

Term 1 Week 2 – 3 February 2016

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

Term 1
28th January – 24th March
9 weeks

February
1st Monday to 5th Friday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm to 3pm daily
4th Thursday Family Picnic by the Peacock, 11:45 in the Cycle 2 playground
8th Monday to 12th Friday – Cycle 2 Swimming 1pm to 3pm daily
11th Thursday - Health & Wellbeing Walk to School and Breakfast
16th Thursday- District Swimming Carnival at Chiltern run by Beechworth Montessori
26th Friday – Upper Hume District Swimming – parent transport
29th Monday – Cycle 1 & 2 Parent Teacher interviews start

March
2nd Wednesday – Regional Swimming in Shepparton – parent transport required
7th Monday to 9th Wednesday – Cycle 3 Howman's Gap Camp
14th Monday – Labour Day Public Holiday
15th Tuesday – Cycle 3 Parent Teacher Interviews start
21st Monday – World Harmony Day Celebrations
24th Thursday – Last day of school – 2.15pm finish
26th Saturday – Goldfields Easter Parade

To be confirmed – AGM & BBQ
The 2016 Calendar of Events will be placed in parent pockets as soon as possible.

From the Principal

Well we are well underway. Within a week the children's work cycles, focussed, experiential and creative learning, swimming, music, Italian and sport have all started. Tomorrow (weather permitting) everyone from Ruby Room to Cycle 3 will share a "Picnic by the Peacock", so, unless your child has a food allergy (in which case please send an independent lunch as usual), and if you are able to, please send a cold dish (peanut free please) that can be shared across the school on our long table. Parents are extremely welcome to come and join us, so I hope some of you can and, if you are new to our community, I hope it will be a great opportunity to meet some other parents of children your child/ren are here with. The relatively early start of the picnic at 11.45am is to accommodate both Tiny Tots families and Cycle 3 students who need to leave by 12.30pm for their swimming program. We will combine the picnic with the children's lunch play, and have a slightly longer afternoon session. The children will be asked to store their food in their room kitchen until the picnic.

Thank you to everyone: staff, students, COM and parents who have all been so welcoming and patient as I learn and settle into my role as principal. I feel a great sense of gratitude to be given this opportunity and hope to work with, for and learn from you to continue to develop Beechworth Montessori as a great school, where every child, family and member of staff feels a sense of place, comfort, curiosity, fun and inspiration to broaden understanding. I have already had many conversations with staff, some parents and students about the school, what they hold dear, or would like to see change, ideas they have for the future and their hopes for the year. Please if you would like to

offer your thoughts, approach me, or make an appointment. My aim is to process a range of views and perspectives over the next month to inform both my practice and how we move forward as a school.

At this time of year parents often wonder what they can do to help their child's learning. Education is most definitely a partnership between school, family and wider community and a loving home environment full of genuine interest in what the child is doing, and where adults make time to do things alongside and with their children is a great start. Wider research would also argue that promoting and modelling reading to your child from day 1, has a great impact on a child's learning over a life time. Please as often as possible invite your child to read to you or look at picture books and different text types together, talk about text (books), asking questions about actual content, or your child's reaction to or observations about what you are reading/looking at. Encourage your child to predict, or explain why things happen/don't happen or why they know something or to make links with his or her own life. If your child is not yet speaking, perhaps talk through some of your observations with him or her. Should you be interested in any articles about reading or learning to read, please let me know, and I will provide you with some.

As a Montessori School, we are committed to the children having the opportunity to learn Italian from Cycle 1. Not only does this provide the children with linguistic and cultural understanding about Marie Montessori's country of origin but, given our surrounding location and its Italian heritage, it also offers the children wider understanding of this. Language learning is a great opportunity. For seniors, research has suggested that like music, foreign language learning wards off Alzheimer's, for all learners it builds intercultural appreciation, empathy, concentration, linguistic and grammatical understanding, plus with food, games and new personalities thrown in, language learning can be great fun (although certainly difficult at times)! When one considers Australia's position in the world, and our proximity and engagement with Asia there is also a case to offer both ourselves and our children the opportunity to try learning an Asian language. We are fortunate in Beechworth to have Sok Yi Bulmer living in our midst. Sok Yi has indicated that she would be available to offer adult community Chinese classes, as well as children's classes here at Beechworth Montessori, and I am keen to gauge people's interest and reaction to this opportunity. I reiterate that Chinese would not replace Italian for students, but wonder if some of our families would value the opportunity to have their child participate in small group elective classes in school hours (or after school) for interested students, possibly on a user pays basis, a bit like instrumental lessons. In addition, I am keen to see if we have parents and other adults in our immediate and wider community that would be keen to participate in a weekly Chinese classes here at Beechworth Montessori, on a user pays basis. If you are interested in any of these suggestions, **please return the green expression of interest form by Wednesday 10th February**. Sok Yi has indicated she would be available on Mondays or Tuesdays to work with us, and I would work with her to program classes either starting before the end of February or next term.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to involve yourself as parents in our school, when and if you have time and interest. In coming weeks information packs about sitting on the Committee of Management will be available, or alternatively please consider being involved in the P and F, or nominating yourself for a working group associated with the Committee of Management around a particular focus. Whilst positive word of mouth about our school, and our students' attitude to and love of learning are really our best advertisement of the great things we do here at Beechworth Montessori, as a school we are aiming to form a *Marketing Working Group* this year. If you feel you have skills, interest and time you could lend to this group, please let me know and I will make sure I let you know of our first scheduled meeting time.

