

Term 1 Week 7 – 16 March 2017

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

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20 th March Cycle 2 & 3 Parent Teacher Interviews Start	21 st March World Harmony Day Family Picnic(BYO Picnic) Cycle 2 & 3 Playground 11.45am start	22 nd March	23 rd March	24 th March
27 th March Cycle 3 (nominated students) Halogen Conference in Melbourne Bus departs Beechworth at 5am & returns 7.45pm	28 th March End of Term Community Breakfast 7.30am to 9am	29 th March Bulbs Direct Fundraising Orders Due	30 th March	31 st March School Photo Order Forms Due Last Day of Term 1 2.15pm finish
School Holidays				
17 th April Public Holiday Easter Monday	18 th April First Day Term 2	19 th April	20 th April	21 st April
24 th April	25 th April Public Holiday ANZAC Day	26 th April	27 th April	28 th April

From now on the calendar for the next 4 weeks will be displayed in the newsletter.

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 see the calendar on our website.

We are in the process of upgrading our School Stream Profile. All current users of the School Stream App will receive a message on the App. You will need to delete the App, reinstall and add Beechworth Montessori.

For new users, see us in the office.

Cycle 2 & 3 Parent Teacher Interviews

Cycle 2 & 3 Parent Teacher Interviews are next week. Have you booked yours? Parents were notified by the Schoolstream app and then later by email. Call us in the office or email us to request a time.

	Moonstone Nicola	Turquoise Karen	Tigereye Kat	Topaz Alison
Monday 20/3		8.10am-830am 3.30pm – 7:10pm	4pm – 6pm	3.20pm – 4.40pm
Tuesday 21/3	8.10am-830am 3.30pm – 7:10pm			3.20pm – 4.40pm
Wednesday 22/3		8.10am-830am 3.30pm – 7:10pm	3.45pm – 5.45pm	3.20pm – 4.40pm
Thursday 23/3				3.20pm – 4.40pm
Friday 24/3	8.10am-830am 3.30pm – 7:10pm			

General News

Bulbs Direct Fundraising Catalogues

We have popped a 2017 Bubs Direct Fundraising Catalogue in the parent pockets of Cycle 2 & 3 families. Unfortunately we were only given a limited number of these catalogues so if you do not require one please return it to the office so we can pass it onto other families. These will then be put in Cycle 1, Tots and Care Parent Pockets as we receive them. 50% of all orders go to the school. If you would like a catalogue and did not receive one please let us know.

Orders are due back at the office by Wednesday 29th March.

End of Term Community Breakfast

Tuesday 28th March is our community breakfast from 7.30am to 9am.

Come along for pancakes and coffee. Gold coin donation.

We are also looking for donations of honey, jams, butter, lemons, eggs and berries for our breakfast. Please leave them at the office. Thank you!

Montessori School Photos

These are scheduled for the week of **May 1st- May 5th**.

Order forms were placed in your parent pockets earlier this week – Please note the Transition Portrait Option is no longer available. Forms Due **Friday March 31st**

MAF

Beechworth Montessori School is a member of the Montessori Australia Foundation. We receive regular eBulletins and eArticles from MAF which we forward onto to our community. As parents and staff of a subscribing school you are able to create user accounts on the MAF website to access discounts and back issues of all their publications. When you set up the account just select 'affiliated with'.

Early Years News From the Ruby Room

Hello everyone,

It's been a very busy couple of weeks for us, we have been working on few different projects tacking advantage of the wonderful weather. The children helped make an outdoor kitchen with help from Dick our handyman at school. We have also been doing some planting with many plant donations from our families. With Harmony Day approaching we made a multicultural area and used books and cooking of different parts of the world to talk about the wonderful world we live in. Have a look at the daily observation book on the sign in table, as we try to write things we do daily. Our Tiny Tots families have increased for Thursdays and have been settling in very well to the school community.

Also, we have a lot of children with dairy items such as yoghurt and cheese in their lunches & snacks. Can you please ensure that there is an icepack in the bag to keep these items cool or alternatively pop them in the fridge when you drop your child off.

