



Term 2

Week 1 – 23 April 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 2

22nd April – 27th June

10 weeks

2 public holidays – ANZAC Day, Queen's Birthday

1 pupil free day – Report Writing

April

22nd Tuesday – Classes resume

25th Friday – Public Holiday - ANZAC Day

30th Wednesday – bluearth family session 4pm at Mayday Oval, BYO picnic tea for after session

May

1st Thursday - bluearth

2nd Friday – RSVP and payment due for Montessori workshop

7th Wednesday – Mother's Day Night 5-6pm

9th Friday - bluearth (then fortnightly each Friday)

10th Saturday – Montessori Foundation theory workshop 9 – 4

13 – 15th Tuesday – Thursday – NAPLAN tests Grades 3&5 only

16th Friday – Cycle 3 Cross Country

21st Wednesday – Pupil Free Day – Report Writing

June

9th Monday – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

16th – 20th – Cycle 1 kindergarten (3&4 1st and 2nd year of Cycle) Parent Teacher Interviews

23 – 26th – Cycle 1 Prep Parent Teacher Interviews

More dates to be added throughout the term. Keep checking this section to stay informed

From the Principal

Welcome back to school – Term 2 sees the change of weather and whilst hats are no longer necessary for outside play we do ask that children come appropriately dressed for the colder weather – layered clothing, jumpers, rain coats, slippers, gum boots for outside play, scarves and beanies will all contribute to making your child's day more comfortable and productive.

The Community Breakfast held by the P&F at the end of last term was a well attended event and the weather was very kind. Thanks to Rebecca, Christie and Kerrie for the driving this event.

The Easter Parade was well attended also – despite Kat and Christie having a slight panic attack 30 mins before that they might be the only ones. Feedback has been that we were a vibrant and colourful presence in the parade. Thanks to everyone who walked, joined us on the way down and helped make props. Especially thanks to Christie and Kat for ensuring we had a presence this year.

Continuing with the spirit of community, thanks to all the Cycle 1 families, Lynda, Wiggy and Melissa for their work in the Cycle 1 yard at the working bee last term. This is the very spirit that built this community – volunteering your time and energy into creating

something special for our children.

Loads of Clothes has been floating in the air – will it happen? Is it over? There appears to be enough support from a small group of parents to make it come alive again. We will be partnering with the Friends of the Fruit Flies to run the event and share in the fundraising. NOW we have to meet together and start the marketing, call for sellers and lock in a date and firm the planning. The Loads of Clothes Market was originally a Toy Library event that Carly Visscher and I dreamt up in our early parenting days. It then became a fundraising event for Montessori after we left Toy Library Committee. It ran out of steam when my right hand woman left town for greener pastures. It is a labour intensive event and hence our partnering with FFFC who have the teenager power we need to "man" the event. If you want to play ANY role in this market, please forward your name to Rebecca Holmes, Danielle Colson or myself – we will set up a think tank and get this happening. At this stage it is likely to run in October on the Oktoberfest weekend.

If you are thinking about attending the Montessori philosophy workshop being held here on Saturday May 10th and being conducted by Dianne Davis, an MWEI trainer and Montessori school Principal, please don't delay in registering your name and paying the money. We must have minimum numbers to run this event and need final numbers by Friday May 2nd.

Congratulations to Amber, Ben and Jack on the birth of Charlie. We know you are missing Montessori and hope to see you back in Term 2.

Kind regards Heather

Committee of Management

At the 31 March meeting of the CoM the following Code of Conduct was accepted and is now being implemented at Beechworth Montessori School. The code applies to all persons who attend, represent, volunteer, are employed or members at the school. Where there is a perceived breach of the Code of Conduct, normal grievance procedures apply. A Code of Conduct specific to the Board remains relevant and has specific requirements and expectations for Board members.