Have a great week.

Kind Regards,
Bron Martin

General News

Health and Wellbeing Team: The team would like to launch their commencement within the school with a healthy walk to school and breakfast on Thursday, February 11th. We ask motivated families to meet at the carpark at the entrance to the Chinese Gardens at 8am and consider walking to school. We ask that all children be accompanied by an adult (unless your child usually walks to school unassisted). Upon arrival to school, a cold breakfast will be on offer for a gold coin donation to help cover costs. You will also have the opportunity to complete our initial health survey - the data from this will then help drive the direction of the committee and the goals we hope our school community can achieve in 2016. We look forward to seeing you there!

Instrumental Lessons

Please remember that there are instrumental lessons available at the school. Guitar, piano and violin. If you are interested in any of these, let us know in the office and we will give you the relevant contact details.

School Lunches:

Cycle 3 will be preparing and selling school lunches again this year.

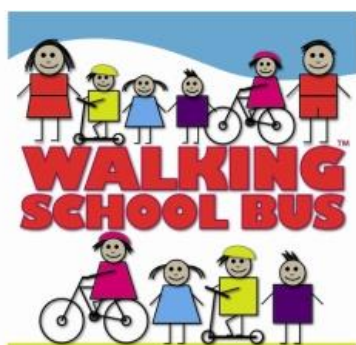
- Week 3: Chicken salad wraps
- Week 4: Nori Rolls
- Week 5: Spaghetti
- Week 6: Hamburgers
- Week 7: No School lunches - Cycle 3 will be on camp
- Week 8: Baked potatoes

Lunches will be on Wednesdays and orders will need to be at Cycle 3 by lunchtime on Tuesdays.

Learn Guitar

at
Montessori
"Term 1"

Contact: Mel Tompkins
Phone: (57) 28 6737



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 9th 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



Early Years News

From the Ruby Room

Welcome to the New Year everyone.

Our Tiny Tots program is running on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12pm again this year. It is great to see some familiar faces back again. Please remember to fill out a 2016 enrolment form for your child. We have been dehydrating fruit so if anyone has any fruit to share, please feel free to bring it along.

Our occasional care program, now known as the Educational Care Program at Beechworth Montessori, has expanded again this year. We are now running from 12pm to 5.30pm Monday to Friday as well as from 9am to 12pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. We also provide care from 8am to 8.30am to enable greater flexibility for our families, particularly those that work out of town and have a child in Cycle 1.

If you are enrolled in the ECP, please bring the following to our Educational Care Program:

- Depending on how long your child is with us, please provide them with enough **food**...discovering, playing and exploring is hungry work!
We provide children with an opportunity to eat **Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea** every day.
- If your child is very young and they require any sort of bottle or milk drink, please provide this too. We do have facilities to heat baby bottles safely.
- As part of our Sunsmart Policy, all children are required to wear **a hat** for outside play. Please label this with your child's name and pop it into their bag (or onto their head!)
- We provide sunscreen for children, however if you have any special requirements or preferences in regards to sunscreen brands, please ensure you bring along your preferred brand.
- Given we do all sorts of exciting activities at Educational Care, please ensure your child has **TWO sets of spare clothes** available in their bag.
- For children who may want to lie down or enjoy a nap, please provide **a sheet and light blanket OR two sheets** for them to use on our mattresses.

Michaela

From Cycle 1 (Amethyst and Emerald)

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and their families, particularly the new children Xanthe, Larissa, Jolie and Aleaha in Amethyst and Maisie and Archie in Emerald. We look forward to the year ahead.

