



Term 1

Week 7 – 19 March 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

*A year calendar of events was distributed at the start of the year.
This section includes those events and any updates.*

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

March

19th Wednesday – BBQ 5pm & AGM 6.30pm

21st Friday – World Harmony Day

24th – April 3rd – Cycle 2&3 Parent teacher interviews.

April

3rd Thursday – P&F Community Breakfast (time to be confirmed)

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

Family BBQ

Commences from 5pm tonight at the front of the school. Catered meat, vege option if ordered and bread.

BYO chair and drinks, salad or dessert to share.

AGM commences at 6.30pm – financials, reports from President and Principal, election of the new Committee of Management.

From the Principal

Thanks to the parents who are prepared to help create an active community of parents and friends by organising social and fundraising events. Part of a school's reputation and public perception (and feedback via the LEAD surveys last year) is based on the "social" side and this needs to be driven by the parents and align with the vision and values of the school. Whilst many of our staff are parents, staff are not expected to drive social events but do offer opportunity for parents to engage in their child's education – this will always be in a manner and at a time that works best for the children, staff and the school as an organisation **and** aligns with Montessori philosophy. Understandably, in these instances we have legal obligations to meet and we are very mindful

of this as there is no room for breaching compliance in today's educational climate.

Parent and Friend activities and events however fall under insurance requirements rather than educational compliance so there is more room for a broader range of interactions. Many of you would not be aware that this is where I started my Montessori journey – for several years I co-ordinated fundraising events, working bees (including cooking eggs and bacon in the snow), organised social events and helped out in the classrooms in the early days. If you have some time and energy and can help build a vibrant, positive and engaged P&F community then please come on board. Who knows – maybe it will lead you somewhere else in the Montessori educational community?

Kind regards

Heather

P&F News

If Loads of Clothes Market is to run this year (either in the format used previously OR a new version) planning needs to start asap. If you are interested in helping OR have ideas on how it can run, OR just want to know more about what LOC market is please let Heather know and a meeting of interested people will be set up. There have been enquiries from potential sellers. IF it doesn't run the clothes racks and equipment used in the sale will be sold at the "garage sale" in term 2.

Hi all

Thanks again to those of you who came along to our P&F meetings last month and those of you who indicated that you couldn't make it but were keen to be kept in the loop as to our planned activities this year and where you might be able to help out.

We have a couple of events coming up very quickly, namely a lemonade stall at this Saturday's Bakery Carnival, another Community Pancake Breakfast at school (confirmed for Thursday April 4th) and a float in the Easter Parade on the last Saturday of the school holidays. If you can help out with any of these please let me know ASAP: specifically, I need some helpers in the lead up and on the day of the breakfast, and we really need to create a swell of support for families to turn up and walk down the street for the Easter parade - start spreading the enthusiasm!

Another event that is not on this list but has arisen as an opportunity since our meeting is the chance for Bluearth to run a fun session for all families (kids and their parents) after school one evening in the second week of term 2, followed by a shared BYO picnic dinner, for a gold coin donation. This shouldn't require too much input but again, support by coming along would be fantastic.

We'll have further meeting early in term 2, lookout in the newsletter or in your email.

Cheers! Christie Rodda on behalf of the P&F team

A review of the P&F meeting

General Discussion

The general consensus was that this year we would like to have more social events. This will then hopefully lead to more interest in P&F and the formation of an actual P&F group. The main reason for the meeting was to produce a potential list of events that those at the meeting would be willing to drive throughout the year. Any fundraising events should be purpose driven e.g. Term 4 breakfast raised funds for the carpet in Cycle 2.

2014 Potential Events

Lemonade Stall

Date: Saturday March 22 Beechworth Bakery Camp St Carnival

Coordinator: Louise Ritchie via Lanie at the Bakery

Helpers: Jenny Pena (on the day), more required for setup and pack up

Notes:

- Jade will supply commercial juicer and table
- Lemon and mint donations to be requested via newsletter in the lead up
- Lou will make up sugar syrup day prior
- Lou has ice chest which can just be topped up from supermarket as required through the day

Breakfast

One to be held each term. All agreed that the breakfast were a wonderful social event.

