



## The Podium

### Achieving Optimal Academic Performance

#### TikTok and learning - Something to think about

TikTok is a free social media platform for creating and watching short videos and sharing them with friends and strangers. Clips are often created using short grabs of music and can be enhanced by a range of tools such as filters, animation and special effects. TikTok is really popular and is being used daily by many of our students. The platform is for individuals aged 13 years and over and is certainly not appropriate for those younger. Latest statistics show that, as of January 2021, the platform has 689 million monthly active users worldwide (DataReportal, 2021). This makes TikTok the seventh-largest platform in terms of users ahead of others that have been around much longer such as Snapchat and Twitter.

TikTok is addictive. Many young people are so accustomed to the impulsivity the app cultivates they don't even realise they are hooked. Our brain uses a neurotransmitter called dopamine to reward us for consuming information that is judged to be beneficial. This warm fuzzy feeling we get after eating that delicious block of chocolate is the same feeling we get from paying attention to something interesting. This makes TikTok a dopamine jackpot as its algorithm constantly refreshes a page with new content based on user data. Herein lies a big problem in regards to learning - TikTok promotes patterns of learning that are in direct opposition to what we are trying to promote and instil in our students.

Educators, parents and guardians are trying to develop our students' and children's resilience, grit, persistence, analysis, critical thinking and focus. These are all thinking patterns and cerebral developments that will benefit them at school and in later life. TikTok directly opposes this development. Because TikTok focuses on 15 second hits of stimulation and information, it is extremely problematic for young adolescents in particular. They have highly malleable, developing brains. Their neural pathways are forming based on what they are doing continuously. What some are doing continuously, hour after hour, is watching TikToks. Their lives are being consumed by 15 second bites. As teachers and parents we want to encourage our students and children to develop their concentration and focus; the very tools that they will need to successfully navigate their way through their education and life.

TikTok is not the "devil", it can be fun and useful, however, like all things, we need to do and consume them in moderation and at an age-appropriate level. We, as parents and educators just need to use our experience and scrutinise all technology on our children's behalf and make sure that we are encouraging, supporting and educating them in a way that will provide the best social, academic and physical outcomes for them.

For more information and helpful guides please refer to the following from the Safety Commissioner;

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/spending-too-much-time-online>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Parent%20guide%20to%20popular%20apps%20-%20Summary%20sheet.pdf>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide/tiktok>

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

## Student Wellbeing

### Mental Health Week

We would like to thank everyone for their input and participation during Mental Health Week last week. The overall aim of the week was to promote conversations and awareness of mental health and encourage students to engage in activities that foster their wellbeing.

This year, Mental Health Week looked a little different as many of our students were learning online. As such, a mixture of online and in-person resources and activities were provided such as Zumba, drawing classes and meditation/mindfulness activities.

As Mental Health Week has come to an end, we would like to leave our readers on a positive note by publishing a poem by Abhilasha Bhaduri of 7WB. This poem outlines the struggles of lockdown and COVID-19, and the hope that exists as we move forward. We would like to thank Abhilasha for her deep thought and contribution.

### Student Wellbeing Team

### One Foot Forward - the Walk for Mental Health

As part of Depression and Mental Health Month – Bacchus Marsh Grammar has formed a team of walkers to raise funds for mental health research.

The team's challenge is to walk over 60 kilometres (or more) in the month of October.

So far, the team has 19 members, has walked 497km and has raised over \$4000!

The ability of this team to reach and exceed their goals is a testament to the power of community. However, there is still more work that can be done.

If you would like to, you can get involved in a variety of ways:

- 1) **Join** the team the team visit our [Team page](#) and click on "Join Us".
- 2) **Donate** by visiting the team page (above), select an amount and click on "Donate".
- 3) **Share** this page with friends and family.

Thank you and enjoy walking!

### Student Wellbeing Team

## myBMG Parent Portal - Contact details

### Parent Contact Details

Please ensure that any updates to your contact details, particularly email and mobile numbers are edited via the myBMG Parent Portal.

The Battle with an Invisible Enemy

Earthquakes happen  
Shaking the world  
Riots go on  
From midnight to dawn

Online learning  
Teachers can't unmute  
Breakout rooms are annoying  
School from my bedroom

Wishing life goes back to normal  
Boredom goes away  
We have been stuck at home  
And done all this from may

Seeing friends again  
Celebrating events  
School commences  
face to face

Please get the vaccine  
That's all we say  
One small step  
Is a big way

Let's work together  
To go back to normal ways  
Family and friends  
together again