Thank you Range and Jess



From Cycle 1 (Amethyst & Emerald)

OUTDOORS

Outdoor play time has improved immensely. The equipment has been used appropriately, younger children are feeling safe and pack-up time is happening much quicker because everyone is working together. The measures we put into place to ensure the children are supervised when they collect eggs and feed the chooks has been an effective and necessary lesson about caring for our environment.

Starting the day outdoors is having a positive flow-on affect, with the children ready to engage in work once we return to the room. There is a busy hum as the children settle into the morning work cycle of practical life, sensorial, cultural subjects, language and maths activities.

AFTERNOONS

We have extended our outside playing time slightly in the afternoon as many of the children are taking a long time to eat lunch. This has also improved the energy and concentration required for the afternoon work cycle. In the afternoons the Preps work in one room and the kinder children in the other, which has been a great way for the children to make more social connections across the two rooms.

CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING

The children have been focusing on ways of learning and being together with a particular emphasis on co-operative learning. This includes prevention of inappropriate behaviour through peer leadership and resilience or strategies to use when resolving conflict. We have engaged in some 'TRIBES' activities, revisited the 3 GEMs (gratitude, empathy and mindfulness which includes kindness) from the Resilience Project and we'll also look at the THINK strategy (Is it: true, helpful, interesting, necessary and/or kind).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Most of the children are enjoying the co-operative games that Josh plays with them, however, a few children are choosing not to participate in Phys Ed. We had a discussion after Phys Ed and most of the children said they enjoy the games, however some children find it very tiring. We talked about being able to sit out and just watch if it becomes too tiring, then joining in again later. Please also remember to send a water bottle with your child for Phys Ed lessons.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We would like to thank families for making the time to chat about their child at Parent-Teacher Interviews last week. It is important to know that while Parent-Teacher interviews are scheduled in Term 1 and 3, we are always available to discuss any issues, questions or concerns you may have at drop-off, pick-up or any other time by appointment.

Cycle 2 News

From the Moonstone & Turquoise Rooms

Moonstone and Turquoise continue to be busy as first term seems to be rapidly drawing to conclusion!

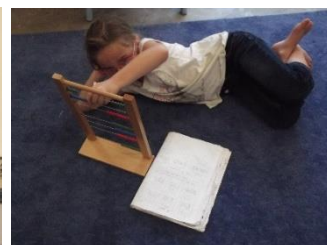
Across both Turquoise and Moonstone we've been studying history through the Timeline of People. So far we've looked at people's progress and world changes through food, transport and defence. This has enabled some exciting art and craft activities, in addition to fun experiments. We've created our own medieval shields whilst learning about what the colours, lines and pictures of different shields signify. We're currently experimenting with the phenomena of hot air balloons, even letting a few rise and 'fly' in our classrooms!

Turquoise:

In Turquoise our focus has been on Europe thus far having explored France, Germany, Spain and Norway cooking and enjoying strudel cultural foods such as Spanish rice, ratatouille and Socca Pizzas.

Moonstone:

In Moonstone we're continuing with our study of countries that are part of the continent, Asia. To this point we've looked at China, Japan, Nepal, India and the Philippines. We've made Chinese lanterns, Indian mandalas and enjoying cooking and eating Sushi, Naan Bread, Banana Dosai and Vegetable Pulao.



Numeracy and literacy are our key focus each morning as we continue with our new spelling programme and for some students, 'rediscover' areas of our room and materials such as those related to geometry and fractions! We've been working on constructing interesting sentences using adjectives to describe our nouns and have been listening to stories, both from chapter books and from other students, to hear how they have used language to bring their ideas and imagination to life.

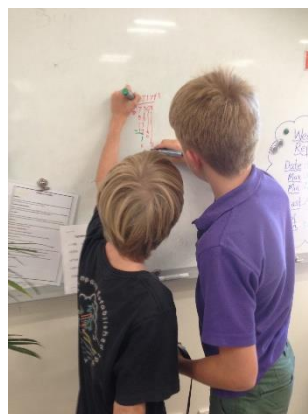


Cycle 3 News

From the Tigereye Room

Maths

Lots of division has been going on in the room. Hagen and Eli have been enjoying doing long division sums on the board and seeing how fast they can do the sums by timing themselves with a stopwatch. The year 6s have been dividing numbers to give decimal answers. Kobi decided to take on 22 divided by 7 which is an approximation of pi. He used a very long sheet of paper down the hallway as the decimal places are never-ending!



