

Alumni Reunion

Celebrating 10 and 20 Years

Bacchus Marsh Grammar was thrilled to recently host past students from 2004 and 2014 in a special Alumni function held in the Lou Callow Gallery.

The opportunity for our past students to be reacquainted with old friends and even their favourite teacher was heart-warming. They reminisced with fun stories while touring the school grounds, taking in the huge changes since they graduated. It was also Mr Neal's last tour as Principal and an opportunity for him to introduce Mrs Debra Ogston as BMG's new Principal from 2025. In announcing this update our Alumni were already familiar with Mrs Ogston as she had taught them back in the day!

The school continues to advertise via social media to locate our past students and is seeking more of them to [register with BMG Alumni](#). We want to continue connecting with our past students and keep them informed of exciting updates, reunions and even opportunities to be involved in speaker events with our current Senior School students.

To view more photos from this event, [click here to view the Schoolbox post](#).



Mrs Michelle Graham – Director of Administration

Junior School

As we approach the end of the 2024 academic year, students and staff are reflecting on their achievements and preparing for a positive conclusion to the year. Students are engaging in activities to consolidate their learning, celebrate highlights and set goals for 2025.

The final week of school runs from Monday December 2 to Friday December 6. During this time, students will participate in various activities, including the Meet the Teacher afternoon, where they will meet their 2025 classroom teachers, and the Christmas Concert, celebrating the year's successes.

Detailed information about these events has been shared with parents via Edsmart.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making 2024 a successful year for our Junior School community.

Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School: Maddingley and Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School: Woodlea

Maddingley

Vote for our Christmas Trees at Bacchus Marsh Village

Our local village shopping centre has partnered with 10 local schools to create a magical Christmas tree display. Please support BMG by casting your vote at The Village, Bacchus Marsh, by Sunday 8 December.

Thank you to Allison Weir, Zoe Cassar, Lauren Meaney and the art team for supporting students to create these beautiful Christmas tree. The Junior School Art program continues to showcase exceptional work.



Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School

Prep

Prep students have experienced a large variety of hands-on activities this semester in Science. During Term 3 they learnt all about different materials and their properties. They enjoyed the group challenge of building a bridge to support weight only using paper.

During Term Four they have been exposed to many activities that demonstrate the force of push and pull and the motions of bounce, roll, spin, slide or stack. Students have been using blocks, 3-D shapes, balls, tubes and toys to determine how they move. They have also experimented with how different surfaces affect movement. It has been very engaging and lots of learning and fun has taken place. Enjoy the break and be ready for 2025!

Suzanne Gladys – Teacher

Building Resilience: School Holiday Activities

The end of the school year is drawing closer, and this is a time that parents/guardians often inquire about activities their children can undertake during the school holidays. School holidays are an excellent time to provide children with an opportunity to develop resilience skills and strategies by participating in value-based activities. Resilience is a skill that can be learned by any individual, at any age and does not rely on a child's ability or personality. Resilience is a person's ability to manage adversity and bounce back from difficult life events. When a child overcomes a challenge, they develop a sense of achievement. This success helps children to build confidence in their own strengths and prepares them to face future bigger challenges.

The following activities promote:

- Communication
- Cooperation
- Decision making
- Problem Solving
- Independence
- Flexibility

These activities also relate to our school values and can easily be adapted.

1. Do a Good Turn: Values - Respect and Kindness

Students could:

- Help a Grandparent or elderly relative with a task, make them some cookies, weed their garden, or keep them company by reading them a story or playing a boardgame or card game.
- Make a meal for everyone in their family.
- Recycle bottles and donate the money to a charity they have researched and would like to support.
- Declutter and clean their room, donating any unwanted toys, books or clothing to a charity.
- Take out and bring in a neighbour's bins if they are away.

2. Household Chores: Values- Discipline, Confidence and Ambition

Students can set themselves a goal to help complete household chores. These chores may occur daily or could be weekly tasks. Some task suggestions include cleaning windows, making beds, hanging out washing, doing dishes, feeding pets, mowing the lawn, washing the car or 30 mins of gardening.

Rewards for completing chores could include a family outing such as the movies or a visit to the zoo/aquarium. These types of rewards lead a child to internalise their successes rather than relying on external rewards like money to recognise their achievements.

However, monetary rewards can also provide opportunities for students. Determining a goal to work towards or saving for something special, also encourages ambition and the discipline to work towards reaching that goal. Mathematical skills relating to real life, including addition, subtraction and multiplication can be practised and consolidated. As a family you might negotiate a form of payment, 50 cents a minute, \$5 an hour, are just some examples. This could work many ways and may include your child/children keeping records of their minutes/hours worked and how much they have earned.

3. Leadership Day: Values Leadership, Respect, Confidence and Kindness

Allocate a day where your child/children can plan out the day, meals, activities, events, and travel arrangements. They may also need to consider daily commitments like walking and feeding pets, household chores and how these will fit in with the day they have planned. You may need to negotiate some boundaries and discuss how the decisions they make may affect all family members. The leader for the day could call a family meeting to present their plan for the day, any activities and each members responsibilities for the day.

