



# Montessori News

The newsletter of the Beechworth Montessori Children's Group

[info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)

[pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)

[www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](http://www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)

Emerald Building, LaTrobe University Campus  
PO Box 306  
BEECHWORTH VIC 3747  
Ph: (03) 5728 2940 Fax: (03) 5720 8028

## Tiny Tots, Cycle 1, 2 & 3

Term 1; Issue 2; 2009

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### DIARY DATES

**Term 1: 2 February – 3 April**

- **Thursday 19 March** – BMCG Celebrates **World Harmony Day** 12.30pm. Bring a plate to share for lunch
- **Saturday 21 March** – Strategic Planning Day – 9.00am – 3.00pm at BMCG
- **Tuesday 24 March** – P&F Fundraising Brainstorming Session – 2pm at BMCG.
- **Sunday 29 March** – Working Bee @ Montessori 9am – 12 noon (Term 1 bee – rescheduled)
- **Friday 3 April** – End of Term 1
- **Monday 20 April** – Term 2 Starts
- **Sunday 3 May** – Working Bee @ Montessori 9am – 12noon

### \*IMPORTANT NOTICES\*

**Entrances:** Please be aware that there is only one entrance to the school – the foyer. Emergency entrances and exits, **including the playground gate**, are not to be used during the school day.

**Car parking:** Please use the school car park at all times. Children are not to be dropped off on the one way street which runs around the Emerald Building.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY

***This Saturday March 21  
9 – 3pm @ Beechworth Montessori***

**Bring a plate to share for lunch  
and  
your thoughts and vision for the future of our fantastic group**

***Your input is needed and valued.***

## From the Principal

Hello Everyone

It was great to see so many people at the BBQ and AGM. It was really good to partake in the friendly and cooperative atmosphere and getting to know people. And, I must say, I have never seen such a great array of tasty salads. Thank you to Heather, of P & F fame, for organising the BBQ; to Heather and Clint for the donation of the BBQ; to the chefs of the evening and the parents who cleaned and washed up after the event.

There are a couple of VIEs (very important events) coming up. Please put them in your diary and come along. The first is the **STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY**. This will be held at school this Saturday, 21 March from 9 – 3. From this day we are hoping to have a firm direction for the school to move in. It is important that as many people as possible come along, share their views and join in the discussion. Because of the stimulus packages provided by the Federal Government it could even be a possibility that we could build a purpose-built Montessori environment.

The second VIE is a double one. The school will be holding an **Open Day** on Saturday, 23 May from 10 – 2. We will need volunteers to spend some time in the room to assist the Directors. It will also be a great opportunity to talk to the teachers in the other cycles and find out what goes on in those rooms. Coupled with this will be a talk and Powerpoint presentation given by staff on '**What is so special about Montessori?**' This will be held on the Wednesday evening (27 May at 7 for 7.30 pm) after the Open Day. These two events will give parents, prospective parents, friends and relations a great opportunity to find out about how a Montessori education meets the needs of children as they develop.

It is coming close to the Reporting season – that time of year when teachers, parents and children review what has been happening over the past term or so. Susi and Paul will be doing written reports on children in Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 by the end of term. The Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held the early weeks of Term 2. Towards the end of term, please keep an eye out for the interview sign-up sheets outside the classrooms. Parents of the three and four year old children will also have a parent-teacher interview in early Term 2 and parents of Extended Day children will have an interview towards the end of Term 2. This is the first of two reporting sessions for this year; the second will be in Term 3.

Regards  
Glen

## Committee of Management

### **BMCG Committee - 2009**

With a good balance of fresh new faces and experienced BMCG members, this year's committee includes a great range of skills, backgrounds and interests - all of which will contribute to a strong committee and a successful year for Beechworth Montessori.

The 2009 committee members are as follows:

### **President - Clayton Neil**

Clayton is father of Oliver (Tiny Tots) and a new bub due to arrive in June, and partner to Kylie. Clayton is Cycle Tourism Officer with the Rural City of Wangaratta, and is passionate about the strategic planning and future of Beechworth Montessori.

### **Vice President – Jane Holden**

Jane is mother of Louise (Cycle 2), Stephanie and Charlotte (Cycle 1), and partner to Rob. Jane and Rob run their landscaping business together, and Jane is a food intolerance expert and consultant. Jane and her family have joined the Montessori community this year, and in addition to fulfilling the role of Vice President, Jane will act as Parents & Friends (P&F) liaison on the committee.

