

Term 2

Week 3 – 29 April 2015

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

03 5728 2940

03 5728 2500

info@bms.vic.edu.au

www.bms.vic.edu.au

42 Gilchrist Avenue

PO Box 306

BEECHWORTH VIC 3747

Find us on facebook

@beechmonty




Montessori in Action!

Your chance to see a Montessori classroom in
action from
Birth - Primary School

Guided tours and observations
Thursday, 30 April, 9am – 3pm

Beechworth Montessori School Open Day
- 42 Gilchrist Ave - 03 5728 2940
www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

Term 2

13th April – 26th June

11 weeks

1 public holiday – Queen's Birthday

1 pupil free day – Report Writing

To Be Advised

Cycle and room excursions if conducted and other events if the need arises

April

30th Thursday – Open Day at School – observations in rooms and tours 9am – 3pm.

May

6th Wednesday - Mother's Day Night 5-6pm

8th Friday – RSVP Montessori Foundation Theory Workshop

12th -14th Tuesday – Thursday – NAPLAN testing

16th Saturday – Montessori Foundation Theory Workshop – MWEI
Trainer Dianne Davis

20th Wednesday - Pupil Free Day - Report Writing day

June

8th Monday – Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday

15th Monday – 19th Friday – Cycle 1 Kindergarten (Funded and Unfunded children) Parent teacher interviews. Room schedules to be communicated prior to this date

19th Friday – Reports distributed – Prep, Cycle 2&3

22nd Monday – 25th Thursday – Cycle 1 Prep Parent teacher interviews. Rooms schedules to be communicated prior to this date

26th Friday- End of term 2.15 finish

From the Principal

The doors will be open to the public on Thursday so that the wider community can see Montessori in Action. May is Montessori Open Day month around Australia and we are joining in the event. Many schools hold open days on the weekend but one of the beautiful things about Montessori is the way that the children use the materials in the classroom – this is hard to see when the children aren't in the room; hence our open day is during the school day. The day is designed to provide an opportunity for those people not familiar with Montessori to see what we do and why we do it; of course those of you already within our school are welcome to attend. The Grade 6 student councillors will be conducting the tours.

Heather

Committee of Management

The Committee of Management for 2015 until the 2016 AGM in March is:

- President –Karen Smith
- Vice President –Amber Croft
- Treasurer – Lara Block
- Secretary – Dean Cleave-Smith
- General Members: – Pamela Walpole, Helen Sellar, Murray Walker, Harry Bussell, Andrea Cook,

Bios of the Committee:

- Lara Block – Children Natasha and Bianca in Cycle 3, lawyer and treasurer of BMCG for past 6 years
- Pamela Walpole – Children Ulrika Cycle 3, Nikolaus in Cycle 2, planning analyst skills in corporate planning and market research, Bachelor of Education degree, 4 years BMCG CoM experience and a belief in and passion for this school
- Helen Sellar – Children Reuben in Cycle 1, Board experience, community engagement, Social Work background
- Karen Smith – Child Elletta in Cycle 1, Financial and Project Management, strategic corporate planning, currently interested in and studying child development
- Murray Walker – Children Takara Cycle 3, Nicholas Cycle 2, Brianna, Cycle 2, Ability to work within a team environment, well versed with computers and IT, basic knowledge of building construction and maintenance
- Harry Bussell – Children Jack Cycle 3, Sophie Cycle 2, Emily Cycle 1, Governance knowledge with board and local Government experience, practical, level headed, innovative thinker with budgeting and financial management skills, business acumen
- Andrea Cook- Children Kobi Cycle 3, Reuben Cycle 2, IT and Financial Management background, Committee experience, interest in environmental and sustainability matters
- Amber Croft – Child Adelle Cycle 2, skills in environmental science and social media/marketing
- Dean Cleave-Smith – Child Oliver Cycle 1, project management, Executive Board experience with Wines of the King Valley/KVVigneron, strategic development, senior management

Parents & Friends (P&F)

Pancake Breakfast

A lovely morning was had by many staff, parents and students last Thursday at our Pancake Breakfast. A huge thank you to all the people who helped with setting up, cooking, serving, donations of jam and lemons, and clean up. Also, thank you to the many families who came in to school early to enjoy pancakes and coffee together.

Social Catch Up

And for those keen for a different kind of catch up, we'd like to invite all adult parents and friends to meet at the Commercial Hotel for a social drink.

Friday 1st May from 8pm

Email us your rsvp or just turn up.

A lovely way to get to know other Beechworth Montessori parents.

General News

Do you have ideas for projects or events for Beechworth Montessori School? An informal group of parents will be gathering Thursday 7th May from 9am to discuss. Join us in the courtyard at the new Honey shop (weather dependent).

