



Term 4

Week 6 – 12 November 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

Term 4

6th October – 17th December

10½ weeks

1 public holiday – Melbourne Cup 4th November

1 pupil free day – Report Writing 3rd November

November

10th – 14th – Mon – Fri – Cycle 3 Camp Canberra

11th Tuesday – Remembrance Day 11am

14th Friday – Gum Tree Pie orders due

17th Mon – 21st Fri – Cycle 1 Kinder Parent Teacher Interviews.

18th Tuesday – Instrumental student performance evening at the Old Priory 7.30pm

26th Wednesday – Grandparents Day Cycle 1, 10-11am, Cycle 2&3 1.30-2.30pm

28th Friday – Gum Tree Pie order delivery for pick up from 12noon

28th Friday – Graduation Presentation whole school gathering 2pm

- Graduation Dinner for Grade 6 children and parents 6pm

December

2nd Tuesday 2014 School Concert – Memorial Hall. 1.15pm

7th Sunday 7.30pm – Carols by Candlelight Town Hall Gardens

8th Mon – 12th Fri – Cycle 1 Prep Parent Teacher Interviews.

10th Wednesday – Volunteer Afternoon Tea 1.30-2.30pm

10th Wednesday – Major raffle tickets returned

12th Friday – Reports distributed

16th Tuesday – Major raffle drawn – at school

17th Wednesday Last day for students, end of Term 4, 3.15pm finish

More dates to be added throughout the term.

Keep checking this section to stay informed

From the Committee of Management

Hello all,

Over the last month or so we have been constructing our operating budget for 2015 as part of an overall 5 year financial plan, designed to assist us achieve our school's strategic objectives over the next few years. This has not been easy, given the shifting sands of Federal government funding policy and a commensurate lack of decisiveness from the Victorian Government.

Recent clarification of 2015 funding from the Victorian Government has enabled us to move forward, and our budget is now finalised. When constructing the budget the following goals and issues from our strategic plan needed to be considered:

- Complete our initial building and landscaping works and raise funds to secure grants for the construction of a multipurpose indoor facility for whole school gatherings and specialist classes.
- Move quickly towards pay parity for our teaching staff to ensure we are able to secure and maintain Australia's best Montessori teachers.
- Maintain our position as one of Australia's lowest fee charging non-profit Montessori Schools, allowing Montessori to be accessible to a large section of the community.
- Not exceed our enrolment cap of 112 in the

primary school.

- Keep pace with the current CPI of 5.2% in the education sector to ensure financial sustainability.

In light of these the CoM at its October meeting endorsed the following substantive actions related to the 2015 budget:

- A fee increase of 10%
- An increase in the building fund contribution to \$100 per family per year.

The committee is conscious of the impost these increases may have on families and wishes to remind families of the financial assistance program that is available to those who require special consideration with payments. Please contact Heather Gerard if you require financial assistance.

For any general questions regarding the budget, please contact Heather Gerard in the first instance.

Thank you, Seane Pieper, President, Beechworth Montessori School Committee of Management

From the Principal



Our Cycle 3 students represented Victoria at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial in Canberra yesterday and here in Beechworth, Oaka Harris and Sage Davidson accompanied me to the local service. Thanks to all our students for their willingness to represent the school with such grace and dignity.



We appear to be on top of the headlice issue in the school but it would be appreciated if you could please advise the office if your child has eggs or nits.

Kind regards, Heather

General News

Trivia Night - rescheduled

Due to a lack of bookings the Trivia Night will be postponed until Friday November 21. To participate in the trivia night bookings and payment (\$10 per person) MUST be made by Wednesday, November 19.

Sorry, but we are unable to accommodate children at this event. No alcohol; soft drink, water, tea and coffee will be provided. BYO food - there will be nibbles provided as part of your ticket.

This event is being organised by Indigo Walker Stelling - a final year Cycle 3 student - as part of his Big Work. The money raised from this event will go to a cause which all participants will have an opportunity to vote on, on the night.

Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight will be held in the Town Hall Gardens at 7.30pm on Sunday December 7th. We would love all students who are there to join us to sing Aussie Jingle Bells and Light a Candle for Peace.

