



Montessori News

The newsletter of the Beechworth Montessori Children's Group

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Cycles 1, 2 & 3 & Tiny Tots

Term 3; Issue 1; 2009

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DIARY DATES

Term 3: 13 July – 18 September

- **Saturday July 25th - Saturday August 1st** – Wood Raffle sales outside IGA
- **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.
- **Friday September 11th** – Toy Catalogues Fundraiser orders due
- **Monday - Friday November 9th – 13th** – Cycle 3 Camp in Canberra
- **Saturday November 14th** – Sustainable House Tour

Do you have a Beechworth Montessori Ritchies IGA Community Benefits Card?

If not, please collect one from the Fundraising Noticeboard in the foyer or see Terie Quealy.

By swiping your card you are raising funds for your child's school.

Wanted:

With the increase in our numbers we are urgently in need of desks and/or small tables suitable for use in Cycle 3. If you happen to have one or know someone who does, please see Heather or Glen.

Employment Opportunity at Beechworth Montessori

Cleaner

Our Thursday and Friday evening cleaner has taken up a new position. If you know of anyone who might like to take up this position of approximately 8 hours work, please come and see me.

President's Report

At the beginning of the year the key areas of focus for the Beechworth Montessori committee were developing a sustainable school, rebranding the Beechworth Montessori organisation and addressing the future location of Beechworth Montessori. As we progress through these three key areas, the challenges become more obvious. Over the past 6 weeks there has been a significant amount of work being done on understanding what a sustainable Beechworth Montessori organisation looks like. There are many areas to this.

Financial

Without doubt our most important and significant challenge. Lara, Howard and Glen, in consultation with Warren Allen (consultant) have developed the clearest picture yet of our financial situation. The challenges we face in bridging the gap between our revenue structure and our future operational expenses will require some tough decisions to be made.

Operations

For the school to evolve we need to ensure that the best operational structure is in place to give us the best chance of success. This requires additional human resources to support the principal, teachers and committee.

Location

There was a clear preference from the Beechworth Montessori community to move towards a purpose built facility in Beechworth. The sub committee headed by Rachel Bohm will continue to assess our options and

report back to the committee. The future locations committee is looking at our short term (2-4 years), mid term (4-10 years) and long term (10 years and beyond) options for the location of Beechworth Montessori.

Retention of staff

Our teachers are our greatest resource and their continual service and development is paramount to the development of a sustainable organisation. It is a focus of the committee to address their remuneration structure for 2010 and beyond. This will include their salaries, training and professional development.

Student Numbers

Sustainable schools are built around sustainable student numbers. The committee is looking at what numbers we need at each cycle (Tiny Tots included) to ensure the student numbers remain viable.

Branding

The marketing sub-committee are well advanced on developing a new logo and brand for Beechworth Montessori. The brand and the community's engagement with it will go a long way towards developing a sustainable school. Beechworth Montessori is an independent, private school with a unique and successful educational environment. As a sustainable organisation Beechworth Montessori must be considered a viable educational option for families in North East Victoria.

Governance

Governance has been raised in the past as an area that requires a considerable amount of time and effort. It is not expected that the 2009 Beechworth Montessori committee will address this issue and will therefore be deferred to 2010. This does not diminish the urgency of this issue, nor its role in establishing a sustainable organisation.

The financial viability of the school underpins all of these elements which contribute to Beechworth Montessori being a sustainable organisation. The challenges we face are significant and if Beechworth Montessori is to become viable, decisions are required.

Balancing out this process of assessment and strategic planning is what is happening now. There have been some real positive happenings around Beechworth Montessori with new families joining the organisation, the successful application for BER Funding and another small grant to go towards new classroom facilities. Congratulations to everyone involved in these projects.

Clayton Neil

From the Principal

Hello Everyone

It was a great pleasure to be able to present "What is so special about Montessori?" to a class of students who are studying for their Diploma of Child Care at Wodonga TAFE. The students were then able to observe in Tiny Tots and Cycle 1. They were just amazed at seeing Montessori in practice. Some of the comments: "Did you see that little boy mopping up the water that he spilled?" "How do you get them to work so quietly and well?" "I'm just so tingly all over" (from what she had just seen in Tiny Tots). We spend a great deal of time considering how to market our school and its benefits for children. The best advertisement that we have is the children and the work they do. So please make sure that you come along for an observation as well.

A big thank-you to all those parents who attended the Working Bee last weekend. I know the staff and children really appreciate all your efforts. One staff-member said to me, "Gee, Glen, look at the new door handle." They were pleased. Thank you.

