



## Term 1

**30 January 2015 – Welcome Back**

*Distributed weekly on Wednesday*

### Term 1

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan – 27<sup>th</sup> March**

*8 weeks, 2 days*

*1 public holiday – Labour Day*

*2 pupil free days – Dyslexia Awareness & Training*

#### **To Be Advised**

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

#### **January**

30<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Students commence – Tots, After Session Care, Cycles 1, 2 & 3

#### **February**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Monday – Friday – Cycle 2 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Piano lessons commence

5<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Bluearth program commences then fortnightly, guitar lessons commence

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Monday – Thursday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

16<sup>th</sup> Monday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday District Swimming Carnival, Cycle 3 - only those who elect to participate will attend

#### **March**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday & Friday – Pupil Free Days, Dyslexia Training for staff

9<sup>th</sup> Monday – Public Holiday - Labour Day

12<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Hockey Roadshow – Cycle 2&3

17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Harmony Day student performances 1.30pm

18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – BBQ 5pm & AGM 6.00pm

21<sup>st</sup> Saturday – World Harmony Day

23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Cycle 2&3 Parent teacher interviews. Room schedules to be communicated prior to this date

27<sup>th</sup> Friday – End of Term 2.15pm finish

## From the Principal

Welcome back to our returning families, and welcome to Montessori to our new enrolments.

There has been much happening over the holiday break with staff attending Montessori courses, in their rooms creating the vital prepared environment, gardening including the Cycle 2&3 sandpit having an upgrade.

The new website will be live on Monday and we would love it if you could have a look at it and pass on your feedback. There is a parent area that requires a password to access the blogs, photos, and other information. This is the same as the School Stream password which was distributed in Parent Packs. If you also get this password from the office.

Don't forget to download the School Stream app so that you can stay in touch via your phone.

On a personal level I would like to thank the wonderful staff for their support over the break – they have taken on many of the things I usually manage as I was unable to do so due to personal circumstances. In particular thanks to Feona, Nicola, Howard, Lynda, Tameeka, Rachel and Pamela for picking up and following through in the areas I was unable to. As I've previously stated I've never worked with such an amazing team of educators who are so

dedicated to children and the Montessori way of education. Thank you doesn't come close to expressing my appreciation for what you have done over the "holidays". It's very exciting to see that Emerald and Ruby Rooms have new flooring; Amethyst will have theirs laid in March/April.

Other exciting news is that Beechworth Montessori School has been nominated for a Telstra Small Business Award. We are not aware of whom made the submission but we are thankful and appreciative. How far we have come from the early days and this is due to the commitment of a team of passionate and skilled supporters and professionals.

#### **Comment boxes**

We aim to continue our process of review and service delivery to enhance our professional practice. Part of this process is to enhance our communication with parents. We wish to strengthen and maintain communication and contact between parents, staff and administration.

To facilitate a means for this to occur we have comment sheets available onsite. These are small slips which you are located in the foyer, in waiting areas, may be emailed to you by staff or handed to you and your children. You do not need to identify yourself and can return your slip to the Form Lodgement Box in the foyer.

The purpose of these slips is to seek your feedback on anything and everything.

You might like to share:

- a suggestion for our classrooms;
- an offer of assistance;
- an anecdote about your child;
- examples of where you see Montessori learning in practice;
- concerns about things we do;
- questions about why we do what we do;
- questions about how you can further your child's learning at home;
- or any other comments you care to make.

These feedback sheets will enable us to reflect more deeply on our practice by including your thoughts and opinions as part of the process. Students are also welcome to use the comment sheets.

During your day to day communication with staff, we may ask you to jot your comments on one of the feedback slips – these will help us to collect evidence of how we are implementing and improving our family centred approach.

### Thanks

There are always people to thank for their contribution to the school over the summer. Whether it be doing some gardening, watering, looking after animals, etc ... thank you for helping out – we really appreciate the support.

On staff we are looking forward to a great year. Thanks for sharing your children with us to enable us to do what we deeply and passionately believe in.

*Kind regards, Heather*

## Staffing 2014

Staff spent considerable time before opening the doors to students to prepare the environment for the start of the year. Teams have reconnected, new staff commenced induction and room dynamics and duties sorted. We welcome new staff Martina Ryan and Mauro Pellegrini, to our school.