Playdough Fundraiser for Amethyst

We all know how much fun it is to play with playdough, and we also all know, that sometimes making it at home would be a healthier option, but time is scarce for most people. As a fundraiser for Amethyst (they require some trays for the oven) there will be homemade playdough for sale in the foyer in the coming weeks. Each tub will be \$5 and the ingredients will be listed on the label (planning on nice smelling and glitter versions). Thanks to everyone who will be supporting the learning experience in the kitchen for the Amethyst children. *Mel*

Wanted

A 20 litre drum or similar sizing for storing diesel for the fire pump.

Wanted known

Does anyone know of a teacher of flute in the Beechworth area? A family are making enquiries.

Cycle 1 Parent Teacher Interviews

A letter specifying dates and times has been placed in parent pockets.

Kindergarten Interview Times	Amethyst <i>Tameeka</i>	Emerald <i>Lynda</i>
Tuesday 18/11	3.30pm – 5.50pm	3.30pm – 5.50pm
Wednesday 19/11	3.30pm – 5.50pm	3.30pm – 5.50pm
Thursday 20/11	3.30pm – 5.50pm	3.30pm – 5.50pm

Prep Interview Times	Amethyst <i>Tameeka</i>	Emerald <i>Lynda</i>
Tuesday 9/12	3.50pm – 5.10pm	3.30pm – 5.50pm
Wednesday 10/12	3.50pm – 5.10pm	3.30pm – 4.10pm

P&F News

Gum Tree pie orders due **Nov 14th** – no late orders can be accepted, with **delivery November 28th**.

Ruby Room News

Hello and welcome to our news.

We would like to welcome our new family from Bright, Katie and Jo with little Arlia. We hope you enjoy all that Ruby room can offer, especially getting to know other members.

At Tots we have been practicing walking on various types of balance beams - wide to thin and then trying to walk on a stretched out skipping rope. Sometimes the little ones need a little help though. The good old versatile skipping rope has changed into a slithering snake enticing the children to jump over it. This is great fun for them and also for the adults watching. It takes a huge effort to lift their little bodies in a jumping motion when you are not quite 2 or just passed. We have also been learning a new song called, 'Old Macdonald had some land' and he has lots of native animals on it that we have been imitating.

In Transition we have had a few children moving into Amethyst and 2 new children begin this term, Blaike and Henry. The dynamics are always shifting due to the coming and going of new children. Children are experiencing such things as the protocol of the room, toileting, how to interact with other children, making new friends and for some the first time of being away from family members. This can be exciting and challenging at times for them.

In ASC we have been making crystals with Epsom salts and coloured water. The children have been intrigued when they come back a day or two later and see the growth taking place. We have been looking at healthy snacks for the hotter weather and have been making milkshakes with strawberries, bananas, cherries and honey. Any left over mixture has gone into icy pole molds and ice cube makers and then into the freezer to be enjoyed the next time they come back to ASC.

We have also been setting up a 'shop' and playing shops with all sorts of items up for sale. Dress ups have also been a big hit and of course the sandpit is always a big favourite as well as the trikes.

We will be looking at ways to enhance communication skills between the children as well as how we feel when somebody does something to us we don't like.

I am going away on placement to a Montessori long day care centre in Sydney next week- the 17th - 21st Nov. and will be back the following week. Mel will be the Director of Tots, Khy will be assisting Mel in Transition and Lisa and Khy will be covering the ASC groups.

Many thanks for the opportunity to spend time with you and your children
Michaela, Mel and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

Across Both Rooms

Our recent excursion to the Memorial Hall to view the Ringwood Secondary College Band was a great success with even our youngest children sitting enthralled for an hour as each instrument was introduced and played individually then within an ensemble. Thanks to the Cycle 3 students for their support walking each Cycle 1 child down and then back up the hill – the leadership opportunity this offered the Cycle 3 students was fantastic with many stepping up into the role for the first time, whilst the younger children really looked up to their older peers and responded to them very positively. We have been following this excursion up by considering pictures of orchestral instruments and listening to musical pieces in class.





