



Term 2

Week 10 – 25 June 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

End of term Friday dismissal time is 2.15pm. Please remember to pick up early on this day. The bus will still operate, just an hour earlier than usual.

*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

June

23 – 26th – Cycle 1 Prep Parent Teacher Interviews

27th Friday – End of Term 2. 2.15pm finish

July

14th Monday – Term 3 commences

18th Friday – Scouts Raffle Tickets due back to school

26th Saturday – Strategic Planning session 8am – 12 noon

17th December – End of Term 4. 3.15pm finish

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

From the Principal

The power outage last week never eventuated which we are grateful for as we weren't without heat. We were also without hot water for much of last week after an electrical fault caused the system to cease. It was a case of Faulty Towers as we tried to have it repaired. Thankfully we have hot water again – it's far too cold to be washing in cold water.

Thank you so much for your support in ensuring children are supervised for exit and entry to the Early Years and the building. There's already been a difference.

Sonja has started as the Turquoise assistant – say hello. We also have several new families – it's so warming to see the way our current families are

welcoming and introducing themselves.

We are currently interviewing for the music position and will have an appointment for early term 3.

Congrats to Ulrika Wild on her performance in the regional cross country – she's now made it through to state finals. Sadly for Lia Ladbrook, she was unwell and unable to participate.

Thanks to Rob Holden for undertaking the upgrade of the fence in the Cycle 2&3 area – it has had mesh attached to prevent balls going onto the road. Thanks also to Mark Taylor, Ken Woodman and Anthony Baker, all associated with Premier Building and Construction, who made me aware of some quality tables available for donation from the Defence Department. Also to Penny Everingham and Rachel Moon for crockery and cutlery donations. We really appreciate receiving these quality items – it's lovely that people think of us.

I'm extremely proud to advise our community that Indigo Walker Stelling and Eadie Pfahlert have been invited to speak on behalf of the Indigo Shire Junior Council at this year's Kerford Oration to be held on Sunday July 27th 11am at Baarmutha Park, Beechworth. Indigo and Eadie will be speaking about their roles as junior councillors and their involvement with Aturo Island through fundraising and raising awareness.

Enjoy your break from school routine. Stay warm and healthy.

Kind regards, Heather

From the President of the Committee of Management

Strategic Planning Session

A Strategic Planning Session to update the school's Strategic Plan has been scheduled for Saturday July 26th from 8am – 12noon.

The aim of our Strategic Planning Day is for us as the school board to take some time to reflect on our progress towards our current strategic goals so far and to frame our next set of goals for the medium term. It is our responsibility to do so.

The planning day focusses on priority areas such as major infrastructure, marketing, program relevance, quality and delivery and resourcing; and medium to longer term funding and expenditure over a 3 – 5year period. To inform the planning process we draw upon feedback from parents, students, staff and community via our annual survey and individual submissions prior to the day as well as the views of key external stakeholders such as Independent Schools Victoria and Montessori Australia.

The Strategic Plan and its associated budget provide crucial direction for the principal in the running of the school and allows key stakeholders to see where the school is heading and measure its performance.

Your input is very important to the plan. If you can't make it along to the day (or even part of it) and wish to have something considered email or drop in a submission to the school at least 5 days beforehand.

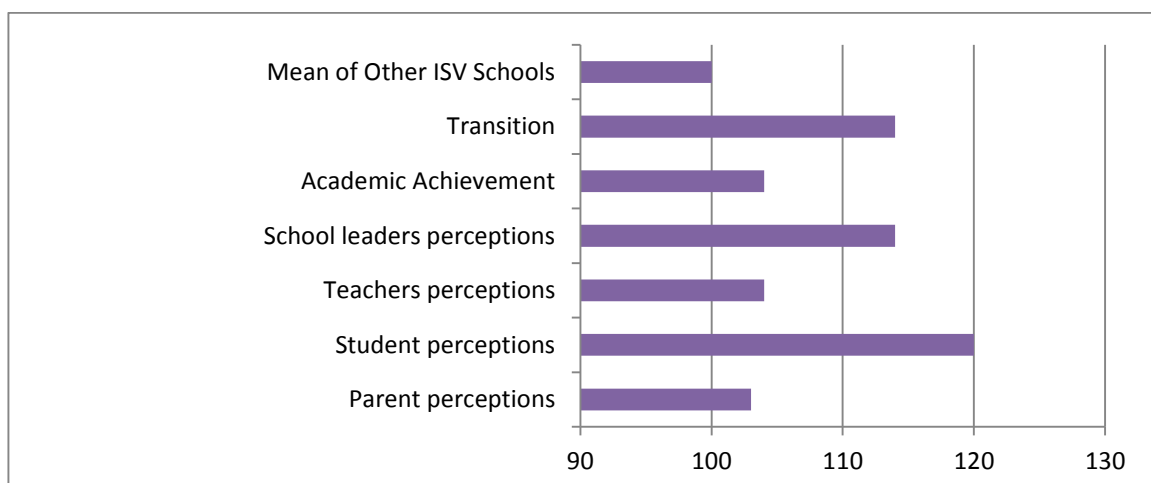
Representatives from Montessori Australia Foundation and Independent Schools Victoria will be in attendance to offer their advice, support and expertise.