Clean Up Australia Day

Clean up Australia day was on Sunday the 5th of March. Elodie decided to organise a little cleaning up of our own so on Friday the 3rd all of Tigereye spent some time cleaning up and around the school grounds. Thank you Elodie for this great idea and for bringing in the gloves so we all had a pair on to pick up rubbish.

DID YOU KNOW? That 500 billion disposable coffee cups are produced every year in Australia which equates to 50,000 cups every 30 minutes. These coffee cups are not recyclable due to having a plastic lining inside. In Tigereye, we've been chatting about starting a social enterprise selling coffees but also perhaps selling Keep Cups with the school colours or logo on them.



ART

We have been exploring watercolour techniques such as wet on wet, wax resist with a white crayon and blending colours.

From the Topaz Room

Hello, Topaz families,

Over the past few weeks, the Cycle 3 reading groups have got up and running. From the books suggested by students, Kat and I chose 8. The students then signed up for the book of their choice, forming 8 reading groups (4 in each class), reading a variety of chapter books from *Alice Miranda* to *The 23 Storey Treehouse*. Each week, one student (or teacher) brings something for their group to eat, while we discuss the plot and characters. We finish up by choosing how many chapters to read for the following week. Students are always very keen to have their reading group, so it's been wonderful to see such literary enthusiasm! (I'm sure it has nothing to do with the food...)

Students have also been cooking regularly. So far, we have been treated to sponge cake, small pies, spaghetti bolognese and meringue biscuits, among other goodies. Always a big deal, cooking takes up most of the day, from assembling ingredients to final cleaning, so last week the Year 6 students suggested and organised a cooking roster, sharing out the cooking opportunities evenly between students over the term.

Areas of special interest over the last few weeks have been the tertiary colour wheel that most students worked on; measuring and recording wind speed and direction using instruments made in the classroom; and experimenting with historical methods of time keeping, such as candle and water clocks. An enthusiasm for writing letters to pen pals has

recently been sweeping through the classroom, and a range of elaborately designed and coloured envelopes are piling up in my in-tray for posting.

In Week 5, we took part in a hockey workshop. While there were a few bruises from stray balls and sticks, students threw themselves into the activities with keen focus. In Week 6, we travelled to The Scots School in Albury to see *Mary Poppins – The Musical*. The production was amazing, with great singers/actors and elaborate special effects. The audience spontaneously broke into applause every time Mary Poppins 'flew' in on her wires. Quite a different story to the movie version, the show was about 2 and a half hours long, with a lunchbreak in the middle, so the courtesy and attention shown by our students throughout the show was fantastic.

Looking forward to talking with you all at parent-teacher interviews next week.

Kind regards,

Alison

Montessori Matters

Keeping Curiosity Alive *Written by Clare Caro*

Taken from www.nature-play.co.uk

It's a bit hard to miss: the media are saying it, the environmentalists and naturalists are saying it, there are campaigns and organisations working hard to get the message out there... our planet Earth is in trouble.

As more and more humans populate the planet, more and more of Earth's resources are required, more and more of the environment is being stripped, and in turn, more and more waste is created. The waste is poisoning our water, changing our soil, polluting the air all of which impacts through the ecosystem. The list of critically endangered animal and plant species is lengthening, and extinction of animal and plant species has increased so rapidly that we are now living in an age known as the 'sixth mass extinction'. Basically, our Earth's ecosystem is like a game of Jenga, when enough 'bits' are taken out, the whole thing will fall!

A growing number of environmentalists are already looking to the children because the future is theirs, they are 'the next generation' who will deal with these issues. As Eldridge Cleaver said, "you either have to be part of the solution or you're going to be part of the problem" which means raising our children to be part of the solution.

What can we do? First we have to give our children time and space outside, lots of it, and if possible right from the start of their life on this planet. For the next generation to even **care**, they must first spend time out in nature, they have to grow their relationship with the living world in order to become passionate about it. Passionate enough to become the young environmentalists who will take over the reins.



