



From the Principal

COVID restrictions

With the passing of a 90% vaccination rate today and a major change in COVID restrictions, it is reasonable to say that a chapter of the COVID crisis is coming to a close.

The changes that will occur tomorrow will make managing the school considerably easier. They will also remove a considerable degree of the frustrations that we have all experienced in the last few weeks.

It is important that we also understand that COVID has not gone, nor are we finished with it. There will almost certainly be hazards and constraints as we move into next winter. I think it is beholden on us to remember some of the good practices that we have adopted or which have reshaped our focus on (such as not sending our children who are unwell to school) and continue to apply them.

I would like to again thank the whole of the community for their support and the strength of will that we have collectively shown over two difficult years.

Extension of the School Day

As we move forward from the first stages of COVID, planning commences for next year and a suite of changes which are designed to increase the opportunities and learning time for students.

You will be aware that I have written previously about the impediment the relatively short school day has on the range of activities that we are able to offer students.

To that end, the school day next year is to be extended slightly. It will commence at 8.40am and end at 3.20pm. Through more effective arrangements at the end of the day we believe that there will be a limited impact on the timing of buses because of this change.

The lengthened day gives us the opportunity to introduce an expanded focus on reading and literacy skills without reducing time for other important learning. We believe that this change is particularly important in the face of lost learning opportunities over the past two years.

I would ask that parents arrange any after school activities outside of the core learning time of 8.40am to 3.20pm.

Mr Andrew A. Neal – Principal

The Podium

Achieving Optimal Academic Performance - Lessons of Leadership



The 5th of January 2022 is the 100th anniversary of the passing of one of the world's great explorers and leaders, Sir Ernest Shackleton. On his third Antarctic expedition, Sir Ernest Shackleton led the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition for Britain, which departed England in 1914. The plan was to sail his ship, the Endurance, to Argentina, then on to Antarctica, then walk across the continent where another crew would pick them up. On December 5, 1914 Shackleton finally proceeded down to Antarctica. Six weeks later, the Endurance was stuck in ice. What proceeded was an amazing tale of survival and leadership. This week, I finished reading a recent biography by Ranulph Fiennes (the world's most famous living explorer) on the life of Sir Ernest Shackleton and it made me reflect upon our recent celebration and naming of the Bacchus Marsh Grammar School Captains and student leadership team.

As a school, we have six core values that drive our vision and mission; these being:

Ambition, Confidence, Respect, Kindness, Discipline and Leadership.

The Greek Stoic Zeno famously recounted a meeting with an oracle who he asked, "What should I do to live my best life?" The oracle replied, "To live your best life you must have conversations with the dead" - and that is precisely what books are. They are a way to gain wisdom from those no longer with us.

In regards to leadership, it is incumbent upon us to learn lessons from the past, read widely and observe those around us. So what can our 2022 student leaders draw upon in the 100th year since Shackleton's passing? What lessons does Sir Ernest Shackleton teach us about leadership?

1. **Model and Inspire Optimism:** Shackleton believed in his mission and in his team. His optimism was contagious. He intentionally made decisions to inspire optimism in his crew. He was enthusiastic and clear in his vision.
2. **Develop a Clear, Shared Purpose:** Everyone who joined the Antarctic Expedition understood the purpose. Clarity around purpose has been shown, time and again, to be the most important factor to impact a team's success.
3. **Build Unity and Commitment Within the Team:** Shackleton valued hard-work and loyalty above all else. Yet, he didn't expect this automatically, he intentionally fostered it.
4. **Create a Plan, an Alternate Plan and Be Flexible:** After the team left Patience Camp they travelled in three life boats searching for land which they had not seen in 15 months. During the 15 day journey, Shackleton changed the plan four times. The changes were always because new information emerged and he had to adjust in order to meet the end-goal.
5. **Make the Tough Decisions:** Shackleton continually made difficult decisions throughout the expedition. He would have been terribly unpopular among the crew had he not built relationships and loyalty. He always made decisions with their best interests in mind.

Importantly, these leadership qualities are not defined by a person's position in the group. Ernest Shackleton appreciated that it was his actions, rather than his title, that was most important in gaining the respect of his men.

As a school, we value leadership and although many of our VCE students have been awarded leadership roles for 2022, all students should embrace the responsibilities and challenges that come with being a leader. Shackleton's extraordinary leadership, under the most intense pressure, provides us with lessons from which we can all learn.

