



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Students' have enjoyed such a diverse and exciting program this term. Camping, House Swimming and Athletics, ACP, MAD, History Dress ups, Excursions and of course, a very full academic schedule. The attitude shown by all in these endeavours has been exemplary. Students have been prepared to give such a range of activities their full effort and attention.

Many families have also stepped forward throughout the Term to share their talents and time. The now ubiquitous sighting of the quad copter camera has proven to be very popular and exciting. Many Landscaping projects have been supported by families and students with the school looking terrific as a result of these efforts. Last weekend, the results of a student-initiated direct action project saw the expansion of the Year 3 playground to include new monkey-bars. While the new equipment is wonderful, the most pleasing part of the project for me was the readiness of the Year 3 students who made the effort to put forward their ideas and to see it through to completion.

Two tours also left for Asia this week, one of which I was fortunate to accompany. The enthusiasm to explore the world is so evident in our students. I'm sure the China and Japan groups will learn a great deal about themselves and our near neighbours throughout the tour. For the BGS students catching up with Japanese host siblings, I'm sure the chance to be shown around Tokyo by a local friend will be very memorable indeed! Both trips will be leaving posts on the intranet under the international menu, I encourage you to follow their progress.

I hope you have a peaceful and refreshing Easter and Term break. Congratulations to all on a very successful and productive term.

All the best,  
Matthew Dodd  
Principal

## CALENDAR

APRIL 18  
Good Friday

APRIL 21  
Easter Monday

APRIL 22  
Staff Day

APRIL 23  
Term 2 Commences

Year 9 Camp Information  
Evening 7.30pm Hall

APRIL 25  
ANZAC Day

APRIL 28 - MAY 1  
Year 9 Camp

APRIL 28  
Year 10 Immunisations

MAY 2  
Year 9 Camp Home Day  
F-2 Swimming

more dates on Intranet

## PFC DATES

APRIL 22  
2nd Hand Uniform Shop  
2.30 - 4pm

APRIL 27  
Masters sausage sizzle

MAY 1  
Mothers Day Stall

MAY 6  
PFC Meeting 7 - 8.30pm



follow us online



## SPORT NEWS

The Primary House Athletics day saw Casey take home the trophy in a closely contested battle. The day saw some excellent individual performances on the track and on the field. Notable female performances saw Abbey, Tully and Zahra win several events. Bradley and Jesse also performed admirably. However the day is always remembered for the spirit and positivity that is displayed throughout the day. So many students enter events to gain valuable points for their house regardless of ability or experience. The cheering, the colour, the excitement, the ribbons and the nerves all add up to one of the best days on the school calendar.



The Summer Lightning Premiership was brought forward into Term 1 this year. All Balcombe Teams performed well, and just as importantly played all sports in the right spirit. The girls basketball team won Balcombe's first ever flag and the boys bat tennis carried on the winning tradition in this event. The day was a great success with students pulling together as a team. The Year 5s competed superbly well in rounders and pushed their Year 6 opponents to the limit. We even had seven Year 4 boys play in the Kanga 8s event. The students and staff are already looking forward to Term 2 and the beginning of the Winter Lightning Premiership. If any parents would like to help coach any of the following teams: Girls Soccer, Netball, Volleyball or Teeball please contact me via email: [a.martin@balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au](mailto:a.martin@balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au). Coaching/practise matches take place on Friday cycle 2, 11.35 – 2.30pm Andrew Martin



The Secondary House Athletics Carnival was held last week with an excellent turn out from all year levels displaying a very high amount of enthusiasm throughout the day. Whether it was the Year 7 and 8 students attempting to participate in as many events as possible to show their flexibility or the Year 12 students dressing up in their Glee outfits it was an event that saw plenty of smiles and laughter from all involved. On a day where it was close between Norman and Leaver House, it was Norman who was victorious by only 41 points to Leaver House with Casey and Weston finishing behind. Everyone should be proud of their achievements, and should look forward to more House events including the Cross Country carnivals next term. Cameron Ross House Coordinator



This term students from Foundation to Year 3 have been enjoying taking part in the MLC Hot Shots Tennis (MLCTHS) program during their Physical Education lessons. MLCTHS is Tennis Australia's official development program for primary school-aged students and is the best way for children to participate in tennis. The use of tailored equipment, including smaller courts, racquets and compression tennis balls ensures that the children are introduced to tennis in an environment that is suited to their age and skill level and makes learning tennis fun and easy.

