

Term 3

Week 5 – 10 August 2016

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

Term 3

11th July – 16th September

10 weeks

August

18th Thursday – Parent Talks at Templestowe College & Plenty Valley International Montessori School

19th Friday – Meals on Wheels

31st Wednesday - Maria's Montessori Birthday

31st Wednesday - Father's Day Morning 730am to 8.30am

September

2nd Friday – School Athletics Carnival

2nd Friday – Toy Catalogues Orders Due

5th Monday to 9th Friday – Parent Teacher Interviews

6th Tuesday – Beechworth District Athletics

9th Friday – International Peace Day Bush Dance Celebrations

16th Friday – Meals on Wheels

16th Friday – Last Day of Term 3 – 2.15pm Finish

Term 4

3rd October – 15th December

10 weeks

October

3rd Monday – Pupil Free Day

From the Principal

It's been another busy fortnight, with much going on. On Monday all children in the school had a visit from Glenys Stansfield from the *Responsible Pet Ownership* program and had the importance of caring for, being respectful to and cautious of animals reaffirmed to them. This was an enjoyable, and thought provoking session for all.

With so much wet weather over recent weeks, the children have enjoyed being able to spend their lunch play outside again this week. Our soccer pitch is very water logged but the rest of the yard is certainly being enjoyed by the children. We are awaiting new deliveries of green mulch, which Jenny Penna has organised for us. The mulch will be dropped both out the front of the school, and in the back, hopefully in proximity to Tigereye, if the truck can get in that far. It will need to sit for six weeks or so, but will then be ready for us to utilise in Spring, as we see fit, both for student projects in the garden, and by any parents who are keen to help with our landscaping. Thanks so much Jenny for taking this initiative.

The Building Sub-Committee had an incredibly productive meeting last Thursday, which resulted with the architect, Greg Kennedy leaving with sufficient information to prepare the tender documentation for our multi-purpose hall and associated building projects including heating, floor coverings and the Cycle 1 COLA. This is very exciting, and means that hopefully we will have builders appointed by mid next term. Penny Everingham has been incredibly focussed and organised with her leadership of this sub-committee and I would like to thank her on behalf our community for the time she has put in getting us to this stage. If you have not already, please make sure you vote on the roof of the multi-purpose hall! A copy of the display

from the foyer, together with a voting slip is attached to this newsletter. Greg, our architect is suggesting that the portion of the roof line that will be visible from the car park be built to represent a piano. His rationale is based on the fact that our prime functionality requirement for the hall is performing arts, (followed by meeting the sporting needs of our students particularly in wet weather, providing a place for our school community to assemble, and lastly to provide a multi-purpose facility for wider community gathering.) Greg's suggestion is that if we proceed with the representation of the piano on our roof line, our building will be a point of interest and reference within the community, and add to our sense of place and purpose. Please let us know what you think, via your vote. Children are also welcome to vote, however Penny as the Building Sub-Committee Chair requests that people limit themselves to one vote! Penny needs to relay a decision to Greg tomorrow, so please return any outstanding votes at drop off tomorrow, so she can process, count and confirm the decision.

The panel for the recruitment of new staff met last week, and will meet again this week. It is important to consider the whole staffing picture in such situations, and we will communicate with you, as soon as is appropriate. In the interim, I would like to thank Dina, Sue, Jessica, Geraldine, and Lisa for their flexibility to take on extra roles and/or shifts with the upmost professionalism, always keeping the children's learning and wellbeing in the centre. This week we have had several last minute staff absences, which happens in schools, and as a result, some staff have willingly moved sideways, or covered when they were not scheduled to. Schools operate best when the team positively watch out and cover each other when needed, so I am really grateful for this flexibility from staff when we need it.

Next week Karen Bennetts from Montessori Australia will be visiting our school again on Thursday. We are still finalising her schedule, but we are aiming for her to spend time working with both staff and the Board. We are fortunate that someone with her depth of experience with Montessori practice, governance and administration, is able to support our school in this way.

