



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

From the Principal

Thank you to Karen Bennetts who worked with staff and the Committee of Management yesterday, explaining and confirming considerations for running a Montessori School in today's context. When working with Directors, we had a particular focus on transition arrangements in our school, and Karen's feedback included that she thought we had a very robust policy in place for this. In coming days, I will make sure several copies of our transition policy are on the coffee table in the foyer for general reference by our community. Karen's work with the COM/Board followed 4 members attending ISV governance training last weekend. In next week's newsletter I will ask Board members who attended to share some insights from this training with the wider school community.

Next week, I will also be attending ISV training, focussing on school leadership and school re-registration. This will mean I will not be in the school on Monday or Friday. Please approach either Karen Bowey or Tameeka Thommers, if you would normally be seeking assistance from the Principal on these days.

As you are aware we recently advertised and conducted interviews for both a Director and an Assistant within the school. Following the deliberations of the panel, I am pleased to announce that we have offered a position to Martina Ryan, who is AMI Montessori diploma qualified, early childhood teacher qualified and is presently working towards her primary teaching qualification. Upon her return from her present teaching round at Beechworth Primary School, Martina will initially work as Director in Ruby room, but it is planned that she will subsequently transfer to work as an Assistant in Moonstone. In the interim, Sue Astridge will continue in the role of Assistant in Moonstone, until this point when she will be available to work with literacy support and special needs and will also have time to do some work in ECP to support the completion of her Early Childhood Teaching Qualification which she is completing in addition to her Primary Teaching qualifications.

After deliberation, the panel has decided to await notice of staff intentions for 2017, and to consider a whole school picture before making an appointment of a new Director for the school. Dina will continue as interim Director in Moonstone full time until the end of Term 3, and will continue 3 days a week as Moonstone Director in Term 4, Nicola Bussell will work as Moonstone Director for 2 days a week in Term 4. Nicola has recently completed her primary teaching qualifications and is partway through completing her Montessori teaching Diploma.

In addition, Emma Wagg, has commenced working casually in administration for us. Emma is also teacher qualified, and will join our CRT team. Emma has her first day as a CRT Director today, covering for Kat in Tigereye. I thank Dina and Sue for their flexibility and the gentle and child centred work they have done as interim Director and Assistant in Moonstone, I congratulate Martina on being offered her role, and thank Nicola and Emma for their flexibility and service to our school. I look forward on the journey ahead, working positively with our new and existing members of the staff team.

As always, please come and see me should you have any questions or queries.

Have a good weekend.

Kind Regards, Bron Martin

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 – Friday 9th September, 6.30pm @ the Memorial Hall

Invitations for the Bush Dance were placed in parent pockets last week. Please let us know if you require another one. We hope you will make sure your children are available to come along so they can show you and reach you what they have been learning.

Entertainment by Squidjig, a 4 piece local North East Band who specializes in Irish, Australian and a variety of other Folk Music. They have been gigging around the local region at Pubs, Wineries, Bush Dances and Festivals since 2002. The Squidjig artists are; front man Conrad Forrer on button Accordion, Irish Whistle and Vocals; Mel Tompkins on Guitar, Fiddle, Mandolin and Vocals; Frog Playing on Wicked Rhythm Guitar and vocal and Peter Sigmond on 120 Bass Piano Accordion.

We plan to have hot soup and bread for a gold coin donation before the band starts at 7pm.

Please contact Helen on helensellar@yahoo.com if you are able to bring a pot of soup.

We are now calling for donations for the raffle that we will run at the Bush Dance. If you have anything big or small that we can use for our raffle, please drop at the office.

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>

the maker's market

BEECHWORTH HANDMADE MARKET
DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS FROM NORTH EAST VICTORIA

SATURDAY
SEPT 3RD
9AM-1PM



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