

## Term 3 Week 3 – 2 August 2017

*The newsletter will be distributed fortnightly with room reports appearing in alternate editions.*

**2017 Term Dates:** Term 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March (9 weeks)  
Term 2 - 18<sup>th</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June (11 weeks)  
Term 3 - 17<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> September (10 weeks)  
Term 4 - 9<sup>th</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> December (11 weeks)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31 <sup>st</sup> July	1 <sup>st</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> August Parent Information Evening The Great Stories 7pm-8.30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	4 <sup>th</sup> August Coffee Morning
7 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> August	9 <sup>th</sup> August	10 <sup>th</sup> August Cycle 3 (nominated students) Junior School Council 10am-1pm First Aid in Schools with St John First Aid Prep to Grade 6	11 <sup>th</sup> August Coffee Morning Dental Clinic Forms Due Back
14 <sup>th</sup> August	15 <sup>th</sup> August	16 <sup>th</sup> August	17 <sup>th</sup> August	18 <sup>th</sup> August Coffee Morning Cycle 3 (nominated students) Meals on Wheels 11.15am-1.15pm
21 <sup>st</sup> August	22 <sup>nd</sup> August	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	24 <sup>th</sup> August School Sports Carnival	25 <sup>th</sup> August Pupil Free Day
28 <sup>th</sup> August	29 <sup>th</sup> August	30 <sup>th</sup> August Toy Catalogue Orders Due Father's Day Night 5pm	31 <sup>st</sup> August School Sports Carnival	1 <sup>st</sup> September Pasta Night 6pm at The Priory

For any further dates, the **School Stream** App on your smart phone currently shows the next 90 days of events.

For the rest of the year please see the calendar on our website.

## A note from Susi

In the newsletter the articles presented in Montessori Matters are chosen in relation to topics of conversation that may have arisen recently with parents, grandparents, teachers and students. This week the topic is Getting out the Door – maybe it's because it's cold and we love to snuggle in our warm beds or everyone has a sniffle and is feeling tired but many of us are finding it hard to get out that door and get to our destinations on time. Enjoy the read!

**Child Safety Standards, Standard 7 - Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation.** We have been working hard to implement the child safe standards and embed a culture of child safety at the school. Currently we are developing a clear and co-ordinated Child Safety curriculum across all year levels, Prep to Year 6, based on two broad themes:

Theme 1	We all have the right to be safe
Theme 2	We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to the people we trust.

The language of safety, being respectful and inclusive, can be reinforced at home as well personal safety rules as children become more independent. When children start walking to visit friends, go to the shops or play sports, here are some safety rules to remember.

### TELL SOMEONE

- Where you are going
- What time you will be home
- Who you are with
- If you are late or change your plans let your parents/carer know, and;
- Always travel with a friend

**Working with Children Check - Legislative Amendments:** As of the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, a number of important amendments to the **Working with Children Check Act 2005** (the Act) have come into effect. The amendments are part of the government's response to implementing recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. **All volunteers that volunteer in any capacity** here at Beechworth Montessori will need a volunteer Working with Children Check (WWCC). This includes helping in class, listening to children read, attending excursions and camps, etc. Volunteer checks are free. Checks can take around 2 – 3 weeks to be processed. <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/apply+for+a+check/>

### Smiles Onsite Dental Clinic

Did you hear about "Toothie" who visited school this week? Toothie is promoting Smiles Onsite, a professional distributor of mobile dental care, housed in a semi-trailer and heading our way in Week 8 this term. Smiles Onsite are offering:

- FREE dental examination for students
- Bulk-billed treatment to students who qualify for medicare CDBS program including a dental check-up, cleaning and polish, fluoride treatment, sealants, Xrays and fillings

Consent forms have been placed in all parent pockets, there is one for each child. Please ensure you return to the office by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August if you would like to make use of this service.

