

**Term 1**  
**Week 1 – 5 February 2014**  
*Distributed weekly on Wednesday*

## Term 1

**30<sup>th</sup> Jan – 4<sup>th</sup> Apr**

*9 week, 2 days*

*1 public holiday – Labour Day*

*1 pupil free day – Restorative Practice Training Day 2/2*

### **To Be Confirmed**

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

### **January**

28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Pupil Free Day

29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Pupil Free Day

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

### **February**

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Monday – Friday – Cycle 2 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Meet and Greet – Moonstone/Susi & Topaz/Terrie – 2pm

14<sup>th</sup> Friday District Swimming Carnival – Chiltern, Cycle 3 - only those who elect to participate will attend

14<sup>th</sup> Friday blueearth program commences fortnightly

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Monday – Friday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Parent Information Session – Restorative Practice  
7.00 – 9.00pm \$10 per family (adults only) RSVP and payment 21/2/14

### **March**

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

11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Pupil Free Day – Staff Training Restorative Practice – Day 2/2

19<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – BBQ 5pm & AGM 6.30pm (To Be Confirmed)

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

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

24<sup>th</sup> Monday – Parent Information Session – Resilience – Jo Lange  
6.30 – 8.30pm Old Priory \$5 per person

### **April**

4<sup>th</sup> Friday – End of term 2.15 finish

## **From the Principal**

Welcome back to our returning families, and welcome to Montessori to our new enrolments. It's an exciting time as we see how tall the children have grown, meet new children and reconnect after the summer break.

It always inspires me when I walk into a classroom and see the work occurring .... I have had many goosebump moments over the last week of classes as I've seen the teaching and learning that has been occurring.

We are also busy with observations at present – children preparing for transition to new cycles, parents observing new rooms, enrolment enquiries, and the children take these in their stride. They are so capable of accommodating and adapting to subtle and not-so-subtle changes to their routines. A highly desirable personal trait.

### **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 many people to thank for their contribution to the school over the summer. Rob and Jane Holden and Mick and Lou Ritchie donated couches which have already been utilised (particularly by the children of staff), Michaela, Ben & Skye for the work in new Ruby Room outdoor learning area at the southern end of the building, Rob Holden and Mark Ladbrook for the work in this area. The Ryan, Plowman and Alessi families also contributed across the Cycle 1 and Ruby areas over the summer break. Thank you for helping out – we really appreciate the support.

### After Session Care

It has been extremely exciting to finally see a Montessori childcare program commence at our school. Thank you to those parents who have supported it by booking children in ... and to the staff for embracing change and seeking to continue to provide positive programs to meet the needs of our community, whilst maintaining affordable access. I've seen the program in action and it's delightful. If you would like to enrol your child in sessions, please contact Feona in the office.

Whilst I know many don't like the heat, I'm thriving. I'm sure Cycle 2 students are very thankful that swimming is being held in warm weather and not in the bluelip conditions we have suffered at times in the past.

*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 to our school and embrace the return of past staff who have come back with a willingness to share new experiences and ways of educating children. Already the feeling is one of unity and positivity amongst the teaching and support staff. This year sees our biggest team yet .....

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 (Planning Director), Melanie Mayer	If required
<b>After Session Care</b>	Michaela Rouch (Planning Director), Lisa O'Connor (1 day)	If required
<b>Cycle 1 Amethyst</b>	Tameeka Thommers	Melissa Scott, Lisa O'Connor
<b>Cycle 1 Emerald</b>	Lynda Raymond	Wiggy Brennan, Geraldine Denis-Hickey
<b>Inclusion Support</b>	N/A	Zoe Pinard
<b>Cycle 2 Moonstone</b>	Susi Allen	Sally Richardson
<b>Cycle 2 Turquoise</b>	Karen Bowey	Donna Hughes
<b>Cycle 3 Tigereye</b>	Kat Beaton	
<b>Cycle 3 Topaz</b>	Terie Quealy	
<b>Physical Education</b>	Andrea Belci	
<b>Italian Culture &amp; Language</b>	Andrea Belci	

<b>Music</b>	Position Vacant	
<b>Literacy and Numeracy 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	

## 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 2014 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, commencing at 7.30pm, and all members are welcome to attend.