I hope that our Cycle 3 parents and present Grade 3 parents as well as anyone else who is interested are able to join Kat and Terie on Thursday night, to discuss options for Cycle 3 into the future, which will support a more social interaction and flexibility for all Cycle 3 students and staff.

Have a good week.

Kind Regards,

Bron Martin

Bush Dance – Friday 9th September @ 6.30pm

Invitations for the Bush Dance will go out this week. Bring your own nibbles and food or buy soup and bread before the dance.

We will be entertained by the fabulous Squidjig, a 4 piece local North East Band who specializes in Irish, Australian and a variety of other Folk Music. They have been gigging around the local region at Pubs, Wineries, Bush Dances and Festivals since 2002.

The Squidjig artists are; front man Conrad Forrer on button Accordion, Irish Whistle and Vocals; Mel Tompkins on Guitar, Fiddle, Mandolin and Vocals; Frog Playing on Wicked Rhythm Guitar and vocal and Peter Sigmond on 120 Bass Piano Accordion.

From Helen Sellar...

Our children and Conrad have been working hard this year practising for the Bush Dance. Great music, dancing and our kids teaching us what they have learnt. Hope families and friends can come!

We plan to have hot soup and bread for a gold coin donation before the band starts at 7pm.

Please contact me on helensellar@yahoo.com if you are able to bring a pot of soup.

