

Montessori Memo

Term 3
Week 4 – 3 August 2016

Full newsletter is distributed fortnightly with a brief memo in alternate weeks.

From the Principal

It was great to have some parents choose to stay and chat with me at drop off on Tuesday morning. The main topics explored together were looking at the updated plans for the multi-purpose hall and also how as a school we will embed and follow up from our work last week with the Resilience Project.

Ruby Room Changes

You may have noticed some changes in the Ruby Room staffing. We are happy to welcome Jessica as a casual staff member who has added shifts, whilst Martina is completing her teaching round at Beechworth Primary School. In addition, Michaela was granted a year's leave without pay by the 2015 CoM. She deferred starting this, to further consolidate systems in Ruby but has now indicated that, once Martina returns, she would like to take the remainder of this leave until the end of the year. As a result in coming weeks, we will be looking at the staffing structure of Ruby, with the aim of having fewer staff members in there for longer periods of time. I am sure you will appreciate that to accommodate staff absences, breaks and our operating hours, some staff changeover is inevitable. This is also a positive thing, as it builds staff capacity, and understanding of the ECP service and of all our Early Years Rooms for staff. I would like to thank Michaela for the work she has done establishing Ruby, and wish her a rewarding time on leave, when she goes at the end of August. I hope she achieves her goal of spending more time in warmer places.

Visiting Montessori Principals

It was wonderful to host Gay Wales and Sabine Adigun from Melbourne Montessori School and Plenty Valley International Montessori School last week. Thanks you to Cycles 1 and 2 who prepared a delicious lunch for us. It was great to share approaches between schools, and to further build our connections. Gay has invited our whole staff team, admin and teaching staff, to Melbourne Montessori on Monday 3 October. We will participate in their planned professional learning programs for Cycles 1, 2 and 3 and our admin staff will have a chance to see the extent to which Melbourne Montessori utilise the SAS system, with a view to streamlining our processes.

Meeting for Cycle 3 Parents

Terie and Kat would like to invite you to a meeting next week regarding some ideas we have in mind for creating a more flexible, open-plan learning space across the classrooms. So far, we have had some very positive discussions with the Cycle 3 students but we are keen to get your thoughts as well.

This meeting will take place in Tigereye on Thursday August 11 at 5pm.

Please contact Terie or Kat if you have any queries.

NEW DATE for your Calendar

The first day of Term 4, Monday 3rd October will be a **Pupil Free Day** as all our staff travel to Melbourne Montessori for professional development. Please make a note of this in your calendar.

Bush Dance

Don't forget our Bush Dance which is scheduled for the evening of Friday 9th September at Beechworth Memorial Hall. The children are looking forward to it. Music lessons have been a whirl of do-si-dos and heel and toes in preparation for the night with much fine tuning of their skills. Look out for the invitation in your parent pocket in the next weeks and mark the date in your diary as we are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Census

It is Census week next week. Interestingly, the information you put in the census affects the level of funding we receive at the school. We ask that you fill the information out accurately based on your *current situation* so that we get the relevant funding levels for the school. Thank you.

Antibiotic Resistance Information – from the Department of Health

In Australia now there are increasing levels of antibiotic resistance due to them being given to children to unnecessarily treat cold and flu symptoms.

Please remember that:

- Antibiotics only work on bacterial infections, not viral infections like colds and flus.
- Antibiotics won't speed up recovery from cold and flu viruses.
- Using antibiotics when they are not needed contributes to antibiotic resistance.
- Antibiotic resistant bacteria can spread from person to person.

Working with Children Checks & BMS Code of Conduct– New Child Safe Standards

As part of the new Child Safe Standards all volunteers who are in contact with children must have a Working With Children Check and sign the Beechworth Montessori Code of Conduct. From 10th August all parents who are participating in the classrooms, be it helping with the reading or cooking programs, or going on excursions, **must** have lodged a WWC check and signed the Code of Conduct. Those of you who already have a WWC check lodged with us will, in the coming weeks, receive a copy of the Code of Conduct to read and sign.

A Working With Children Check can be completed online <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

If you select 'volunteer' when completing the check, you will not have to pay a fee. The only cost involved is a fee for passport photos. For more information in relation to the Child Safe Standards and expected implementation please refer to the following website.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/childsafe.aspx>

Responsible Pet Ownership Information Sessions

On Monday 8th August will be running Responsible Pet Ownership sessions for our Cycle 1, 2 & 3 students.

The Cycle 1 session is from 1pm to 1.50pm and is also open to Cycle 1 parents. Please let your child's Director know if you will be attending.

BABY BUNNIES (LOP-Eared)

Free to Great Home

(Bunny Induction provided by Madeleine Cherry)

Please call: Chelsea Cherry on 0415 445 166

Responsible Pet Ownership

Very soon
the Responsible Pet Education Program
is coming to visit you at your Kindergarten!

My pet dog will be coming to help teach you how to be safe around dogs and how to say hello to dog with their owners!

There will be lots of listening, role plays, singing and some dancing.

My dog may even meet you during the visit.