I have had the opportunity to get out to a number of meetings in the last week or so. Last Thursday, Terie and I attended the Indigo Shire Early years Action Forum where we had the opportunity to meet with other providers of children's services and to discuss the plans that the Shire has for coordinating early childhood services. I was able to attend a meeting on the new Children's Services Regulations and meet with people from throughout the region. I have also been catching up with other principals in rural schools.

At the present time the Committee and Staff are planning for next year. We have been examining the structure of the school and we want to make sure that the school is financially viable. In all our planning we constantly keep in mind that what we do here is unique in North-east Victoria and that it is really special for our children to be able to attend such a caring and respectful environment where they undertake the important job of becoming the person they will become and so achieve their potential in so many areas of their life.

If you are a parent of a child in Tiny Tots or a 3- or 4-year-old, then please come along to our 'Benefits of Extended Day' Evening on next Wednesday, 5 August at 7 pm.

Regards, Glen

Parents and Friends Group (P & F)

Fundraising & Social Events – Term 3

Wood Raffle & Cake Stall – Saturday August 1st

Thanks to everyone who has offered to sell tickets outside the IGA supermarket during the week. The cake stall on Saturday August 1st is at the kiosk on the corner of Camp and High Streets from 8.30am. Donations of cakes, produce, plants, etc can be left at the kiosk on Sat morning, at Montessori on Friday or see Heather to organise another time and place. Please remember to include a list of ingredients for all produce and baked goods. No cream or quiches etc as we do not have refrigeration facilities. Thanks to Clint McWilliam for sourcing the quality redwood, donating it, splitting it and organising delivery – your effort is appreciated.

Toy Catalogues Fundraiser – Orders due Friday September 11th

Next week, three toy catalogues will be distributed to all families via parent pockets/students at Beechworth Montessori. Any purchases made from these catalogues provide Beechworth Montessori with a 20% credit with educational product suppliers so that purchases of educational materials can be made directly for students to use in the rooms. These catalogues include a range of items and are a great way to stock up your “present boxes” for birthday parties and events.

Trivia Night – Saturday September 12th

Last year’s event was great fun with great prizes. There are limited tables for this year’s event so get in early, book a table and get your team together. Contact Heather to book your table or to offer to help organise the night. Helpers are needed to collect prizes and set up/pack up the event. Donations of vouchers and goods also greatly accepted. Thanks to those members who have already donated prizes for the night. The next newsletter in 3 weeks will contain a more detailed list of jobs where you can help out. There will be bar facilities on the night with great local wines for sale. Strictly no byo alcohol. Bring your own supper plates. Tickets \$15 per person if booked and paid before the night. \$20 per person at the door.

Cocktail Night at The Stanley – Date to be confirmed – Likely to be a spring event at end of term or early term 4

A little bit social, a little bit **FUN**draising. This will be a child free event with the aim of allowing the adult members of the Montessori community a chance to relax and socialise with other members. So often we pass each other at drop off and pick up times and don’t have time to say anything more than “hello”. At this stage it is planned to hire a mini bus with a few designated pick up/drop off points at prearranged times. If you would be interested in using this service (unsure of cost at this stage – need some indication of number of users) please let Heather know.

Contact Details for Heather Gerrard for any of the above events.

5728 1102 or branchesbeechworth@bigpond.com

Fundraising Event– Term 4

An open letter from the Sustainable House Tour organisers

Hi Parents and Friends,

Paul Morrow and Paul McMullen are currently in the process of organizing the 2009 Beechworth Montessori Sustainable House Tour. The event is planned for Saturday 14th November. We are currently looking for any suggestion for houses to be included in this years tour so please send out the word to anyone you feel may have a home which they may like to share with us.

Contact Paul Morrow – Phone: 03 57281966 or p.morrow@aapt.net.au

We are also needing 5 core volunteers to assist in the following areas:

1. Volunteers Coordinator
2. House Co-ordinator
3. Advertising
4. Marketing
5. Catering & Services

For more information please contact either of the Pauls.

Thank you, Paul Morrow

Enrolment Information

Please direct all enrolment enquiries to Terie Quealy.

Conveyance Allowance

If you live more than 4.8 kilometres from school then you may be eligible to claim for a conveyance allowance. Please see Glen to collect an application form as soon as you can as the applications need to be back to him by Friday, 7 August. If you claimed in Terms 1 and 2, please let Glen know if you are still claiming for Terms 3 and 4.

Education Maintenance Allowance

If you are currently a Centrelink or concession cardholder then you may be eligible to apply for the Educational Maintenance Allowance. Please see Glen to collect an application form as soon as you can as the applications need to be back to him by Friday, 7 August. If you were eligible in Term 1, then you do need to copy your concession card, which must have been current on 13 July, 2009.