As Sir Raymond Priestly commented, "For scientific leadership, give me Scott. For swift and efficient travel, Amundsen. But when you are in a hopeless situation, when there seems to be no way out, get on your knees and pray for Shackleton".

Mr Andrew Perks - Assistant Principal: Optimal Performance Learning

Junior School News

[Reports from schools around the world](#) are indicating that young people are replicating and imitating the new series Squid Game and other inappropriate types of games in the school playground. There are some things that simply do not translate well from the small screen to the school playground.

Within the Junior School, we would like to be proactive with this topic and begin the conversation with our community about these current issues.

Young children are being exposed to this kind of content both directly and indirectly through online streaming services, social media apps, games and pop-ups. It is important to have an open conversation with your child about what they are currently watching online, the games and apps they are accessing and be informed of the new and popular games and apps.

The main ways that children are accessing Squid Game and other inappropriate content are:

- Squid Game is streamed via **Netflix** and [currently] in the **Top 10 most popular series** in Search.
- You can view clips, including preview and selected scene reviews via **YouTube**.
- Short-form video creations from users on **Social Media Apps** (TikTok & Instagram).
- Replicated themes in games including Roblox.

Advice for Parents/Guardians

Whilst this can be a confronting and challenging issue to deal with, there are things that you as parents can do to minimise and prevent the potential negative impact of exposure to age-inappropriate content.

- Check the classification of the shows your child is watching.
- **PREVENT access by using [parental controls](#)**. Ensure any streaming services your child is using have appropriate parental controls in place. (Services such as Netflix, Stan, Foxtel Now and Amazon Prime all provide parental controls for families to ensure children do not access inappropriate material)
- Use parental controls on other apps or online games your child is using to minimise the risk of unintentional exposure to age-inappropriate content.
- Help your child recognise the importance of talking to somebody they trust when they see something, particularly online, that makes them feel unsafe, uncomfortable or scared.
- Support them to seek [additional help](#) if they are feeling distressed about content they have seen online.

**Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School: Woodlea Campus &
Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School: Maddingley Campus**

2022 Prep Transition

Our annual Prep Parent Information Evenings were conducted recently via Zoom. It was wonderful to see so many families attend to gain knowledge of Bacchus Marsh Grammar and learn how we are going to support the students transitioning into their first year of formal schooling.

Some dates to include in diaries for 2022 Prep Transition are as follows:

Friday 28th and Monday 31st January 2022 - School Readiness Meetings. Students will be scheduled for a twenty-minute session on one of these days with one of the Prep teachers to do some basic assessment, bring in book boxes and collect some relevant information. One parent will be able to attend the school to familiarise themselves with the Prep area within the school during this time. Further details will be forwarded to families closer to these meetings.

- Tuesday 1st February – students' first day of Prep. Times will be from 10.00am – 2.00pm on this day.
- Wednesday 2nd February – 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Thursday 3rd February - starting normal school hours, 8:45am - 3:20pm.

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

2022 Prep Transition continued.....

More detailed information will be sent to parents before the end of the year.

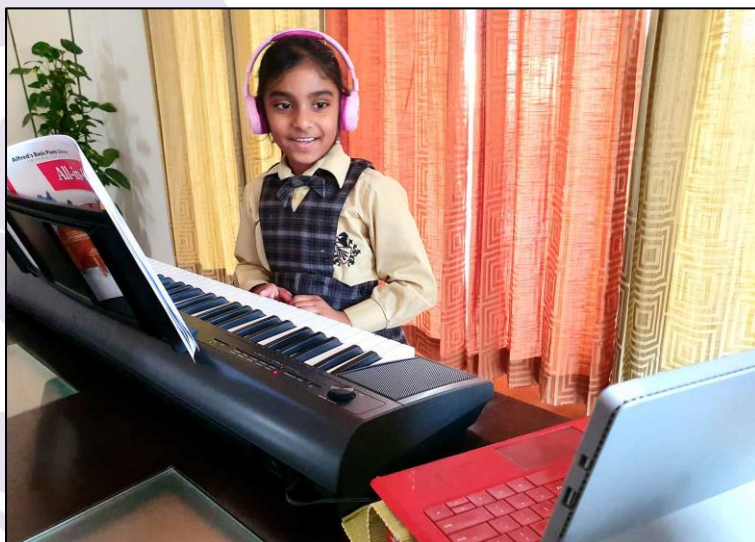
During the summer holidays, parents may like to consider the following:

- Showing your child where the school is and talk about how you will get there.
- Arranging play times with other families whose children will be going to the same school. It helps if your child knows another child at their school at the start of Prep.
- Practising the things your child will need to do to get ready for school (e.g. putting things in their bag, remembering to take a hat, opening and closing their lunchbox).
- Being positive about starting school and enjoy your child's excitement.
- Visiting your local library and read books with your child about starting school.

**Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School: Woodlea Campus &
Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School: Maddingley Campus**

Spotlight on Junior School Music

A comprehensive classroom Music program supports and enriches instrumental learning. Congratulations to all students who continued their instrumental lessons, despite the challenges of remote learning. Your teachers have told me of your hard work and excellent progress this year – well done!



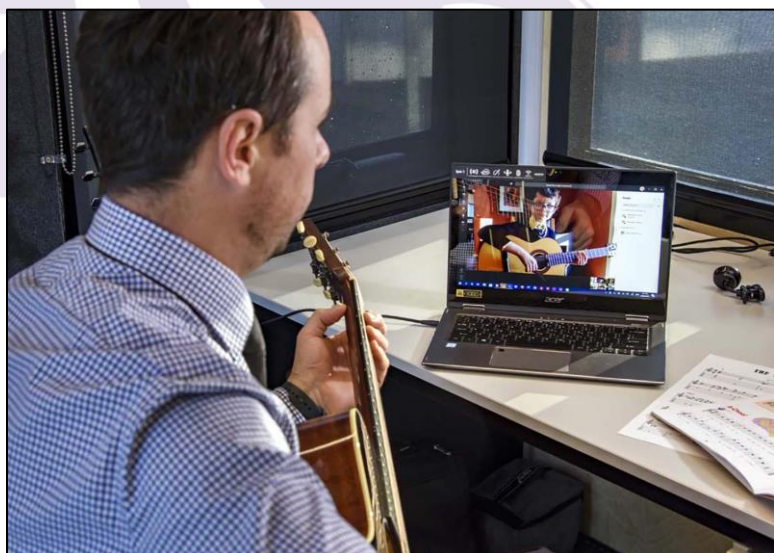
Junior School Music and Performing Arts students have been busy developing and refining key skills and knowledge. Year 2 Music students capitalised on their return to face-to-face classes, reacquainting themselves with their violins and making some wonderful music.

Years 3 and 4 Music students continued their mastery of important concepts such as note names and values, drawing and identifying notes, and common scales. Term 3 saw them immersed in styles, instruments and works from other times, places and cultures, studying music from Europe, North America and Africa. Recently, they have also explored rock, blues, rap/hip-hop, country, classical, jazz, reggae and much more.

A warm thank you to our dedicated and passionate Music and Performing Arts teachers who have delivered such a high-quality experience to our Junior School students.

I wish you all well for a successful end to the year and look forward to returning to lots of wonderful performances and events in 2022.

Mr Steven Bell - Director of Music



Spotlight on Junior School Art

Maddingley



Term 4 has certainly been a very busy time being back in the Art Room at Maddingley. Our students settled straight back into working on some amazing Art pieces.

Prep students have been learning about Monet and exploring painting, weaving and collage.

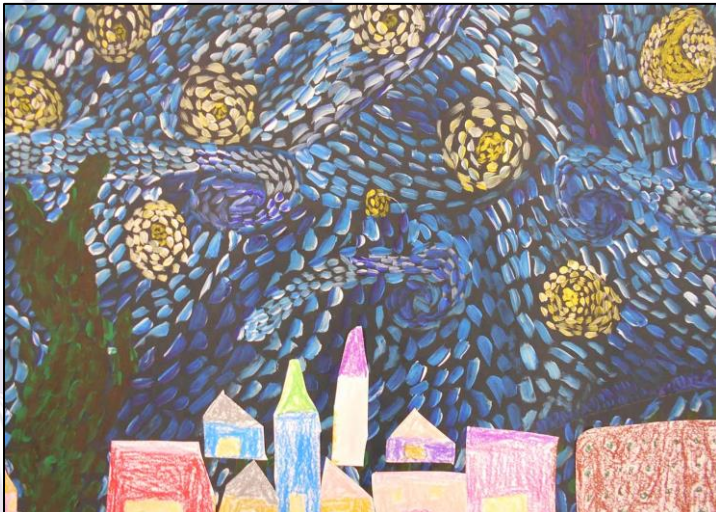
Year 1 classes have been busy exploring textiles, soft sculpture and colour mixing with ink.