Program/Cycle/Room	Directors/Contractors/Support	Classroom Assistants
<b>Principal</b>	Heather Gerrard	
<b>Enrolment Officer and Administration</b>	Feona Roscouet	
<b>Administration Assistant</b>	Nicola Bussell	
<b>Finance Manager</b>	Howard Russell	
<b>Tiny Tots</b>	Michaela Rouch	N/A
<b>Transition</b>	Michaela Rouch	Melanie Mayer
<b>After Session Care</b>	Michaela Rouch (Planning Director), Lisa O'Connor (1 day)	If required
<b>Cycle 1 Amethyst - Preps</b>	Tameeka Thommers & Melissa Scott	Lisa O'Connor
<b>Cycle 1 Amethyst - Kinder</b>	Martina Ryan	Lisa O'Connor
<b>Cycle 1 Emerald</b>	Lynda Raymond	Wiggy Brennan, Geraldine Denis-Hickey
<b>Inclusion Support</b>	N/A	Vacant until further notice
<b>Cycle 2 Moonstone</b>	Susi Allen	Sally Richardson
<b>Cycle 2 Turquoise</b>	Karen Bowey	Sonja Tilev
<b>Cycle 3 Tigereye</b>	Kat Beaton	
<b>Cycle 3 Topaz</b>	Terie Quealy	
<b>Physical Education</b>	Josh Carr	
<b>Italian Culture &amp; Language</b>	Mauro Pellegrini	
<b>Music</b>	Conrad Forrer	

<b>Classroom Support</b>	Lyn Male	
<b>Piano</b>	Peter Benson (Private)	
<b>Guitar</b>	Mel Thompkins (Private)	
<b>Violin</b>	Cheryl Lewis (Private)	
<b>IT</b>	Andrew Croft	
<b>Cleaning, Maintenance, Gardening</b>	Dick Carey	

In addition, Bluearth will be held on a Friday fortnightly commencing next week and whilst our coach will be new to us (but not to Bluearth) he will also be called Daniel. After years of very limited male staff we now have four males in our school!

Please find below letters of introduction from our new staff members.

## Martina Ryan



Hello to everyone at Beechworth Montessori.

My name is Martina Ryan and I am looking forward to joining the Montessori community in Beechworth.

Over the years I have worked in various centres, including ones in Ireland, New Zealand, The Netherlands and Australia. Most were Montessori pre-schools and a bi-lingual long day care, others were traditional pre-schools, long day care, and even a primary school.

My husband Andrew is working in Rutherglen as a wine maker for Stanton and Killeen. The girls, Caitlín (pronounced Kathleen) and Zoe are joining the Montessori primary classrooms. While I will join the teaching team, as a teacher in Cycle one. We have just moved to Beechworth and we're looking forward to settling down here.

## Mauro Pellegrini



Hi everyone,

My name is Mauro Pellegrini and I was born in Rome, Italy. I moved to Australia in 2000, when I married my wife, Samantha. She is currently a Principal at Harrietville Primary School. We live in the stunning valley of Wandiligong and have two beautiful children, Daisy and Maximus.

We are both dedicated teachers who value lifelong learning.

I have been teaching for 10 years and have had teaching and coordinating roles at Wangaratta High School, Myrtleford P-12 College, Porepunkah and Wandiligong Primary Schools.

My teaching methods are Italian and Information Technology. I love spending time with my family and friends, and riding dirt bikes and mountain bikes.

I am excited about the prospect of working at Beechworth Montessori School and bringing my knowledge and skills to enhance your children's growth, development and learning potential. I am looking forward to exploring a new system and environment of learning, which allows children to be independent and focusses on all aspects of development.

I would like to thank Heather for giving me this opportunity.

Sincerely, Mauro Pellegrini

## Committee of Management

Beechworth Montessori School is run by a volunteer Committee of Management. Committee members are members of the wider community and parents of children at BMS who have volunteered their time and skills to the organisation.

They may have experience in the areas of administration, business management, strategic planning, marketing, finance, law, education health or fundraising. Or they may be enthusiastic parents with skills from another field altogether who are happy to contribute in another way to their child's education.

In 2015 the Committee of Management is composed of the following positions.

- President

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- General Members - Five

#### The Committee of Management:

- Oversees the growth and evolution of BMS and supports the Principal who manages the day to day operations.
- Works with the Principal to develop strategic plans and policies.
- Establishes and reviews the vision and strategic direction of the school.
- Appoints the Principal to implement the vision and run the school.
- Provides the resources to enable the Principal to carry out their role.

Members are nominated and elected by other members in the organisation at the Annual General Meeting held in Term 1. Meetings are held monthly at Beechworth Montessori. Further information regarding the 2015 Annual General Meeting and nominating for the committee will be published in the coming weeks.