Date: Currently being organised

TERM 1 Coordinator: Christie Rodda

Helpers: Kerrie Riddoch clean up, need more

Pancakes worked well

Easter Parade

Date: April 18/19

Looking for a coordinator – Kat may be able to come up with a song that is learnt in class. There is a banner in the storeroom that can be used.

Loads of Clothes

Date: sometime in winter

At present there are limited offers of help. This needs a large team to coordinate or a different method of operation e.g. have individual stalls. See info in this newsletter.

Long Table Lunch

Date: Autumn

Location: Cycle 2/3 playground

Social gathering for all parents and children. Imagine long tables under the trees, linen table clothes, wine, good food, good company. May be able to use one of Nicola's lambs, 5 people to bring a salad, Lou provide bread. Jade has table

clothes and crockery. Also thinking of hiring number of local babysitters to entertain the children but need to check the legality of this.

Patch to Patch and Montessori Spring Fair

Date: November

- Running in conjunction with Patch to Patch at last years location (railway station), Montessori would organise a spring fair with market stalls/car boot sales/seedling sales/children's games and activities.
- Teachers last year were keen to raise seedlings within the classrooms however the move made this logistical difficult. See if teachers are keen this year as this would be a fantastic fundraiser and learning experience.

Hampers

Date: prior to Christmas

Coordinator: Jade

Same as last year but contents can be made in the school classrooms as a social/purposeful get together. Putting them together can also be done in the same fashion.

Toy Catalogues

Always gets a substantial credit from the toy companies to aid in school purchases. To be continued again this year.

Scouts Raffle

Limited work with substantial return. Can be coordinated by one person. To be continued again this year.

Wanted

Repeat Information

Cycle 2&3 children are commencing preparations of the grounds for the delivery of topsoil and the planting of grass seed. We are now seeking access to a truck so that we can move the donated topsoil to the school and the children can then level the areas and plant seed. We have access to a tractor and bucket to load the topsoil and even drivers – but we need a truck. If you have access or can point us in the right direction, please speak with a Cycle 2 or 3 Director, Heather or let the office staff know. Alternatively we could organise a convoy of utes/trailers – again, let us know if you can help out. The children are very keen to commence works.

Thanks for the donations of booster seats – we now have a full supply as requested.

General News

Harmony Day

Harmony Day will be celebrated on Friday March 21st. Cultural awareness is an important part of the Montessori curriculum. Children are naturally drawn to know more about others and by studying different cultures they learn to appreciate the differences in people, their beliefs, customs and social behaviours. These understandings give relevance to the study of history, geography and peace. To promote a sense of cultural awareness the school participates in International Harmony Day on March 21st as an annual event. This year we will have a visiting musician Woody Clark who will work with the children in all rooms. Each room will have a time and plan for parents to attend and Cycles will advise of their plans through emails, the newsletter or a handout.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Cycle 2&3 only

Information has been sent home via parent pockets and last week's newsletter regarding parent teacher interviews. Times can be made by filling in the sheet located in the waiting area, contacting the school via email or phone. Interviews commence next week.

Ruby Room News

There are only 3 more weeks of term left and hasn't it flown by!

Harmony day is this Friday 21st March. The transition children attending on Friday morning will be given an opportunity with the Cycle 1 children to learn a dance and song with Woody, our guest musician and the Cycle 3 children. Parents are welcome to come along and watch beginning at 11.00am until 11.45am in the Early Years courtyard. Your child is welcome to dress up in a national costume or dress from another country, or wear orange to celebrate World Harmony Day.

Last Thursday in at tots there were a lot of plants transplanted in the new playground at the south end of the building. Mums and tots were very keen and the rain after it was all done was very timely too. Thank you everyone!

We also made popcorn much to everyone's delight and enjoyment. It is wonderful to see the look of surprise and joy on the children's faces as the popcorn emerges and flows into the bowl. It is a very sensorial and fun experience especially with the accompanying smell and taste. We also made popcorn in one of the ASC afternoons and the older children had a similar delightful experience.

Planting is still on the agenda for all sessions in Ruby room. Small seeds, bulbs and more plants need to go in to the ground and pots.

We will be experimenting with some of the recipes in the sugarless cookbook that is on the library bookshelf. If you find a recipe you like you are welcome to photocopy it.

We will be looking at the beautiful colours of Autumn and experimenting with collages.

Our pre-loved swap and go children's clothing is there so have a look and see if there is anything suitable that may fit your child. If you would like to drop clothing no longer needed you are welcome to place it in the baskets just next to the snack table.

We hope you are enjoying the turn of the season.

Kind regards, **Michaela, Mel and Lisa**

Cycle 1 News

Visual Arts

We have recently received the parent comments from last year's kinder parent surveys. One common theme that arose was parents wanting more opportunity for creativity. This newsletter will outline the Montessori Visual Arts curriculum.

Artistic expression was considered by Dr Montessori to be one of the fundamental needs of humans. In particular, she encouraged children to draw. She felt that if children have fine motor control of the hand, learned through the exercises of practical life, combined with trained skills in perception, learned through the exercises of the senses, they would be able to create visual art works of a high quality.



Dr Montessori (1965/1918: 286) observed that during periods of creative drawing and design work children concentrate 'deeply and wholly' with their 'entire intellect at work'. She describes the process in the following way:

To confer the gift of drawing, we must create an eye that sees, a hand that obeys, a soul that feels; and in this task the whole of life must cooperate (Montessori 1965/1918: 289).

Art appreciation is also an important aspect of Montessori early childhood settings. By looking at the artworks of others, children learn that it is possible to create different and unique works while using knowledge, skill and techniques developed by others.

Art is integrated into the Montessori approach in ways that include the following:

- the exercises of practical life and the senses are extended into a range of self expression activities, including work with clay, collage, chalk, paint, charcoal, crayon, oil pastel, cutting, soft wire, weaving and printing
- written language work, including creative writing and poetry, is illustrated by the children.

In the *Children's House* art activities include drawing, painting, design work, collage, printing, flower arranging, sewing and handiwork, modeling with clay, colour mixing, art appreciation cards, wall pictures, and stories.

Techniques and processes for using different media are shown to the children in discrete activities presented individually or in small groups. All the materials for each activity are kept together, and children are free to choose the activity, and explore the media, and processes involved, independently. There should, however, be a limited amount of art available at any given time. Two, or at the most, three different kinds of media at a time are sufficient.

Activities include:

- extending skills gained in exercises of *practical life* e.g. how to hold a paint brush, how to clean up, how to hang up painting to dry, how to hold a pencil
- extending understanding of colour and shape gained in *exercises of the senses* e.g. *colour boxes*, *geometry cabinet*, *botany cabinet*
- extending design work with *metal insets*
- illustrating and decorating class work
- arranging flowers
- drawing in a variety of media e.g. pencil, crayon
- painting in a variety of media e.g. water colour, acrylic
- making collage
- printing in a variety of media
- sewing and handiwork
- modeling in a variety of media e.g. clay, papier maché.

As you can see from the information above, creative art in a Montessori environment is much more than craft.



If you would like to discuss this further please talk with Lynda or Tameeka.





Parent teacher interviews

Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 are conducting parent teacher interviews over the next two weeks. Cycle 1 parent teacher interviews will be held at the end of term 2 and again at the end of term 4. This decision was based on the number of families requesting interviews at the beginning of term 3 last year. It indicated to us a need for families to have a formal discussion of their child's progress at the middle and end of the kinder/prep year. It was a decision we considered a great length as it means we have report writing and parent teacher interviews at the same time, but believe it is the best timing for families of our young Cycle 1 children as parents are considering issues such as school readiness and hours of Cycle 1 attendance at these specific times of year.

Families welcome in classrooms

We know and respect that children want to share their work with their families. We welcome all families into the room, we simply ask for families to let the Director know that their child has invited them into the room (we like to minimize the presence of adults at any one time) and to be very mindful that it is the children's room.

Drop off and pick up

For the care and safety of all children we ask that children enter and exit the courtyard with the adult who is signing them in and out. Please do not let a child exit through the door without their parent/carer, we have a responsibility to ensure all children leave our service safely and have had examples of children in the carpark unattended whilst parents are still inside the school building.

We also have a legal obligation to remind families that it is an offence to leave children in a car unattended. There have been occasions where families help each other out if there is a sleeping baby/child in the car, by one person picking up a few children. We do support these situations of the community working together.

Working bee

A working bee is scheduled for the Cycle 1 playground on Sunday 30th March, 8am to 1pm. All are welcome (but no dogs) to help on the projects planned for the children's outdoor environment.

Harmony day

This Friday 21 March we will be celebrating Harmony Day with an interactive performance by musician Woody Clark. Cycle 1 classes will join with the Transition program and Cycle 3 students for this event which will be held in the early years courtyard from 11 - 11.45. You are very welcome to join us. Students will be finish session or have usual lunch arrangements.

Tameeka, Lynda, Melissa, Wiggy, Lisa, Geraldine, Zoe

Community News

Yackandandah Circus - Starting in Term 2

International circus artists Xavier and Zoe Pinard are pleased to announce the start of Circus Classes in Yackandandah.

With 25 years experience as artists and 10 years experience as teachers (including as master trainer at the Flying fruit fly circus), we are aiming to deliver an exciting and varied circus training program. Through skills such as tumbling, handstands, juggling or pyramids, your child will develop core strength, balance and agility.

We are looking at running classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with a maximum number of 14 students per class.

The exact times are to be confirmed, they may look as follows;

Adults Classes (Wednesday only)	- 10am till 11.am
Tiny tots Classes (2yrs - 4yrs)	- 2.45 - 3.30
Primary aged children (1st session)	- 3.45 till 4.45
Primary aged children (2nd session)	- 4.50 till 5.50

Cost for Adults and Tiny tots - \$130 per term

Cost for primary aged children - \$150 per term. (5% off for first sibling, 10% off for second or more siblings)

If you wish to secure a place please email us at:
xavierzoe@mac.com



Like to Run or Walk the Fun Run????

It's that time again.... Beechworth Fun Run gets bigger and better each year as word gets out about what a great event it is...

The **10km** event is a very scenic and diverse route through the wonderful bushland gorge, the streets of Beechworth historic town, past Lake Sambell and finally through the golf course. All this is on mostly bitumen, a small bit of flat gravel and tracks through the golf course. The course is a good challenge for very experienced runners but also just a lovely walk for those who are not so fit. The run is also part of the North East Runners Series.

The **3km** run sees people who are starting out on their fitness climb, lots of families, prams and dogs participating. Family entry is only for the 3km event. (2 adults and 2 children- only one timing bib per family). All other ticket types are individually timed.

Cash Prizes of over \$2,000 and heaps of spot prizes on the day thanks to our local sponsors!

The event, held on **Easter Saturday 19th April**, is run by the Beechworth Secondary College and is our major fundraiser being part of the town's Golden Horseshoe Festival.

The race will start at **9am** from the **Beechworth Secondary College** in Balaclava Road.

Interested runners and walkers can go to the Beechworth Fun Run website to register online www.beechworthfunrun.com.au

Registrations will be accepted on the day from 7.00am to 8.30am

and there will be a BBQ breakfast and coffee van available also from 7.30am.

For queries contact the Race Coordinator on 03 57281264

Building resilience in young people

>> with Dr Andrew Fuller

Andrew Fuller has been described as an "interesting mixture of Billy Connolly, Tim Winton and Frasier Crane" and as someone who "puts the heart back into psychology". As a clinical psychologist, he works with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the well-being of young people and their families.

Andrew will present a session on "Building Resilience in Young People"

Date: Monday, March 31

Time: 7.30pm to 9pm

Cost: \$10 (purchased at The Cube box office - thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets or on the night)

Venue: The Cube Wodonga

For more information contact Anthony Nicholson, youth services officer, on (02) 6022 9703 or 0448 538 563 or anicholson@wodonga.vic.gov.au