Smiles back on faces  
No more worries  
And No more covid

Let's finish this battle  
Stronger than we began

-by Abhilasha Bhaduri

7WB English


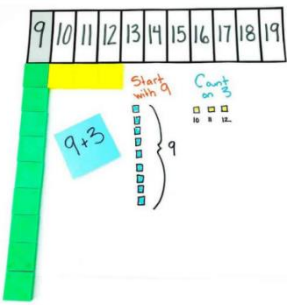
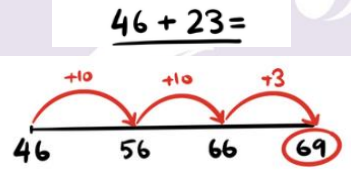
**Reminder: Mid-term break on Monday 1 November &  
Public Holiday Tuesday 2 November – No School**

## Junior School News

### Developing Mathematical Thinkers

Our aim at Bacchus Marsh Grammar is to empower students with the strategies they need to be able to apply their learning in a variety of contexts. In the Junior School, we teach specific strategies within the Mathematics curriculum to support students add, subtract, multiply and divide. The Australian Mathematics Curriculum states that by the end of Year 2, students will “perform simple addition and subtraction calculations using a range of strategies”. By the end of Year 4, they will “identify and explain strategies for finding unknown quantities in number sentences”.

In the early years, we use strategies such as **Friends of ten**, **Doubles/Near Doubles** and **Count on/Count back**. When adding and subtracting two-digit numbers, strategies include the **Split Strategy**, **Jump Strategy** and **Make to the Next Ten Strategy** (also called Build to the Next Ten).

<p><b>Friends of ten</b></p> <p>Friends of ten are pairs of numbers that, when added together, make the number 10.</p> <p>These are sometimes called the rainbow facts as the children create rainbows as they connect two numbers together. For instance, 9 may be on one end of a rainbow colour and 1 on the other.</p> <p>By combining the numbers in this way teachers hope students will realise the answer for <math>9 + 1</math> is the same as <math>1 + 9</math>.</p>	<p><b>Doubles/Near Doubles</b></p> <p>Doubles are addition facts where two of the same number are added together. We expect students to know the doubles facts to ten.</p> <p><math>1 + 1 = 2</math>  <math>2 + 2 = 4</math>  <math>3 + 3 = 6</math> etc.</p> <p>Near doubles are addition facts that add numbers that follow each other. We use our knowledge of doubles to help us quickly solve these (e.g. <math>1 + 2 = 3</math> or <math>3 + 4 = 7</math>).</p> 
<p><b>Count On/Count Back</b></p> <p>Rather than counting all of the numbers in a number sentence, counting on supports students to start counting from the biggest number and add or subtract the smaller number.</p> <p>For example: <math>9 + 3 =</math></p> 	<p><b>Split Strategy</b></p> <p>The numbers in the equation are ‘split’ into tens and ones and added separately. They are then put back together.</p> $\begin{array}{r} 56 + 33 = \\ \begin{array}{l} 50 \quad 6 \\ 30 \quad 3 \end{array} \\ 50 + 30 = 80 \\ 6 + 3 = 9 \\ 80 + 9 = 89 \end{array}$
<p><b>Jump Strategy</b></p> <p>This strategy uses an empty number line for the student to record their thinking. Students add or subtract increments of tens or ones using the number line to support them.</p> <p>Adding <math>46 + 23</math> using the jump strategy might look like this:</p> <p>add two lots of ten to 46: <math>46 + 10 = 56</math>, then <math>56 + 10 = 66</math></p> <p>add the remaining 3: <math>66 + 3 = 69</math></p> 	<p><b>Make to the Next Ten Strategy</b></p> <p>This is sometimes called the compensation or shortcut strategy. It involves adjusting one number to make the task easier to solve.</p> <p>The “make to the next ten” strategy builds on the “friends of ten” strategy. In the “make to the next ten” strategy, you add or subtract a number larger than the number given (such as the next multiple of ten) and then readjust the number by subtracting what was added or adding what was subtracted.</p> $\begin{array}{l} 102 - 65 = 100 - 63 \\ 37 + 65 = 40 + 62 \end{array}$

Look out for next week’s article which will look at the importance of multiplicative thinking in the Junior School!

**Mrs Danielle Copeman – Head of Woodlea Campus & Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School: Maddingley Campus**

## Spotlight on Woodlea Year 1 Global Studies



Whilst working online, students have begun learning about Japan and its unique culture. They have been introduced to basic Japanese words and phrases such as numbers, colours and popular songs. Students have enjoyed learning how to sing Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in Japanese. We look forward to exploring more about Japan, including Japanese customs and ways of life.