Further information regarding the 2014 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 Christie Rodda on 0417 534 707 or [Christie\\_vogt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Christie_vogt@yahoo.com.au)

## Parent Education Sessions – Term 1

### Restorative Practice

Restorative practice encompasses an innovative approach that helps people to understand the effect their behaviour or actions have had on others. It promotes and enhances the development of:

- Empathy
- Accountability
- Responsibility

It allows for moving forward and doing things differently.

It works towards restoring and maintaining relationships and provides a supported framework to find realistic solutions to problems whilst taking care of participant's wellbeing. It protects students against risk factors such as poor academic success, disengagement and bullying.

Beechworth Montessori School is holding a parent information session to:

- Inform parents of how restorative practices are being implemented at the school.

- Help parents, teachers and students to understand how to prevent and respond to wrong doing in the same way.
- To see an opportunity for learning as a result of dealing with challenging behaviours
- To gain common ground in regards to understanding how to build and maintain relationships.

This session will provide information on:

- What Restorative Practice Is
- Why We Use It
- How Beechworth Montessori School Is Using It
- How You Can Use It.

The aim is to have the school and families on the same page in regards to this positive behaviour management strategy. To enable us to work **with** one another for long term sustainable outcomes where your child's wellbeing is at heart.

### **Session Time**

Date: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
 Time: 7pm – 9pm  
 Venue: TBC (dependent upon numbers)  
 RSVP: RSVP and payment essential by Friday 21/2/14  
 Cost: \$10 per family  
 Who: Parents and interested adults from all schools in the Beechworth area – not only Montessori families  
 Practitioner: Jo Martin, Rethought

### **To RSVP**

[info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)

or contact the Beechworth Montessori School on 5728 2940

Direct deposit information to confirm:

Bendigo Bank, BSB 633000, Account 146770748, Account Name BMCG

Please reference RP Surname and send a confirmation email to [info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au)

### **Resilience**

Montessori families are invited to a parent education session on resiliency in children presented by Jo Lange. You can google "Jo Lange" for more information. 24<sup>th</sup> March 6.30 – 8.30pm. Cost \$5 (if both parents attend, cost remains at \$5). Organised by St Joseph's Primary School. Location dependent upon numbers – either St Joseph's school or Old Priory. RSVP and payment essential asap. Payment to be made to the Office at Montessori please.

## **Physical Education News (PE)**

Welcome everyone to Term 1 and a fun filled term of Physical Education (PE). As you are aware the weather is hot and going to get a little bit hotter over the next few weeks so, it will be important that students come prepared for PE sessions. Please don't be alarmed, if it is too hot sessions will be conducted indoors and activities will be of a more sedate nature. However, if we are outside would parents ensure all students have the proper attire for PE sessions:

- a sun smart brimmed hat,
- a drink bottle;
- appropriate footwear for sport activities,
- and finally sun smart clothing (no singlets or shoestring strap dresses).

I am happy to provide time for students to change into shorts/skorts/sneakers prior to the commencement of PE activities if they do wish to wear other clothing in class.

### **An important sports date for Cycle 3 students only:**

**14<sup>th</sup> February – Beechworth & District Swimming Sports at Chiltern.**

During the next few days Cycle 3 students will be issued with swimming forms providing them with the opportunity to participate in swimming events at the Beechworth & District Swimming Sports being held in Chiltern.

This is a great opportunity for your children to:

- participate in local swimming events,
- encourage other Montessori students

- meet and support other students in our sports cluster.

Event forms need to be completed and handed in to Kat or Terie by the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**For your child to attend they need to be able to swim 50 metres (2 x lengths of Beechworth pool) in the student's chosen swim stroke.**

I am hoping we will be able to enter maybe one or two relay team events as well as quite a few individual swimmers.

If you would like further information about this event please contact me via email (andreabelci@bigpond.com) or I am contactable at school Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Andrea Belci

## bluearth

bluearth commences at Beechworth Montessori School on Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> for all children in prep – grade 6 and will be held every fortnight for two years. This is in addition to our weekly physical education program. Students will participate in class groups in 45 minute sessions delivered by a qualified bluearth instructor. The bluearth approach is a holistic approach to physical activity and wellbeing. It utilises movement, motivation and learning to support, encourage, enable and challenge active living. It not only teaches the enjoyment and fun of being physically active, it also draws on their feelings, reactions and thoughts that resulted from their participation. Bluearth's six elements are co-ordination and agility, skill activities, movement challenges and games, core movement, dynamic movement control and moving in the environment. The bluearth rules are have a go at all activities, have fun, do your best, show respect. For more information on bluearth go to [www.bluearth.org](http://www.bluearth.org). We are excited to bring this program to the school.