MORNING WORK CYCLE

Our rooms are open from 8:30am each morning for all children. This term we are beginning with outside play until 9:30am and then in the classrooms until 12 noon.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year the two rooms are joining together in the afternoon. This term we will be cooking muffins and scones, creating works of art based on Mondrian and Andy Warhol and dancing. The children will also be participating in various activities in the Cultural Subjects.

LUNCHES

This year Amethyst and Emerald are eating lunch together. In Term 1 and 4 we will have a picnic lunch under the shady tree in the playground each day. This means heating up food for children at lunch time will not be possible. **It is also important to note that we have a NUT FREE policy in Early Years.** Lunch boxes in both rooms are kept in the kitchen cupboard as we have limited space in our refrigerator. We are requesting that parents put an ice brick in their child's lunchbox to keep the food cool.

PARENT HELP

Amethyst and Emerald are introducing fruit salad and yoghurt as the morning snack to encourage more children to eat during the morning work cycle. We are each seeking one parent to assist two children each morning from 9:00 to 9:30 to cut up the fruit salad ready for morning tea. All families are welcome and valued in our rooms.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Cycle 1 children have their PE lesson on Friday afternoons with Josh. It is important that the children bring appropriate footwear for movement and exercise.

Cycle 2 News

From the Moonstone Room

Amazing atoms: following on from the First Great Story on Tuesday (origins of the universe), students have begun looking at atoms and molecules. Many have already begun making an atom, which helps them to remember that atoms are composed of electrons orbiting a nucleus of protons and neutrons. Already a couple of atomic scientists have emerged, bounding ahead in their quest for knowledge! I was delighted by the number of parents who were able to come last Friday to hear what else is in store for Moonstone in term 1. To those who could not make it, I will soon have a parent email group established to keep you in touch with plans and events.



Sol straight back in to complex division equations



Bertie making a nucleus

While students are looking forward to a week of swimming lessons next week, I am looking forward to a week of training in Melbourne for Multi- Sensory Learning – particularly beneficial for students who find learning to read difficult, but highly relevant to all, in learning to write, spell and decode. This follows on from work begun by Susi last year.

We are all settling back into routine and are underway for a great term's learning.

From the Turquoise Room

Year Starts With A Bang!

Our year commenced with a bang - literally – the Big Bang. Montessori lessons are based around 5 great stories, the first of which is the story of how the universe began. On Friday, the children got to see, hear and witness the beginning of the universe through stories, Power Point displays and hands on activities to make the scientific concept come to life.

Over the following weeks, the children have lessons on specific space concepts and branch out to research their own areas of interest. For example this week the children learned about the scale of the universe, in terms of the planetary comparisons and the distance of the planets from the sun. This involves hands on manipulation and demonstrations as well as a walk outside to step out our solar system. For example, if the sun was 20cm wide, then Mercury would be the size of a pinhead and we would take 10 large steps away from the sun and place down Mercury. Then we have Venus, which is the size of a peppercorn and we take 9 additional – therefore being 19 steps away from the sun. This all seems very common place until one gets past the terrestrial planets and onto the gas giants to see that we have to take 95, then, 112, 249 and 281 additional steps from each previous planet to place Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. So you can see that you would need almost a kilometre in a straight line to achieve this visual and physical representation of our solar system – it certainly gets the message through and leads to much excited chatter!



Turquoise would also like to welcome our 7 new families with children transitioning and moving into Turquoise. I would also ask the returning Turquoise families make new parents feel welcome during drop off and collection times by introducing yourselves and sharing a story or two!



Cycle 3 News

From the Tigereye Room

WELCOME

Welcome to the start of another school year and I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing holiday. I had lots of time camping at the beach so am feeling very relaxed and refreshed. We have started the year with the first great story- the story of the universe and earth's place. This was a nice way to lead in to our studies in Geography this term, where we will look at solar energy and the earth, climate zones and biomes. We will also spend some time

focusing on Australia's alpine environments as we are heading to the mountains (Howman's Gap) for our camp in week 7 (Monday 7th March to Wednesday 9th of March).

I WONDER.....

After our Great lesson on the story of the universe, each student wrote down an 'I wonder' question. Here are just a few:

Kestrel- I wonder what other forces there are in the universe?

Amelie- I wonder if there will be a meteor shower when Betelgeuse explodes?

Hagen- I wonder who will be the first person to make it to the centre of the earth?

Takara- I wonder what atoms and particles make up a black hole?

HELP WANTED

A few Cycle 3 boys have started doing some woodworking projects each week. We need some dads or grand dads that have some good skills with woodwork to help us. It would be great if you could come for 1 or 2 hours each week or as much time as you could give. We could have a group of dads and rotate who comes in each week. Some project ideas we have are: building a cubby house, making picture frames, bird feeders, making shelves.