Year 1 Team – Woodlea



## Spotlight on History & Geography

### Maddingley Year 3 H&G

In History and Geography for Semester Two, the Maddingley Year 3 students in our unit entitled 'My Island Home' have been learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life and culture pre-European settlement. We have investigated various aspects of Indigenous Australian life including Art and Symbolism, what Indigenous Totems and Songlines are, and explored the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. Students have also focussed on the contribution of significant Indigenous Australians such as Albert Namatjira, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, David Unaipon and Cathy Freeman. In recent weeks, the focus has been on the spiritual connection to native lands where they sourced their food, created tools and built shelter for their families. The students then designed their own shelters based on Indigenous techniques and using the resources in their chosen natural environment. Some children then built a model of their design using craft supplies, or in the form of blanket forts. The Year 3 students have been enjoying our unit this semester and have many more concepts to come in Term Four!



## Maddingley Year 2 H&G

History and Geography is usually a subject that is full of excitement, sharing of stories and hands-on learning. Due to the nature of online learning, the Year 2 students have been doing a wonderful job of logging on each week to watch a video and complete their work independently. Last term, students enjoyed learning about how the daily life in the present is different from the past and how it may change in the future.

This term, in Year 2 History and Geography, the focus topic is 'Earth'. We are looking forward to exploring our place in the world and the universe and will investigate the continents, hemispheres and how they influence the seasons around the world.

This week we explored how aboriginal people feel a deep connection to country and explored some significant aboriginal sites within the Moorabool and Melton Shires. Students were asked to write, draw or photograph a significant place to them and give reasons why it is special. Mrs Low shared her connection with the Victorian High Country and her farm and Mrs Pearson shared how Ballarat and Echuca are special to her.

We are looking forward to another term full of learning, discoveries and making connections to our planet, the universe and where we fit.

### Moorabool Bunjil's Lookout



### Lal Lal Falls



History & Geography P-6 Team – Maddingley

## DAV Debating

### Swannies Award

We would like to congratulate the outstanding effort and achievement of **Emily Slimmon 8E**. Emily has won the coveted Swannies Award for C grade DAV debating in her region. The award is given to the speaker who has the highest average speaking score throughout the season. Emily has established herself as a dedicated debater who is always willing to step up when needed. Her readiness and commitment have meant she is the highest scoring speaker against students two years her senior. Congratulations Emily!

Miss Alyce Coyne & Miss Lauren Baker



## Portrait Competition Entries

It is delightful to see entries being submitted now that students are returning to campus. Please bring any portrait competition entries to the Administration Office at either Maddingley or Woodlea by the 3rd of November.

Mrs Nicole Heywood - Head of Art - Years Prep to 8

## Middle School News

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### Woodlea Middle School Leadership Applications

Middle School Service Leadership applications have now closed. In the Middle School, positions are only awarded and available to Year 6 and Year 8 students. The interview process will be conducted throughout Term 4. Positions for 2022 will be finalised prior to the end of the school year.

### Woodlea Year 7 Orientation Program 2022

It is important to mention that unfortunately, due to COVID-19 regulations, there will be no Year 7 Orientation Day in 2021. We have therefore dedicated time at the start of the year to transition students to school. Information about the planned program will be emailed to all parents of incoming Year 7 students.

As with everyone in Victoria, we are bound by COVID 19 regulations and these plans may change depending on the Government COVID 19 guidelines at the time.

### Woodlea Year 7 Information Presentation Night

Bacchus Marsh Grammar Woodlea Campus conducts an annual Year 7 Information Presentation as part of the process of welcoming new parents and students to Year 7. This presentation discusses curriculum, uniform, and other transition/orientation activities.

This year, the presentation will occur on the evening of **Thursday 11 November at 6:00pm**. An email containing instructions on how to access it will be sent to all students entering Year 7 in 2022.

I encourage parents to write down questions prior to and while watching the Year 7 Information Night Presentation. These questions will be addressed during the evening. Please send your questions to: [year7woodlea@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:year7woodlea@bmg.vic.edu.au)

### Woodlea LOTE preference 2022

All students in Year 7 2022 have been sent an email containing their LOTE preference information. Students should follow the instructions included in the email and return their LOTE preference receipt to [woodlea\\_admin@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:woodlea_admin@bmg.vic.edu.au).

**Mrs Sarah Hunter – Deputy Head of Woodlea Campus**

## VCE Drama



Congratulations to our VCE Drama class on completing the 2021 Drama Solo Performance Exam last Friday in Footscray! Students spent months preparing their Solo Performances and were excited to finally perform for the VCAA assessors. All of them walked out of the exam feeling good, knowing they had just given their best performance. They should be proud of their efforts and resilience under pressure. Their talent, as well as their encouragement and support of each other, has always made me proud.

*Pictured L to R Back row: Ryan Scalzo, Lachlan Beard, Lily Thomson, Liam Tollis.  
Front row: Ari Fletcher, Eli Xerri*

**Ms Helena Stratakos  
Head of Drama 7-12**

## Conveyance Allowance Information

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Families in rural and regional Victoria can get help with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest school or campus.