## General News

### Health and Safety in the heat

Recently we have seen heatwave conditions in our region.

- 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

We have redesigned the parent pockets which are located in the foyer. Labels are alphabetically arranged according to the child's surname, with the child's name underneath. The names of parents are still located on the label but in smaller type and at the bottom. We hope that this will enable children to more readily locate their name and pocket. Please assist your child by pointing out their pocket and asking them to check it regularly and take any items home to parents.

### Piano Lessons

There are some time slots available for piano lessons during school time starting Term 1. Lessons are \$29 a half hour. For further enquiries, please call Peter Benson on 0411 127 335.

### Wanted

Do you have a car seat/booster seat for young children that you no longer require? We would appreciate having a few of these on site to support the transfer of children to the Childcare Centre. Let Feona or Heather know if you have one that you would be willing to donate to the school or drop them off at the office.

## Ruby Room News – Tots, Transition, After Session Care

Welcome back and here is hoping that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas, New Year (it seems so long ago) and holiday time. We have a few changes happening in Ruby room this year. There will be three different programs running in this room at various times throughout the week.

Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings Tiny Tots playgroup will begin at 9.00am and finish at 12pm

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings the Transition program will begin at 9.00am and finish at 11.45am, numbers permitting of course.

Every afternoon After Session Care (ASC) will begin at 12pm and finish at 3.15pm for those children in Cycle 1 rooms requiring childcare.

Mel will be the Directress for the Monday and Friday Transition days and Michaela will be the Transition Directress on Wednesday mornings, Tiny Tots Playgroup and After Session Care Monday through to Thursday afternoons. Lisa O'Connor (part time assistant in Amethyst Cycle 1 room) will be the ASC Directress on Friday afternoon and Zoe Pinard will assist in Wednesday transition class. Assistants will be appointed where needed for the Transition classes.

Newsletter articles for these programs will appear under the Ruby room heading.

Children attending any of these programs will need a change of clothes and a broad brimmed hat for outside play. Please ensure these items are labelled with your child's name.

On those days where very high temperatures are forecasted children will be able to play under the sprinkler so you are welcome to pack some bathers for them to wear. Sunscreen is provided or you are able to bring your own but please label it if you do so.

### **Tiny Tots – Parent/toddler program**

Families using the playgroup will need to fill out an enrolment form for 2014 – even those who filled one out previously – so we can update records. Once filled out and returned to the office a parent pocket will be available with your name on it for correspondence, newsletters and an invoice for the term. Please see staff for an updated 2014 handbook and an enrolment form

### **Transition Class**

Parents are welcome to put their name on the roster to help in the Transition Program. A roster sheet will be placed with the sign in book for you to fill in if you can help.

### **After Session Care (ASC)**

Parents please note on days forecasted for high temperatures the children are able to play under the sprinkler or in shallow water so pack their bathers so they are comfortable to get wet.

Our team in Ruby room are looking forward to caring and working with your child and happy to talk with you and assist where we can.

Many thanks

Michaela, Mel, Lisa, Zoe

## **Cycle 1 News**

Welcome back to all families. It has been an interesting process observing the children's response to the resumption of school along with the change in our daily routine necessitated by the hot weather. We continue to be surprised by the resilience of young children as they take all these major changes in their stride.

A couple of quick notes for you:

Specialist sports classes with Andrea Belci have been scheduled for Wednesdays. This impacts on our routine for term 1 only. As the preps are not attending on Wednesdays for this term, we will proceed with sport for returning school children (those who were preps last year and have returned to cycle 1 prior to transition) on Wednesdays. This will enable these children to experience a more intensive 1-1 program prior to cycle 2 transition. To ensure that preps do not miss out, we will be offering a sports program on Thursdays for prep children only which will be run by cycle 1 staff under the guidance of Andrea.

