

Term 1

Week 5 – 5 March 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

We have reported cases of gastro and headlice.

Photography Tender

Suppliers are invited to tender for the provision of the Beechworth Montessori School student photos for 2014 and 2015.

Contact info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au for full details. Tenders close April 4 at 2pm.

Term 1

30th Jan – 4th 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

February

14th Friday blueearth program commences fortnightly

March

10th Monday – Public Holiday - Labour Day

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

12th Wednesday – Cycle 2&3 Hockey Road Show - am

19th Wednesday – BBQ 5pm & AGM 6.30pm (To Be Confirmed)

21st Friday – World Harmony Day

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

April

4th Friday – End of term 2.15 finish

Term 2

22nd April – 27th June

10 weeks

2 public holidays – ANZAC Day, Queen's Birthday

1 pupil free day – Report Writing

April

25th Friday – Public Holiday - ANZAC Day

28th Monday – Cycle 3 Cross Country

From the Principal

Cycle 3 children move into a new way of thinking and being in terms of their place in the world. This is often a time when they desire to become more active, engage in projects, take on leadership roles and move freely (with boundaries). At present there is a great deal of interest from Cycle 3 students for active participation across a wide range of areas. To support this we have created a range of optional groups for children in Cycle 2 & 3 to join and this week presented the information to them. A board has been established in the courtyard and children can put their name down to assist in the area of fundraising, school news/reporting, working bees/landscaping and events. We are hoping that these groups will become active communities of children who will work collaboratively to drive their activities. You may like to ask your child if they have put their name down – whilst it is optional there has been heavy initial interest. We look forward to seeing how these groups evolve over time, how they work together and what direction/support is required from staff.

Next Monday is a pupil free day and Tuesday is the second of our restorative practice training days. The school will be closed on these days. Enjoy your extra long weekend.

Kind regards

Heather

Parent Education Sessions – Restorative Practice

Would you be interested in a school day parent education session on restorative practice? What price would you be willing to pay (we would need to cover costs). What day? This would be the same information as last week's evening session but held during school hours to accommodate those parents who couldn't attend an evening session. Please let the office staff or Heather know.

Thanks to those families who attended the session and provided positive feedback on the material presented and our school's commitment to implementing this to support children, families and staff.

Restorative Practice information as presented:

- It promotes empathy, accountability and responsibility.
- RP values participation, respect, honesty, humility, accountability, empowerment, hope.
- It works towards restoring and rebuilding relationships and supports finding realistic solutions to problems.
- Restorative practice provides a safe and fair framework to explore:
 - What happened?
 - Who is affected?
 - How can we fix things?
 - To move forward.
- It helps children (and adults) to self regulate their behaviours.
- It assists with establishing a blend of clear expectations with a high degree of support.
- When children are harmed they need to tell us what it has been like.
- When children harm others they need to have a chance to explain themselves.



Restorative Questions

- What happened? (what were you thinking? What was it like for you? How have things been since, what has been the worst of it?)
- Who has been affected? (how do you think people have been affected? What do you think it was like for?)
- How can we fix things? (what do we need to do to put things right? What would make things better?)
Acknowledgements or apologies may occur here.
- How can we do things differently? (move forward) This is the agreement phase of the meeting or conversation.
- PR complements our Non Violent Communication model which supports Montessori philosophy and underpins our Peaceful Conflict Resolution policy. In NVC we ask – What happened (facts), how did it make you feel, what do you need, make a request of the other person.
- Don't ask why as this requires analysing.

Bring these skills to a conversation:

- Be calm
 - Listen, remain impartial, hear all stories
 - Don't provide all the answers
 - Use the restorative questions
 - Have compassion and be patient
- Revisit as rewards don't come instantaneously. Don't be disheartened if you don't see the change.

Committee of Management

The annual family bbq and AGM will be held at school on Wednesday March 19th. The bbq commences at 5pm – please rsvp with numbers attending and any dietary requirements by Monday 17th. Families are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share – meat or vegetarian option is catered.

The AGM will be held at 6.30pm. Nominations for election to the Committee of Management are currently being accepted. Forms may be collected from the office and are to be forwarded to the secretary Anne Duncan via info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au or placed in the Form Lodgement Box by Wednesday 12th March.