As BGS is a valued supporter of the National School Partnership Program (NSPP) all children in the school are able to register to claim promotional items and enter competitions. Registration is free and Tennis Australia will donate \$2.00 for every registered child to put towards tennis equipment for the school. Visit the website [hotshots.tennis.com.au](http://hotshots.tennis.com.au) then type in the school postcode or name under 'MLC Tennis Hot Shots venue' and hit search! Jane Heseltine

## OUT AND ABOUT



## ENVIRONMENT WEEK

The Year 3s went to the Briars for Environment Week. We got to the Briars pretty early and we headed off to do our first activity after everyone had arrived.

Our first activity was planting plants to make a tree corridor for the native animals. The planting was very fun because we got to jump on pogo-stick things that were attached to a shovel which we used to make a hole in the ground for our plants. After we made the hole we squeezed the plant out of the pot and put the plant into the hole and then we hammered a barrier into the ground around it so bunnies and other animals would not eat them.

Our second activity was learning about seeds and about the ancient farm. We went with the people to have a look around the vegetable garden and we learnt that there is a seed that is called fennel and it tastes like liquorice and it helps your stomach if you are not well. Then we went into a tent that was set up with some tables with seeds on them for us to look at and feel. We learnt that there is a group that tries to protect some very old seeds which have been around for over two hundred years!

We headed off to our final activity which was learning about the bugs in our compost bins. The helpers showed us how to use the microscope and then we went off and did it ourselves. We had to put some dirt onto a little tray that went under the microscope. I found some mites and a couple of worms which we examined closely. When we had found a bug we had to go and look on a chart which showed us what type of bug we had found.

After we had completed the task we went to a stage that we sat in front of and watched some students from Mornington Primary sing some songs while we ate our snacks.

Once we finished eating we set off back to school. We didn't want to go back but we knew we had to. When we got back to school we gobbled up our lunch because we were so hungry. It had been the best day ever. Louise and Emma

On Wednesday 26 March my class and I went to The Briars for Environment Week. We were learning about Indigenous culture. First we went to a cottage and a man played the Yidakee. He made sounds that Australian animals make and we had to guess them. Afterwards, he showed aboriginal weapons. Then we went to another man and he showed rock paintings and more new weapons. Then he showed the river. Later the whole class went for a bush-walk. Then we were at school again. Eligh 2PTU

## CYCLE 1 - 21 APRIL

MONDAY  
Easter Monday

TUESDAY  
Staff Day

WEDNESDAY  
Junior Choir L/T - Hall  
Senior Rock Band L/T - I6  
School Orchestra 3.15pm - I6  
Melody Makers – Period 5 Hall  
Chicken Welfare: Mr Kurelja, L/T D Block  
Running Club: Yrs 0 - 6, Mrs Heselfine, Meet at the Gym  
8.15-8.40am (no early drop off please)

THURSDAY  
String Ensemble L/T I6  
Woodwind Ensemble L/T - Hall  
ANZAC Day Service - Period 2 Hall  
Balcombe Community Choir 5.00pm - Hall

FRIDAY  
ANZAC Day

## CYCLE 2 - 31 MARCH

MONDAY  
Chicken Welfare: Mr Kurelja, L/T, D Block  
School Production rehearsal, Mr SY, 3.15, Hall

TUESDAY  
Brass Ensemble L/T - I6  
Junior Guitar Band L/T - I7  
Senior Choir Rehearsal L/T - Hall