### **Treasurer – Lara Block**

Lara is mother of Chloe (Cycle 2) and twins Bianca and Natasha (Cycle 1), and partner to Richard Hall. Lara is qualified in accounting and law and is partner in a law firm. She is committed to Montessori philosophy and securing a strong and successful future for BMCG.

### **Secretary – Alli Allen**

Alli is mother of Milli (Cycle 1), Eva (Tiny Tots) and a new baby due to arrive in August, and is partner to Jonny. Alli is an IT Manager at Mars and has been actively involved with BMCG for three years.

### **General committee member – Future Location– Rachel Bohm**

Rachel is mother of Alysha (Cycle 1) and Luke (Tiny Tots), and partner to Darren Brough. Rachel is an architect who runs her own business and has extensive experience with educational facilities and the grants process.

### **General committee member – OH&S/Maintenance – Anne Duncan**

Anne is mother of Alex (Cycle 1) and partner to Mark Entwistle. Anne's professional background is in the nursing sector and this is her second year on the BMCG committee looking after OHS and Maintenance.

### **General committee member – OH&S/Maintenance – Karen Hayes**

Karen is mother of Sophal (Cycle 2), Charlotte (Cycle 1 prep) and Hagen (Tiny Tots), and partner to Mark Hopp. Karen is a chiropractor and has a long and active history with Beechworth Montessori as both a parent and a committee member.

### **General committee member – Marketing – Gina Bladon**

Gina is mother of Eadie and Max (Cycle 1) and partner to Matt Pfahlert. Gina is a small business owner (1860 Luxury Accommodation), and is a board member of North East Victoria Tourism. Gina has extensive experience in marketing and brand management which will be much appreciated and utilised at Beechworth Montessori.

### **General committee member – Marketing – Jade Miles**

Jade is mother of twins Bertie and Harry (Tiny Tots), and partner to Charlie Showers. Jade is a small business owner both domestically (The Clothes Line) and overseas, and runs a marketing and business strategy consulting business. Jade brings a wealth of knowledge and energy to the BMCG committee and community.



#### **BMCG Committee 2009**

Back (L-R): Jade Miles, Clayton Neil, Jane Holden, Rachel Bohm, Karen Hayes  
Front (L-R): Lara Block, Anne Duncan, Alli Allen  
Absent: Gina Bladon

### **Sub-committees 2009**

BMCG sub-committees have been created for the following areas:

- Future Location
- Marketing and Branding
- Maintenance
- Parents and Friends group

All BMCG members with interest, skills, knowledge and/or experience in these areas are invited and encouraged to join these sub-committees and contribute to the ongoing success of Beechworth Montessori.

### **If you are interested in contributing in any form, please contact the following people:**

Future Location – Rachel Bohm ([rddesignsplus@bigpond.com](mailto:rddesignsplus@bigpond.com) or 5728 7303)

Marketing and Branding – Gina Bladon ([info1860@bigpond.com](mailto:info1860@bigpond.com) or 5728 2027)

Maintenance – Anne Duncan ([avduncan@iinet.net.au](mailto:avduncan@iinet.net.au) or 02 6027 1739)

Parents and Friends – Heather Gerrard ([pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au) or 5728 1102)

## **Parents and Friends Group (P & F)**

### **Fundraising**

**Please take the time to answer these questions:** Do you have an idea for an event that can raise funds for this year? Term 1 is running down fast – what fundraising event can be held this term? Should we have a presence at the Easter Festival – a stall – food, face painting, other. Should we have an entry in the parade?

What projects do you think P&F can fundraise for?

It's over to you! Your thoughts, participation and help organising a term 1 fundraising event are urgently needed. Nothing will be planned without input from the parents and friends of Beechworth Montessori – your community comprising tiny tots, kindergarten/preschool and primary school.

There will be a short but vibrant meeting of interested parents and friends on Tuesday 2pm. If you are unable to make it, you can email your comments to [pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu) or a call Heather on 5728 1102 or place a note in the form lodgement box in the foyer

### **Social**

Two fun and family-friendly social events have been held this term – drinks at The Stanley (thanks to The Stanley for providing a gourmet arvo tea!) and the bbq prior to the AGM. Do you have any ideas for the term 2 social event – family friendly or adult friendly? Please forward your ideas to [pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au).

### **Uniforms**

What an amazing flush of purple and navy has been seen around town and at school! Due to unforeseen circumstances uniform orders have been held up significantly by the supplier and manufacturers of the uniforms. I have been assured that most garments will be available later **THIS** week. The uniform supplier and I apologise for this inconvenience caused to families. Once supplies have been rectified this week, items will be available at school via children/parents.