Bluearth Community Event – Friday May 1st (weather permitting)

3.30pm for a 3.45 – 4.30pm

Mayday Village Oval


Students & siblings, friends & family

BYO picnic dinner for after the session

BYO water bottle, runners, active gear.

Run by our Bluearth instructor Daniel – be prepared to get active and have fun.
Some student councillors will be running activities.

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Mother's Day Night

Wednesday May 6th
5-6pm
at Beechworth Montessori
(Cycle 1, 2 & 3)

Light late afternoon tea provided.

Mothers, Aunties, Grandmothers, and those that support the children, come along with your child and experience the joy and wonder of the Montessori classroom; spend quality time with your child doing the activities and lessons that they enjoy. Fathers are welcome also.



Lunch Orders next week – Week 4

Tacos - \$2.50 each next Wednesday.

Meat, salad, cheese

Cycle 2 News

Moonstone

Zoology : Last week in the study of vertebrates we focused on reptiles

Name the different types of reptiles, What makes a reptile a reptile? What is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile? Do you know the parts of a turtle? This week we are focussing on fish.

Art: Art lessons commence this week based on subject matter of biomes and vertebrates while different techniques of applying media to paper will be explored.



MONTESSORI FOUNDATION THEORY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 16 MAY 2015

This is a FREE event
RSVP by May 8 is essential as places are limited.

Education should no longer be thought of as imparting knowledge, but must take a new path that seeks to release the human potential within us all.
Maria Montessori

Invitation to parents and friends, interested community members, staff and the wider community to attend a Foundation Theory Workshop. This is a great opportunity for networking, social engagement and education.

Reaffirm that you've made the right educational choice for your child, develop a deeper understanding of your child's journey at Beechworth Montessori School and get to the heart of the philosophy.

Some of the topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Montessori Education
- Maria Montessori's life & influences
- Montessori Principles, Features and Aims
- Myths and Misconceptions
- The Absorbent Mind & Sensitive Periods
- Four Planes of Development
- Human Tendencies
- Preparing the Environment
- The Hand and Independence
- Montessori Materials
- Preparation & Role of the Teacher
- Discipline and Normalisation
- Freedom & Limits
- Rewards & Punishments

The Presenter will be Dianne Davis. Dianne has worked in the field of education for over 30 years which included doing emergency relief at a Montessori School. Working in a Montessori environment inspired her to undertake Montessori studies. She taught in a 9-12yrs Montessori classroom for 7 years and was appointed Principal at Plenty Valley Montessori School, a position held and enjoyed for 10 years. Thereafter she spent a further 3 years as Principal at Melbourne Montessori School. Dianne also does consultancy work for several Montessori schools nationally, as well as for a number of smaller independent schools in Melbourne. Dianne holds a Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Montessori 9-12 MWEI, Diploma of Montessori Leadership AMS.

VENUE: Beechworth Montessori School, 42 Gilchrist Avenue, Beechworth
DATES & TIMES: 16 May 2015
8.50am for a 9am start - 4pm (if attendance for the whole day is a problem, please see Heather)

COST: FREE, places are limited so be quick to confirm your place
Sorry, but we cannot accommodate children at this event.
Bring a plate to share for lunch. Morning tea supplied.
Closing date for registration Friday 8 May 2015 – please advise the Office staff or Heather

Holistic Education for Educators
Montessori World Educational Institute (Australia) Inc.
A.B.N. 94 256 303 039
Unit 3/20 Conserv Loop, Ellenbrook WA 6069
T (08) 6296 7900 F (08) 6296 7911 E info@mwei.edu.au www.mwei.edu.au



Cooking: Seasonal produce is the base of recipes. The cooking group chooses their recipe on Monday, shopping list is written on Tuesday and shopping completed by Wednesday ready for cooking on Thursday. We would like to welcome Georgia Marlowe (Harriet's Mum) who is donning her apron and lending a hand in the kitchen on Thursdays. Narratives, polygons, parts of a leaf, silent e syllables, blends, exchanging, sewing flowers and drawing biomes are just some of the other snippets of conversation you may hear about at the dinner table.

Check:

- ✓ Warm clothing at school
- ✓ A waterbottle and a cup
- ✓ Return my reader folder

Turquoise

Autumn Chill: Many children are coming to school inadequately prepared for the daily seasonal changes of autumn. Please ensure that they come with adequate warm clothing to offset the Antarctic breeze that besets our playground most days.

Botany: The children have been busy learning and investigating the parts of leaves, leaf functions, variations in shape and margins and associated classification, and learning leaf species. This culminated in an excursion through our own



playground as well as Mayday Hills to collect as many varieties as possible. It was a joy to see how the children were able to work cooperatively in mixed gender and age groups to achieve their goal. Question you may like to consider....What is an apex? Margin? Petiole? Stipules? What do veins do? List as many types of trees as you can.