To begin the term, our Years 3 and 4 students were happy to be able to pick up where they left off by finishing some Van Gogh inspired paintings and landscapes.

Making sure we make the best of being back onsite and the ability to use a range of materials, we have been getting our hands messy by beginning to work on our clay sculptures.

It has been wonderful to hear the chatter, see the students working and, most of all, being able to do live gallery walks within the classroom to share the creativity of all of our Art students.

Maddingley Junior School Art Team



Woodlea Visual Arts

This term in Visual Art, the students started creating their artwork online and then had a staggered return to school. It is now great to have all students back in the Art room, to see them all being creative again and using all the materials we have at school.

Prep to Year 1 lessons have included students creating their own cherry blossom tree, collage fireworks, tree of life sculptures, fish sculptures and space scenes. The students in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 are learning how to sew. Students in Year 2 are creating a letter design using hessian, the Year Three students have chosen their very own design to sew based on the seasons, and the Year 4 students are currently making their own animal feltie.

Lots of students have chosen to participate in the Woodlea Portrait Competition. We are all looking forward to announcing these winners soon. Everyone who has participated in the Portrait Competition should be very proud of what they have created.



Woodlea Junior School Art Team

Christmas Decorations for Government House



During remote learning in Term 3, Year 9 and 10 Textiles students were offered an opportunity to design a Christmas decoration for the 2021 Christmas tree at Government House. Only 150 organisations across the State were chosen to submit decorations. Teacher, Mrs Davie developed a design brief and two designs were chosen to be made; a resin snowflake design including local vegetation by Jemma Agius of Year 10, and a bauble containing a small tree decorated with miniature fruit by Rosie Green, Ashleigh McGuire and Jasmine Knight of Year 10. Bringing the designs to life was a collaborative and complex process facilitated by Mrs Davie and assisted by Technician Chris Hopkins. Student, Imogen Davie of Year 8, brought one of the designs to life by creating tiny air-dried clay fruit which were meticulously hand painted. The

ornaments have now been sent to Government House and once the tree is decorated, images can be viewed at <https://www.governor.vic.gov.au/news> and on Government House social media. Congratulations to all students and staff for their efforts!

Ms Philippa Loton - Head of Faculty: Art and Technology

Woodlea - Remembrance Day Ceremony

It was 11am on the 11th of November 2021. Haylie Witt, Riddhee Sharma, William Zaccaria and Surya Sureshkumar were honoured to represent Bacchus Marsh Grammar Woodlea at the Remembrance Day ceremony alongside Mr Panczel and Mrs Savic. On this crucial day, we remembered those who came before us and fought tirelessly for our future and freedom.

There were several other representatives at the service which included the Woodlea Scouts, Aintree Primary School, the Early Learning Centre, Coles Woodlea and the RSL. Some war veterans were in attendance. Haylie's grandfather (who fought for Australia in the Vietnam War) gave his medals to her to wear during the ceremony which was a special and memorable moment.

The events that we participated in during the ceremony included raising the flag of Australia and laying a wreath of flowers in memory of the soldiers who fought for us. People were welcome to walk on the Lane of Honour which served as a time to look back and reflect on the horrible events that happened in World War I.

We commemorate Remembrance Day to remember the Australians who died in World War I. The Last Post was played and a minute's silence followed. We want to thank those who have served and those in current services as they help to create a brighter and safer future for all Australians.

Haylie Witt and Riddhee Sharma 6WB



School Administration Information

2022 Annual Acknowledgement

BMG families were emailed on 5 November 2021 advising of the 2022 School Fee Schedule and release of the [2022 Business Notice](#).

All parents/guardians associated to a student of the School are required to complete the Annual Acknowledgement that has now been emailed via Edsmart email notification. The Annual Acknowledgement needs to be signed and submitted by 10th December 2021.

If you are requiring any assistance completing the Annual Acknowledgement, please contact Administration on (03) 5366 4800.

Mrs Kylie Cooper – School Accountant

School Photos

School Photo timetables for the scheduled dates below are available to view on the Parent Portal.

If your child/ren attends the Maddingley Campus and was absent from their allocated photo day in Term 2, they may have their 2021 individual photo taken on Monday 22 November during Periods 1 and 2 ONLY. In addition new Maddingley Campus students who have commenced after the Term 2 school photo dates can also be photographed during Periods 1 and 2 ONLY.