## Parents & Friends News (P&F)

An email and note will be sent from the P&F soon to advise of a meeting time to plan the year's events that the P&F will co-ordinate and run. If you are wish to communicate your ability to support the work of the P&F you may like to contact Helen Sellar at [pandf@bms.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@bms.vic.edu.au)

Our first event will be the AGM BBQ on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> from 5pm here at school. More details to come on how you can help at this event.

## General News

### Loads of Clothes

Loads of Clothes will no longer be organised by Beechworth Montessori. If you know of a group that would like to take on this event please speak with Heather asap as we are having a clear out of the items needed to run the event.

### Free

Coat hangers, clothes racks, donated clothes from last year's LOC event. Come have a look and take it away before it is donated elsewhere or disposed of.

If you have a missing clothes rack, please contact us asap – we may have it here as there are some that are not familiar to LOC organisers.

### After Session Care 2015

We have finalised the numbers for After Session Care and we will start Term 1 with sessions running from 12pm to 3.15pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

At this stage the only day ASC will not operate will be on Thursdays, however if there is sufficient demand we will be able to run it on this day. Similarly, if numbers drop, we may have to relook at what days to run it but we are hopeful that demand will increase rather than decrease. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office staff.

### Health and Safety in the heat

As is often the case, the return to school sees the temperature increase. If the weather does get hot again here are a few points for your information.

- Heatwave conditions could cause illnesses such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. You are encouraged to take care of yourself and others, especially those at risk including babies and children. Never leave children unattended in cars.
- Schools and services running weekend activities such as sports or camps should be aware of the weekend forecast.
- Advice is to stay cool, drink plenty of water and stay out of the sun.



As a result of the high temperatures Beechworth Montessori School may alter programs, including outside play times. On days declared Code Red, the school will close and children should remain home. Information regarding closure will be communicated to parents through email, notes sent home with children, signs on the doors etc. prior to the day. On days of severe or extreme fire danger, parents may elect to keep their children in their care. If so, please advise the school of your child's absence.

### Parent Pockets

Please assist your child by pointing out their pocket and asking them to check it regularly and take any items home to parents. Older students may need a reminder from parents to regularly check their pockets and to pass on any items that they place in their bags.

## Community News



**fun and games for everyone in the pool and on the grass**

**cool family POOL Parties 2015**

**healthy food and snacks**  
normal pool entry fee  
everyone welcome!  
**4pm - 7pm**

**get cool at Indigo pools!**

**Chiltern Pool**  
Friday 30 January

**Beechworth Pool**  
Friday 6 February

**Rutherglen Pool**  
Friday 13 February

**Tangambalanga Pool**  
Friday 20 February

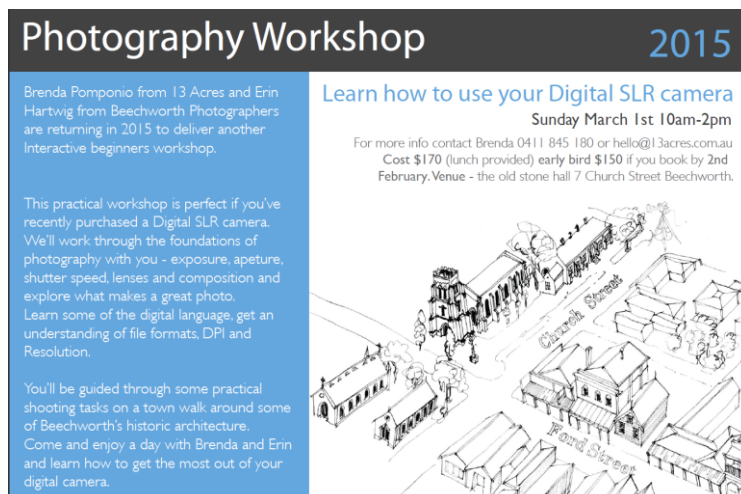
**Yackandandah Pool**  
Friday 27 February

Normal pool rules and entry fee apply  
Children under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult

In wet or windy weather events will be cancelled  
Check Indigo Shire Council on facebook for updates  
info: [www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/pool\\_party](http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/pool_party)  
phone 1300 365 003

**INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL**

**Indigo North Health**



**Photography Workshop 2015**

Brenda Pomponio from 13 Acres and Erin Hartwig from Beechworth Photographers are returning in 2015 to deliver another interactive beginners workshop.