Please contact Kat or Terie if you can help.

Hagen, Kobi, Cooper, Berti & Jack

From the Topaz Room

We have had a lovely beginning to the year in Topaz with a very excited crew returning to school looking relaxed and happy. Our oldest students are realising that this is their year to lead and their enthusiasm is infectious! This term our curriculum is based around balancing our learning through our head, heart and hands, ensuring that each student's unique strengths are recognised and we set goals for following individual interests and learning paths.

Our focus this term is discovering and exploring the Time Line of Life. We have begun by learning about the Eras from the Hadean, Archaean, Proterozoic, Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic, all time on earth, pre-humans. This work adds depth to student's understanding of the monumental events that have preceded our species. It is amazing to think that it took 4.5 billion years from the creation of the universe for the earth to evolve and create the perfect conditions for our survival. Through this work we hope to leave a lasting impression on the students of the fragility of this beautiful planet, and the responsibility that rests with all of us to ensure we care for it. Therefore, when the students embark on a project researching an animal, they also understand it does not exist in isolation but is part of the web of life, and part of a long evolutionary history.

School Lunches: School lunches are back and will begin on Wednesday Week 3. The orders will be available on the table in the Cycle 2/3 courtyard. A menu is on page 3 of this newsletter. Money raised this year will go towards offsetting the cost of a Cycle 3 cross country skiing day, in Term 2 or 3.

Please feel free to drop into the room and say hi!

Terie



Community News

Classical Guitar Lessons available

Contact Sok Yi on 0404 617 650

Trivia Night

The Plough Inn, Tarrawingee
Wednesday 17th February from 7pm
A fun night for all.

Cash prizes with spin the wheel and the winners on the evening go into a national draw.

Enquiries on 5725 1609

*** Circus in Yackandandah**

***Enrolments for 2016 are now opened!**

International circus artists, Xavier and Zoe Pinard are pleased to offer circus classes in Yackandandah.

Through skills such as trapeze, tumbling, tight wire, juggling or pyramids, your children will have fun while developing core strength, balance and agility.

For more informatio or to enrol, please contact Zoe via email - xavierzoe@mac.com

DANCE & ACRO



Ballet, jazz dance and acrobatics classes for preschoolers and school-age children. \$8-\$10/class

Monday afternoons at
Beechworth Primary School

Miss Claire 0439 488 378

Summer League Tag

- 7 Week Competition
- Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls) aged 5-16
- Wednesday's 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- February 17 to March 30
- \$20 Registration
- Location: Brian Esler Park
AKA - Melrose Primary School Oval, access via Higginson Court



WINTER GROUP 9 COMPETITION REGISTRATION DAYS

February 7 & 27 - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Brian Esler Park

AKA - Melrose Primary School Oval, access via Higginson Court

PRE SEASON TRAINING STARTS FEBRUARY 4

Thursdays: 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ Brian Esler Park



www.facebook.com/groups/WodongaStormzRLFC

Enquiries: 0422708596 - Melinda

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[f](https://www.facebook.com/insidethebrick) [i](https://www.instagram.com/insidethebrick) [y](https://www.youtube.com/insidethebrick)

Are you interested in becoming a hospital board member at Beechworth Health Service?

If you have ever considered serving on a public hospital board then our public hospital is currently seeking (nonexecutive) directors with terms of office commencing from 1 July 2016.

The local hospital is central to the community it serves. Being on a hospital board is a way of genuinely improving the lives of the community and ensuring vital services are delivered safely. For more information go to Beechworth Health Service website

www.beechworthhealthservice.com.au



Body Confident Children & Teens

Information for Parents & Community Members

Every year, since its inclusion in 2006, body image has been one of the top three areas of personal concern for young people
(Mission Australia, Youth Survey)

Locally supported by



Indigo North
Health Inc



What: An interactive presentation focused on how to better support children and/or teen's body confidence during puberty and adolescence.

Topics covered include:

- Background on body image and importance of prevention
- Brief overview of eating and body related issues and warning signs
- Key influences on body confidence
- Importance of role modeling positive body image and healthy behaviours
- Understanding 'Fat Talk' and handling 'stuff' they say
- Awareness around behaviours that increase or decrease body satisfaction
- Referral and support information
- *Please note, this session does not cover dealing with fussy eaters*

Date: Monday, 7th March, 7 – 8.30pm

Venue: Baarmutha Function Centre, Balaclava Road, Beechworth

No cost involved but bookings essential

To book online: thebutterflyfoundation.org.au > Education > For Parents

More information: helen.bird@thebutterflyfoundation.org.au 02 8456 3908

Butterfly acknowledges the support of