Every person has the right:

- To be treated with respect and dignity
- To hold and express an opinion
- To work and learn in a positive environment
- To achieve one's personal best in all aspects of learning
- To work and learn in a clean and safe environment
- To have personal privacy and property respected

Every person has the responsibility:

- To treat others with respect and dignity
- To respect the rights of another
- To respect that others have a right to hold and express an opinion
- To express their own opinion in an appropriate way and at appropriate times
- To contribute to a positive learning environment
- To aim to do one's personal best in all aspects of learning
- To maintain a clean, safe environment
- To respect personal privacy and property of others

P&F News

bluearth Family Session

Would you like to find out more about what bluearth sessions are? A family bluearth session will be held on Wednesday April 30th at 4pm on the Mayday Hill oval. Put the date in your diary, knock off work early and come along and experience bluearth for yourself. Wear sports gear, including runners, bring water and if you'd like to stay for a picnic tea byo everything for that. Hopefully the weather will be kind. bluearth instructors will be onsite to run the session. To help raise funds for landscaping we hope that all participants will make a gold coin donation.

Loads of Clothes Market

This fabulous event is running again in 2014 – October date to be confirmed. Start saving your quality clothes for a return on your original investment. If you would like to be a seller, or event helper please speak with Heather.



Montessori Autumn Family Feast

*Long Lamb Lunch
Sunday 18th May 11.30-3.30pm*

**\$25 per adult with kids under 12 free
Kids entertainment provided**

- Slow Cooked Lamb donated by Alpine Dorpers and Salad Buffet donated by P&F. Drinks at bar prices.
 - Fundraiser for school play-ground development

- Bad weather alternatives have been made so it will not be cancelled

Pre bookings are needed but numbers are not limited so gather your family and friends for a laid back, pre Winter, family feast!

**RSVP: info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au
Before Wed 14th May**

Cycle 2 News

Turquoise

This term we change focus from history and geography to the sciences of body systems and nutrition. Usually these topics create a great deal of interest and questioning from the children and I will keep you up to date as to specific lesson each newsletter. Weekly cooking themes will follow nutrition lessons.

In writing the focus will be on descriptive activities as well as persuasive text for older children. Last term the children began to gain confidence with structuring text and this term they will be encouraged to pay more attention to the self editing of their work.

Art will focus on the use of line and pattern while creative crafts will continue on the practical life self, such as the knitting Nancy from last term that is still growing and the introduction of a class latch hook.

Karen & Donna

Moonstone

Welcome back to Term 2 and the cooler weather.

The Fourth Great Lesson, the Story of Writing

This term we will be listening to the Fourth Great Lesson, The Story of Writing which aims to kindle the student's curiosity to know more about early humans and how writing developed. After hearing The Story of Writing students will be introduced to the Ancient Civilisation of China. Our head chef, Sally will be exploring **Chinese cooking**. **Art and science** activities will also be influenced by the culture of Ancient China such as inventions and architecture.



The Writer's Toolkit: Skills and Knowledge Students are developing many skills to add to their Writer's Toolkit and knowledge about the structure of texts such as recounts and narratives. Last term we celebrated many well written and entertaining pieces including myths and traditional tales. This term we are continuing with exploring persuasive texts and information reports.

Grammar Comes Alive: Having fun learning and understanding the parts of speech is a focus this term. Stay tuned.

Knitting, crocheting and knitting nancy are the perfect winter crafts and develop fine motor skills, co-ordination and patience. These skills can also become a lifelong hobby for many. Beautiful colourful wools, wooden knitting needles, crochet hooks are awaiting on our practical life shelf.

Pencil case supplies, water bottles and winter clothing Pencil case supplies may need topping up. Remember to leave novelty items at home. Please ensure your child has a water bottle at school for Sport and bluearth activities as well as warm clothing for outdoor play.

Let's work together to minimise the spread of colds, flu and other germs.

Please be mindful to keep children home who are unwell. If you need to give your child panadol to get them through a day at school this usually indicates they need a day at home to rest and recover.