This practical workshop is perfect if you've recently purchased a Digital SLR camera. We'll work through the foundations of photography with you - exposure, aperture, shutter speed, lenses and composition and explore what makes a great photo. Learn some of the digital language, get an understanding of file formats, DPI and Resolution.

You'll be guided through some practical shooting tasks on a town walk around some of Beechworth's historic architecture. Come and enjoy a day with Brenda and Erin and learn how to get the most out of your digital camera.

**Learn how to use your Digital SLR camera**  
Sunday March 1st 10am-2pm

For more info contact Brenda 0411 845 180 or [hello@13acres.com.au](mailto:hello@13acres.com.au)  
Cost \$170 (lunch provided) early bird \$150 if you book by 2nd February. Venue - the old stone hall 7 Church Street Beechworth.

**Church Street**  
**Ford Street**



### Guitar Lessons Term 1

A great opportunity here for children who have shown a desire or curiosity to learn to play guitar. Mel Tompkins who is a renowned local performer and instrumental teacher will continue lessons this year offering a fun and interactive approach in learning this popular and versatile instrument. Please feel free to ring or email regarding any questions or further enquiries.

(Phone) 57 28 6737  
(Mobile) 0408 775 678  
(email) [melmystmusic@gmail.com](mailto:melmystmusic@gmail.com)



**[www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers](http://www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers)**

**Tackers** is a Yachting Australia program aimed at getting kids aged 7-12 into sailing.

Each program includes 20 hours tuition from qualified YA Instructors & Assistant Instructors, Fun on-water & off-water games and a **Tackers Kit & Certificate**.

**Where:**  
Albury Wodonga Yacht Club

**When:**  
Starts February 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Contact us now!**  
Email: [training@awyc.org.au](mailto:training@awyc.org.au)  
Ph: 0467 355 258

**TACKERS**

**YACHTING AUSTRALIA**

### Do you love to sing?

Come and be part of the Yackandah Community Choir.

Sascha (one of BMS's Cycle 1 mothers) will be running a particularly fun song for the children.

First rehearsal this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Details are at <http://www.arts.yackandandah.com/CommunityChoir.aspx>



## All Stars Tennis Coaching Program At Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club

- Term 1 tennis lessons start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015
- Lessons will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Beginners – 4.15 pm / Intermediate – 4.45 pm / Advanced 5.30 pm
- For further details go to [www.allstarstennis.com.au/wangaratta](http://www.allstarstennis.com.au/wangaratta) or text Doug Smith on 0448 396 496 - email [coaching@allstarstennis.com.au](mailto:coaching@allstarstennis.com.au)

**\*\* Early Bird Registration \*\***

**Places are limited so register online between 11<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January to receive a discount on fees and reserve your preferred time and day**

### **HIP HOP DANCE CLASSES IN BEECHWORTH!!!**

START DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> of february 2015.

LOCATION: 7 CHURCH STREET BEECHWORTH ( back door entry)

TIME SCHEDULE: 2 PM-3 PM : 3-4 YEAR OLDS

4PM- 5PM 5-7 YEAR OLDS

6PM- 7PM 8-10 YEAR OLDS

7PM- 8PM 11-13 YEAR OLDS

COST : \$12.50 (per class)

\* Enrolment night on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb 2015, 5-7 pm at venue specified above. Come to hear about the content and direction of the classes and where the students and teacher can meet.

\* Franja Bailey is the teacher qualified as a Primary and Secondary Teacher, Diploma in dance (certificate in II & IV) and a Degree in Human Movement Science.

Hope to see you there!!

Contact if necessary: Franja 0421 024 998



### **Jump on Board the Walking School Bus!**

The Walking School Bus allows children to build more exercise into their daily life and develop road safety skills. Children walk to school with their peers supervised by volunteers who have completed training and a Working with Children Check. The Walking Bus is coordinated by Beechworth Health Service as part of the Health Promotion program.

**In Term 1 the Bus will walk on Tuesday Mornings starting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Please note the bus walks in the morning not home from school in the afternoon.**

#### **The Route:**

Meet at the Beechworth Post Office - 8:25am  
Depart to Beechworth Primary School, St Josephs & Montessori - 8:30am  
**Children can meet the bus at any point along the way**  
**Parents are welcome to walk with the Bus**

Children need to be registered to join the Walking School Bus – forms are available at the school office. For more information call, text or email Anna Mackinlay, Health Promotion Officer at Beechworth Health Service.

Mobile: 0487 425 908

Email: [anna.mackinlay@bhs.hume.org.au](mailto:anna.mackinlay@bhs.hume.org.au)