General News

Advice from the Government

**ON HOT DAYS, NEVER LEAVE KIDS ALONE IN CARS
NO EXCEPTIONS. NO EXCUSES.**

Despite a recent drop in temperatures, parents are still urged to be aware of the dangers of leaving children alone in motor vehicles, so it you need to get out of the car, even for a moment, always take your child with you. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

A recent survey conducted by the Victorian Coalition Government found that despite sweltering through one of the hottest summers on record, one in three parents admit to leaving their children alone in a parked car. The research also demonstrated most parents underestimate how quickly the temperature inside a parked car can rise and the devastating impact this has on a child.

Even if the outside temperature is 30 degrees the temperature inside can reach up to 50 degrees in a matter of minutes. The Victorian Government is reminding all parents travelling with a child that if you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

A reminder to parents and carers:

- A car's temperature starts to rise from the moment the door is closed and can be double the outside temperature in minutes.
- Even when it's 30 degrees outside, your child could be sweltering in up to 60 degree heat.
- It is not worth the risk – if you are travelling with a child and you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.
- Young children are more sensitive to heat than adults and their body temperature can reach dangerous levels quicker than expected.
- A young child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult, placing them in extreme danger of life threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other health risks if left alone in a parked car.
- Never leave a child alone in a car. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

For more information, see: [Kidsafe Victoria](#)

Here at Beechworth Montessori we urge parents not to leave children in cars in any weather conditions.

Bus Users

If your child is going to be catching the bus – please support them by going through the rules as per the bus agreement and policy that all families should have signed prior to bus use. If you haven't signed the form, please collect a new copy. We aim to enable children to achieve successful independence and this is one way that you can support your Montessori child.

Uniform Orders

Our supplier has asked us to apologise to our community regarding their service delivery. The owner of the business has recently been diagnosed with a terminal illness and they are understaffed. The business is in the process of being sold and they are experiencing a difficult time. As stated in previous newsletters, we advise placing orders now for winter uniforms to enable delivery in time for the change of weather. Please note that there are new contact and address details and account information for direct deposit. These are on the uniform order form located in the foyer on the noticeboard. Please ensure that you use the copy that has "updated" after the title.

Tender

Invitations are invited for the provision of the school photographs for the next two years – 2014 and 2015. Please contact the Principal Heather Gerrard on 03 5728 2940 or principal@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au for the tender details. Applications close

Division Swimming

On the 28th of February, Charlotte Hopp, Uli Wild, Jade Thomas and Eadie Pfahlert, went to division swimming at Wodonga Waves Pool. First up was Charlotte and Eadie in freestyle, Charlotte came 1st and Eadie 2nd. Then there was the

backstroke races, which Eadie swam in and came 1st. Next Charlotte and Uli competed in Breaststroke, the result was 1st for Charlotte and 2nd for Uli. Lucky last was our freestyle relay. We came first by a long distance! We all did really well and will go to Shepparton, to do all of those events.

By Uli, Charlotte, Jade and Eadie.

Ruby News

Another big thank you on the completion of the swings and the new bike track in the newer Ruby playground to Mark Ladbrook, Rob Holden, Bec Holmes and Lou and Sam Ritchie. It is great to have your support and the children are eager to have a go.



A reminder for parents to please pick your children up on time as we sometimes have to go to childcare to drop children off or have meetings to get to. Children who are not picked up by 315pm will be escorted back to the rooms they began their day in either Amethyst or Emerald.

Some children are forgetting to bring their hats. Maybe a hat can be left in their bag and a separate one for home use as our policy is no hat no outside play.

I did want to mention again about the sandpit equipment in the courtyard being used when the children are being picked up. I appreciate that some parents are returning things. The outside area is part of the prepared environment so things like the outside sink is wiped down every afternoon so the children in the following session or day begin with everything looking clean. It is important to have the pathways swept and tidy too as this sets a standard for the child to imitate and when young children are in a sensitive period for order, disorder and disarray can upset them without us knowing what the cause of them being upset may be. In the early years order is important to their development. Thank you

Over the next few weeks the children will have a chance at planting and caring for seeds and seedlings and planting the plants donated by John Griffin in our playgrounds now the hotter weather is passing.

Practicing some yoga postures will also be happening and we have been practicing saying please and thank you to each other.

