

*Full newsletter will be distributed fortnightly with a brief memo in alternate weeks.*

**If you are yet to return your Parent Pack forms, please do so as soon as possible.**

**Christmas Gathering on TOMORROW (Thursday) NIGHT**

Don't forget we start at 5pm with a short amount of formalities at 5.15pm.  
Live music from Marisa Quigley at 6pm & BBQ dinner available.

**Term 4, 2016**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> December (11 weeks)**

**December**

15<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Last Day of Term – 3.15pm finish  
15<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Christmas Catch Up & Graduation at The Priory  
15<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Last Day of Term – 3.15pm finish  
19<sup>th</sup> Monday – Extra ECP 9am to 5.30pm  
20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Extra ECP 12pm to 5.30pm

**January**

24<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Extra ECP 9am to 3.15pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Extra ECP 9am to 5.30pm

**February**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – First Day of Term 1

**Term 1, 2017**

**1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March – (9 weeks)**

**From the Principal**

It is amazing to think that we are at the end of what has been an incredible year in many ways, for each child and adult in our school community. I encourage you to reflect with your child over the holidays, about what has been learnt, shared, enjoyed and achieved, both the high lights and low lights, and to explore photos, thinking about how similar and how different your child is now as a year older, compared to how he or she was in January 2016.

Some of you are already aware that Michaela recently confirmed her resignation and that she will not be returning to Beechworth Montessori,

following her leave without pay. This was a difficult decision for her and not made lightly. Michaela provided the founding and guiding vision for our school, which began as an early years' service 20 years ago. Once again I would like to thank her for all she put in to the school, and the love and care she has shown to so many children from the time of the school's origins to the present.

Terie is also leaving this week. She too was keenly involved in founding Beechworth Montessori, and has been a valued and loved teacher in both Cycle 1 and 3 since we became a school. Many a child in Beechworth and surrounds, together with their parents will have fond memories of their children being guided by Terie and/or Michaela, and I have no doubt that their times together will form ongoing memories and cherished moments for life. Thank you both.

Whilst we are sure to see Dina, back at BMS as a relief staff member in 2017, Dina's short term contract as a Director in Moonstone concludes next week. Thank you Dina for the work you have done for us this year, and the care and attention you have shown the Moonstone children and families. Reading your reports highlighted to me, how well you know each and every child as an individual, and your empathetic and adaptive approach to your work as a Director has once again been appreciated.

I would also like to inform families that Wiggy is taking twelve months leave. I would like to thank Wiggy for all she has done. Her connection with the children and their families is her strength and an asset to the classroom environment. We wish her well next year and look forward to her returning in 2018.

Reports are coming home today, and provide a wealth of detail about your child's time with us this semester, including details of their learning, social interactions and practical life experiences. Whilst both children and

adults are no doubt looking forward to a well earned rest over the holidays, please continue to take every opportunity to nurture curiosity and moments of wonder with your children over the break, and take time to read, and relax together.

Thanks to all staff for an amazing run to the finish line! Your hard work and dedication provide the richness of the children's learning here at Beechworth Montessori, and that is an amazing gift you give the children here every day. Thanks also to each and every parent, for your support of your children, the staff and the school more widely. We look forward to seeing you back here, nice and refreshed for 2017! Good luck to our grade 6 students as they head to new horizons in 2017. We will look forward to hearing of your continuing adventures. Also, to any other children leaving us this week, we wish both you and your family every happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead, and hope you will always feel welcome to come back and visit us here at BMS. May you have a peaceful and restful break, enjoying the people you like and love and letting them know they are important to you.

Kind Regards,  
Bron Martin  
Principal

## Farewell to Michaela

As I ponder what to write about the founder of what is today Beechworth Montessori School, I find myself reading the assignment I wrote last year on *The Montessori Teacher*. I'm going to share snippets of my writing as it brings us back to the philosophy, just as Michaela always requested us to do. I think the following paragraphs describes Michaela and her journey.

The fundamental role of the Montessori teacher is to support the child's growth and development by *servicing his spirit*. But in order to serve the child's spirit the teacher must first go on their own spiritual awakening to begin to understand the universe. Montessori states, "One who would become a teacher according to our system must examine himself and forego his tyranny. He must rid his heart of pride and anger. He must learn how to humble himself and be clothed with charity. These are the virtues he must acquire and this inner preparation will give him the balance and poise which he will need." In order for this examination to be thorough "we must see ourselves as another sees us": knowledge is not enough, there must be an inner awareness.

The Montessori teacher supports the child's natural development, this is achieved when the child is thought of as a miracle and a mystery, then the teacher is "more inclined to wait and watch rather than train and teach." A teacher should never forget that they are a teacher and that their mission is one of education in a way that guides the natural development of the whole child. Montessori said, "We must be prepared to wait patiently like a servant, to watch carefully like a scientist and to understand through love and wonder."

The Montessori teacher ensures the environment is prepared, they have the ability to move around the environment in a calm, composed and graceful manner. They protect concentration by knowing when to approach, when to withdraw, when to speak, when to remain silent, what to say, and how to say it. And most importantly they have the will to continue serving the child.

Montessori believed that there was no greater sign of success for a teacher than when they can say "the children are now working as if I did not exist."

*Education of the head, heart and hands:* Michaela is passionate about Montessori philosophy and pedagogy, and the development of the whole child. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been under her wing when I began my Montessori journey. She has been a mentor to so many.

I write this piece to acknowledge the many years of dedication and hard work Michaela has provided to our school. I take this opportunity to thank Michaela for her professional support and guidance to the staff, and for her work with the children and their families.