But is getting them outside enough? Today's environmentalists have pinpointed one crucial element of human nature which aided them in becoming our Earth Guardians of today, **curiosity**. The hot question on many environmentalists lips is "how do we get children to be curious about nature?" And I can't help thinking the real question is, how do we stop killing the child's curiosity in nature? Every child is born curious about the living world, but not every child is born into an environment that supports that curiosity.

It helps to know what we are talking about first. Curiosity is the quality that prompts natural learning. It is in essence, a wondering or a questioning. It is thought that this quality is part of the very 'biological nature' of the child, and from this thirst for curiously-exploring springs knowledge and a passion. Passion and a thirst for knowledge are prime bullet points on any environmentalists CV.

Here are some simple ways to foster our children's built-in curiosity instead of killing it:

Instead of taking up all the 'air time' by talking, we could stop.

When we stop talking, we make the space for our children to wonder and to be curious out loud.

Instead of naming the treasure she has picked up, we could wait.

When we name the treasure we interrupt the child who is in the middle of wondering, we cut their curiosity short. Knowing the name of something is not nearly as important as experiencing the treasure, as getting to know the treasure. So wait, pop the name in at the end of the exploring.

Instead of hurrying them on, we could *slow down* to child-pace.

Sure, there are times where we need to get everyone to a certain place at a certain time, though it is possible to make time for slow walks too. Slow walks are made for the curious.

Instead of stopping them from looking or touching things they find interesting, we could stop and *reassess*.

We could reassess the objects that our children show an interest in. We could get curious ourselves and wonder what they see in their treasure. Need a little help on this one? While dog poo is probably not okay to explore curiously, sticks, dirt, sand, leaves, grass clippings, clay, winged seeds, acorns, rocks, insects, slopes, worms, birds nests... are perfect treasures for budding environmentalists. The way in which we react and respond to our child's chosen treasures can sway our children's curiosity.

Instead of snatching 'that thing' away from your baby's mouth, we could *observe*.

Curiosity is the way we gather information from each experience. Your baby is building a full 'body of knowledge' for each of the treasures they explore with their fingertips, with the sensitive skin of their face, with the sensory high-way of the lips, the tongue and nose.

Instead of rolling our eyes when they ask "why...", again, we could *meet their curiosity with partnership*.

We could be the partner we would want for ourselves, when we were engrossed in the wonders of the world. Remember, everything is new and wonder-full to babies and children. A true partner listens to us, responds to us authentically, tells us what they know, leaves questions where they don't - questions you can find answers for together. When we can hear our children and respond to their passionate requests, they see us modelling partnership. Partnership is a two way street.

Here is my challenge to all parents on this planet: take your children outside, stop talking and give them space, come alongside them in partnership, and nurture their curiosity. The Earth they inherit from us is going to need humans who are curious, and who question the things that they consume, throw away, and do. This Earth needs people who will be in partnership with the Earth.

If we choose to pick up on even one or two of the ideas on this list we'll make a difference, we'll begin to create the environment for our children's curiosity to blossom. In turn, the environment will benefit from our children's curiosity, because partnership is a two way street.



Community News

Calling all potential art sellers

Do you have any old unwanted art (paintings, posters, prints, etchings.....anything that is able to be hung) hanging around at home (under the bed, behind the sofa, in the shed) that you may as well sell?

Are you an artist looking to sell and promote your own original art?

Quercus Beechworth is taking advantage of the busiest time of the year at Easter to hold the inaugural Quercus **BONA (Beechworth New and Old Art) SALE**.

Book a space and we will sell your art for you over three big days. Quercus BOMA Sale will be promoted through the Beechworth Golden Horseshoe Festival program, facebook, website, posters and flyers as well as coinciding with the popular Quercus Flea Market on Easter Saturday.

Go to quercusbeechworth.com.au, call Quercus Beechworth 57 282388 or drop in to the Quercus Community Bookshop to book a space or further details.

