

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

Term 2	
11 th April – 24 th June	
11 weeks	
May	
4 th Wednesday – Mother's Day Night	
6 th Friday – School Cross Country	
10 th Tuesday – 12 th Thursday – NAPLAN Testing for Grade 3 & 5 children	
13 th Friday – Beechworth & District Cross Country at Yackandandah – Cycle 3 students	
19 th Thursday – Open Day – 9.45am for 10am start to 12.30pm	
20 th Friday – Upper Hume Division Cross Country	
June	
10 th Friday – Pupil Free Day – Report Writing Day	
13 th Monday – Public Holiday – Queen's Birthday	
22 nd Wednesday – Prep, Cycle 2 & 3 Reports Distributed	
24 th Friday – Last Day of Term 2 – 2.15pm Finish	

From the Principal

I hope to see many of you in the school this evening so you can share the work and classroom with your children, who are excited about Mothers' Day Night. Whilst the children are particularly hosting their Mums, all family members and special people are most welcome. Thank you to the Directors and Assistants for quietly organising this, and to all the children, who are keen to share what they do with you!

On Friday we will have our school Cross Country, so normal programs may be slightly adjusted. As Josh has indicated, parents are most welcome to assist. Cycle 3 and 2 will be in the morning, and Cycle 1 will be participating in a run and games after lunch. We encourage and expect all children to participate, so if there is a little resistance at home, please encourage your son/daughter to experience this positively.

Next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we will be running the NAPLAN assessments for grades 3 and 5. Please note that unless a formal exemption has been submitted by the school, all children in attendance will be expected to complete the assessments, and catch up opportunities will be provided within the week, for children who are absent. In recent weeks I have spoken with several parents about this testing. Please encourage your children to view these tests as another learning opportunity, and not to become uncomfortable or anxious about them. The collective snapshot of the tests across Australia, provides information to government and at a school level about where students have consolidated understanding, and where we can work together with students to consolidate skills. As a school, we receive feedback from the tests that the Directors can use in their planning. Students can also use the biannual report they receive to gauge increased understanding, from whatever their starting point was. Please encourage your children, if they are involved in the NAPLAN testing, to relax, and enjoy having the opportunity to show what they can do, with a new reading, writing, grammar, spelling or numeracy stimulus.

In terms of supporting children with their learning, some of the greatest things you can do as parents is to be positive about and interested in, not only what your child does at school, but to also plan time to share experiences with them out of school. As much as you can: please read to, alongside and with your child, be enthusiastic and positive about the readers that are brought home, and ask your child to assist you with jobs around the house. Seek to do useful things that require literacy, numeracy or practical life skills together at home. Encourage your child to develop his or her individual passions, and a sense of humour as well as resilience.

Lastly, I would like to thank Erin Hartwig..... for her patient and relaxed approach with our school photos. I am sure we will all look forward to receiving our orders, and I would like to acknowledge the time, thought and effort Erin has put in so far to ensure the best possible pictures record your child at Beechworth Montessori in 2016. In response to feedback we have received, we have organised to ensure a “whole of community” photo is taken this year. This will be done after lunch tomorrow, so if your child is not normally here on Thursday afternoon, and you would like him or her to be in the photo, please bring them along at 1.00pm.

Kind Regards,
Bron Martin

School Cross Country

The school cross country is coming up on the 6th of May and I am looking for parents interested and available to help on the day with recording and on course marshalling around La Trobe. It takes many people to ensure a smooth, safe Cross Country and so any assistance would be invaluable.

Cycle 3 classes will be running from 9am to 10am.

Cycle 2 classes will be running from 10am to 11am.

As this is part of our Physical Education program, all students are expected to participate and we will be supporting them to ensure it is a fun, positive experience.

If you are available or have any questions please feel free to contact me at joshc@bms.vic.edu.au

Thank you, Josh

General News

Would you like to be more involved?

We are looking for some parent helpers

- To assist with the school cross country – see above
- To assist with preparation of school lunches on Thursdays. You do not have to have a child in cycle 3 – all help is appreciated
- For the Cycle 3 excursion to the District Cross Country in Yackandandah on Friday 13th May (cycle 3 parents preferred)

Lost Property: A watch and an ipod were found in the car park late last term. If you think they could be yours, please see us in the office.

Wangaratta High School SEAL (Select Entry Accelerated Learning) Program: Information Packs are available from the office.

Open Day

We have our Open Day on Thursday 19th May from 10 am to 12.30pm. Come along at 9.45am for the 10am start. Please invite your friends and anyone who you think might be interested in the school. Please let us know if you would like to be a parent ambassador.