Thank you, Helen

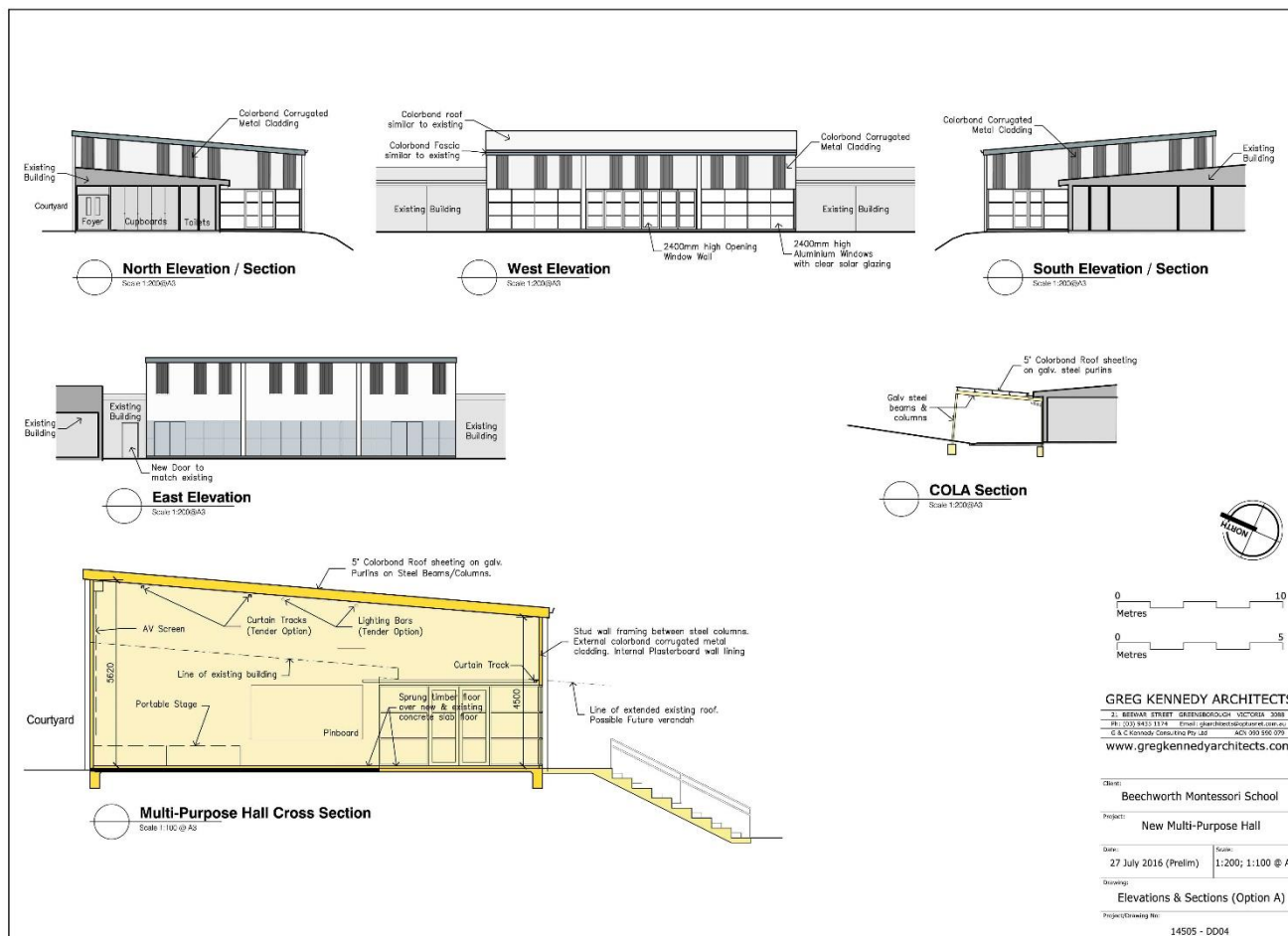
Raffle

We are now calling for donations for the raffle that we will run at the Bush Dance. If you have anything big or small that we can use for our raffle, please drop at the office.

Multipurpose Hall – voting closes tomorrow

Those of you who have been in the school this week would have seen the board in the foyer for the plans for the multipurpose hall. The architect has come up with the idea to include piano keys as artwork two sides of the outside of the building. The artwork will be seen from the main carpark and the Cycle 2 & 3 playground.

The Hall Subcommittee would like feedback from our community as to this idea. Voting and questions close tomorrow, Thursday 11th August. Please submit your vote in the school foyer or email admin@bms.vic.edu.au



New Date for your calendar

The first day of Term 4, Monday 3rd October will be a **Pupil Free Day** as all our staff travel to Melbourne Montessori for professional development. Please make a note of this in your calendar.

Pyjama Day

Thank you to all those who supported the recent pyjama day. All money raised (\$100) will go directly to the Devil Island Project in Tasmania. The Devil Island project is working to preserve healthy Tasmanian devils, assist those afflicted with the Facial Tumour disease, and are now trialling a vaccine against this disease. Money will also help provide transportable fencing to reintroduce Devils to the wild while minimising road kill of healthy animals.

Congratulations to Hannah and Elsa for all your efforts.

Toy Catalogues – orders due Monday 5th September

This week the Educational Experience Toy catalogues were delivered to the school in addition to the ones from Parent Direct and Chalk which arrived last week. These catalogues are filled with hundreds of great value, fun, educational toys perfect for birthday and Christmas presents.

By ordering through these catalogues from Chalk and Parent Direct, 20 cents of every dollar you spend will be donated back to our school to spend on educational resources from Modern Teaching Aids. So not only do you receive quality toys but your purchase also assists in the ongoing learning for your children throughout the year. In addition, if we have more than 20 orders we receive bonus vouchers.

Ordering is easy. Fill in the order form and return to us. We'll place the orders and let you know when they have arrived at the school. Delivery is free for orders over \$150, \$7.90 for delivery to your home and \$3.90 for delivery to the school.

We have placed copies in parent pockets of children in the Tiny Tots and kinder programs. If you received a copy and do not want the catalogues, please return them to the office. If you did not receive a copy but would like one, please register your interest at the office and we will order a copy for you. Alternatively we have 3 office copies and plenty of order forms so you are welcome to peruse the office copies and place your order from them.