2013 Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Survey of Beechworth Montessori School's operations and strategy

Graph 1 Overall Performance of Beechworth Montessori 2014 ISV Survey

Including again to provide an explanation for the graph.

The Independent Schools Victoria mean for all rows (categories) is 100. This is shown on the top row. Our scores are the categories (rows) underneath relative to the ISV mean of 100. In short, we are exceeding the ISV mean considerably on all the categories (rows).



Seane Piper
President

General News

Wanted

Someone to undertake Child Care Transfer – Adult to pick up and drop off at Beechworth Community Child care. Are you available Mon – Fri around 8.45am and 3.15 to transfer children from Montessori to BCCC? Terms negotiable – ie. in lieu of fees, possible option for lunchtime transfer on some days. Requirements – Working with Children Check, capacity to fit up to 3 booster seats in a car, current driver's licence, 3rd party insurance and a car! Please see Heather or Feona for more details. To commence asap. Prefer same person for 5 days but could consider a role share.

Lost Property

Lost property – please check before the end of term. We return labelled items to the rightful owner but unnamed items go to the opp shops at the end of each term.

Cycle 2&3 Intentions 2015

A reminder to please return your intentions for enrolment for 2015 so that we have as accurate as possible a picture of enrolment and vacancies for enquiries for enrolment. For parents of graduating students, please return this sheet even though we know that your child will definitely be leaving us. Please indicate likely school for enrolment so that we can commence transitioning links to aid the smooth movement from one school to another.

School Photos 2014

Manifeasto Photography will be conducting school photos this year – anticipated for early Term 4 with photos ready before the end of the school year.

“Manifeasto Photography is a locally owned & operated photography house. Manifeasto’s Principal Photographer, Natalie Ord has won several awards for her photography both nationally and internationally. She has a deep love of the environment and the arts which is reflected in her work. Natalie has photographed world-famous musicians, local businesses and families as well as working for ABC radio as a producer. Natalie is excited about photographing the Montessori students later in the year. You can find more about Natalie and her work at <http://manifeastophotography.com.au>

P&F News

Trivia Night @ The Plough Inn - TONIGHT

The Plough Inn at Tarrawingee has a monthly trivia night and donates the funds raised from this to a different group or organisation each time. This Wednesday (June 25th) all funds raised go to Beechworth Montessori School, so come along for some trivia, drinks and a laugh (and a meal if you want to) and contribute to P&F fundraising at the same time!

Trivia begins at 7.30pm, finishing up about 9.30pm. No cover charge but gold coin donation per person per round to play (approx. 8 rounds).

It's a laid back affair with prizes per round, not overall, so don't worry if you're not a trivia nut! Plenty of prizes have been generously donated from Ikoleji, Silver Creek Sourdough, Feathertop Wines, Tanswells Commercial Hotel, the Plough Inn, Mars chocolates, Amcal Pharmacy Wang and others. We will also be raffling a private wine tasting for 12 people with Adrian from A.Rodda Wines.

Tables of six people but you don't have to get a whole table together, just sit down with some friends on the night (or meet some new ones!). Bookings not necessary but will be appreciated by the kitchen if you think you'll eat while you're there (ph. 5725 1609).

Hope to see you on Wednesday.

The P&F team

Ruby Room News

Hello everyone. A reminder this is our last week before holidays and we are starting 3rd term with playgroup on the 15th July and our new transition group beginning (for some) on Wednesday 16th July and again on Friday 18th

During the first 2 weeks of term 3 Michaela will be working for Wiggy in Emerald room Tuesdays and Thursday mornings and Mel will be replacing me in Tots for those days. Mel and I will be taking both Transition groups on Wednesday and Fridays.

For the 3rd week of term 3 Michaela will be carrying out her placement in a Montessori long day childcare service in Sydney and so there will be a replacement staff member for all the sessions she is away. She will be back at the beginning of the 4th week.

Last Friday afternoon, ASC children had an indoor picnic where they peeled, chopped and ate roasted spuds – yum! Second serves were had by all!!

Mel, Lisa and Michaela have enjoyed working and caring for your children this term. We hope you enjoy your break and look forward to meeting up with everyone in two weeks.

Cycle 1 News

bluearth and physical education program photos



Amethyst

We would like to welcome Anthony Brown and Lenny McGill, and their families, to Amethyst room.

Changing substances

As a little girl one of my most memorable lessons in the kitchen was with my grandma whipping cream and making butter. I shared my Grandma's lesson with the children.