Health & Wellbeing Update

A small but productive group of the Health and Wellbeing Team met on Thursday the 21st of April for the next step in our journey to becoming a healthier school across 8 different areas. Following on from our last meeting where it was decided to pursue, review and improve the school’s mental wellbeing practices, information and policies; this meeting aimed to complete the review process and create an action plan of future intentions and needs. We achieved this and are therefore another small step further along in our journey. Our next meeting aims to review, and where necessary, draft policies for Mental Health, Staff Mental Health and Healthy Eating.

Anna Mackinlay from Beechworth Health Service, also updated us on the Healthy and Resilient Together Project. BHS have submitted an application on behalf of all participating schools to return Hugh van Cuylenburg to the area in July. This will see a similar program to last year’s successful Resilience Project with student, parent and staff workshops.

An example of Hugh’s work can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBKqveMEtb4>

It’s never too late to join our team of interested people. Please see Karen Bowey for more details.

Early Years News

From the Ruby Room

Dear Mum and Dad,

Please pack a jacket and beanie for me when I go to school, I want to play outside but it is very COLD without something warm to wear. I promise I'll bring it home again! Love your child.

We have been thinking a lot about Mums, we love you, and we want to do lots of nice things for you and thank you for being our Mum. Here are a few things that have been said about you

My Mum and Dad sleep in the same bed.

I like going to the shops with my Mum.

I like it when Mum reads me stories.

I like it when Mum reads me stories in my bed when I am going to sleep.

I like seeing my Mum.

I like playing wrestle with my Mum.

I like baking with Mum.

I like playing Ironman with Mum

I play hide and seek with my Mum

I'd like to hop in a fire truck with Mum

I love my Mum

Happy Mother's Day to all our families.

A big thank you to the Brown family for their donation of a cherished cot and an ottoman from Geraldine for outside storage

We would gladly accept all donations of bags, various shapes and sizes for dress ups and pretend play.

If your child is sleeping through the ECP program please ensure they have a sheet and a blanket as the weather has turned colder.

The children who stay after 3.15pm in ECP will also need extra food packed for their afternoon tea. Perhaps placing it in a separate container and labelling it 'afternoon tea/snack' will see it survive lunchtime. The cold weather tends to make them eat more!

Tonight, Mother's day evening Ruby room will not be open as our care program runs until 5.30pm.

*Please also be aware that the Ruby Room will be **closed** on Friday 10th June as this is a Pupil Free Day.*

Thank you

Michaela, Martine, Lisa and Geraldine

From Cycle 1 (Amethyst and Emerald)

Outdoor Reflections

SANDPIT AREA: We have priced a cover for the sandpit, but it is extremely costly. If anyone has shade cloth that they have no use for, we would gratefully accept any donations.

There has been quite a bit of digging in the sandpit. As all of the equipment is now kept on the shelf next to the sandpit, the children are utilising more of it.

A group of children have been busy digging up what they describe as ochre. They then take the ochre to the role play kitchen area and grind it up, add water and paint the logs in the garden. This activity is into its third week and was completely initiated by the children.



WATER FEATURE: The pump on the water feature has not been working for a while. We have had Xav look at this and are waiting on a specialised ring to be replaced. Meanwhile, the children have been filling buckets and tipping them at the top of the feature.

ROLE PLAY: There have been lots of tea parties, with the children filling the teapot with filtered water and pouring each other a drink.

A group of children busied themselves making potions. They gather ingredients such as petals from around the yard and then add water, mix, and smell.



BIKES:

The bikes have been very popular over these three weeks, particularly in the afternoons. It could be a renewed interest from our Road Safety excursion in Wangaratta.

SPECIAL INTEREST: The woodwork bench continues to be popular, however we are having trouble keeping the supply of timber up to the children. We have a tub at the hardware store to collect off-cuts, but if anyone has off cuts of timber at home the children could make use of, it is another donation we would gratefully appreciate.

Cycle 2 News

From the Moonstone Room

Our habitat is really beginning to take shape, with plants being put in, the path extended and gravel being put down. The magic of this project is the unanticipated community spirit which we are seeing – people often stop by to look at the progress and have a chat; children detour to run along the path and climb on the stones. The gravel surface of the path was donated – and last week Murray Walker gave us a trailer-load of yuccas... We are also gleefully anticipating plants and mulch from Indigo Shire, arranged by Jenny Pena. Year threes are getting a taste of a different style of schooling as they prepare for NAPLAN: formal testing is a real rarity in Montessori, so for students there is novelty in this, as well as some trepidation – but it is all grist for the mill, as they say.