Susi & Sally

Cycle 3 News

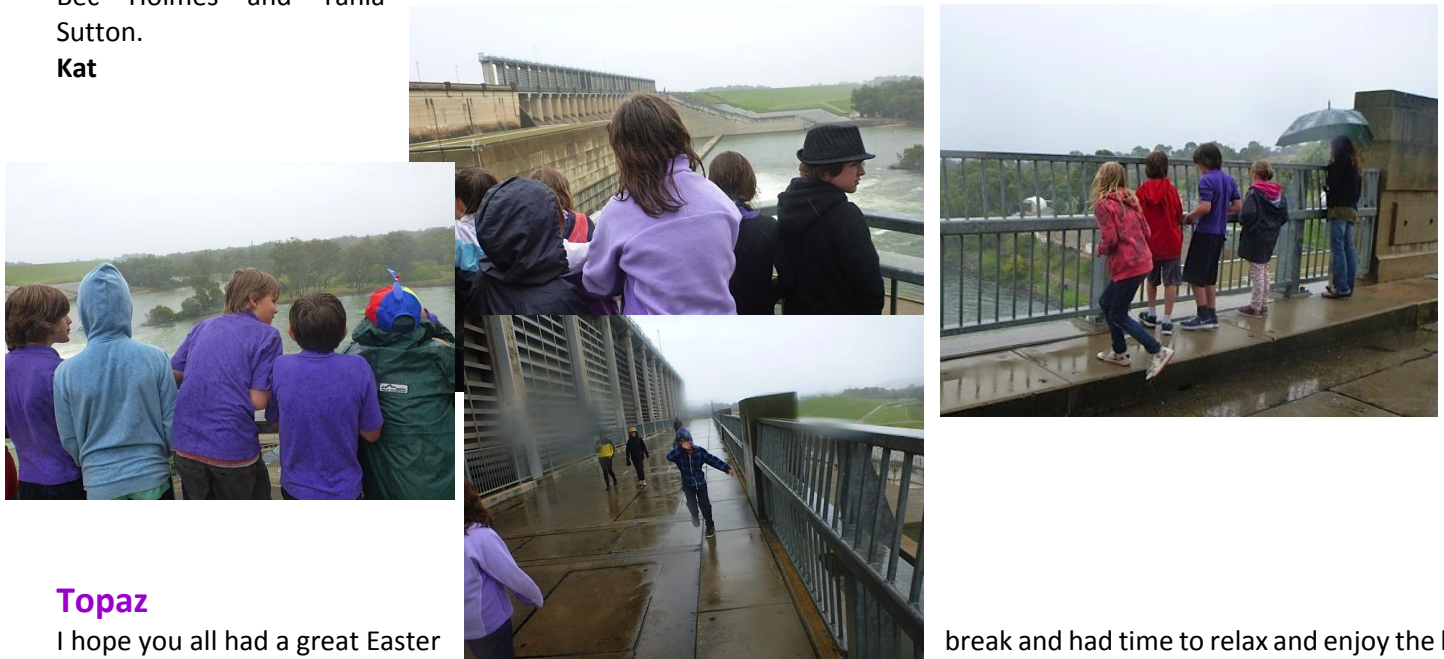
Tigereye

Welcome to Term 2! Hope you have all had restful and fun holidays. I certainly enjoyed myself by spending time with my family and some friends camping on the Murray. I also spent the first week doing the MWEI 6-12 Language course in Melbourne which was facilitated by Dianne Davis. I really enjoyed the course and feel very inspired. I'm looking forward to sharing the knowledge with Tigereye students and with my colleagues.

Excursion to Albury

On the last day of Term 1 all of Cycle 3 went to Albury to view the Archibald prize finalists from 2013 and to learn a bit more about the Murray river. The Archibald portraits were sensational and all of the students seemed to be fascinated by the art. It was a lovely way to spend part of our last day of term and I really enjoyed chatting with the students about the portraits and figuring out which ones we liked the most. Sadly, the rain persisted all day in Albury and we decided to abandon our float down the Murray and headed to the Wodonga indoor pool instead. We did get out to the Hume Weir and got a really good insight into how big the dam wall is (by walking over it!). We learned several things about the dam; for example, it was built in 1936 (and was one of the largest dams in the world at the time) and its level is currently at about 37% (in December it was at 72%). Thanks so much to our parent helpers on the day: Rob Holden, Pamela Walpole, Bec Holmes and Tania Sutton.