Each second Friday commencing 14 February, all school aged children will participate in bluearth classes (I'll leave that explanation for Heather: suffice to say it will be a terrific addition to our curriculum in Cycle 1)

Please ensure children are wearing suitable shoes for sport on the relevant day.

Please ensure children do not wear crocs and thongs at any time. They are not safe shoes for climbing or navigating up the playground slope and cause children to claw their toes due to the lack of support. Children wearing crocs or thongs will play inside for their own safety.

To protect children from the sun, we request that children wearing shoe string tops or dresses be provided with a t-shirt to wear over this whilst outdoors.

**All Cycle 1 children must be signed in and out** – this is a legal requirement and is checked during inspections to ensure compliance. The new After Session Care (ASC) program has added to a bit of confusion with this issue. All children are signed in at either the Amethyst or Emerald room regardless of how they finish the day. When they are collected, either from one of these rooms or Ruby room, they are to be signed out using the same book they were signed in. You will notice a new column on the sign in book so you can tick whether children are to be taken to ASC.

With the commencement of After Session Care, we now have **3 possible bag tag options** to guide staff about where children need to go: After Session Care at 12.00, Child Care transfer at 3.15 and the school bus at 3.15. **Please ensure that you display the correct tag on your child's bag each day.** Children arriving at school on the bus do not need a tag (this becomes confusing in the afternoons) – you just need to ensure that the driver is notified of the child's destination when putting them on the bus (the school assumes responsibility for the child once they reach school).

### **Cycle 1 outdoor space**

Last week we placed a plan for the cycle 1 space in the courtyard for parents to consider (it has now been moved to the foyer). Thanks to everyone who has provided input and offered assistance. Later this week, we will place a list of the jobs that are needed to achieve the plan alongside the display so that you can register your interest in specific jobs relevant to your skills, expertise and tools! Once we have an indication of the assistance available, we will prioritise the jobs and allocate a staff member to facilitate getting the work done.

If you have any questions about the diagram or the written explanation or are able to offer any materials such as bamboo, old gates, boulders, paint, besser blocks or plants; please let Lynda or Tameeka know. As the weather becomes a little kinder we will start preparing the yard and doing any of the small jobs that can be undertaken with the children. It looks like we already have a chicken coop being donated. We will provide an update each fortnight in the newsletter to keep you informed of our progress.

Thanks so much to the Alessi, Plowman and Ryan families for your support in watering our plants over the holidays.

## **Montessori Matters**

### **Montessori around the World**

We have been asked to send to our Australian community a petition to save the International Montessori School in Hong Kong from closure. Their lease will expire in July and the government has not granted an extension. The education and livelihood of the 350 young students of the school are in serious jeopardy.

If you would like to lend your support, feel free to add your name to the online petition:

<http://chn.ge/1aU8c8j>

## **Community News**

### **Beechworth and District Hockey Club**

**Summer hockey commences Monday 10th February 6pm at Beechworth Primary School oval.**

**You can email your team of seven to [contact@beechworthhockey.com](mailto:contact@beechworthhockey.com) if you do not have a team just turn up on the evening and we will find you a team.**

**The clubs first registration evening will be held at summer hockey on Monday 17th February 6pm until 8pm, come and have a sausage and register for the 2014 season.**



[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**  
Tackers 1 - Starts Feb 9<sup>th</sup> pm  
Tackers 2 - Starts Feb 8<sup>th</sup> am

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

YACHTING AUSTRALIA



## 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 and all 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**

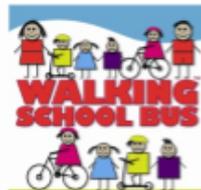
ENROLMENTS TAKEN ALL YEAR ROUND

*Start now and make a positive start last a lifetime*



gatewaycommunityhealth  
connecting our community

This service is funded by Department of Human Services Victoria



### The Walking School Bus is back for 2014!

The Beechworth 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 under the supervision of 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 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Please note the bus walks in the morning not home from school in the afternoon.**

#### The route for 2014

Departing from the corner of Mellish & Ford St - 8:15am  
Walking along Ford St

Meet at 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**

Children need to be registered to join the Walking School Bus – if you are interested registration forms are available at the 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)