We wish Michaela well with her future endeavours.  
Tameeka

## Syrian Slushy Express

On Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December Cooper, Eli and Bertie went down to sell slushies.

Cooper thought that after everybody was getting tired and after the competitions they'd get a slushy.

But it didn't turn out that way.

At first we thought that we would get a lot of slushies and run out of mixture.

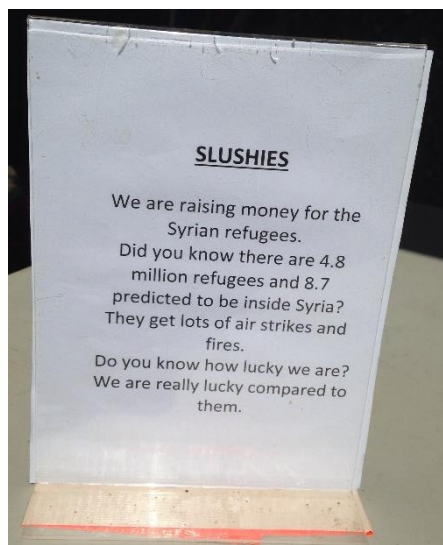
But at the end we had about half the mixture we started with.

We had some help with some family and friends.

But we sometimes weren't ready when people came.

Sometimes we had no pre-crushed ice, not as much help and sometimes we were watching the competitions.

But it ended out well and we ended out with \$240.30 dollars which is a lot.



## Community News

### CHILL OUT THIS SUMMER @ YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

#### Heroes and villains!

Is the theme for this year's **Summer Reading Club**

Children get ready to unleash their imaginations as they discover heroes, villains, sidekicks and more in this year's Summer Reading Club program: Heroes and Villains.

The 2016 Summer Reading Club program will officially run from **Thursday, 1 December 2016 to Tuesday, 31 January 2017.**

Discover great Australian authors and illustrators! Registration, reading records, stickers and prizes are available at your local library. Check your branch for details

#### School holiday programs

Will include stories and craft sessions, designed around the theme of "Heroes and villains", on Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 January 2017 at:

Beechworth 10am- 11am

Chiltern 9am-10am

Rutherglen 11am-12pm

Yackandandah 10am-11am

Bookings are essential, contact your local branch

#### PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Regular story time sessions will carry on throughout the summer holidays.

BEECHWORTH FRIDAYS 10:30am – 11:30am



APPROVED SOCCER TRAINING FOR KIDS FROM  
18 MONTHS TO 7<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

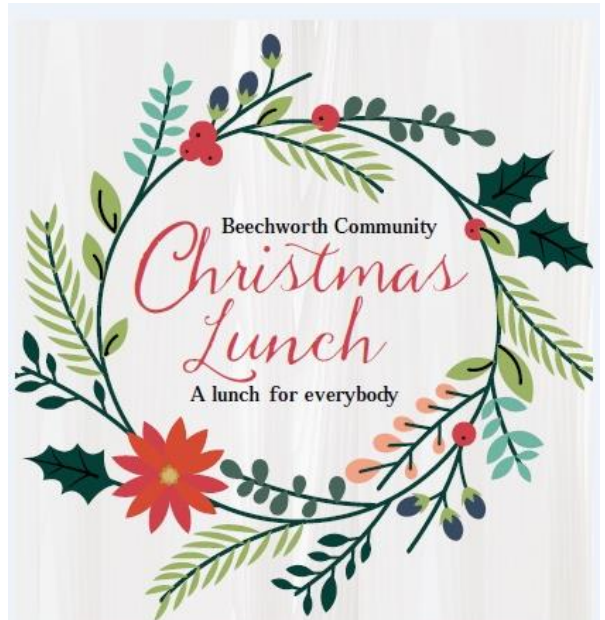
CLASSES IN BEECHWORTH NOW!



**FREE TRIAL CLASS**

CONTACT MATT ON 0435 763 332

or [northeastvic@littlekickers.com.au](mailto:northeastvic@littlekickers.com.au)



You are invited to share  
Christmas Day celebrations with others  
Anyone from the Beechworth  
& surrounding communities is welcome

**Sunday 25th December 2016**

Time: 11:30 for a 12-noon sit down, hot lunch

Venue: Beechworth Memorial Hall

Cost: Gold coin donation • This is an alcohol-free event  
RSVP by 2nd December  
to Beechworth Health Service reception  
p: 5728 0200 or e: [BHSReception@bhs.hume.org.au](mailto:BHSReception@bhs.hume.org.au)  
Transport can be provided if needed, ask BHS reception



[www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers](http://www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers)

Tackers is an Australian Sailing program aimed at getting kids aged 7-12 into sailing.

Each program includes 20 hours tuition from qualified AS Instructors & Assistant Instructors, Fun on-water & off-water games and a Tackers Kit & Certificate.

**Where:**  
Albury Wodonga Yacht Club

**When:**  
16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
1:30pm - 5:30pm (5 sessions)

**Contact us now!**  
Email: [training@awyc.org.au](mailto:training@awyc.org.au)  
Ph: 0467 355 258

**TACKERS**

DISCOVER SAILING AUSTRALIA  
YACHTING AUSTRALIA

**Beechworth Netball Club**

Seeking junior players, senior players and senior umpires (PAID).  
Enquires contact 0407906937.  
Pre-season commences 6pm 24<sup>th</sup> November Baarmutha Park, Beechworth.  
Junior training commences Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Contact [sarah264@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah264@hotmail.com)