Our chicken enclosure is finally complete with a lovely dirt patch in a fenced yard for the chooks to scratch around in during school hours. The children are able to enter this yard 2 at a time to sit and watch the chickens in action. We will be doing some planting to provide some natural shade and seclusion for them and plan to install a shade cloth cover over the yard for sun protection. We could not have achieved this exciting addition to our zoology and sustainability curriculum without the assistance of the Ryan family – many thanks for your time, energy and support.



As part of our efforts to achieve greater connections with the broader school community, we have developed a number of recent strategies to strengthen the perception by Cycle 1 students of themselves as part of a bigger place: we partnered with Cycle 3's recently for our excursion; we have been making special trips to view art displays by Cycle 2 and 3 students; we visited the Tigereye science expo. To further this we have been attending physical activity sessions run by Cycle 3 students on Tuesday afternoons. Tameeka and Lynda have planned a series of developmentally appropriate activities using balls, skipping ropes, hoops and balancing equipment which are run by Cycle 3 students for 30 minutes. The children have responded very positively and are getting to know the playground and the students who will be school leaders when they transition next year.

Parent teacher interviews are being held next week for children enrolled in the funded and unfunded kindergarten programs. Please nominate your preferred day and time on the sheets in the foyer. Interviews for school aged children will be held after reports have been distributed.

Amethyst

Last week we baked **"Magic Bean" chocolate muffins**

Ingredients:

- 420g kidney beans, canned, drained
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 50g unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon GF baking powder
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 125g butter
- 5 eggs

100g rapadura sugar (or other)

Preparation:

1. Puree the beans, 1 egg and vanilla until smooth. Set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar.
3. Add the remaining eggs and mix.
4. Add bean mixture and mix.
5. Add cocoa powder, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and mix thoroughly.
6. Pour batter into greased ring pan and bake in moderate oven for 30 minute or until a toothpick inserts in the middle and comes out clean.

Note: we used silicon mini muffin trays and cooked for 12 minutes.

This gluten free, nut free, high protein cake is wonderfully moist and works with most canned beans. Chickpeas work but they have a stronger taste. You can use oil instead of butter to make it dairy free.

Plants' Waterways

We set up an experiment to show how water travels through the stems of plants and into the leaves and flowers.

1. Pour blue coloured water into a glass jar
2. Pour tap water into a glass jar
3. Place white flowers into both jars and observe.

Hypothesis from the children included:

- The flowers in the blue water will die.
- The flowers in the blue water will change colour.
- The flowers in the tap water will live longer.
- I don't know what will happen but it is a strange thing to do.

Result:

Within hours the dyed water had been sucked up to the flowers through the stem and we saw blue at the tips of the flowers.

Tameeka, Melissa, Lisa, Zoe

Emerald

We will be completing our studies of Asia this week with some terrific visits by parents to our classroom. Sara Quon will teach the children to write their names in katakana (Japanese script) and will show us some kimono including photos of women wearing them. Danielle Colson is visiting to share stories of her recent visit to Nepal and Yukiko Byrne will join us again to read some stories in Japanese. We have been so grateful for the support of our families in the delivery of our cultural studies program this year the program has been enriched enormously.



We have had an incubator in the classroom for the past 3 weeks with chicken and duck eggs in it. Wiggy and the children created a calendar and each day we have been marking off the days to hatching day and recording the temperature and humidity levels. Last week we noticed a nasty smell and Trudi Ryan came to the rescue again by checking each egg to determine its activity. Trudi placed a blanket over a table to create a dark space then used a torch to view the pulse of the animal within the egg. Unfortunately we had to dispose of 7 eggs, but still have 3 chicken and 8 duck eggs which have started to hatch to great excitement.



Once all eggs have hatched, we will be offering families the opportunity to take home a tub of newborns to care for overnight (complete with warming lamp) so that the children can experience them up close. We will also send home a journal containing factual recounts of the learning to date, photos and a notebook

for families to record their babysitting experiences. This way we will create a long term learning story of our understandings of the lifecycle of chickens and ducks.

In a couple of weeks when they are too big for our classroom we will be making the ducklings and chicks available for families to adopt. There is a note near the Emerald sign in book to register your interest .