WEDNESDAY  
Junior Choir L/T - Hall  
Senior Rock Band L/T - I6  
School Orchestra 3.15pm - I6  
Melody Makers – Period 6 Hall  
Chicken Welfare: Mr Kurelja, L/T, D Block  
Running Club: Yrs 0 - 6, Mrs Heselfine, Meet at the Gym  
8.15-8.40am (no early drop off please)

THURSDAY  
String Ensemble L/T - I6  
Yr 11 SEISS Soccer (selected)  
Primary Assembly Period 7 Hall  
Woodwind Ensemble L/T - Hall  
Secondary Assembly Period 2 Hall  
Balcombe Community Choir 5.00pm - Hall

FRIDAY  
Yr 8 SEISS Soccer (selected)  
Chicken Welfare: Mr Kurelja, L/T, D Block

### LIBRARY TIMES

Yrs 8 - 12 Tuesday & Thursday L/T  
Yr 0 - 7 Monday, Wednesday & Friday L/T  
8:30 - 8:50am and 3:10 - 3:30pm everyday

## Primary and Secondary Co-education

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Email: [info@balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au)  
[www.balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au](http://www.balcombegrammar.vic.edu.au)



**BALCOMBE**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP

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Early this term about 20 Year 6 students applied to attend a special workshop held at Toorak College. This involved writing a speech and presenting it to our peers; the first stage in this exciting leadership opportunity. It was hard and scary, but everyone did a really good job! So good the teachers had to draw the names out of a hat as there were only 12 positions available.

On the day Renae and I both felt nervous but in a good way. We walked outside with a hop in our step and waited for Holly's mum to pick us up. While we were waiting we spoke about what we were going to do to improve our leadership skills. As we were driving there we were singing along to the radio and having a great time. What a great way to start off the day.

When we arrived we went into the auditorium where we were welcomed to Toorak College and were told what being a true leader is and were split into groups. One of the teachers taught us about being assertive and why a good leader is assertive, but not aggressive or passive. Some of us came in not knowing what the word assertive meant but went out like we always knew! Another one of the teachers taught us about public speaking and how we can improve our speaking. One of the things we learnt was to engage your audience with your presentation and hand motions. We made our own speech and presented it in front of our group. The last teacher taught us about preparing for a good leader coming to the school. We also learnt about how to greet new people confidently.

After all the groups finished we went to the auditorium and listened to Eric from C.H.I.P.S. He was really inspiring, funny and enthusiastic. He expressed his feelings about leadership very clearly. If we had a chance we would listen to him again.

Altogether it was a fantastic day. We learnt so much from the leadership workshop and it was a great way to end the day. Next Term the 12 of us will be given the opportunity to lead our own workshops for the rest of year 6. We are looking forward to sharing our knowledge about what it means to be a good leader.  
Renae and Holly - Year 6



## BALCOMBE LIFE SAVING

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As the lifesaving competition season 2013/14 comes to a close, 22 Balcombe students have enjoyed a successful year training hard and competing for Mt Martha Life Saving Club.

At the Nipper State Carnival in Warrnambool (March 8/9th) four nippers picked up 6 medals across the beach and water events with many finishing in the Top 10.

At the Senior State Carnival in Ocean Grove (March 15/16) eight seniors picked up multiple medals in the beach events and the water events saw finishes in the top Ten as well.

Training for the senior group continues in the mornings and evenings culminating in the Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships which are currently being held this week, finishing 6 April. Nine students from Balcombe will be competing for Mt Martha as part of a squad of 14. We wish them well as they are up against clubs from all over Australia. Margi Keefe (Senior Team Manager)

## MT MARTHA BOWLS CLUB 2014 CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the staff who took home the perpetual trophy in the Mt Martha Bowls Club 2014 Corporate Challenge. The Mt Martha Bowls and Social Club ran its second Corporate Bowls Challenge over the last six weeks with the winners being the Balcombe Bombers, great team effort!