



Montessori News

The newsletter of the Beechworth Montessori Children's Group

info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

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

Cycles 1, 2 & 3 & Tiny Tots

Term 2; Issue 3; 2009

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DIARY DATES

Term 2: 20 April – 26 June

- **Thursday June 25th** – Farewell & Thanks to Paul McMullen – Tanswells Commercial Hotel *from* 4pm – Drop in and say goodbye to Paul.
- **Friday June 26th** – End of term. School finishes at 2pm.
- **Monday July 13th** - Start of term 3.
- **Wednesday July 29th** – Presentation Event – “The Story of the Universe - The God with No Hands” – The First Great Lesson of Cosmic Education. 7pm for 7.30 start Cycle 2 Room. All welcome.
- **Saturday July 25th - Saturday August 1st** – Wood Raffle sales outside IGA – All families rostered
- **Saturday August 1st** – Cake stall and Wood Raffle draw – 9am – 1pm @ Kiosk in Camp Street.
- **Wednesday August 5th** – “The Importance of Extended Day” – Information Evening - 7pm for 7.30 start in Emerald Room. All welcome, particularly Tots and Cycle 1 parents.
- **Saturday November 14th** – Sustainable House Tour

From the Principal

Hello Everyone

We have had another busy term with lots happening for children and parents alike. We have had considerable interest from pre- and post-graduate teachers this term. As I show them around our school it is always a pleasure to be able to show them the Montessori Method in action. In every room I see children are working to become the people they will be under the gentle, caring and informed guidance of our staff.

Some of you may be aware of the issues that are facing Melbourne Montessori School, where this is apparently not the case. They are facing issues largely with regards to the administration of the school. I would like to take this opportunity to assure our parent body that at our school that the Committee, staff and myself are working together to ensure that not only are any regulations are met but that our children are receiving an excellent education that more than favourably compares with any other system.

I wish to reiterate that if you have any concerns regarding the administration of the school, the quality of education that your child is receiving at Beechworth Montessori or simply a question about any aspect of the school or the Montessori philosophy, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

In order for parents to find out more about Montessori we will be holding two Information evenings next term. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an invitation for **all** parents to come to the Cycle 2 Room to be given one of the five ‘great lessons’ that a Montessori Cycle 2/3 child receives: The Story of the God Who has no Hands. Please come along an experience it for yourself and gain an understanding of what it could mean for your child and their learning. It will be held on Wednesday, 29th July.

The other event is “The Importance of Extended Day”. This will be held on Wednesday, 5th August at 7pm in Emerald Room. This evening will be of interest especially to Tiny Tots and Cycle 1 parents. During the evening we will be showing how the final year of Cycle 1 (or Prep year) is the culmination and consolidation of all that has gone before.

As we near the holidays, I would like to wish everyone a relaxed and enjoyable time.
Regards, Glen

Parents and Friends Group (P & F)

HELP – Please read below

Your help is needed to run fundraising and social events –

PLEASE OFFER YOUR SUPPORT –

if everyone contributes to **one event** this year only a **little** help is needed from everyone.

Next term

- A wood raffle (wood donated) and produce stall is planned for Saturday August 1st. Ticket sales outside the supermarket will be organised for the week beforehand. **A roster for 1 hour of sales will be created – get in early and nominate your preferred time and day, or wait for the roster to be distributed and organise your own swap. Roster is on the fundraising noticeboard in the foyer or email me.** We will also be asking every family to contribute 1 item to the produce stall – plants, flowers, preserves, cakes, biscuits, etc.
- Trivia Night – **helpers needed** to organise the event to be held at the end of term 3. Contact Heather – a list of tasks will be in the next newsletter. Get your teams together early and book a table. Great prizes and fun. More details to come next term.
- Cocktail Night at The Stanley – a little bit social, a little bit **FUN**draising. More details next newsletter.

KPV Raffle

Thanks to those families who returned their tickets – a total of \$718 was raised for Beechworth Montessori.

Congratulations and thanks to the Harris Family for their sales of tickets – they sold a total of \$150 tickets - \$75 kept for B.M.

Enrolment

Please direct all enrolment enquiries to Terie Quealy.