Early Years News

From the Ruby Room

Hello everyone,

On Thursday mornings in tiny tots we have enjoyed exploring the use of juggling scarves and yoga to develop hand eye coordination and gross motor skills. Optimal brain development depends on the opportunity to move in a way which is directly connected to mental activity.

A common belief in the Montessori world is that a child's level of success in school may be directly related to how he/she feels as a capable, independent human being. It's for this reason that our Montessori classrooms offer so many opportunities for children to refine their gross and fine motor skills through the practical life activities, such as pouring, scooping, carrying, window cleaning etc. It is our role to encourage this independence and remember to never do for the child what she can do for herself.

Last week the children in tots and ECP have been happily making pizzas for late snack, choosing toppings, spreading passata with. This is a good social opportunity when they sit at the table and chat while they eat from the youngest (1yr old) to the eldest (6yrs).

(Some of the children coming in later in the afternoon from cycle 1 may need extra food as they have eaten their afternoon snack through the day.)

The sunny weather last week gave us more outside play which the children loved, lots of running, ball games, hide and seek and of course the well loved sandpit.

There was even a touch of Spring in the air!

Thank you

Michaela, Martina, Lisa, Jessica and Geraldine

From Cycle 1 (Amethyst and Emerald)

Resilience Project – The 3 GEMs

Gratitude - at the end of each day we check in to identify what or who has made each child's day good and the children also may chose to share something they are grateful for.

- I'm grateful that I have parents who love me.
- I'm grateful that my lunch box is full everyday.
- I'm grateful that I have a warm jacket.
- I'm grateful that I have brothers and sisters.
- I'm grateful that I have an electric blanket.

Empathy - we have been labelling various emotions and what these emotions look and feel like. This has included the children participating in role-play.



Mindfulness - after outside play each afternoon the children have rest time where they lay and listen to calm music, participate in guided meditation or do mindful colouring.

Kindness - at the end of each day the children also identify acts of kindness that they have done or someone did for them. This has also initiated discussion on fairness.

VEYLDF Outcome 3 WELLBEING: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing (Self Care)

3a) Children become strong in their social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing

Responsible Pet Ownership

We had Glenys come with Mishy the Rottweiler to present to the children how to approach a dog, this includes;

1. STOP,
2. ASK the owner if you can pat their dog,
3. let the dog SMELL the back of your hand,
4. PAT the dog.

Glenys also demonstrated how to respond to an angry dog, which included;

1. Stop still
2. Hands down
3. Be very quiet
4. Keep your eyes to the ground.



Cycle 2 News

Across Both Rooms

Zoology: Moonstone and Turquoise have been joining forces to extend our knowledge of arthropods. The children have had group presentations, undertaken small group self directed learning tasks and revision sessions. Questions to ask your child... What makes an arthropod an arthropod? What are the 3 groups of arthropods? What makes an insect an insect? What makes a crustacean a crustacean? What makes an arachnid an arachnid? Can you name 3 examples of each? What three body parts do all insects have?

Responsible Pet Ownership: Both Cycle 2 rooms were treated to a Responsible Pet Ownership presentation lead by a local animal lover and educator Glenys Stansfield and her beautiful dog, Mishi. The program is a government funded project for the purpose of promoting important safety messages through animated presentations, song and role play.

Students were educated on a myriad of topics which included picking the right pet for your family, supporting the physical, mental and emotional needs of pets, maintaining a healthy and safe environment for pets and other animals and identifying and understanding the body language of animals not only for the purposes of personal safety but as a show of respect and consideration to animal culture. Mishi patiently stood by as students practiced the safe procedure of approaching a dog belonging to another person. Safety hinges on the first step of this procedure which is to always ask the owner permission to pat or interact in any way with their dog. Glenys is doing a fine job in the region as a few months ago young children stopped me on the street in Beechworth and asked if they could pat my beautiful boy Stratos – a gorgeous big black Labrador cross who adopted me nearly a year ago!