Regards, Susi



## From the Marketing Sub-Committee

Dear Families,

As part of our goal to increase awareness and interest in our school, the committee of management's marketing subcommittee will soon be reactivating the school's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/beechemonty/>. This will happen on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

This page is an important marketing tool for us. We will use the page to attract interest from new families, by sharing news, stories, upcoming events and advertising. It does not replace the school's current communication channels, which include:

- Beechworth Montessori Families Facebook page - a closed page, not associated with the school or COM, administered by volunteer families, where families with children currently at the school can share thoughts and feelings privately with the school community
- the newsletter, emails and School Stream app administered by the school admin team under the guidance of the school principal

Once the page is active, we would love your support in sharing the content to those who may be interested in Montessori education for children in Beechworth.

We may use images of children at school in promotional materials, including on Facebook, if you have allowed for this in your enrolment forms. We recommend checking or revising your permission to use photographs of your child in this way if this is of any concern.

Thank you for your support as we continue to grow and develop the school. Please do not hesitate to discuss with Karen Chabaud, COM - Marketing and Catchment portfolio.

## Parent Direct Fundraiser

The Parent Direct Toy Catalogues have arrived. Parent Direct offers you the opportunity to purchase quality educational and great value toys with a direct benefit to the school.

Just by ordering toys from Parent Direct, up to 25 cents of every dollar you spend will be given back to us to buy educational resources that will be used by your children. Plus for every 20 orders, we get an additional \$200 to spend. Have a look through the catalogue, then place an order at [parentdirect.com.au](http://parentdirect.com.au) and nominate us for the fundraising voucher during checkout. Alternatively, fill out the order form, return it to the school and we will lodge it for you! You are welcome to list the school as the delivery point and we will let you know when your package has arrived.

Catalogues have been placed in the parent pockets of Early Years families as we only receive a limited amount. If you would like a copy of the catalogue, see us in the office. If you received one and don't need it please drop it in the form lodgement box or leave it at the office.

Order Forms due back Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

## Parent Information Evening – The Great Stories

It was incredibly inspiring to learn about the 5 Great Stories that are shared with students in Cycle 2 and how these are the fundamental basis of Montessori education. I learnt how the 5 stories provide children with a big picture of the world and life, spark wonder and initiate student exploration and discovery. Everything our students learn about, from atoms, dinosaurs and ecology, to ancient civilisations, art, geometry and languages all relate back to the 5 stories.

The 5 Great Stories are:

1. The Beginning of the Universe and Earth
2. Life Comes to Earth
3. Humans Come to Earth
4. How Writing Began
5. How Numbers Began

A big thank-you to Karen and Nicola for sharing your passion for education and inspiring us all. I wish learning had been this exciting when I was at school!

Amber Croft





## Winter Sports

Cycle 3 went to Wodonga for the winter sports carnival on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. A big thank you to Lisa Cogger & Jacqui Alessi for their assistance on the day. It was greatly appreciated.



## Beechworth Montessori Pasta Night

**When:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6pm

**Where:** The Priory, Beechworth

**Cost:** 2 types of pasta plus dessert  
\$25 adults / \$10 children

No charge for children under 3 years old

*Concession discounts may be available, see us in the office*

**RSVP essential by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August to the office**





## Peer Support Program

Last week we started the Peer Support Program which we are running at Beechworth Montessori School for the first time. In Peer Support, the Year 6 students, with Year 5s to help them, lead a group of approximately 12 students in set activities designed to support their emotional and social skills. Each teacher will supervise a group in their classroom. There are a variety of modules available. Each newsletter we will let you know what the coming weeks sessions are covering.

### **Week 2 – Cooperating and Listening – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

During Peer Support this week the children will look at qualities their friends may have and the concept that we choose friends based on the qualities we admire in them. They will also explore the skills of friendship, specifically those of cooperating and listening.

During the week encourage your child to show they are interested in the person they are talking to by being an active listener.

### **Week 3 – Types of Friends – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

Types of friends is the focus in Peer Support this week. Children will explore what encourages them to form friendships with different people (common interests, admirable qualities etc). Through various activities children will identify that their friends can fall into the categories of 'best friends', 'friends' and 'people we know'. Children will also discuss the fact that friendships can change over time for various reasons.