Seeking expressions of interest Cycle 1 Amethyst room on Fridays

We are investigating the future possibility of opening the Amethyst room to three year old Cycle 1 children on Fridays. In order to assess the feasibility of doing this, please let Terie know if you would be interested in utilising this service if it were available.

TINY TOTS NEWS

Hello everyone,

I hope you found the article in the previous newsletter helpful in some way. It can be interesting to read the current thought in regards to children's behaviour and ways to assist them and yourself as a parent.

There is a real sense of calm and purpose in the Tiny tots room. As the children grow and develop and become used to the protocol of the room (mums & dads too), there is a flow in the room as the children move from one activity to another. They experience periods of concentration that grow longer over time and with that comes a more peaceful environment.

Many of the children especially in the 18th month – 2 1/2 year age group are repeating a lot of the activities and some have an order they perform these tasks in when they arrive. This is important for the establishment of order within themselves through the manipulation of the environment. One of the reasons some of the materials stay a while on the shelf is for this purpose.

What we have been doing

We have also been looking at insects as part of the curriculum – noticing the difference between the various types, sometimes counting legs, which ones have antennae and wings etc. We have been roller

painting butterflies and dragonflies and making a spider with wool and material.

Some of the children have been planting flower bulbs and garlic bulbs in the vege garden. Eggs have also been discovered in the chook pen due to laying chooks. Cheryl Decker also brought her "Thermamix" (a whiz of a machine that makes cooking meals almost effort free!), which made bread dough ready for the children to turn into little bread rolls and eat once they came hot out of the oven. She also whipped up some delicious pumpkin soup for lunch very quickly and easily. Parents looked on quite interested at this intriguing demonstration. If you would like more information about "Thermamix" you can contact Cheryl at playgroup most Thursday mornings. Thanks Cheryl.

Holiday Home for the Zebra Finches

If anyone is interested in taking home the zebra finches for the holidays please let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you...

To Anna Mackinlay for making beautiful bean bags for the Amethyst room; to Mark Taylor for installing our other heater; to the Harris family who have been bringing up some baby chicks, pet rabbits, 2 beautiful rag doll cats and a lovely dog called Bonnie for the children to experience and handle. All the animals have been well behaved and it gives the children a close up look in a safe environment.

If I have missed anyone I apologise and thank you.

We also wish Johnny Allen all the best for the next semester teaching and hope to see Alli with Evie next term.

I hope you all have a pleasant break in some way shape or form, and see you all again at the beginning of third term.

Thanks, Michaela

CYCLE 1 NEWS

Saying Goodbye at the Door

When parents are dropping off children in the mornings, could they please say goodbye to their children at the door of the bag room. It is important for the children that are already in the room to be able to concentrate on the work they are beginning to do, and when parents are entering the room throughout the morning, it is quite disrupting for the children. If there are any issues with children not wanting parents to leave, please wait for a teacher to come and assist you as we are more than happy to do so because we understand that some children need help settling. If parents wish to stay for some of the morning they are still very welcome to do so, remembering that an adult's presence in the room must not be obvious.

For Amethyst room parents can say goodbye after signing in.

St Joseph's Excursion

On Thursday 18th June the Cycle 1 room went on an excursion with the school children to St Joseph's Primary School, where they had the pleasure of watching the students at the school perform their music concert. It was very exciting for the children to catch the bus, and the extended days children did a great job looking after their younger partners. All children sat beautifully though the concert, and enjoyed having a snack in the playground at St Joseph's Primary School. ***(Oh, and just a reminder to parents we need the \$2 excursion money as soon as you can, thanks).***

Amethyst room

It has been a busy term with new children starting throughout the term. Welcome to Oliver Neil & Emily Harris. Congratulations to the Neil family on the arrival of little Claudia.

We have had an interesting and fun autumn walk through the beautiful grounds of La Trobe. Various foods were tasted, mainly fruits during harvest time. The least favourite was the pomegranates and the favourite was roasted chestnuts.

We have also been looking at insects and learning the parts of an ant which consist of a head, thorax, legs, antennae, abdomen and a compound eye. Some of the children have made a parts of an ant book and some have made roller paintings of the dragon fly and the butterfly.

Some children have been making a "globe of the earth" and learning the continents at the same time. We sing a continent song that goes like this;

*"Continents, continents, do you know your continents
North and south east and west and all around the world.
Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia,
Antarctica and Europe too"*

Baking bread has also begun with some flavoursome bread being produced.

CYCLE 2 & 3 NEWS

Cycle 2 News

"Walking Wednesdays" to Beechworth Library commences next term on Wednesday July 22nd. Every fortnight students will walk to the library leaving school at 1.15pm arriving at the library for a 40 minute session to learn research skills and borrow books as well as listen to a story. We will then walk back up the hill and return to school at 2.30pm.

School Camp

Cycle 2 is re-organising the school camp. The logistics of taking Cycle 3 and Cycle 2 students to Canberra was proving to be difficult. Instead Cycle 2 is now embarking on an Environmental Education Camp based on studying the wildlife and ecology of the Box-Ironbark country at Chiltern National Park. The camp will be for two days and will be held towards the end of Term 3. The camp will include an overnight stay in cabins at the

Lake Anderson Caravan Park. Activities include bush walking, guided walks by Parks Victoria and Spotlighting on a Night Walk with ecologist, Paul Ryan. The camp will support a unit of work based on studies of Ecology and Zoology commencing next term.

Montessori's Great Lessons: God With No Hands

The students will be listening to the First Great Story "God With No Hands" as told by Susi and Glen at 9.15am on Tuesday 21 July.

Piano Lessons

Due to family commitments Simone Cogle will not be teaching piano at school next term.

Wishing You Well

Susi and all the students of Cycle 2 wish Paul well in his new teaching position. We look forward to seeing him as a parent of Oscar and Liam.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMMUNITY

As a lead-in to the 2009 Kerferd Oration, join

**Judy Lazarus, Coordinator
Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre,**

Hear about the needs of our community,
and talk about how we, as a community, respond.

Choose from three dates:

Tuesday 30 June	7:30pm to 9:00pm
Friday 3 July	10:30am to 12noon
Tuesday 7 July	4:30pm to 6:00pm

These discussions are free and will be held at the
Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre.

**RSVP please to:
Joan Simms 03 5728 2747 or joansimms@bigpond.com**

The 2009 George Briscoe Kerferd Orator is
The Rev. Tim Costello AO.
The title of his Oration is:

Community Values for a World in Need

Note your diary now: **Sunday 19 July at 11am** (doors open 10.15am)
Kerferd Conference Centre, La Trobe, Beechworth

Bendigo Community Bank

Dear Resident of Beechworth and District,

A steering committee has been formed to investigate the establishment of a Community Bank branch for Beechworth & District. By pledging your support for the Beechworth & District Community Bank Project you are directly supporting the future of our community. In fact, a Community Bank branch in our community will keep local money and local jobs in Beechworth & District and by returning profits to the local community, it provides a continuous income stream for community projects and initiatives.

The process involves four stages: **Pledges** of support, A Feasibility Study, Prospectus issued and if successful, launch of Bank.

At this stage the Steering Committee is seeking indicative Pledges of support from local residents and businesses that would like to become shareholders in the Company which will operate the local branch.

Information sheets and Pledge forms can be picked up and dropped off at:

- Wooragee School
- Ritchie's IGA Supermarket
- Danny & Dianne's Foodworks Supermarket
- Goldfields Greengrocer
- Beechworth Butchery
- Beechworth Home Hardware

For further information please contact Eric Visscher on 0407 850 696

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. _____

**FOLLOWING
ON FROM GLEN'S TALK
ON
"WHAT IS SO SPECIAL
ABOUT MONTESSORI?"**

**SUSI AND GLEN WILL
BE PRESENTING THE
STORY AND
EXPERIMENTS OF THE**

**"STORY OF THE
UNIVERSE" OR "THE
STORY OF THE GOD
WITH NO HANDS".**

**THIS IS THE FIRST
'GREAT LESSON' OF
COSMIC EDUCATION
FOR CYCLE 2.**

Beechworth **Montessori**



**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS VERY INFORMATIVE
EVENING ON**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH FROM 7PM

IN THE CYCLE 2 ROOM. PLEASE BRING A PLATE.