From the Moonstone Room

Students generally rush into the room after play in a flurry of excitement, commotion and activity which often takes time to diminish. Consequently we have introduced various relaxation techniques in the room to encourage serenity and wellbeing. It appears that there is no one way to 'relax' as some like to lie still with their eyes closed while others prefer to sit up and watch beautiful imagery on the screen while listening to various styles of relaxing music (so far we have enjoyed Enya, Mozart, gentle guitar, nature sounds and others). Many students who appeared physically distressed at having to sit still were able to relax while drawing as calming music played in the background. The mood and energy in the room begins to change after around 10 minutes and it is a shame to end it after the 15 minutes is up because by that stage most appear lost in their own world of peace and tranquillity and it is a shame to call them back to hustle and bustle of 'reality'. We will continue to practice these techniques and students will be free to engage in whichever method of relaxation serves them best on the day.



From the Turquoise Room

The Resilience Project: Remember, this was not a once off event but a prompt for further growth—both at home and at school. The children of Turquoise have been practicing mindfulness and gratitude since Hugh's visit last year and will continue to do so. We have now also added regular meditation into our day commencing with a Smiling Minds activity each day at 9am.



Geography: The children continue to explore the Australian continent becoming more familiar over the past weeks with our history and land and water forms.

Sleepover: I'm sure a few afternoon naps ensued Saturday afternoon (me included). A great night to explore lifecycles in more detail and experience sleeping away from home. A huge thankyou to Juliet Plowman and Christie Rodda for giving up their time (and sleep) to make the event successful.



Cycle 3 News (Tigereye & Topaz)

Cross-Country Ski Trip to Mt Buffalo

What a fantastic day we had at Mt Buffalo! There were smiles all day as the students enjoyed learning to ski, snow play, snow ball fights (hmmmm... with some rules!), as well as our school-made hot pumpkin soup and choc chip oat slice! All this despite a very grey day and very low temperatures.



A massive thank you to: **Meg Engel** **Charlie Showers** **Matt Davidson**

These lovely three volunteered their time for the day and were awesome cross-country skiing teachers. Meg was particularly impressed with the resilience of the students in learning a new skill. Thanks also to Bron for coming along for the day. Looking forward to another trip next year! After we returned, the students wrote some poems about their day in the snow.



In the Snow by Sophie

In the snow, I feel excited as I'm putting on my skis.
I see, icicles as I ski down the slope.
In the snow, I feel happy as I go down the hills,
I see, waterfalls as we drive up the mountain.
In the snow, I feel calm, because there's no one around
I see, snow gums covered in snow
Beautiful mountains, I'm lucky to be here



To Fly
A poem by Amelia

To soar through the air like a bird
Is my dream
Flying so high that all troubles are forgotten
If I had one wish
My wish would be this
To fly like a bird if only for a day
Because to fly would mean to forget
And to forget would mean to forget all the bad
And to forget all the bad would make life complete
But how could I forget?
How could I leave it all?
Because the bad is good, it makes us, us
It makes me, me
And although to fly would be my wish
But to forget?
How could I be the same?
I think I'll stick with the aeroplanes

Social Enterprise

A business that supplies stationery



We have started up a stationery shop (called Pencils and Pens) for our social enterprise. We started it because we realised lots of kids needed stationery because they either lose it or it breaks. We were loaned money by Jodie Le and Sage Davidson to buy the stationery. Also Daisy, Zoe, Alanna and Samadhi donated \$15 to us from their old social enterprise. We decided to start with selling the basic needs (Pencils, pens, glue sticks and erasers). Since we have started we have made \$50 but most of that went to paying back the loans. We are open on Monday and Thursday mornings in the foyer from 8:30-9:00. If you are desperate for stationery and it's not Monday or Thursday you can come to the Topaz room and ask for Sage and Charlotte. If you want some stationery that we don't have we can get some in for you. Thank you to all the people that supported us.