Kat



Topaz

I hope you all had a great Easter of the warm weather. During the holidays I went to the Melbourne Museum to see the Aztecs exhibition which was fascinating and I highly recommend it if you have the opportunity to go. This term we will continue our studies of the Fundamental Needs of Humans focusing on Shelter. Students will be encouraged to create a shelter either ancient: Aztec temple, Egyptian pyramid, Medieval castle or modern: Sydney Opera House.

At the end of last term I attended professional development in Melbourne for the Great Books Foundation. This is a not-for-profit organization which aims to expose students to great literature with the aim of improving comprehension and critical thinking. In small groups, students with the teacher being the leader, discuss a pre-reading question then read through a short story, highlighting vocabulary and areas of the story they have questions about. During the following session students read through the story again, with the focus of the second reading being to pose questions about the story. In the third session the students pose their questions and are encouraged to seek answers within the text proving their answers. The role of the leader is to ask questions only and encourage participation in the discussion of all students. These discussions usually last around 30 minutes

In History we will study the formation of Australia from the Pre-Cambrian Era through to the Cenozoic Era. Beginning with the super continent Pangaea, onto Gondwana, through to the final separation of Australia from Antarctica, we travel through Ice Ages, extinctions, super volcanoes and the rise and fall of mega fauna. We will look at the evolution of the flora and fauna that diversified into the unique environment we live in today. Students will also learn the order of the periods from Cambrian to the present day Quaternary, as well explore the epochs of the Tertiary and Quaternary.

In Science we focus on electricity where students will learn what creates negative and positive charge, how batteries and magnets work, how electrons move through copper wire and how to construct simple electrical circuits. In Zoological

studies students will begin classifying insects and arachnids with the opportunity for students to engage in project work of their choice.

In Art students are continuing with their papier mache insects, the messy part is completed and they are now painting and decorating which is the fun part. Can parents please ensure that their children have an art smock – an old shirt will do. The paint Chromocryl will not come out of clothes so to protect clothes and uniforms smocks will be essential for painting.

Terie

Community News

Montessori Adolescent Program Information Session

Beechworth Secondary College will be conducting an information evening for all parents interested in the Montessori Adolescent Program (MAP) which we hope to introduce in 2015.

MAP is designed for students in Years 7 to 9 and will be run as part of the educational program at Beechworth Secondary College. Students from a non-Montessori background will be accepted into the program, subject to an interview. Because this program requires extra resources, this will be a fee-paying program and details of this will be available on the night. The session will be held in the College's Library on **Tuesday May 6 at 7.00 pm**

To assist us in our forward planning, it is very important that we get a good indication of the likely enrolment numbers. If you are interested in the program but unable to attend, please contact John Hunter at the college on 5728 1264 or hunter.john.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

LUNCHTIME NETBALL at School

What? School netball coaching

When? Every Monday lunchtime (12.25-12.55pm) beginning in Term 2.

Where? School grounds

Who? Emily Richardson will coach children in Cycle 2 or 3.

Emily has asked if any Cycle 3 girls with netball experience would be interested in assisting her?

Please see Sally or Emily.

Cost? \$50 a term, with excess money being donated to school to purchase sports equipment. (Assistants do not need to pay a fee).

To Bring? A netball

Please register your interest with the office ASAP as we need sufficient numbers to ensure the success of this program!

House to Rent – Available Now

Short term rental in a furnished, pet friendly house in Beechworth.

Call for details
0413 400 879

Montessori Matters

Montessori Parent Education Session – Montessori philosophy

Saturday May 10th

- \$100 per person
- \$50 if repeat attendance.