SING IN AUTUMN

..... A vocal workshop


Enjoy creating rich warm melodies, harmonies and rhythms, as you sing songs, chants and improvisations

When: Sunday 9TH APR. Time: 10.15 - 4.00

Where: SENIOR CITIZEN'S HALL, CHILTERN

Fees: \$90 (full) \$70 (Payments before 2nd Apr.)

For bookings, please phone 0423 038 189



the maker's market
BEECHWORTH

THE PAPERED TREE
JHCERAMICS
LITTLE JAY JEWELLERY
ORIGAMI PATCH
PHOTOGRAPHY
PIA AROMATHERAPY
ARTIST ROSE WEDLER
STONEPRINTS
WARBY WARES
STATIONERY

BUY LOCAL
HANDMADE

SATURDAY
APRIL 1ST
9AM - 1PM

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**BRIGHT
RED** FOOTBALL IN
THE COMMUNITY

MUFC ACADEMY

EASTER HOLIDAY CLINICS

Ages:
5-14 years

Cost:
\$40 per day or \$100 for 3 days
\$180 for both Wodonga & Albury clinics

Times:
9am - 1pm

Location:
Yackandandah Sports Field
South Wangaratta Reserve
La Trobe University, Wodonga
The Scots School, Albury

Yackandandah: Monday 3rd April - Tuesday 4th April
Wangaratta: Thursday 6th April - Friday 7th April
Wodonga: Tuesday 11th April - Thursday 13th April
Albury: Wednesday 19th April - Friday 21st April

ENQUIRIES:

To book a place, please email
info@murrayunitedfc.com.au or call 0403 815 921 today!



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**BRIGHT
RED** FOOTBALL IN
THE COMMUNITY

MUFC ACADEMY

GIRLS ACADEMY

5-12 YRS

Expressions of interest needed for Murray United's first ever Girls Academy.
Has your daughter ever shown an interest in soccer or currently plays?
Then why not come and try our girls only program.
The sessions are delivered by qualified coaches
and will be fun for all involved.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

LOCATION: Scots School

TIME: 5pm - 6pm

DATE: Tue 21st & Tue 28th March

COST: Free

ENQUIRIES:

If you would like any information or just want to ask any questions about this program

Please Contact : info@murrayunitedfc.com.au



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AMAZING Kids

Does your child have a unique talent?

Can they do amazing trick shots?

Are they an animal hypnotist?

Or are they just non-stop entertainment?

Apply now for Australia's new show
Amazing Kids!

No matter what their skill, if they are
3-11 years old we would love to see it.

Go to

amazingkids.castasugar.com

or email: castingAU@warnerbros.com





Could you be a permanent care parent?

There are a number of children supported by the Department of Health & Human Services who require a *family for life* as they are unable to live with their birth families. We are seeking committed and motivated people who would be interested in learning more about providing a permanent family for a child.

Assistance payments are made to the Permanent Care family to assist with the day to day expenses of caring for a child/young person. Assistance payments are considered to be a reimbursement for expenses and not an earned income.

We are also keen to speak with families who are particularly interested in caring for children aged between 5 and 10 years.

Information sessions are being held on:

Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 6:00pm
Department of Health & Human Services
43-47 Rowan Street, **Wangaratta**

Thursday 30th March 2017 at 6:00pm
Department of Health & Human Services
163-167 Welsford Street, **Shepparton**



Bookings not essential. For further information please contact:

Adoption & Permanent Care Program

☎: 5832 1500

BEECHWORTH COMMUNITY BANK

FUN RUN

Easter Saturday
15th April 2017

10km Run, 3km Family Event
Major Fundraiser for Beechworth Secondary College

Register online at
www.beechworthfunrun.com.au

Find us on
Facebook

**BEECHWORTH
secondary college**
Balaclava Road, Beechworth

FAMILY FRIENDLY - SPOT PRIZES - BBQ BREAKFAST AND COFFEE VAN AVAILABLE

Art Sale BONA

~Beechworth Old & New Art~

**Pre loved and new art
at affordable prices,
fundraising for
Quercus Beechworth.**

**Find us at Quercus
Beechworth Hall
Cnr Ford & Church St**

Want to sell your old &/or new art?
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reception@quercusbeechworth.com.au
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