As the cooler weather kicks in abruptly, the seamstresses are busily making up purple long sleeve polo t-shirts and winter tunic dresses. Polar fleece jackets and vests are also available. All orders are to be made on the order form found in the school foyer or on the website via this link; <http://www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au/uniform/>

Future uniform orders can be made by parents directly through the uniform supplier using the uniform order form.

Sample size options are available in store.

Albury Uniforms and Schoolwear

769 Mate Street, North Albury, NSW 2640

T. (02) 6021 6274 F. (02) 6041 2029

Email; [alburyuniforms@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alburyuniforms@optusnet.com.au)

Uniform design and logo enquiries to Montessori Uniform Coordinator; Sheree White 57281966

### **Working Bee**

The rescheduled working bee is on **Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12noon**. There are many large and small tasks that need completing so please come along with your tools and help out on the day. Your presence at these working bees is valued far more than the annual maintenance fee.

### **Data Collection to Improve Communication**

Have you returned your data collection form that was attached to the last newsletter? If not, please return to us asap as this information is vital to how we can communicate with all members of your family. This form is reattached to this newsletter.

### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR P & F**

If you have any comments, queries, suggestions, concerns, etc. regarding the P & F please contact me directly on 5728 1102, [pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au) or drop a note in the P & F tray in the office. I look forward to working with you all at some time during the year and hope that we can continue to grow the Beechworth Montessori community spirit.

Heather Gerrard

### **Enrolment**

Parents: If you are claiming Health Card or Pension Card discounts, a photocopy of the card is required for our file before the document can be processed. These copies can be placed in the fees box in the parent waiting lounge.

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## **TINY TOTS NEWS**

### **From ...Tiny tots in the Amethyst Room**

Hello to everyone!

What a start to the year. What with the fires, the days the school was closed and then the public holiday (which was very enjoyable to be able to spend time in the garden without frying) – it feels to me like we are just getting a little momentum happening before we close for term holidays and Easter. If you are saying to

yourself how quickly the time went one of the reasons is that it is only a 9 week term instead of 10. Somewhere through the year we will catch up with an eleven week term.

Congratulations and welcome to the new committee members. Thankyou to those who are returning for another innings – it is heartening to see your support

for the whole school. Thank you to Fiona for the time and energy she has willingly contributed in her role as president for the last 4 years.

Also thank you to Paul for raising the door handle in our room and John for keeping him company, and Anna for sewing the curtains that will help greatly with the daily room switches from Cycle 1 to Tiny tots. They look beautiful.

### **Parenting Support**

This week was the first presentations given each term to inform and support parents. **Karen Hayes** gave a short talk about how Chiropractic treatment can assist your child's development, especially for newborns. Everyone is welcome to these presentations and there is no cost.

### **World Harmony Day**

This **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** Tiny Tots will be celebrating World Harmony Day by having a shared international lunch. Everyone welcome to come along dressed up in their favourite international costume, children and adults. Please bring a plate to share if staying for lunch.

### **National Playgroup week**

Next week **22<sup>nd</sup> March** is national playgroup week with playgroups right around Australia celebrating with varied activities. Weather permitting, a short walk is planned in the gardens of **La Trobe** followed by a picnic lunch in the **Bijou Theatre gardens**. If you

would like to bring a friend to Tiny Tots this is a great way to promote our playgroup.

### **Surprise birth**

It was discovered, by a very astute student from the Emerald room who came to visit them, that Tweetie pie and Domino, our 2 very active zebra finches have hatched out 2 chicks that could possibly be 2 weeks old, without anyone knowing until today. They were both seen flying around their cage today, getting used to the perches and being fed in the open by mum and dad. The mysteries of nature are amazing! (I did wonder though how 2 little birds could eat soooo much bird food in the last few weeks). Good bird watching Edan!

### **Working Bee**

I think it will be held on **Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> March** in the morning. There are lots of little jobs that still need to happen both inside and outside. This will be the first one for the year (better late than never) so many hands make light work. On another note it is great for the children to come along and see the community working together. They do like to help also and to feel very much apart of everything that goes on.

Tiny tots last day for the term will be **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** and will be open again on **21<sup>st</sup> April**. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday,

Michaela.

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## **CYCLE 1 NEWS**

### **World Harmony Day**

Just a reminder to parents about World Harmony Day this Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for lunch at 12.30. Parents are asked to bring a plate of multicultural cuisine to share. Morning children and their families are welcome to join us also. This is a whole school event with celebrations being held also in the Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 rooms.

### **Childcare Run**

As we are extending our Childcare Run. Parents who are interested in adding or changing days can pick up a form from teachers to fill in for our records. Just tick the preferred days, pick up and drop off times your child will require.

