in contrast to your own. Whilst this can be a source of conflict, it is important to remember that this is part of them building the confidence to be their own person and be able to think independently. Show you respect your child's opinions by listening to them without judgement or attempting to change their point of view. Adolescents will often stop talking if they believe their opinions are not respected. You may have to agree to disagree!

The value of showing your child that you have time to listen should not be underestimated. Frequent interruptions and distractions to conversations between you and your child erode the opportunity to let your child know that you value what they have to say. Regularly make time to spend together, perhaps sharing an activity you both enjoy where there will be limited interruptions to your conversation. Also be aware of your body language. Make frequent eye contact and resist the urge to interrupt. Having these opportunities to build rapport during a shared activity can pave the way to discussing difficult topics more easily when they arise.

When talking with your child try and ask open-ended questions, allowing them to determine the topic of conversation. This is often when children will raise an issue or problem which is of concern to them. Whilst it can be tempting to jump in to 'solve' the problem or try and fix a situation for them as you may have done when they were younger, it is empowering for the young person for you to support them in coming to their own solution instead. Follow these conversations up with your child by asking what the outcome was. This will remind them that you are interested and will always make time to talk over issues that are important to them.

Effective communication is evident when both you and your child feel as though you can express how you are feeling and have been heard. This does not necessarily mean agreeing with each other. It does mean, however, that you have both made the time to talk, listened respectfully and consequently feel valued and supported. The perfect recipe for when difficult situations arise. There are many sources of information for parents wanting to work toward effective communication with their child. Some of these are listed below and are helpful in unpacking how to establish positive talking techniques more thoroughly.

Top tips for effective communication with your adolescent:

- **Talk often:** It doesn't always have to be about a significant topic, but build the model and rapport for when it does need to be.
- **Limit interruptions:** Send a clear message that you are 'present' and are interested in what your child had to say.
- **Don't judge:** You may disagree with them, but remember that your child building their own opinions is an important part of them becoming an independent adult.
- **Have fun:** Most importantly, share times where you can enjoy each other's company as well as the fact that they are becoming a young adult.

Ros Pittard – Deputy Head of Middle School

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/skills-to-build/connecting-and-communicating/effective-communication-and-teenagers>
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/teenagers-and-communication>
<https://childmind.org/article/tips-communicating-with-teen/>

Years 7-12 Instrumental Music Concert Series

Congratulations to the students who presented solo, group and ensemble items at in Years 7-12 Instrumental Music Concert Series last week. Over two hundred young performers were involved throughout the week. It is clear that music is alive and well at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

A warm "thank you" to student emcees Stephanie Trento, Chloe Dragwidge, Caitlyn De Kuyper and Naomi Best. Thank you also to Michelle Graham for printing programmes and to Mr Marshall and Mr Westgarth for their assistance with set up and sound requirements.

Lastly, congratulations to all Instrumental staff for what was a wonderful showcase of their commitment and efforts to prepare our young music stars.

Steven Bell – Assistant Director of Music



Wynspeak Public Speaking Competition

On Tuesday 29 May, five BMG students were involved in a heat for the Wynspeak Public Speaking competition at Lakeview Senior College in Caroline Springs. Nicole Wright (12), Alejandra Camacho (10), Jenna Franks (10), Emily Thistlethwaite (8) and Jackson Brown (7) all delivered a 5-minute prepared speech and a 2-minute impromptu speech. They represented the school extremely well, speaking on topics such as 'fighting like a girl' and the links between Disney and Science. At the end of the evening it was announced that Emily had won the short-notice competition, Jackson had won the Junior competition, and Alejandra had won the Senior competition. It was very impressive that out of four awards on the night, we won three.

Jackson and Alejandra then gained entry into the Wynspeak Final on 6 June, at Thomas Carr College. This final consisted of 17 students, who had won or scored highly in their heats. The entire competition had started with over 80 students from 30 colleges throughout the Western Suburbs, so it was very exciting that we were represented in both categories to begin with.

Students spoke on a wide range of topics, from recycling, to the importance of sport in addressing youth issues, and even the ketogenic diet. The standard of both the prepared and impromptu speeches was extremely high.

I am pleased to announce that Jackson Brown won the Junior section. His speech on the Great Emu War was very engaging and well received. Jackson will now go on to the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition, to be held next month.

Alejandra also performed extremely well, in a very competitive section (four of the competitors were former winners, including Alejandra).

We will soon be welcoming back the Junior Shield to BMG, which was won by Alejandra last year. Congratulations goes to all students involved for their dedication and hard work in the lead-up to the competition.

Aine Murphy – Coordinator: Debating and Public Speaking Years 7-12



Years 7-12 Sports Report

ICCES Winter Tour

The ICCES Winter Tour will take place in Shepparton on the final two days of term, 21 and 22 June. Athletes are busily training for teams in; Basketball, Soccer, Hockey and Netball.

The Winter Tour involves two days of competition and teams will stay overnight in Shepparton. Permission notices for successful athletes have been distributed and need to be returned ASAP.

BMG Team for the ICCES X-Country

Congratulations to all athletes that have made the BMG Mustangs ICCES X-Country Team for 2018. The ICCES X-Country will be held on Wednesday 2 August at Bundoora Park, Melbourne. Events are scheduled to start at 11.40am and will conclude at 2.00pm. Students will travel from BMG departing at 10.00am and return to school at approximately 4.00pm. All students will be given an attendance notice and information about the event. Training will commence in week 9 at school, with more information forthcoming.