4. Family History Discovery Journey: Values Knowledge, Wisdom, Confidence and Respect

Students learn about their family history. This might include:

- Creating a family tree.
- Interviewing extended family including parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins.
- Researching family history. (where they came from, occupations, interesting holidays/events, what was school like for them)
- Recording favourite memories or interesting information.
- Making a map showing where all the members of your family currently live.

Information could be presented as a book with maps, family trees, photos and memorabilia. This could be published and shared with all those that have contributed and could be passed down to future generations.

5. Goal Setting: Values- Discipline, Confidence and Ambition

As a family, think about and discuss something that you would like to achieve. Make family goals or individual goals and commit to a time each day that you can all work towards these goals. Take time to reflect on the progress you have made, no matter how big or small. Are there ways you can help each other or work together?

Kim Blundell – Deputy Head of Junior School

Woodlea

Year 4 students recently had an unforgettable experience at Lake Dewar, filled with adventure, teamwork and plenty of laughter. The camp offered a variety of activities that kept everyone engaged and excited, including canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, the flying fox, orienteering, tunnelling and kick biking. Students also enjoyed the opportunity to try campfire cooking, showcasing their culinary skills over an open flame.

Evenings were just as memorable with a night walk exploring the area's natural beauty and a movie night to relax after a day of activity. The camp provided a perfect setting for students to create and share memories with their friends, strengthen bonds and build resilience through new challenges.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful parents for trusting us with the care of their children during this camp. Your support means so much, and it was a privilege to see the students thrive in this environment. A heartfelt thank-you also goes to our dedicated staff whose commitment and enthusiasm ensured the camp was a success.

Lake Dewar has left us with stories we'll cherish, and we look forward to the next adventure!



Mrs Courtney Williams – Deputy Head of Junior School

National History Challenge Results

Two talented students have achieved remarkable success in this year's National History Challenge, earning Silver awards for their outstanding research on pivotal historical events.

Samaira Venkat, a Year 9 student, impressed the judges with her insightful analysis of "A Nation Divided: India Pre, During and Post Partition." Samaira's project reflected a deep understanding of how this tumultuous event reshaped India, leaving a lasting legacy on the region.

Year 8 student William Cusmano earned Silver for his compelling exploration of "The Black Death: Crisis and Impact." William's research delved into the devastating effects of the 14th-century pandemic. His presentation skilfully conveyed how the crisis transformed medieval Europe.



Both students showcased exceptional historical inquiry, critical thinking and creativity. Their achievements, not only highlight their dedication, but also underscore the importance of understanding history to navigate the present.

The School is immensely proud of Samaira and William for their accomplishments and eagerly anticipates their future contributions to historical scholarship.

Mr Lyndon Pratt – Teacher

Administration

Maddingley Car Park

The School would like to remind parents and visitors to take care upon entering and exiting the School and to drive with caution. Currently, the area to the left of the road into Maddingley Gatehouse carpark is undergoing some maintenance. When entering the carpark, parents are also reminded to pull into a designated parking space for drop-off and pick-up. This is for the safety of both children and adults.

South Maddingley Road, particularly busy during peak times, has seen several near-miss incidents recently. Parents must pull into designated car spaces when arriving at the Main Entrance on South Maddingley Road. This road has high traffic loads at peak times of the day and it can be very dangerous if children are getting in and out of a car in the middle of the road.

As we enter a busy final week of the school year please take care, remain patient and be respectful on the roads. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Debra Ogston – Associate to the Principal

End of Year Award Presentations

It is important to note that at this time all exam/assessment data is being collated which identifies students who will receive an award for 2024. This is a significant process which will be completed in the last week of term. If your child is receiving an award, you will be informed early to mid-next week.

Woodlea Campus End of Year Awards – Thursday 5 December

These Award presentations will be conducted in the Woodlea Gymnasium on Thursday 5 December at the following times:

- Middle School Year 5 to 8: 9:30am to 10.30am
- Senior School Year 9 & 10: 11.30am to 12.30pm

Parents/ carers of award recipients are welcome to attend. There will be a limit of two guests per student. Teams links will be shared internally via Schoolbox and in recipient communication.

Maddingley Campus End of Year Awards – Friday 6 December

Senior School Awards

The Maddingley Senior School Presentation (Years 9 to 11) will be held between 9:00am and 10.45am in the John Leaver Gymnasium.

Middle School Awards

The Maddingley Middle School Presentation (Years 5 to 8) will be held between 11:15am and 12.45pm in the John Leaver Gymnasium.

Parents/ carers of award recipients are welcome to attend. There will be a limit of two guests per student. Teams links will be shared internally via Schoolbox and in recipient communication.

Last Day of Term 4 – Normal Dismissal Time

A reminder that the end of Term 4 is Friday 6 December with normal dismissal time. If your child is leaving early on this day, they must have a note in the diary which will be acknowledged by their classroom/TG teacher.

For the Maddingley Campus, please ensure that the sign out location of Reception or Gatehouse is stated in the diary note.

Administration Team

2025 Annual Acknowledgement

BMG families were emailed on 13 November 2024 advising of the 2025 School Fee Schedule and release of the 2025 Business Notice.