Discuss with your child the different friends they have in their lives and how friendships may change. Some friends may be more important at different times in their lives.

## Early Years News From the Ruby Room

A big welcome to all the new families and their children starting care this term. We are already in week 3 and the children are all settling well into the room's routine, as part of the program they also have outdoor play so we remind parents to send warm clothing for their children such as a jacket or a rain coat, beanies, and extra clothes, as we are still having some cold and windy days.

We also remind parents to sign your child in upon arrival and at the time of departure. This is a very important duty, as it is part of regulatory and funding obligations. As staff members we also need to ensure the safe arrival and departure of children at the education and care setting.

When collecting your child, we are asking parents to wait at the sign-in area especially if you see the educators are having circle time with children. Our circle times are done just before 12 pm and 3 pm. Circle time is a valuable time for them, educators are usually reading stories, singing, dancing or conversing about your child's day and preparing them to say good bye. By coming in the classroom, this very special part of your child's routine is interrupted and it may result in some children becoming anxious and sad because they are not being picked up at the same time as others. We will exchange important information about your child's day at the sign-in area.

We would like to ask donations of plastic pants as they are very useful when children play outside and the equipment is wet.

We are always very pleased and impressed to see children eating beautifully packed lunches, plenty of vegetables and fruits; we are always embracing the healthy eating choices of the children. Just remember to pack peanut and fish free lunch boxes and if you are to send a "treat" we may ask your child to keep that treat for the very end of the day so to encourage eating their healthy foods first.

Are you good at sewing? We have a few pieces of fabric that we would like to turn into tablecloths, so if you have a sewing machine and you are able to, that would be of great help!! Just ask educators for a piece of fabric to do at home.



## From Cycle 1 (Amethyst & Emerald)

### WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to our new children and their families. Hugh, Thomas, and Colleen are in Emerald room, and Lucinda is in Amethyst room. Please help to make our new families feel welcome by introducing yourself at drop off or pick up time.

### WEATHER AND CLOTHES

Our rooms are now deliciously warm with the instalment of four hydronic heaters in each room over the term break. We no longer need to stay rugged up in our warmest jackets throughout the day, but still need a jacket for outdoor activities. We only have a small number of spare jackets and there is still plenty of cold weather forecast, so please ensure your child is wearing layers that they can put on and off as needed and has a warm jacket packed.

### OUTDOORS

The children are enjoying the sunshine and outdoor activities such as role-play, digging, painting, climbing, building, and tidying. The water feature has seen renewed interest with a bit of warmth, as has the kitchen area. The children have been helping to rake and transfer autumn leaves, dismantle one of the apple crates, turn the tanbark, and add another piece of apparatus to the climbing equipment.

### PLAYGROUND HELPERS

During the term, we will be holding a parent meeting regarding improving our playground. The children have identified a number of things they would like to see in our playground, and we have a Landcare grant to go toward our garden. We will be asking for volunteers to take on particular projects, which can be done at a time convenient to you.

### SIGN IN BOOK

Under the National Regulations your child must be signed in to the attendance book on each day that they attend. This is a legal requirement for all children in our Early Years Programs. The person collecting your child at the end of the session must sign your child out of the attendance book and record the child's time of departure.





# Montessori Matters

## Starting Each Day: Tips to Get out the Door on Time

By Anne Prowant from *Montessori Life* Spring 2017

**ANNE PROWANT** is a Children's House directress and freelance writer living in Charlotte, NC. She is AMS-credentialed (Early Childhood). Contact her at [anne.prowant@gmail.com](mailto:anne.prowant@gmail.com).

Mornings can be tough. Everyone needs to get up, get dressed, have breakfast, and be ready to go, often in a short amount of time. We parents can end up rushed, frazzled, and short on patience. No one wants to begin the day that way! Here are a few simple, sanity-saving tips to help mornings with young children feel more manageable.