Working Bee/Maintenance Update

Thanks to the Race Stelling, Walker Stelling, Maher, Rouch, Duncan, Unmeopa, Haebich, Brennan and Wiseman families for coming along to the Term 3 working bee. The yards and windows are now looking neat and sparkling, the storeroom was cleaned and looks lovely and organised now and nearly all of the jobs on the job list were taken care of. Thanks to Clint McWilliam for sourcing some soil to help fix the water pooling problem at the entrance gate.

Three jobs remain on the maintenance list at the moment.

- Replacing the starters and tubes in the fluorescent light in the Cycle 2 room. Materials in storeroom.
- Replacing the tap washers in the Cycle 2 kitchen. Materials are in the storeroom.
- Extending the concrete path outside the safety gate/entrance to BM.

If there are any families who would like to make up some more maintenance time and are able to do these jobs please contact me on 0417 566 684.

Jacqui Hancox
Maintenance Coordinator

Uniforms

Parents can organise their own uniforms any time directly through Albury Uniforms. See the website or P&F noticeboard in the foyer for more information.

Second hand Uniforms

If you have second hand uniforms for sale, these can be included in the newsletter. Email the details to Heather for inclusion in the next edition (approx. 3 weeks time). Later in the year, a second hand uniform sale will be organised.

CYCLE 1 NEWS

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and kept warm and snug out of the wonderful rain, frost and snow we have had over the holidays. We would like to welcome the following new families into Cycle 1: Callista Race Stelling, Aaron Cox, Mae Lumsden, Ailish McMahon and Lachlan Visscher and their families.

Congratulations and farewell from Cycle 1 to Edan McWilliam who has transitioned this term into Cycle 2. Edan has been a caring and generous leader in our room this year and a great example to our younger children. We hope he will come and visit us and share his new experiences with the children.

Thank you to all the families who attended our recent working bee. Our yard looks terrific and we await eagerly the first blossoms on our magnolia trees.

We extend a warm invitation to our Cycle 1 and Tiny Tot families to our information evening at 7.00pm on Wednesday August 5th on "The Importance of Extended Day" in the Emerald Room. Glen will deliver his talk

about the benefits of the Extended Day program and Terie and Kelly will explain how we plan for your child's independent learning journey. We will also cover the unique aspects of the Montessori curriculum such as the early introduction of Geography, History, Zoology, Botany, Culture and Science in the curriculum.

Bakery Excursion

On Wednesday August 5th the 4 year old and Extended Day children from Emerald and Amethyst rooms will walk to the bakery for a hand-on experience making and kneading bread and rolling out biscuits. The children will be in the main cooking area of the bakery and will see how the bakery works behind the scenes. Parents are welcome to attend but for safety reasons the Bakery has asked that no prams or younger siblings attend. Terie and Michaela will attend this excursion.

Our 3 year old children will join together with Kelly and Keri for a morning of fun and activities in the Amethyst room. All 3 year old children from Emerald will be walked across to Amethyst after they have been dropped off.

Intentions for 2010

Forms will be sent out towards the end of term 3 for parents to nominate their intentions for 2010. Please note that all children need to be members to gain a place in Cycle 1 and as we are currently fully booked in the Emerald room and have children on our waiting list, membership numbers will be used to place children in order. Membership forms will be available at Tiny Tots or from teachers in Cycle 1 rooms.

Extended Day News

The children are currently finishing their "Timelines of a Child's Day". This project is part of our History curriculum. The children have been learning about Night and Day and then about how to read a clock. They have taken home our digital camera and their parents have photographed them every hour at home and teachers have photographed them at school. They have placed the photos above the clock and drawn the hands on their clocks and written the time for each hour. They have been very surprised to see how long they sleep at night

and have each had a giggle at the photos of their friends in their pyjamas tucked up in bed.

In Science we will be discovering the planets this term, learning about their origin and the importance of the sun in our solar system and to life on Earth.

This Wednesday and every fortnight the Extended Day children will begin their transition to Cycle 2 by having lunch from 12.00 – 1.00 with the Cycle 2 and 3 children in the 'big kids yard'. They will have the opportunity to explore the yard and meet up with friends and older siblings and experience new games and play.

Terie & Kelly

CYCLE 2 & 3 NEWS

Cycle 2

Welcome back to Term 3. We would especially like to welcome the new students, Lexi Race Stelling, Indigo Walker-Stelling and Imogen and Kezia Sutton and their families back to Beechworth Montessori this term. We also welcome Edan McWilliam and his family. Edan has completed transition from Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 and he is now a full-time Cycle 2 student. Thank you to all the families who attended the working bee. The school grounds look great!