All parents/guardians associated with a student of the School are required to complete the Annual Acknowledgement that has now been emailed via Edsmart.

The Annual Acknowledgement needs to be signed and submitted by 4 December 2024.

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

Co-Curricular

Maddingley

Junior Landcare Club

On Thursday lunchtime, the Maddingley Staughton Vale Ambassadors supported the Middle School students from the Junior Landcare Club to prepare the northern terrace garden beds for a sea of sunflowers.

Supporting the sunflower emblem of the school, the students have been busy over the last few weeks preparing the seedlings, soil and growing conditions for the sunflowers to thrive over the summer terms.

It is anticipated (subject to rabbits and cockatoos) that there will be a sea of yellow as you approach the school every morning in Term One 2025. The sunflowers symbolise positivity, and the pursuit of light and growth demonstrated by the students from the Junior Landcare co – curricular program.

This sunflower project is taking place to compliment the Maddingley Preps to Grade 6, Woodlea Year 4s and the ELC preparing their respective sunflowers for the annual BMG Sunflower Challenge finale in Week 9.



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

SRC Food Train



It's that time of year again when Maddingley's SRC is asking for donations of non-perishable items for our annual Food Train in support of Neighbours Place, such as tinned vegetables, canned fish/meat, rice, jars of pasta/curry sauce, long-life milks, dry pasta, etc.

Donations can be brought to Maddingley Front Administration to be placed in the carriage-tubs. The train will be leaving the station on Friday 6 December (students' last day) to help those in need in our community this Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support!

**Ms Caitlin Bowers & Miss Kimberley McBain – SRC Coordinators
Maddingley**

Reports

Semester Two Reports

At the conclusion of each semester, we provide parents with a formal report that provides important information about each student's academic performance, their approach to studies and attendance. In addition, teacher comments on the reports provide information about each child's involvement in the school community, strengths, improvement areas and, importantly, strategies to support the identified next steps for improvement.

The reports for each semester supplement the range of other ways that the School communicates with parents about their child, including parent-teacher interviews, contact with teachers, Schoolbox and celebrations of learning in the weekly BMG newsletter.

A reminder to families that, as a result of community feedback, reports are now provided in digital format only. If parents still wish to receive a paper copy, they may request this by emailing: reports@bmg.vic.edu.au.

We anticipate that the digital copies of reports, accessed via Schoolbox, should be available by Monday 16 December, with paper copies to follow after the Christmas shut-down period. Should any unforeseen technical issues prevent this, further communication will be made.

Mrs Emma Kannar – Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning

Library

Book Club News

Christmas is coming!

Issue 8 of the Scholastic Book Club catalogue is out now. [Click here](#) to go to the 'How to order' page.

Check out all the wonderful books available and place your order and have it delivered to your home well in time for the Festive Season.

Scholastic is offering a \$5 promo code on all orders over \$17.50 which can be redeemed in Issue 1 2025 PLUS the chance to win movie tickets for the new Dog Man movie being released in April 2025!



Scholastic Book Club Coordinators - Diane Dunn: Maddingley and Feona West: Woodlea

Bus and Transport

Student Permission Cards

Students in Prep to Year 6 must have a green permission tag on their bag if they are to disembark the bus to be picked up by someone other than their parent/guardian. Students in Year 5 & 6 can disembark the bus on their own if they have a green permission tag on their bag for the driver to check.

Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notices are available on Schoolbox under School Letters. Please return these notices to bus@bmg.vic.edu.au.

2024 Student Permission tags will be removed from the students' bags at the start of 2025. Any student requiring a tag for 2025 must have an updated Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notice completed for 2025 travel.

2025 Private Bus Allocations

Parents will be advised of their child's allocated bus for 2025 travel over the coming week.

End of Term

End of Term 4 dismissal time will be 3.20pm. All buses will operate as per their 2024 timetabled departure times.

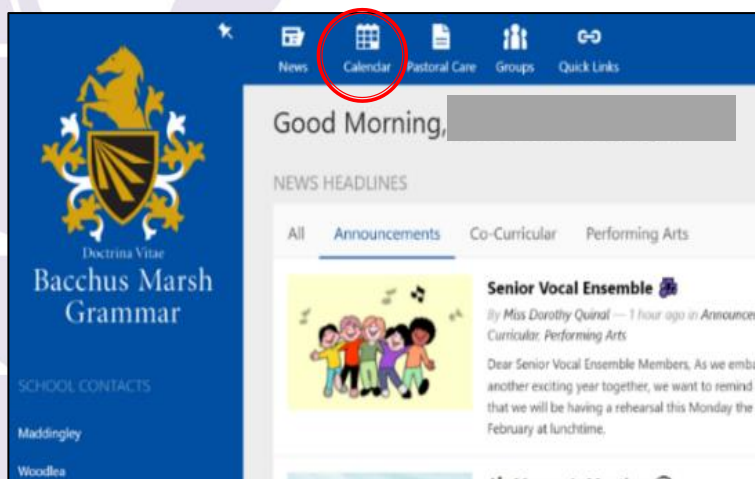
Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

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/>.

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

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