Lynda, Wiggly, Geraldine

Montessori Matters

Notes from the parent information session “supporting your Montessori child in literacy” held Wednesday Nov 5th at school

0-3 Language

Dr Montessori believed that a child’s education begins at birth. Not only do the physical needs of an infant have to be met but also her emotional and mental needs for optimum development

At birth the baby has two distinctive physical characteristics:

1. A big head and
2. Two big bright eyes.

These are for absorbing and observing her environment.

A regular routine and having arranged in a constant order, familiar objects of the environment such as furniture, become ‘landmarks’ on which she depends as they are a given and help the child to become familiar with the environment.

Language is one of the most important subjects in the first years of a baby’s education.

It is a mistake to assume every time the baby cries it is due to hunger. It could be because of loneliness, needing a hug or talked to. As parents and carers we need to ensure the infant does not become mentally starved.

Stroking and massage of babies, talking to them and saying rhymes are some of the ways we stimulate their mental development. Affection and amusement is necessary to assist their emotional and intellectual growth

The baby is in the process of creating his own mind so change and variety are important in the child’s environment as they can quickly become bored.

Dr Montessori believed as soon as a baby is born her education begins and by her 2nd year her native tongue is learnt and the child knows hundreds of words, and can construct sentences using the rules of grammar and syntax in order to convey her meaning.

The beginning of language may come during the 3rd week of life when babies begin to make expressive sounds of satisfaction after feeding. It can be a cooing or a gurgling sound and can vary from child to child and from time to time.

During the 2nd month the baby will smile and coo in response to someone who speaks to her. The baby loves the sound of the human voice and will respond to it. The attentiveness or special sensitivity is the beginning of the child’s efforts to learn her native language.

According to Dr Montessori it is at this time the child first realizes the sound of the human voice comes from the mouth. Babies watch the mouth of someone speaking at this age.

Their own mouths begin to move in sympathy. There is a great increase in spontaneous vocal activity and the baby to utter new sounds.

At 6 months of age she begins to babble definite syllables. This babbling is spontaneous and is not a result of imitation. Even deaf babies babble for a time. Without encouragement of hearing their own sounds they stop after a few months.

With a long period of practice the power to pronounce special sounds deliberately is retained. She then realizes the connection of the sound she makes with the movement of her tongue and lips.

Babies can combine vowels and consonants. Through the sucking of the breast they have developed the lips and tongue muscles need to make the sounds of b,d,m,n,a,j. Sounds such as ma, da, ba are made.

Towards the end of the first year the baby begins to understand words spoken by adults. There are two different centres in the brain for understanding and speaking a language.

Through the second year there is a rapid increase of understanding of language. The child gradually begins to speak words deliberately and with meaning.

By 18months old the child can speak 5 or more words and toward the end of her 2nd year combining two words is the next big step, then the addition of the third word follows soon with sentences following.

By the time the child is 2yrs a sudden and rapid development in language occurs that Dr Montessori called the 'explosion into speech'.

What are ways we can assist the child?

The child does not need teaching but help in her development. She must be able to listen to people speaking both to her and to each other. The more conversation she has in the first 2 years the more easily she will learn to speak.

Our love, interest and encouragement toward the child is necessary to help the child master the means of communication easily and happily.

Communication with an infant is simple. It can begin with gestures and expressions. These are studied by both infant and parent. The parent tries to understand baby's needs. With careful listening and observing their baby's behaviour parents can begin to respond appropriately to the babies needs. For eg. a cry for hunger, a different cry for wanting to be picked up etc.

Face to face contact with the parent is critical as your baby must see you speaking as well as hear how your words are pronounced

Dialogue from the beginning between the parent and the infant is essential and the parents response will produce more babbling and non –response leading to less babbling.

These dialogues can occur during interactions with baby while nursing, dressing, bathing, nappy changing. You can imitate the same noise the infant makes encouraging them to make more sounds

We must speak slowly to the child as their neural speed is half that of the adult brain. Singing songs we know so well we tend to speed up so for the young child this is all new and must slow it down for them to grasp easier.