MONTESSORI FOUNDATION WORKSHOP - BEECHWORTH

10 MAY 2014

Education should no longer be thought of as imparting knowledge, but must take a new path that seeks to release the human potential within us all. Maria Montessori

Invitation to Montessori Institute Students, Parents and other interested members of the Community to attend a Foundation Theory Workshop. Some of the topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Montessori Education
- Maria Montessori's life & influences
- Montessori Principles, Features and Aims
- Myths and Misconceptions
- The Absorbent Mind & Sensitive Periods
- Four Planes of Development
- Human Tendencies
- Preparing the Environment
- The Hand and Independence
- Montessori Materials
- Preparation & Role of the Teacher
- Discipline and Normalisation
- Freedom & Limits
- Rewards & Punishments



The Presenter will be Dianne Davis. Dianne has worked in the field of education for over 30 years which included doing emergency relief at a Montessori School. Working in a Montessori environment inspired her to undertake Montessori studies. She taught in a 9-12yrs Montessori classroom for 7 years and was appointed Principal at Plenty Valley Montessori School, a position held and enjoyed for 10 years. Thereafter she spent a further 3 years as Principal at Melbourne Montessori School. Dianne also does consultancy work for several Montessori schools nationally, as well as for a number of smaller independent schools in Melbourne. Dianne holds a Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Montessori 9-12 MWEI, Diploma of Montessori Leadership AMS.

VENUE: Beechworth Montessori, 42 Gilchrist Ave, BEECHWORTH VIC
TIME: 9am - 4pm **PLEASE BE PROMPT**

PLEASE BRING: Writing materials and lunch
Morning and afternoon tea will be provided



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Minimum 17 participants required to run this session. If numbers not filled by Friday May 2nd event will be cancelled. Please rsvp with full payment. Contact Heather or Feona for more details.

I have included an article written by Dianne (with her permission) in her section as Head of School at Gisborne Montessori. This is one of the topics discussed at the Foundation Workshop and helps us all to understand just what is Montessori and what does it mean.

This week, Andrea and Nathalie and I have been working with the Cycle Two and Three children, looking at what the word RESPECT means. We brainstormed what it means to respect themselves, what it means to respect the environment, the Montessori materials, the classroom, one another, people they work with. Their answers were insightful and varied as we worked towards looking at what respect looked like if we viewed our actions. The children worked beautifully throughout this session and were proud of their work at the end of the session.

Across the school, I am noticing that the children have a blurred understanding of what Montessori education really is all about. The work on respect came up after some of the children had a discussion with Adam, our Physical Education teacher, about "freedom to do what they wanted to do." They had the view that if a teacher asked them to do something they didn't want to do, then they could choose to not do it. He had discussions with me later about freedom of choice in a Montessori setting, so I thought I would write something about this in today's newsletter.

Freedom and choice within a Montessori context is not freedom to do whatever they like whenever they like. This is often a misconception I have to discuss with prospective parents as there are many unfounded views about how Montessori education works! Freedom and choice in a good Montessori classroom is freedom within boundaries.

I attended a lecture many years ago where the analogy of a river was used to describe what freedom should look like in a Montessori classroom. The analogy the lecturer used was that of a river. She asked us all to close our eyes and imagine sitting on a warm, sunny day beside a beautiful river, with the water running freely over the rocks. She likened this to the beauty of a child, working freely on work they had chosen themselves from their individual program and how beautiful it is to sit quietly and observe this deep concentration.

Then she asked us to think about the raging torrent and destructive force of a river in flood; how it breaks its banks and sweeps everything before it, destroying everything in its wake. Again, she likened this force to the child in a classroom that has no boundaries (no banks like the river in flood). She explained that a river, contained within its banks is a thing of peace, of beauty, but a river which breaks free from its banks is destructive and negative.

If we think about the child in this context, they are a beautiful thing when guided and contained, with respectful boundaries in place so they know what is expected of them. In the case of a child who has no boundaries, no rules, they become disruptive, lack concentration and we do not see the beauty within.

I talked about why parents had chosen a Montessori school for them and what freedom and choice really means in our school. Yes, the children will have choices some of the time, but not every single minute of the day. It will be freedom of choice within boundaries. The boundaries are the curriculum they are expected to cover, the rights of others to feel safe and to get on with their work, the planning done by the respective teachers in order to meet their educational needs. It is freedom for everyone in the learning community and that sometimes, this will mean that you don't get to do exactly what you want to do at that given minute because someone else's needs have to come before yours. We are having very deep conversations at the older end of the school. Conversations that I know will stand them in good stead in the future.

Dianne Davis
Head of School