By Charlotte and Sage

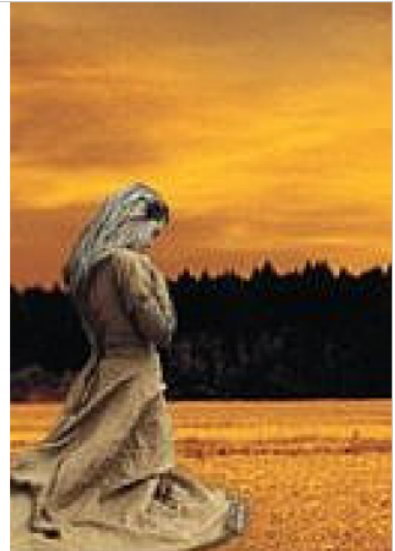
Student Teacher in Topaz classroom

My name is Jess Sharp and I am currently in my third year of a Bachelor in Primary Education, learning to become a teacher. My family and I have recently moved to the area and I am very excited to have the opportunity to do a teaching placement at your school. I will be based in the Topaz classroom with Terie working with the Cycles 3 students. I am very fascinated to learn about the Montessori way and am already very impressed by the responsibility and enthusiasm you all show for your learning. I will be at your school for 4 weeks, observing, getting to know you all and then creating and teaching some hands on learning experiences in the Cycle 3 Classrooms. I look forward to getting to know you all.

A KINK IN MY *Armour*

Author Lizzie Rose

An empowering true tale of one woman who overcame adversity in its harsh, raw and naked form, *A Kink in My Armour* also tells of sadness and pain, of true inspiration, love, compassion, and empathy. It is an inspiring testament that a person can live through four decades of horrifying abuse and still move forward to lead a more positive and fulfilled life. No matter what challenges she faced, this woman showed true strength and courage, took control of her life and in the end became the victor.



LITERARY LUNCH

Fundraising for



Sunday 4th September
Neighbourhood House
30 Ford St, Beechworth 12noon
Lunch & Talk \$40 pp

Purchase tickets: At Beechworth Books
or St Josephs PS or
Phone Jo on 57281243



Rutherglen little athletics

New season begins on Monday 5th September 2016 and runs until last week of term 4.

At the Rutherglen show grounds from 4:15pm until approximately 6pm.

Online registration portal opens on 12th August 2016 at www.lavic.com.au

New members are welcome for a 2 week trial before registration. For further enquiries contact Bec Jones 0409364961.

BABY BUNNIES (LOP-Eared)

Free to Great Home

(Bunny Induction provided by Madeleine Cherry)

Please call: Chelsea Cherry on 0415 445 166



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

Registration Fees:
Subscribers: \$30
Non-Subscribers: \$40
Includes tea, coffee
and refreshments

PARENT TALK MONTESSORI AND TOTAL EDUCATION

Thursday, 18 August 2016, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Society tends to focus on the intellectual development of its children, placing them in schools, where development of the intellect is intended to be nurtured. Maria Montessori believed that there is a great deal more to the individual than just the intellect, and although her work clearly supports the intellectual development of children in a way that is yet to be equalled, it also simultaneously and consciously supports a much broader developmental spectrum.

This presentation will examine the different developmental facets of the child: physical, emotional, social, intellectual, moral, creative, spiritual/philosophical, personality/temperament, and it will also highlight some fundamental principles of excellence that are embedded in the Montessori approach.



GREG MACDONALD is an AMI Elementary teacher trainer at Washington Montessori Institute at Loyola College in Maryland. Mr MacDonald also serves as a consultant for AMI-USA. He holds the AMI 3-6 and 6-12 diplomas, and a primary teaching diploma from the State College of Victoria in Burwood. Mr MacDonald earned

an education degree from the University of Southern Queensland and a master's degree in education from Loyola College in Maryland. He has twelve years of experience teaching in Primary and Elementary Montessori classrooms, as well as public school teaching experience. He has served as principal in a public school setting, and in Montessori schools.



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Please see our website for our event refund and privacy policies.

Parent Talk - Montessori and Total Education Thursday, 18 August 2016 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

My payment is included as follows (GST included):

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