A reminder to those transition children for next **Monday 10th** that it is a **public holiday** and **Tuesday 11th** is a pupil free day so there will be ***no tots playgroup as the school will be closed***

Transition

Harmony day is coming up on Friday 21st March where we celebrate our cultural differences. This year the children in Friday morning transition class will join with Amethyst and Emerald children for a short concert beginning at 11am -1145 with parents welcome. Hopefully the weather is fine as we plan to have it in the early years courtyard. We will keep you posted on the plans.

As some children attending transition are in the toilet learning routine, easy fit, loose clothing can minimize accidents. Sometimes they are struggling with buttons, zips and tight clothing, which slows the whole process. Also easy fit shoes can assist with their independence. Sometimes 10 minutes can be spent with one child helping them with their shoes.

We say goodbye to Ellette who has moved into Emerald last week, we hope you enjoy it and thank you to Karen (mum) for your help in Ruby room and to all parent helpers.

After Session Care

The children seemed to have got into a routine for lunch and it is a very pleasant time to sit together and enjoy each other's company.

We have been practicing during our lunch speaking only when our mouths are empty. The children have been diligent in reminding each other and also it has been a bit of fun.

We hope you enjoy your long weekend.

Thank you for your support

Michaela, Mel and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

One of the key aspects of joining us for tiny tots, transition or cycle 1 is the connections and firm friendships that develop with other parents here. We see this as not only important on a social level for you and your child, but also on a parenting level as the opportunity to share information and insights with other parents is good for the stress levels. As a school, we value these connections in our community and have as a long term plan, the creation of a community gathering space in the front of the school for parents to congregate before and after drop off and pick up times. (If you have any interest in supporting the creation of such a space, please contact Sean Pieper).

What we are currently observing is that the internal courtyard outside Ruby, Emerald and Amethyst rooms is being used as a community gathering space by families at pick up and drop off times with children playing whilst parents talk. We are seeking your support to maintain the courtyard as part of the Ruby room prepared learning environment so that it can continue to be a pleasant spot for a chat at the start or end of a session and meet the needs of children using it as a learning space.

Within a Montessori environment, all surfaces are well prepared prior to use by the children, the spaces and equipment are clean and well ordered as part of the process of encouraging children to value order and respect spaces and resources. For those children arriving at 9.00 in Ruby room, they enter the prepared environment as it has been created by staff. However, after the 12.00pm pick up, children in After Session Care are not getting the same access to a prepared environment as the courtyard is being left in an untidy and messy state after families leave. In order to ensure equitable access for all children to the same standards in the learning spaces, we are seeking your support to replace equipment your children use and to clean up any sand or water spills they have made so that those children using the courtyard in the afternoon can do so safely and with the appropriate lessons about respect and order.

Garden progress

Many thanks to the parents that have signed up to assist with the cycle 1 outdoor spaces. We have been touched by the level of interest and the support and are excited about what is to come. A couple of projects have already started: Matt Davidson and Mark Ladbrook have created steps (alongside the vegie patch) to enable easier access up the slope to the top of the garden – the children love them and have taken great pride in raking the dirt flat and discussing when and how they will use them. Thanks to Matt and Mark for their hard work digging in our tough clay!



Matt Saunders has started the process of building a retaining wall under the large tree which will then be backfilled and covered in tanbark to enable rope swings to be placed in the tree and to provide a shady climbing space during the heat. Thanks to Matt for his huge effort and to



Quentin Pfahlert for providing the timber for this project.

We hope to start other projects in the coming weeks and will be in touch to arrange dates.



Montessori Matters

Articles and information in this section may not necessarily be Montessori philosophy but the concepts support the Montessori child and parents of a Montessori child

Sensorial development for the 3 - 6 year old.

"Nothing exists in the intellect which does not first exist in the senses", (Maria Montessori quoting Aristotle, 1948, Discovery of the child)

The development and refinement of the senses, is such a crucial aspect of a child's development. The information, consciously and unconsciously absorbed by the senses in the first plane of development, shapes how a person thinks and behaves later in life.