This is known as the Conveyance Allowance.

The Conveyance Allowance is available to students travelling by:

- public transport
- private car
- private bus whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

The Conveyance Allowance is a contribution towards transport costs and is not intended to cover the full cost of transporting children to and from school.

### Eligibility

The conveyance allowance is available to families who meet certain criteria.

Students attending a school must:

- attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible.
- be enrolled at a school/campus outside Melbourne's metropolitan conveyance boundary for 3 or more days per week.
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus; and
- be of school age at the time of application and reside in Victoria.

**Please note that a Private Bus or Private Car conveyance allowance is not available if the journey could have been made using a free school bus or public transport service**

**Following a recent decision by the Student Transport Unit of the Education Department, it appears that there may be some movement in the way the Department makes a judgement on what is the nearest appropriate school.**

If your decision to send your children to Bacchus Marsh Grammar was because you felt that it was the nearest appropriate school that both respected ecumenical values but did not require your child to participate in religious instruction or religious celebration, then you may (subject to other Conveyance Allowance rules) be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance.

If this statement applies to you, whilst I can make no guarantees, I believe it in your interest to submit a Conveyance Allowance Application for 2021.

Applications forms are available from the main office and from the Parent Portal. The application should be **accompanied by a simple letter** stating that you believe Bacchus Marsh Grammar is the nearest appropriate school because of its values and its lack of a requirement to participate in religious instruction or religious celebration of any particular faith.

**Please note: if you have already submitted an application for 2021, you are not required to complete another application unless your details have changed. For more information on the Conveyance Allowance, please refer to the School's Business Notice or contact Mrs Suzanne Pollard with any questions.**

Mrs Suzanne Pollard - Administration Assistant - School Administration

## From the Health Centre

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### Thunderstorm Asthma

Please find attached a link to information regarding Thunderstorm Asthma:

<https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/news/2021/thunderstorm-asthma-and-spring-pollen-survival-guide>

This is a great resource for parents with students who have asthma, with helpful hints on prevention.

Health Centre Team

## Bus Information

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### Mask Wearing

It is compulsory for ALL students in Year 3 to Year 12 to wear a fitted face mask whilst they are travelling on a school bus, (this includes to and from school, excursions and camps), unless they have a medical exemption.

It is not compulsory for students in Year 2 and under to wear a face mask on the bus, although it is highly recommended.

### 2022 Private Bus Travel

As we begin to look at private bus capacities for 2022, this is a reminder to parents that if your child/ren's current private bus travel arrangements are going to change or require to change in the coming year (eg moving house, new address, they no longer require a private bus service), please contact the School Bus Services Administrator on 5366 4800 to discuss.

### Monday 1 November 2022

No Private Buses will be operating Monday 1 November due to Mid Term Break. Students sitting an exam on this day will be required to make their own way to school.

Mrs Leanne Robertson – School Bus Services Administrator

## Book Club News – Catalogue for Issue 7 is out now

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### Issue 7 catalogue is now out now! It's time to shop for Christmas

Visit the [school website](#) for more information regarding the latest catalogue and how to order.

Scholastic Book Club Coordinators - Mrs Diane Dunn (Maddingley Campus)  
& Mrs Feona West (Woodlea Campus)

## BMG Community Contacts

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### An update to Noone Uniform shopping:

Please refer to the [school website](#) for the latest updates from Noone or visit [www.noone.com.au](http://www.noone.com.au).

The on-campus uniform shop is open to Regional families only. Uniform can be purchased online for click and collect at the Werribee store (check trading hours) or posted home.

Metropolitan retail stores will be available for click and collect order collection on Saturdays from 10am until 1pm, from now on and will also be available from 10am to 5pm all weekdays, from Monday 18 October, as we attempt to get all students back in uniform for school returning.

We look forward to having families back in store, as soon as we are permitted to do so.

### Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – YMCA Ballarat

YMCA Ballarat operate the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the [school website](#).

**Email:** [chrisie.ashmore@ymca.org.au](mailto:chrisie.ashmore@ymca.org.au) Phone: 0490 178 638 W: [www.ballarat.ymca.org.au](http://www.ballarat.ymca.org.au)

#### Maddingley:

[bacchusmarsh.oshc@ymca.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh.oshc@ymca.org.au)

0438 154 842

Located: South Maddingley Road, Maddingley, Victoria 3340

#### Woodlea:

[woodlea.oshc@ymca.org.au](mailto:woodlea.oshc@ymca.org.au)

0490 490 362

Located: 111 Frontier Avenue, Aintree, Victoria 3336.

## School Contacts

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#### 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

5-7 Quarry Road  
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4999

General School Email: [school@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:school@bmg.vic.edu.au)

School Website: [www.bmg.vic.edu.au](http://www.bmg.vic.edu.au)