From the Turquoise Room

Atmosphere: We have been learning about weather; what it is, what part of the atmosphere it occurs in, exploring different ways to describe weather, and starting a pictorial graph of daily weather observations. We have also been learning about air pressure and barometers. Do you have a barometer at home you could share/talk about with your child? I also asked the children to watch a weather presentation on TV or the internet and keep an eye out for the isobar weather map.

Classroom: We have been focusing on improving our awareness of how much we may interrupt and disturb the work of our peers with the goal of reducing its occurrence and impact in our room.

Bookwork: the children have been asked/encouraged to pay more attention to the presentation of their work; it's neatness, its layout, correct use of rulers, dates and margins.

Cooking: we are making 'winter warmers' each week such as casseroles and soups along with flat breads. It's always great to see the children enjoying healthy, nutritious foods.

Cycle 3 News

From the Tigereye Room

Social Enterprise

On Friday in Week 2 I went to a follow-up session on Social Enterprise in Education run by the Social Enterprise Academy Australia. This was a follow up to the day that Terie and I attended with the Social Enterprise Academy last year and as a result of that day we helped students to understand a bit more about social enterprise and they even started a few social enterprises of their own (including tea/coffee making, selling seedlings, selling origami). Of course, we also have our Cycle 3 weekly enterprise of selling school lunches! Social enterprises are enterprises where the profits generated are directed so as to help a social need ('Thank you Water' or 'Who gives a crap' toilet paper are examples). Over the next few weeks, Terie and I plan to meet with the students and really help them figure out what the 'social' aspect of their enterprises might be and also help them to develop/refine business plans for existing and new enterprises. For more information about social enterprise in education including information about the screenings of the film 'Most Likely to Succeed' (about social enterprise in education) go to <http://www.acre.org.au>. The film is coming to Beechworth on Friday May 20th.

Personally, I feel very inspired after attending the Social Enterprise workshops and particularly after hearing about some of the fantastic things that are happening with Social Enterprise in schools throughout Scotland.

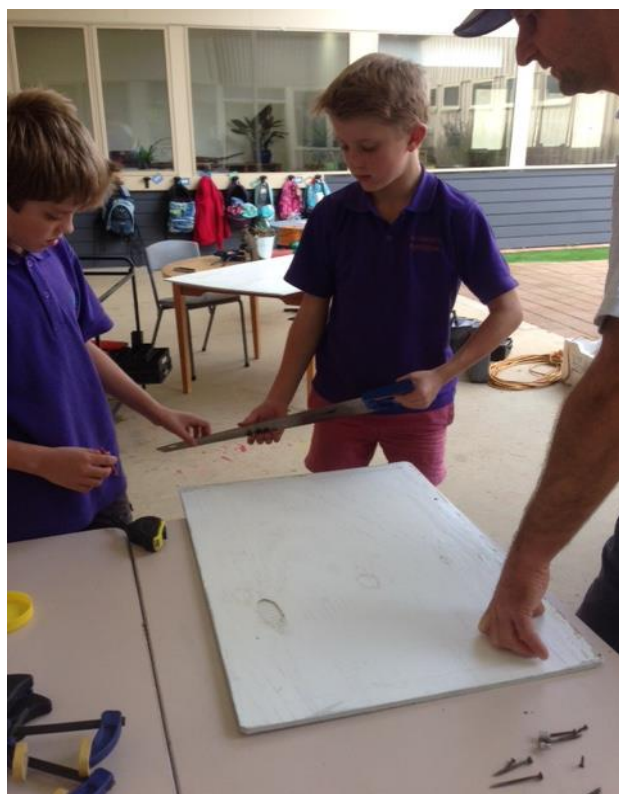
Other News

Thanks so much to Ruby's mum, Trudi for coming in each fortnight, passing on some of her incredible knowledge in Ecology and Botany. Last week, the lesson was on seeds, in particular about how seeds get dispersed and germinate. The children have now started an experiment investigating the effects of different treatments on the germination of wattle seed (including cracking them open with a rock, boiling them, sanding/filing them!).

Also, thanks to Amelie's mum Bec who comes in several times a term to help with art. Last Friday Bec taught the students about still life drawing and they had a go at drawing a still life.



Checking out seed parts under the microscope as part of Trudi's lesson on seeds and seed dispersal.



Kobi & Hagen helping re-build the chicken coop with Gunter.



Cooper doing cross-stitch.