At about the age of three, with the onset of the 'conscious' absorbent mind, Montessori believed that the 'world' should be offered to the child in the classroom. Before the age of three the child has met the world in the environment to which he/she was born. Impressions of this environment and human society have been unconsciously absorbed. Now at age three, these first impressions, need to be classified and organised, and be symbolised through language. Montessori believed that in linking precise language to qualities, the child is helped to hold these concepts, in his/her mind.

So, in bringing the world to the classroom, it makes sense that, the activities capture the essence of reality. In recognising that all the objects of the world share common attributes, we must identify these and create a key to each one. This is the way in which Montessori found the world could and should be brought into the classroom.

The sensorial activities; analyse, isolate and represent the attributes of the objects in our world. In particular, the dimension, form, colour, shape, texture, weight, temperature, flavour, smell, taste and the sound of things. These attributes are represented over six sense areas;

- * Sight
 - Visual discrimination; size, shape, dimension and colour.
- Activities
 - *Cylinder blocks, pink tower, broad stairs, long rods, colour boxes 1, 2, and 3, Geometric cabinet (trays and cards), Knob-less cylinders, constructive triangles boxes, tessellations, binomial and trinomial cube, square of pythagoras.*
- * Touch
 - Thermic discrimination; such as hot and cold.
 - Tactile discrimination; such as rough and smooth.
 - Baric Discrimination: such as heavy and light.
- Activities
 - *Sensitising fingers, use of blindfolds, rough and smooth boards and texture boards, pairing tablets, grading tablets, fabric pairing, baric tablets, thermic bottles. Touch is also involved in feeling the differences between size e.g. while handling the different blocks of the pink tower and broad stairs*
- * Sound
 - Acoustic discrimination; musical sounds, noises and the human voice.
- Activities
 - *matching sound boxes, grading sound boxes, listening games, bells.*

- * Gustatory - Taste discrimination; there are five categories of taste, they are, salt, sour, sweet, bitter and unami (savoury).
- Activities* - *tasting bottles, tasting during food preparation activities.*
- * Smell - Olfactory Discrimination; identifying odours such as spicy, flowery or sweet.
- Activities* - *smelling bottles.*
- * Stereognostic - Muscular memory; forming three-dimensional impressions by seeing with our fingers, for example. The muscular memory is the strongest, we do not forget it.
- Activities* - *Geometric solids, mystery bags, sorting trays.*

The aim of the sensorial activities, is not to improve a child's hearing or sight through training. It is to help the child to pay attention and to search for a deeper awareness of their environment. To learn how to observe and consider all which they experience.

"To be able to distinguish, classify and catalogue external things, on the basis of a secure order already established in the mind - this is at once intelligence and culture" (Montessori, Advanced Montessori Method, Vol. 1, p.205).

Community News

What's coming up at the BNC kitchen

Czech Dumplings

Asia has their Yum-Cha, but did you know that the Czech Republic also have their own style of dumplings?

Join Amandhi (of Beechworth Potluck Dinners) as she takes you on a culinary adventure and shows you how to create Czech style dumplings using potato!

Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, 30 Ford St, Beechworth

When: Thursday 13th March 2014

Time: 6pm – 9pm

Cost: \$50.00

HURRY, limited places available for this course so please book your place by Wednesday 12th March 2014.

Call us on 03 5728 2386 or email on programs@bnc.net.au

Celebrating Chilli



For all Chilli Lovers! Be fired up. Get to know chillies on a personal level. Identify which types are better for what and why. Learn to prepare your own chilli oils, jams and pickles as well as spice pastes.

Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, 30 Ford St, Beechworth

When: Thursday 27th March 2014

Time: 6pm – 9pm

Cost: \$45.00

HURRY, limited places available for this course so please book your place by Tuesday 25th March 2014.

Call us on 03 5728 2386 or email on programs@bnc.net.au

Check our term guide for more classes & school holiday classes!

Calling ladies of Beechworth and surrounds to put your hand up for some old fashioned fun!



A new season of night netball is about to commence.

Beechworth Night Netball Association is now taking registrations for women's teams and individuals (ladies) of all abilities keen to have a game on Tuesday evenings. Games are played indoors at the Beechworth Secondary College stadium.

An information and registration night will be held on 18th Tuesday March 2014, 6 – 7:30pm at the Beechworth Secondary College Stadium.

All enquiries can be directed to Kristy Howard, President on mobile 0400 282 222 or email kristyannhoward@yahoo.com.au