Good grammar and clear pronunciation and the quality of the words are important

Only words spoken directly to the child count – computer, tv, dvds act as a barrier between parent and infant as the baby makes sense of language only when she can relate directly to the persons or things referenced. She needs to be interacting with you as you speak and focusing on the real world around her at these times.

You can name items, discuss actions, describe feelings. Keep your language simple and clear.

Music and art can be very beautiful ways to communicate with your child. Singing and humming to your baby, playing a musical instrument is modeling a love of music to your child.

Playing the classical music of Bach and Mozart with their formal structure and reoccurring themes and patterns are especially helpful to young children who are in the process of forming order in their own minds.

Reading books from an early age gives your child an appreciation on the value of books and story telling.

Removing obstructions to language

- Ear infections are one –see they are attended to.

- Dummies or pacifiers effectively mute the child through this very important stage. The infant's practice of babbling strengthens her vocal tract and muscles through repetitive use.
- Resist the temptation to use the tv as a baby sitter. If it is on sit with them and watch a favourite show together. Playschool on the ABC is a good one for young children. Sing the songs or retell the stories you both heard. You can build up your repertoire.

Community News

Vic Swim flyer available in the foyer. 2015 vic swim lessons are now open for enrolment

Jan 5-9, Jan 12-16, Jan 19 – 23 \$25 per child per program

www.vicswim.com.au



BMF 2015
BEECHWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

SAT 24TH JAN MADMAN'S CULLY AMPHITHEATRE
MAYDAY HILLS, BEECHWORTH, VIC

A DAY AND NIGHT OF MUSIC, GOOD SAFE TIMES, CAMPING AND A COMPLETE SENSORY OVERLOAD!

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Beechworth
Fire
Brigade



CFA Open Day

Sunday 23rd November 2014

Join us for CFA Open Day!

CFA Open Day is a chance for you to meet your local CFA brigade and find out more about what we do.

Where: - Beechworth Fire Station - 3 Victoria Road

When: - Sunday 23rd November, 10am – 1pm

Crawl through the smoke house, See how a fire truck works, watch us demonstrate some of our new equipment. Join us for a BBQ and get some information for the upcoming Summer Fire Season.



cfa.vic.gov.au/openday

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
FireReady



BEECHWORTH SWIMMING CLUB

Registration Night
@ Beechworth Swimming Pool
Monday 17th November 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Fun water activities to introduce you to our Club and get to know your fellow swimmers, followed by a BBQ – drinks.

Swimmers of any age are welcome but you must be able to competently swim a length of the pool a number of times.

Throughout the season swimmers can participate in a number of pennants run in our area or participate in training sessions only, to improve fitness and technique.

Registration: **\$140* + pool entry season pass.**

EFTPOS available on night for swimming club payments.

Pool season passes for this summer are:
Child: \$77, Adult: \$102, Family: \$180

NOTE: Correct cash amount is required for payment to pool staff for season tickets as they DO NOT have eftpos and limited change.

For more information on the Beechworth Swimming Club or the registration night please contact Andrea Yooat beechworthswimmingclub@bigpond.com



MUNGABAREENA ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

FAMILY FUN DAY

Mungabareena KMS and KWWW Workers would like to invite You and your Family to attend a Family Fun Day at:

Harvey's Fun Park
Lincoln Causeway Wodonga VIC 3690
17th of December 2014
11.00am – 3.00pm
FREE BBQ LUNCH



ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE: WATERSLIDE, MINI GOLF, JUMPING CASTLE, TUNNEL MAZE, TODDLERS PLAY AREA, SANDPIT, WATER SPLASH AREA, BUBBLE DISCO, TRAIN RIDES

SANTA will also be visiting the event.

Please Bring along: a towel, Bathers and a change of clothes (if needed).

PLEASE RSVP BY 1ST DECEMBER to receive your free wrist band to gain entry into event. (NO WRIST BAND MEANS NO ENTRY)

Contact: Shree Singh on 02 60247599 or 0418421366 to register.

TRANSPORT will also be available for those who need it.

NOTE: THAT THIS IS A SMOKE AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT