



Week 9 - Term 4

4 December 2013

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

DIARY DATES

Term 4:

December

8th Sunday – Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm

12th Thursday – P&F Pancake breakfast 7.30 – 8.45am

13th Friday – Reports distributed

17th Tues - Graduation Concert, Memorial Hall 4-6pm

18th Wed - Last day for students 3.15pm finish

19th & 20th Thursday & Friday – Pupil free days

2014

January 30 – First day for students

End of day – Bus protocols

A request from the bus company: Children and parents on bikes, scooters and walking, please don't exit through the bus area or walk in front of the bus. Please exit behind the sports shed, away from the bus line up area and bus bay. Your co-operation in this is appreciated.

From the Principal

Thanks to the Beechworth and District Community Bank for providing the consumables to the value of \$200 for the monthly community bbq. The Cycle 3 children held the BBQ on Celtic Saturday. As

indicated in the Topaz report last week, great funds were raised and these will be used to enclose the bike shed. Parents who wish to contribute to the design and construction are asked to see me so that we can commence works asap.

Staffing – till the end of the year and beyond

Zoe Pinard is currently undertaking study leave to enable her to complete the observation components of her training.

Kelly McCurdy is filling Zoe's role in the Amethyst Room until the end of term.

Melissa is filling in for Karen in Turquoise until Dec 17 – Karen's operation went well and the biggest challenge now is keeping her still to enable recovery.

Sari Cecilia has been appointed to the Music and Italian specialist positions. An introduction letter will be included in the parent packs due for distribution before the end of term. We are still in the process of appointing the physical education specialist and the assistants for Cycle 1 and the additional Administration position. I will communicate these appointments as soon as they are confirmed.

Physical education relief for the next two weeks will be provided by Andrea Belci.

Parent packs for children in Prep – grade 6 will go out with reports.

Children enrolled in Cycle 1 in 2014 (kinder, prep and grade 1) will receive a letter this week advising of session allocation for next year. Please check parent pockets.

Childcare Transfer and After Session Care 2014

Beechworth Montessori School is offering the following services in 2014 to assist parents with children enrolled in Cycle 1.

CHILDCARE TRANSFER

- Cost - \$80 per child per term, unlimited use
- Operate Monday – Friday
- Pick up at Childcare 8.30 am
- Drop off at Childcare 3.30pm

We are unable to staff childcare transfer at 12.00pm but are introducing After Session Care Monday – Friday from 12 noon – 3.15pm. We can transfer children to Beechworth Community Childcare at 3.15pm provided arrangements have been made directly between the parents and Childcare. If After Session Care does not proceed due to lack of numbers, the lunchtime childcare transfer will be reinstated.

AFTER SESSION CARE

- 12 noon – 3.15pm - \$26
- Children to supply own lunch and snack
- Children are to be at least 3 years of age and enrolled in a Beechworth Montessori program.
- Sessions may be pre-booked to secure places.
- Program will be a Montessori based childcare program – care of self and environment, practical life, music, art, outdoor play spaces.
- Occasional care will be available subject to space availability.

If this program is to run we must have a commitment as soon as possible. Please return forms by Friday 13th.
Kind regards, Heather

General News

Carols by Candlelight

We hope that as many Montessori families as possible can attend Carols by Candlelight at the Town Hall gardens at 7.30pm on this Sunday night. We will be performing “Light a Candle for Peace” and the ukulele group will also be performing. When it is our turn to perform we would love to have as many children and parents from all cycles stand up and sing with the Montessori heart of seeking peace – all year round, not just at Xmas.

Guitar Lessons

If you have a child who would like to learn guitar, we will be providing the opportunity during school hours from next year. Mel Tompkins will be conducting private lessons (organised in a similar manner to those for piano with Peter Benson) during school hours. Please make contact directly with Mel to find out more, organise details, etc. He will then work with the school to organise times etc. Mel can be contacted on 0408 775 678. Other contact details were in last week’s newsletter.

P&F News

Christmas Spectacular Market

Thanks to the Duffs/Pinards/Holmes families

“We had great fun. Xavier’s crepes were a hit and the big drawcard! Harriet, Charlie and Lily did a fine job of walking the markets with a tray of biscuits (made by Cycle 3 classrooms) and moving the lot!” Thanks also to Bec Holmes for contributing her Christmas puddings. Monies raised will go towards the outdoor learning environments.

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

*(at school!)

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER

7.30 til 8.45am

Bring your family and enjoy some freshly cooked pancakes with a choice of toppings
Juice, coffee & tea also available.....

Gold coin donations gratefully accepted!

AND ☞ There will be a stall selling plants, produce, goodies, crafts, christmas puddings.... to raise money for vegetating cycle 2&3 courtyard and other outdoor projects

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS STALL AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MORNING MOST WELCOME!

PLEASE CONTACT BECK 0429376182
OR CHELSEA 0415445166

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE GOODS OR SERVICES
☞ Look out for more in the school newsletter.....

Pancake Breakfast

Just a reminder that the pancake breakfast is on next Thursday (12 December) at the front entrance of the school. RSVP gratefully appreciated to assist with catering. Please let the office know or pandf@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au. A reminder to parents that they are responsible for supervising their children at this event – this includes a parent being present in the Cycle 2&3 outdoor area if children are using this space. Children will not be able to enter classrooms or courtyards until usual school time.

Tiny Tots and Transition News

Ruby Room

The seed planting and nurturing has produced some strong looking, peas, beans and sunflower plants ready for transplanting. The children get a surprise when they discover the growth and happily take them home. The song we have been learning about seeds goes like this to the tune of 'I am a Little Teapot':

*'I'm a little seed in the cold, dark ground,
Out comes the warm sun yellow and round.
Down comes the rain wet and slow
Up pops the little seed grow, grow, grow'*

Quite a few of our transition children are moving on to Amethyst and Emerald room. Next year we will be running classes if enough people are interested and Tots playgroup will continue on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am -12pm.

Pre-loved Clothing Exchange

There are some baskets set up near the rear door of Ruby room on a blue shelf for pre-loved clothing so people are able to drop off and exchange children's clothing. We are looking at sizes from newborns up to age 5 yrs only and clothes need to be in reasonable condition. Please ensure all clothes dropped off into baskets are clean. All welcome to participate.

There are also books and a DVD available to borrow on various topics concerning children and families. The DVD has some great healthy recipes to make for babies to young children and Jodie Vassallo (guru cook apparently) even shows you how to prepare and cook them. Very healthy, tasty and simple meals.

We would like to say thank you to Heather Smith for contributing to us all in Ruby room and also goodbye to Fraser, Ella, Heather and Dion as they are moving to Melbourne. We hope you enjoy your new life there and don't forget you are always welcome to come back for a visit.

As yet we have not got a date for a bit of a working bee for the Ruby room second playground. Will keep you posted. This rest of the term we will be making some Christmas biscuits and treats, singing some fun Christmas songs and making Christmas decorations, cards and wrapping paper

Ruby room children and parents are also able to participate in the end of year graduation concert if you like.

We would like to thank all the children and parents for sharing this last year with us - it has been a joy. We hope you have an enjoyable festive season with your families.

Take care and have a peaceful Christmas, see you in the New Year.

Thank you

Mel and Michaela

Cycle 1 News

Christmas in cycle 1

Using Montessori's underpinning approach of respect as the basis for our curriculum at Christmas time, both rooms will be focussing on the different ways in which families acknowledge and celebrate the festive season with the overriding message of respect for differing beliefs.

Tameeka and Lynda will be working together to plan the curriculum delivery based on the following:



The focus on Christmas will be minimal: with the children consistently bombarded everywhere they go at this time of year, they don't need it in the classroom as well. Immediately obvious signs of Christmas will be a Christmas tree in the room which children can make decorate as well as the creation of small Christmas gifts for parents.

Less obvious, but probably more importantly, we will be discussing how Christmas is celebrated in various countries around the world (predominantly those that make up the cultural diversity of our classrooms). We will discuss various facets of how communities celebrate Christmas. This ties in with our geography and cultural curriculum. We don't plan to focus on the Christian beliefs of Christmas unless the children bring it up - there are so many diverse views about this time of the year and it is preferable that to leave decisions about religious education to families.

Based on our observations of conflict situations already occurring about varying views on Santa Claus, we are seeking your support to encourage your children to be aware that we all have different beliefs and different ways of celebrating the festive season and that it is important that we respect the different beliefs of others even if we do not agree with them ourselves. It would be disappointing to have to avoid any mention of Christmas because of polarised views given that our school philosophy is based on respect for all.

Both Tameeka and Lynda have emailed parents directly to seek your views and input about our approach to Christmas and will tweak our planning based on feedback that we receive.

Thank yous:

To the children, thank you for your wonderful insights into the world and your inspirational learning.

To all cycle 1 parents thank you for your incredible support this year, particularly with the relocation and gardening input following the move.

To all early years staff thanks for pulling together to constantly weather the changes that the year has brought.

To all staff who have worked at the school this year, thank you for your support and dedication in providing great programs for our children.

Community News



Summer Reading Club registrations are now open at your local library!

Last year 35,614 children and young people across Australia participated in the Summer Reading Club and over 260,000 books were read! Were you a part of the club?

Register your participation in this year's **Summer Reading Club: Investigation** and become part of the growing Summer Reading Club community that is reaching across Australia.

Indigo Shire Libraries will be participating in the annual Australia wide SRC.

To find out more details and register also pick-up your reading pack & log visit your local branch library.

All online registered participants go into a draw to win 1 of \$ iPods donated by [Encyclopaedia Britannica Australia Ltd](#). The prize draw will take place on 14 February. One winner from each state will be drawn. Winners will be notified by phone or email late February 2014.

Visit the SRC [website www.summerreadingclub.org.au](http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au) for online registration, closes **Friday, 31 January 2014.**

Children's Reading and activity sessions will be held at each of our library branches.

Beechworth Library 0357288043 Friday 10, 17 24 January 1.30 – 2.30pm

Numbers are limited so bookings are essential.