Cycle 3

Cycle 3 has had a period of change with Heather replacing Paul 2.5 days per week, Christos returning to teach Italian and the transition of Cycle 2 students, Kauri Rouch and Semira Kelly-Wiseman into the room. In addition we welcome Maisie Walker Stelling to the school and her family back to BM. Thank you to the parents who worked on our room at the working bee – the little things mean a lot – we appreciate the new door handle and hope that we can soon have improved lighting in the room.

Do you have an unwanted kitchen table at home – Cycle 3 would appreciate a snack table for in the room. Also due to the increase in our numbers we are urgently in need of desks and/or small tables suitable for use in Cycle 3. If you happen to have one or know someone who does, please see Heather or Glen.

Across Both Rooms

Scientist in Schools Project

Charlie Showers, Geologist and Hydrologist will be working with the students on Tuesday mornings as part of the Scientist in Schools program. During these activities students will be developing skills and understanding of processes involved in science and technology projects through investigating rocks,

minerals and hydrology. Later in the term Charlie will be accompanying the class on field trips to local sites of geological significance. We look forward to working in partnership with a scientist!

Literacy Support

This term Jann Stewart continues to work with ESL students in the classroom. Jann is also employed by the AISV (Association of Independent Schools) Targeted Program Funding to support students other than ESL students in literacy activities.

Professional Tennis Coaching on Friday afternoons

On Friday afternoon the class travels by bus to the local tennis courts to meet with Geoff, a professional tennis coach from Personal Best Tennis School. The students are having a 40 minute coaching session with Geoff and associated Sports skills with Susi and Glen. Students need to wear sports shoes and suitable sports clothing and bring a water bottle.

Italian

We welcome Christos Miliankos back this term as the Italian teacher. More Italian resources are arriving throughout the term including readers written in Italian. Italian is now on Tuesday afternoon.

'Walking Wednesdays' to Beechworth Library.

What a great start to fortnightly visits to Beechworth Library! The walk down the hill is an easy walk with beautiful views over the town and lots of fresh air. The library is warm and Marie certainly made the visit interesting and productive. Students are encouraged to join the library and use their own library card to borrow two books each fortnight. Marie is also reading a story at the end of the library session. Then we walk back up the hill which maybe isn't quite as easy as walking down but great aerobic exercise!

Music Viva

On Tuesday 18 August at 9am an Indonesian Gamelon Ensemble called Byar (pronounced bee air) is visiting the school. The cost is subsidised by DEEWR for Country Area Program Schools and therefore will only cost \$2.70 per student.

SCIP students

During the next few weeks on a Wednesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm, two Year 9 students from Beechworth Secondary College are volunteering at Beechworth Montessori as part of the SCIP (Schools and Community in Partnership) program. We welcome

Sarah and Ryan into the classroom. Sarah and Ryan are assisting students with classroom activities.

Reporting

School reports will be handed out at the end of Term 3 followed by parent teacher interviews.

Susi & Heather

MONTESSORI MATTERS

Montessori sees your child as she really is.

The Montessori method allows your child to learn the way she learns best and easiest: by doing things herself. Basically, she teaches herself. Within certain limits, your child can choose work that appeals to her own inner interest. She can exercise her sense of freedom and spontaneity; she feels joy and enthusiasm in learning because she is doing what she needs to do instead of what someone else tells her she must do. Gradually the child builds a strong sense of independence and self-confidence as her skills increase. The Montessori method is built on your child's natural love of learning and instils a life-long motivation for continuous learning. It helps your child remain in touch with her natural growth and development and avoids forcing her to do anything else she is not truly ready for.

(Terry Malloy, Montessori and Your Child – A Primer for Parents)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Could you be a permanent care parent?

There are a number of children supported by the Department of Human Services who require a *family for life* as they are unable to live with their birth families. We are seeking committed and motivated people who would be interested in learning more about providing a permanent family for a child.

Assistance payments are made to the Permanent Care family to assist with the day to day expenses of caring for a child/young person. Assistance payments are considered to be a reimbursement for expenses and not an earned income.

Information sessions are being held @ Department Human Services **Wodonga** 55 Hovell St *Tuesday 4th August 6.30pm* and **Shepparton** 163 Welsford St *Wednesday 5th August 6.30pm*

For further information please contact:

Adoption & Permanent Care Program

☎: 5832 1552 or 📠: 5832 1559.

Walking School Bus:

For any parents wishing to assist in the walking school bus program, or interested in registering your child in the walking school bus, a meeting will be held at Provender Café at 9.30am on Wednesday the 29th of July.

This meeting will also look at appropriate routes to meet the needs of the children and volunteers participating.

Your input is greatly needed to provide a great service to the Beechworth community.

Regards,

Debbie Hogg

WSB coordinator

Beechworth Health Service

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. _____