### **Immunisation Records**

Another reminder to parents, Kelly has spoken to about their child's immunisation records. We do require a copy as soon as possible for our records. Please leave a copy with Kelly or Terie, or leave the originals and we will copy them for you.

### **12.00 Pick up**

Can parents of children who go home at 12.00 please ring if you are going to be late? Now that the cooler weather is upon us, our older children tend to become hungry earlier and need to begin the lunch routine at 12. This can be difficult if our little ones see the scrumptious lunches being unpacked and they are hungry. So please try to be here at 12.00 or call so that staff are aware if you are going to be late.

### **Bringing snacks to kinder**

All children bring a piece of fruit to share for snack during the morning session. If parents find their children are still hungry after the session, children may bring some other foods that are more filling, such as carrots, celery, cucumber, snow peas, etc. We do not allow children to bring other items such as sandwiches or biscuits, as children in the room have food allergies and intolerances, and those types of snack foods seem to be shared with other children.

### **Amethyst room**

We are almost registered for kindergarten in the Amethyst room. We therefore still need parent volunteers to stay for the morning session. Please see Kelly and Michaela if you are able to spend a morning with us.

## CYCLE 2 & 3 NEWS

### World Harmony Day

The students have been busy researching a country of interest, what Continent it is in and the symbology of the flag, what the people eat and wear in preparation for World harmony day. Come and enjoy a shared lunch in the school kitchen on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm. Parents will need to help their child/ren prepare a plate to share.

### Swimming Program a success

The swimming program was a great success in more ways than one. Not only did the swimming program take our minds of the daily thoughts of fire we also saw a great improvement in the swimming skills of all the students. Our swimming instructors Marion and Kylie were enthusiastic and encouraging to all the swimmers.

### Cooking next term

We are looking for parent/s who are interested in coming into the classroom to help a small group of

children (4-5 students) to follow a simple recipe and cook in the school kitchen each week or fortnight during Term 2. It does not need to be a regular commitment – you could be a guest chef! Please see Susie for Cycle 2 cooking class and Paul for Cycle 3 cooking class.

### Sports afternoon

Cycle 2 class is walking to the oval on Thursday afternoons to do Sports activities. Children need to wear suitable sports shoes and have a hat and water bottle to take to the oval.

Cycle 3 class is doing tennis on Tuesday afternoons and need to wear suitable Sports shoes, have a hat and water bottle.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Advertisement



**Story time for Preschoolers** is held at the Beechworth Library every Wednesday during term from 2.30 – 3.00pm. There are several stories followed by an art activity. Story time is a free activity.

### Information

#### **Returning to Work this year?**

\$1000 training grant available now (some conditions apply). Call 03 5721 0200 (The Centre – your Community College) to find out more about this Victorian Government initiative.

### **CHANGE OF ENROLMENT DETAILS**

Please complete this section and place in the fees box if you have any change of enrolment details. This includes changes to email addresses, emergency contact numbers, authorised persons to collect your child, etc.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Change of enrolment details. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please disregard this form if you have already returned it.

## Beechworth Montessori

### Communication Data Collection

All families are requested to please return this data collection form and return to BMCG ASAP –

via the form lodgement box in the foyer,  
email to Heather (P & F coordinator – [pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)) or  
mail to PO BOX 306 Beechworth 3747.

*The purpose of this data collection form is to ascertain how Beechworth Montessori can communicate best with your individual family to ensure that you receive current and timely information. Where there is more than one household, please indicate the number of copies required, name and contact details of the additional householders.*

*Note: The methods that you select below will become our primary means of communication with your family until you notify us otherwise.*

*When there are changes to your contact details, PLEASE communicate these details to BMCG through the change of enrolment form in the newsletter or send an email to [principal@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)*

#### **Newsletter**

How do you prefer to receive your newsletter? You may select more than one option.

- Printed copy via parent pocket at BMCG
- Printed copy via mail – delivered to billing address
- Email to the following address/es. (eg. mother, father, carer, guardian). List as many addresses as required.

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- Access via the website [www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](http://www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)
- Other (please specify)

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#### **Other Information** – information updates, notice of meetings, publications and printouts, etc.

How do you prefer to receive this information? You may select more than one option.

- Printed copy via parent pocket/student at BMCG
- Email to the following address/es. (eg. mother, father, carer, guardian). List as many as required.

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- Other (please specify)

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**NB: At times, certain forms of information such as toy fundraising catalogues, permission forms, Montessori Association publications, etc. will be placed in parent pockets or students' bags.**