1. **Establish a nighttime routine.** A good morning starts the night before. Children thrive on consistency, so implement a predictable bedtime routine at the same time every night. Maria Montessori observed that children find security in a predictable schedule. Sticking to the same ritual (perhaps a bath, then story, then song, then lights out) each evening will comfort your child and make it easier to start winding down. Turn off any screens 60 minutes before bed, as these can interfere with restful sleep.
2. **Prepare the night before.** Minimizing the number of things you have to do in the morning is a simple way to streamline your routine. Encourage your children to select and lay out appropriate clothing for the next day, engage them in preparing lunches and/or starting the next day's breakfast, and remind them to place items that need to go to school by the front door. Children as young as 1 can begin to be independent in dressing themselves, and older children can pack their own lunches. Resist the urge to step in—allow children to struggle a little, helping only when you see they may be becoming frustrated. Affording responsibilities like these offers children opportunities for input and thus a sense of ownership.
3. **Stay organized.** One way to avoid a frantic last-minute search for backpacks and shoes is to keep all of these items in the same place. Establish a cubby area near the doorway that has a place for shoes, backpacks, coats, and mittens. Make sure it is attractive and child-size to promote independence and a desire to keep it organized. (Montessori was the first educator to stress the importance of child-size furniture in the classroom.) Set and uphold the expectation that this is where your children should neatly store their things, and take time with your children to restore order if the cubbies get a little messy during the week.
4. **Use the clock.** In this busy world, children can feel rushed around without any understanding of why, and this can lead to tantrums and power struggles. Explain to your child that everyone needs to be out of the house at a certain time. Show them that time on the clock (or use a sand timer for younger children). In the morning, point to the clock and say, "Oh, look! We need to leave in 10 minutes. What should we be doing now?" Wait for an answer, but if the child cannot give one, be direct: "Now is the time to put on our coats and shoes."

It's possible to make the morning routine a team effort, rather than a competition with parents doing all the heavy lifting. The keys are to be prepared, give yourself plenty of time, and allow your children to be independent. Yes, it may be faster in the moment to dress them yourself and rush them out the door. But in the long run, offering your children some ownership over their morning will enable a more peaceful routine for everyone.

Listen to your children's input and involve them in the process—by doing so, you show respect and positively impact self-esteem. As Montessori (2014) asserted, "Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."

### Reference

Montessori, M. (2014.) *Dr. Montessori's own handbook*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

## Community Notices



## Divine Yogafit and Wine catered by The Vine (Chiltern)

*wine  
not?*

Call Deb 0407 531 510 to book or for more info (limited spots)



"we think that yoga,  
meditation, deep breathing  
...and a little wine all help  
smooth out the hills  
& valleys of life."



## 9am – 12pm Sunday

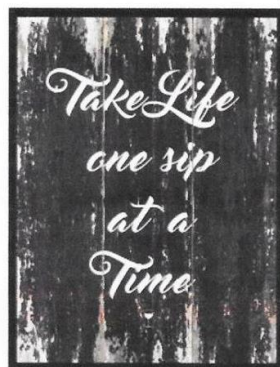
### 2017 Dates

August 13th  
September 10th  
October 8th  
November 12th  
December 10th  
every 2nd Sunday

*Come join us for yoga and brunch.*

*Weather permitting it will be held in the  
garden out the back of The Vine.*

*Alternately we will do the yoga and  
relaxation at the Senior Citizen's Hall  
and then stroll to The Vine for a lovely  
morning and meal by the open fire*



### Food Choices

Baked potatoes, Scones,  
Pancakes, Yogurt,  
Granola cups, Baked  
eggs, Croissants, Quiches  
Chakra pizza plus lots  
more (GF & Vegetarian  
options available)

*Included: yoga, brunch, choice  
of 2 drinks (wine, champagne,  
coffee, tea, juices, hot choc),  
goodie bag & more. Full list  
available when you enquire/book*



— THE —  
**VINE**  
CHILTERN

## Speech Pathology Services



Private Speech Pathology assessment and therapy services  
available at Yackandandah and Beechworth Montessori (for  
BMS students).

Rebates may be available through medicare or private health.  
HCWA and NDIS registered practitioner.

For an appointment please contact Meg on 0422514386 or [meg@megengel.com](mailto:meg@megengel.com)