Zoology: Each two week the children will focus on another class of vertebrates. For the past 2 week we have been learning about fish. Questions to consider....Where can you locate a caudal fin? Dorsal Fin? What is the lateral line? Why are fish vertebrates? What are the three types of fish? What are the types of cartilaginous fish? Jawless fish? Are crayfish, jellyfish and starfish fish? What fish have you been researching?

Blink: Blink is a simple card game I have introduced to the room for a couple of weeks before it will disappear to be replaced with another challenge. The children are loving this games as it is quick to play, simple to learn and easy to adapt to varying skill levels while still being challenging for all. It is a cleverly disguised game that is great for strengthening RAN skills (Rapid Automatic Recall).



Sacked: In the lead up to Mother's Day, we have started reading 'Sacked', a humorous story of what happens to a boy when he sacks his mother for being a little less organised than usual with a lovely message about taking people for granted.

Bluearth & Phys Ed: Not even pouring rain and cramped conditions can stop bluearth and PE with the children enjoying an impromptu indoor session.



Cycle 3 News

Across Both Rooms



How to make 119 sausage rolls

Ingredients:

- 6 carrots
- 3 zucchinis
- 3kg of sausage meat
- 15 sheets of puff pastry

- One bunch of parsley
- Bowl
- Knife
- Trays
- Grater
- Chopping board

Procedure:

1. Turn oven on to 200 Degrees
2. Wash carrots and zucchinis
3. Peel carrots
4. Grate carrots and zucchini
5. Chop parsley into little tiny bits
6. Mix everything together including mince
7. Lay all pastry out and cut sheets in half
8. Put a bit of mixture in the middle of pastry
9. Roll the pastry and cut into quarters put on tray and cook for 30 minutes

By Sage Davidson and Poppy Saunders

District Cross Country

On Monday the Cycle 3 students that wanted to went to Yackandandah to compete in the District Cross Country. We left at ten o'clock and came back at two o'clock. It was a very fun day. Everyone ran very well and congratulations to Lia, Uli, Cal, Akheida and Alex who made it through to zone. For the students who are going to zone it is on Friday, May 22nd. A big thank you to Digby Race for helping guide the course at cross country.

By Cal

Lia, Callista, Akeidha, Uli and Alex are all going through to the Upper Hume Cross Country at Wodonga's Willow Park on May 22nd. Congratulations to you all for your efforts yesterday. ***Heather***



William Herbert Birrell by Amelia Leach, Topaz

Bill (short for William) Birrell fought in WW1 from 1914-1918. He enrolled on the 26th of August 1914 at the age of 35. Bill did service in Egypt, Gallipoli and the Western Front. In 2 months he was already promoted to Sargent.

Bill was shot 3 times! First he was shot in the right hip, he was sent off to Egypt for 3 months. The day he came back he was shot again this time in the back, he was sent to England and was there for a further 3 months. A couple of months after he returned he was shot again, but this time in the hand, so once again he was shipped off to Egypt for about 1 month. After 4 months he was shot, but this time it was the last shot. Bill Birrell died in combat age 38 ranked Private, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He has no known grave, though his friends marked it with his water bottle, however it was lost it in combat. Topaz and Tigereye found this all out on Thursday the 23rd of April at the Beechworth RSL.



Mick Scanlon

By Kobi Oke Class: Tigereye

The Cycle 3 students walked down to the Beechworth RSL. We met Craig Duff and Mick Scanlon. Mick fought in World War 2. Mick is 92 years old. He joined the navy at the age of 18. Mick was on an Australian warship that was moored in Tokyo bay when the Japanese signed their surrender. The men that went on the warship slept in hammocks. Mick has 2 or 3 older sisters. One of his sisters is 101.

Bert Bradbury

When both Cycle 3 classes walked down to the Beechworth RSL, I got to dress up as a 2nd World War pilot named Bert Bradbury. Bert was born and raised in Beechworth and loved playing Footy. When Bert was around 19 he was invited to play for the Melbourne Demons and he accepted. At the age of 25 Bert signed up for the 2nd World War and fought as a Pilot. Bert was not a hero in the war, but his life shows that many people who signed up were just normal people in the war and served because they thought it would be a huge adventure. This has been my article on Bert Bradbury, thank you for reading.

By Skip Pieper

My Year 6 Project

My name is Caitlin Drumm. My year 6 project for the year is to grow vegetables at school, then sell them. So far I have got the vegetable bed and have planted some garlic, snow peas, broccoli, kale and coriander. It was hard work setting up, but hopefully it will be easy going from now on. I don't know what I'll do with the money I raise, but I'm thinking about donating it to the school. I hope it will be fun from now on, seeing as setting up was so difficult. I would really like to thank my Dad and Granddad for helping set it up, and both my grandparents for paying for the vegetable bed. It really helped.

NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

On the 13th March, we went to the national young leader's day. It was at the Melbourne Convention Centre in a huge hall with 2000 people. There were lots of speakers there, first was Mike Martin; he thinks that leadership means influence, and the most important thing about leadership is that you have to be yourself.

Next it was Bindi Irwin, she goes on an annual crocodile research trip. After that we had a break and you could get your book signed by Andy Griffiths or you could buy the books.

Andy Griffiths spoke about writing down the first thing that comes into your head and that leadership means directing other people in a different way. Good ideas come from playing and asking questions.

Jessica Gallagher found out her eyes were slowly deteriorating when she was 8 years old so she thought that she better make the best of the time that she had with her eyesight. Now she only has 93% of her eyesight. Her friend invited her to go snowboarding in Europe for 4 months, and she decided she liked it so she went into the competition, but the lady said that she needed to lose 14% of her eyesight. She is now a professional skier and spoke about no matter what happens you have to keep going.

Coen Ashton was the last speaker. He was born with CF and has diabetes. He had a lung transplant, and now he can't grow properly. He spoke about that if you think you can do something, do it no matter what someone else says.

By Eadie Pfahler Mathilda Chambers and Alex Entwistle

Supporting your Montessori Child

<http://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/2015/04/grace-and-courtesy-montessori-at-home.html>

Grace and Courtesy



Have you given much consideration to Grace and Courtesy lessons with your children? It's a topic I haven't written very much about but it's often on my mind. It is more of something we interweave into everyday life rather than something we prepare for and focus on. We build upon it as the child gets older but it's never too early to model. Grace and Courtesy lessons are presented at (Montessori) school but most if not all are best reinforced at home and so relevant to the life of the whole child. As with many skills grace and courtesy needs to be modelled constantly, our children look up to us and will often pick up on and follow our behaviours. I have also come to think that many

grace and courtesy lessons are cultural and would definitely differ from family to family.

Here are a few opportunities we take to teach grace and courtesy in our home;

- Carrying a tray, basket, plate or glass without spilling.
- Moving around the room/house with respect to others, pushing in chairs quietly, putting items down nicely (not banging/stomping around).
- Moving about the room and in public without hitting or running into/bumping into others, passing others.
- Using courteous language when appropriate. 'Hello', 'Excuse me', 'Thank you', 'No thank you', 'May I?'
- Opening and holding open doors and gates for others and closing gently/softly without slamming.
- Listening when others are speaking. Waiting for a turn before speaking.
- Introducing themselves. Greeting a person.
- Being a host. Offering food, drink to others. Helping guests around the house.
- Being a guest. Ringing doorbell, knocking on door nicely, taking shoes off at the door (if this is the custom). Behaving respectfully when visiting friends.
- Coughing, sneezing appropriately. Hand-washing afterwards.
- Offering food and serving others. Serve to others before yourself. Taking dishes to the sink when finished. Using a napkin and eating utensils (age) appropriately.
- Offering help to others.
- Asking to join in a group game or work activity.

- Apologising.
- Dealing with conflict.
- Asking a question (asking a librarian for a book is a good start). Asking for help - children do this at school everyday.
- Placing and order at or store or paying for goods - markets are a great informal location to children to practice this.
- Using the telephone. Making calls and receiving them. Grandparents love it when they receive a call from one of my children.
- Saying thank you and writing thank you notes.
- Eating out (in a formal setting) appropriately.
- Taking turns and waiting for a turn.
- Speaking and interacting with other members of the community - postman, dentist, doctor, nurse.
- Leaving the room before and/or saying 'excuse me' after passing wind.

Some of these are fun to role play. Otis loves playing shops so this is a great way to practice ordering and general courtesy.

I also need to note that the purpose of this approach is not to have an obedient or perfectly behaved child. For our family the purpose is to empower our children with skills and words. Giving them the gift of being able to appropriately handle social situations. Allowing them to be respectful to themselves, family and friends - to all of those around them. This is just a quick list - please feel free to add any Grace and Courtesy lessons that I may have missed or that you use at home.

See more at: <http://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/2015/04/grace-and-courtesy-montessori-at-home.html#sthash.gqTzOtW9.dpuf>

Community News

Resilient Farming Systems presentation

Everyone is welcome to attend an evening presentation on Resilient Farming Systems by visiting US farm educator Owen Hablutzel. Owen is a Director of the US Permaculture Research Institute and serves on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Resilience Taskforce.

Owen will talk about the challenges facing farming and food production systems and will discuss the many positive adaptations and approaches he has encountered across the globe through his work as an agro-ecosystem designer and educator.

This event is free to attend and no RSVP is necessary.

Venue: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

Date: Thursday 30 April 2015

Time: 6pm-7pm

Please see [BULS website](#) or call Paul Ryan on 0488 636 802 for further information.