From the Topaz Room

On Friday the 29th of April, Terie told us a story about the history of writing. First there was writing on caves, then hieroglyphics, then Phoenicians developed the alphabet, which was improved by the Greeks and Romans. In 781 AD an English monk Alciun of York developed lower case letters. We talked about how we communicate today using texting and emails and in the future there might be holograms and things like that. When Topaz was at sport Terie our teacher was setting up this ancient writing activity, there were so many things to choose from. There was calligraphy, a type writer, ancient alphabets, drawing, writing with feathers, Chinese symbols and much more.

I liked the lead printing press letters the best. They were really fun

By Oaka



Flowers for Sale

Mother's day special

All red pots half price but only until Friday!

Sold on the trolley out the front of the school.

And guess what!

Our first flower has bloomed!!

By Charlotte and Sage



School Disco

Nick and Noah, year 4's from Topaz, are organising a school disco.

- When: Thursday June 9th
- Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre
- Time: 5:30pm - 7pm Prep & Cycle 2
6.30pm - 8pm Cycle 3
- Cost: \$6 per person



Invitations will be placed in parents pockets soon.

Community News

Registration forms
available from the
office.

Indi Fundraiser for
Mittagundi

Bush Dance & Auction

Saturday, May 28th
Beechworth Memorial Hall

BBQ dinner from 6.30pm
Bushdance & Auction 7.30pm - 11pm

Tickets \$30/ \$60 family
buy them early @ www.mittagundi.org.au

For more info or to help out call
Claire Peck 0467 678 818



MONTESSORI 0-3 WORKSHOP 'ME DO IT' – SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE IN THE HOME, NIDO AND INFANT COMMUNITY

Saturday, 14 May 2016 9:00am - 4:30pm
VIC

This workshop is ideal for educators and parents and will offer insights and practical strategies to support the emerging independence of children in the first three years of life.

"The child's conquests of independence are the basic steps in what is called his 'natural development'. In other words, if we observe natural development with sufficient care, we see that it can be defined as the gaining of successive levels of independence."

The Absorbent Mind, p. 76

This workshop will explore the supports and obstacles to the development of independence with regard to language, movement, eating, toileting, sleeping and self-concept. This includes both the physical and psychological supports and obstacles to the positive growth of the child under the age of three.

"The child's conquest of independence begins with his first introduction to life. While he is developing, he perfects himself and overcomes every obstacle that he finds in his path. A vital force is active within him, and this guides his efforts towards their goal."

The Absorbent Mind, p. 83

Plenty Valley International
Montessori School
315 Aqueduct Road, St Helena VIC 3088

Registration Fees:
Subscribers: \$180
Non-Subscribers: \$240
Includes lunch and tea breaks

Registrations close
Saturday, 7 May 2016



SARA BRADY holds AMI diplomas at both Assistants to Infancy and Children's House levels. She has a Masters in Education from Loyola College in Maryland. Since 1999 Sara has worked extensively in a variety of Montessori settings: long-day care, preschool and Montessori in the home. She has enjoyed working in Nido and Infant Communities as well as parent/infant classes. Sara lives in Sydney, Australia with her husband and three children. Sara is qualified as an AMI Assistants to Infancy trainer.



Mindfulness & Meditation

The 8 week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction course is an evidence based program shown to be effective in managing various physical and psychological issues, as well as leading to a greater sense of ease, wellbeing and resilience.

Beechworth

Commences Friday May 6th
Friday 9:15am to 11:45am
The Spa Beechworth, Albert Rd, Beechworth
Day of Mindfulness : Sunday 12th of June

Wodonga

Commences Wednesday May 4th
Wednesday 6pm to 8:30pm
24 Brockley St, Wodonga
Day of Mindfulness : Sunday 12th of June

Cost : \$475 inclusive of comprehensive workbook and guided practice recordings. Discounted options are available depending on your circumstances

Early bird discount : register and pay by April 22nd to save \$50 off the full-fee price

To register please visit www.bordermindfulness.com, email Ben at info@bordermindfulness.com or call on 0419 699 306.



Positive Parenting Telephone Service

This Program is offered to parents, grandparents & carers of children aged 2 – 10 years

Our ten week program aims to assist you to:

- *Develop a stronger and more positive relationship with your child/children
- *Manage everyday behaviour problems
- *Set rules & limits
- *Teach new skills
- *Developing behaviour strategies

Through our service you will receive a workbook and weekly phone calls with a parent educator. All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.

Interested?

For more information or to enroll phone

FREECALL 1800 880 660

ENROLMENTS TAKEN ALL YEAR ROUND

Start now and make a positive start last a lifetime



This service is funded by Department of Human Services Victoria