Please Note: A note is required in the student's diary to inform the class/tutor teacher that they need to be excused from class for their individual photo on Monday 22 November.

Due to COVID-19 precautions 'Sibling Photos' cannot be offered this year and Graduation Photos will be produced in a composite format.

Uniform

Students are required to wear their Summer School uniforms. It is important that students are well groomed and neatly presented, including hairstyles, to be in line with the School's uniform policy as outlined in the student diary.

Rescheduled School Photos are to be held on the following dates:

Maddingley Campus	Woodlea Campus
Monday 22 November Classes 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D & 6E Individual Maddingley Campus catch up photos.	23 to 25 November Woodlea Prep to Year 8
Maddingley Campus – Leadership Photos	Woodlea Campus - Leadership Photos
Middle School Leadership Groups 9.00am	Thursday 25 November (amended from 23 rd) Woodlea Leadership Groups

Ordering Photos

Ordering and payment arrangements for School Photos and Family Portraits will need to be completed **online** with [Arthur Reed Photos www.arphotos.com.au](#). BMG families were emailed the student's unique image codes by Mrs Cathy Perconte on **11th May 2021**. A separate email was sent for each student to enable families to register online and view images when they become available in the webshop. When 2021 photos are ready, you will be notified by email and SMS.

If you have any queries in relation to **ordering or payment**, please contact Arthur Reed Photos on (03) 5243 4390 or visit their website [www.order.arphotos.com.au](#).

Please note "Multimedia Consent" is not required for school photos. If you have any concerns, please contact Casey Ryder or Cathy Perconte on 5366 4800.

Mrs Cathy Perconte – Events & Community Development Coordinator

Notifications for change of pick-up arrangements or appointments during the school day

Please ensure that any changes to your child's pick-up arrangements or notifications for collection to attend appointments during the school day are communicated through the school diary. It is important that for Maddingley campus collection, parents specify either the 'Main Office' or 'Gatehouse' as the collection point. A reminder to parents that the Main Office is on South Maddingley Road and the Gatehouse is within the Main Car Park entered via Gate 1.

For last minute or urgent changes to pick-up arrangements please notify the relevant campus prior to 2.15pm.

Maddingley: 03 5366 4800 or Woodlea: 03 5366 4900

Conveyance Allowance

Parents who had a claim in 2021 will receive their application forms via mail before the end of the year. These are due back at the school by Friday 4 February 2022.

Parents who did not submit an application in 2021 can access the application forms from either the Main Administration Office, Gatehouse or from the myBMG Parent Portal under 'Documents/Whole School'.

Conveyance Allowance Information

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

and 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 4.8 km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended: 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 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 is in your interests to submit a Conveyance Allowance Application for 2022. Application forms are available from the Main Administration Office or myBMG 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 contact Mrs Suzanne Pollard if you have any questions.

Mrs Suzanne Pollard - Administration Assistant: School Administration

Bus Information

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 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, will not require private bus service), please contact the School Bus Services Administrator on 5366 4800 to discuss. Bus allocations for 2022 will be emailed to families during November. Student bus allocations will not be changed once notifications have been issued, unless there is a change to a permanent address.

Maddingley Late Bus

The late bus from Maddingley Campus will operate for the next 3 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon, only for students who are required to sit after school assessment tasks. Students are required to sign up for the late bus via the sign-up sheet located in the Main Administration Office prior to 1.30pm on the date of travel. Please refer to the late bus timetable on the [school website](#).

Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

Book Club News – Catalogue for Issue 8 is out now

Issue 8 catalogue is now out now!



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

An update to Noone Uniform shopping:

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

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: chrisshie.ashmore@ymca.org.au **Phone:** 0490 178 638 **W:** www.ballarat.ymca.org.au

Maddingley:

bacchusmarsh.oshc@ymca.org.au

0438 154 842

Located: South Maddingley Road, Maddingley, Victoria 3340

Woodlea:

woodlea.oshc@ymca.org.au

0490 490 362

Located: 111 Frontier Avenue, Aintree, Victoria 3336.

Events Calendar

Dates for upcoming events/excursions and day camps can be viewed via the events calendar on the [school website](#).

School 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

5-7 Quarry Road
Aintree VIC 3336
P +61 3 5366 4999

General School Email: school@bmg.vic.edu.au

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