BMG Team for the ICCES X-Country

7 & 8 GIRLS	7 & 8 BOYS	9 & 10 GIRLS	9 & 10 BOYS
1. Sarah McInerney	1. Flynn Trembath	1. Sophie Parton	1. Ethan McMinimee
2. Micah Toms	2. Isaac Nixon	2. Zali Ward	2. Ronan Keleher
3. Taylor Farrugia	3. Anzac Pirika	3. Lauren Shankland	3. Jack Bidwell
4. Ella Thomson	4. Nicholas Karakryiakos	4. Elsa Saultry	4. James Roberts
5. Anchal Singla	5. Tarkyn Findlay	5. Mia Stanley	5. Dylan Thomas
6. Jennifer Dobie	6. Cooper Hillier	6. Madison Anthony	6. Solomon Erhardt
7. Zosia Walker	7. Abe Penny	7. Clare Shankland	7. Jordan Fletcher
8. Molly Lardner	8. Thomas Bens	8. Ella Cook	8. Joshua Patterson

V.C.E GIRLS	V.C.E BOYS
1. Sophie McMinimee	1. Bailey Sharp
2. Rachel Jackson	2. Matthew Rosario
3. Chloe Woolley	3. Caleb Noonan
4. Jessica Ewert	4. Campbell Child
5. Jaime Patterson	5. Dean Henderson
6. Shani Bullard	6. Morgan Miles
7. Rebekah Staunton	7. Bryce Stephenson
8. Victoria Sutton	8. Shubhkarman Gill

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – SECONDARY SCHOOL LOTE TRIPS 2019

Bacchus Marsh Grammar secondary students have the opportunity to experience language and cultural experiences in France, Japan, Indonesia and New Caledonia. In 2019 the school is planning for the following trips listed below. If there is sufficient student interest, planning will commence throughout Semester 2, 2018.

- Indonesia for two weeks in June – July.
- New Caledonia for one week in June – July.
- Japan for and two and a half weeks in September.

Indonesian Study Tour – this trip is specifically aimed towards students currently studying Indonesian in Years 9 and 10, as part of the trip involves students attending classes at a language school and visiting schools in Java and Bali. Students stay in hotel accommodation for the duration of this trip. They are exposed to Indonesian culture, delicious food and have many opportunities to practise their language while visiting some beautiful places. The proposed cost for this study tour will be between \$3600 - \$4000.

New Caledonia Study Tour – to participate in this trip, students are recommended to have at least Year 8 French. This trip is designed for students to practise their French language, as they attend classes at CREIPAC, an organisation that has taught French to foreign students visiting New Caledonia for 50 years. Students also explore what Noumea has to offer and soak up the French atmosphere of the city. Students stay in hotel accommodation and the proposed cost for this tour will be \$3000.

Japan – explore the culture of this fascinating country. Students visit Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo and our sister-school in Kumamoto. This trip is designed for students who want to practise their Japanese and experience the culture, food and way of life living with a Japanese host family. Accommodation includes both hotel and homestay. The proposed cost for this trip will be \$4500.

The school is now seeking expressions of interest for the trips so that itineraries and costs can be established. Expression for Interest forms can be found in the Senior School section of the **myBMG Parent Portal**. If you would like your child to attend one of the trips proposed for 2019 please complete an Expression of Interest form and return it to the **Administration Office by Friday 15 June 2018**.

If you have any questions regarding the trips please contact Fiona Erhardt on 5366 4800.

Fiona Erhardt - Head of Languages

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – YMCA Ballarat

Earlier this term the School Principal advised that YMCA Ballarat would be the provider for Out of School Hours Care for Bacchus Marsh Grammar from Term 3 2018. The Hubs Program, both Learning and Sport will cease as of Friday 22 June at 5.30pm.

Families who currently use the HUBS program will receive a YMCA Ballarat information pack. All families in Prep to Year 6 have received a welcome letter from the YMCA via the class pigeon holes to the youngest in the family last week. The relevant handbook and enrolment form are available via the [School website](#). Additionally, families can request an information pack by making a request through the student diary.

As stated in the [correspondence](#) distributed to parents earlier this term, the YMCA will be operating a Vacation Care program from 25 June 2018 to the 16 July 2018 inclusive. The program will operate from the school gymnasium from 7.00am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

Due to the changes to Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the roll out of the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) on the 1st July 2018, parents will not be eligible to claim CCB for the first week of the holiday break i.e. 25 June – 29 June 2018. The school will subsidise payment for care for this week, 25 – 29 June 2018, for families who commit to the full time Vacation Care Program spanning 25 June to 16 July inclusive.

The full cost of the Vacation Care program is \$90 per child, per day, however the school will subsidise 50% of the cost for the first week only. Parents who meet this criteria will be charged \$45 per child, per day for the applicable week and then parents will be eligible to claim CCS for the remainder of the program.

For more information regarding the OSHC programs offered by YMCA Ballarat please contact:

Chrissie Ashmore - Chrissie.Ashmore@ymca.org.au - Ph: 03 5329 2800

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed the Challenge; **Charvi Sreerama 4C, Spencer Narracott 4D, Maria-Coco Munetsi 3A, Lucas Harper 5E and Ethan Bloss 4C**

Middle School Musical - Peter Pan - Term 2 Rehearsal Schedule

Week 9 – All students to attend rehearsal – rescheduled photo day – ALL STUDENTS REQUIRED

Term 2 - Junior School Assembly

The assembly will feature P-4 Musical Showcase on Tuesday 19 June in the Gymnasium, starting at 9am.

Roll Call

Information relating to how to change your child's bus stop on Roll Call has been emailed to families. For more information regarding Roll Call visit the [school website](#).

2019 Term Dates

The 2019 Term Dates have been posted onto the [school website](#).

REGULAR CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Absentee Line - 5366 4888 or Absentee Email - student_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au

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 (N Block) and Science (Room 01)

Thursdays – Mathematics (M Block)

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

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