What is the quickest way to whip cream without using electricity?

- Using a hand-beater
- Using a whisk
- Shaking a plastic jar with 2 marbles in it

4 children predicted that the hand-beater would whip cream the quickest, 1 thought the whisk and 1 thought the plastic jar with 2 marbles.

We conducted the experiment working in pairs and after 7 minutes the cream in the plastic jar with 2 marbles was the thickest. The cream that was being whipped with the hand-beater and the whisk was still runny.

We then continued to beat the cream using the hand-beater, some children predicted that we would make milk and others thought cheese. There were also some children that thought we were just going to make a big mess! The amazement and conversation as the children watched the cream separate and form butter and whey was lovely. They were predicting, hypothesising and reasoning using the knowledge they have.

As I should have expected, the children requested we repeat this lesson on Thursday but this time also cook pikelets and have jam and fresh berries to go with the cream and butter.



Origami

As part of our study on Asia and particular focus on Japan we have been doing origami as short group lessons in the afternoon. It has been a fun and practical way of introducing the importance of following instructions in order. We discussed origami is a Japanese word made up of 2 smaller words: 'ori' meaning to fold and 'kami' meaning paper.

We wish you all a happy and safe school holiday.

Tameeka, Melissa, Lisa and Zoe



Emerald

School holidays fall at the end of this week – if your child is reading, please try and keep up the regular reading practice over the holidays. It is very common for children's reading to regress over the holidays without regular practice – reading for a short time each day can prevent this regression.

We all wish Wiggy well as she goes in for surgery on her knee this Friday and will be absent for the first two weeks of next term. Emerald parents will be contacted by email to confirm the relief arrangements – we are very happy to have Michaela in the room on Friday this week.

Thanks to all those families who have taken the time out to attend parent/teacher interviews over the past two weeks. These are a really important source of information for us and provide valuable input into our planning and interactions with your child. We trust that they have been useful to you and would like to hear your feedback on the increased time allocated for each interview and the new format.

Children have been experiencing lots of singing and dancing recently following the music lesson with Kat's mum Pat. We have been finishing our work cycle a little early to ensure we have time for our youngest children to join in prior to going outside then leaving at 12.00. For the older children, we have been extending their musical knowledge with instruments. They have been learning to replicate and create beats and rhythms of their own and have just started reading simple music notation and playing along to it (see our learning story near the classroom door for more on this great learning!).



With everyone feeling a little tired towards the end of term, we have had a renewed interest in practical life and art activities. We have introduced puppet making to satisfy those with an urge for sewing and are observing some very fine motor movements as children sew buttons, embroider facial features and stitch fabric together. We are also seeing some accurate tracing using insets and parts of puzzles. This is a great way to refine pencil grip and hand strength.

We finished up our cooking and art program last week with a whole group effort at making pancakes with mashed banana topping. It has been really rewarding hearing from parents the details that children are discussing at home demonstrating their growing knowledge of cooking and nutrition, as well as their new found appreciation of art.

Thanks to everyone for your donation of plants and succulents for our garden – the weather has not been conducive to much gardening lately, but we have them all safely in pots awaiting a suitable day to get out and get digging.

Lynda, Wiggy and Geraldine

Montessori Matters

Independence

Independence is the ability to do things for ourselves and think for ourselves. Your child becomes independent through her own activity. What should you let your child do? By being included in simple daily activities, she begins to understand routines, her role in the family, and her own abilities. When you offer choices at the right times and only lend a hand when she needs help, you are saying to her, "I know you can do this by yourself." She gains skills, confidence, and an 'I can do it' attitude, which she will take with her throughout her life.



Your child will be on the path to independence when you follow these three key principles:

- 1 Create an accessible environment.
- 2 Show your child how to do daily activities that lead to independence.
- 3 Make time.



By creating an accessible environment, showing her how to do things, and making time, you will place your child on the path to independence. Have the patience to wait for your child to do things for herself. Slow down your activities into small steps so she can watch and imitate your movements. Busy parents with full schedules may struggle to find the time. It is faster to buckle your child into her seatbelt, dress her, feed her, and keep her in nappies (diapers). Everyone has times when they can't wait for her to do it herself. But when you can wait for her to practice what she has learned, she will become her own person and amaze you with her ability to care for herself independently.

Help me to do it by myself.

Learn more at www.aidtolife.org



10

Ten things you can do at home to encourage independence

Independence in Dressing

1. Offer clothes that allow for independence: shirts that easily pull over her head, bottoms with an elastic waist, Velcro-style fastenings, and snap fastenings that she can do for herself.
2. Make a few choices of your child's clothes accessible by hanging a low bar at child height for clothes on hangers. Provide a child-sized basket or hamper for dirty clothes.
3. Provide a low mirror and a child-sized brush and comb for combing hair.

Independence in Toileting

4. Your child should have access to a small toilet chair, which is different from using a stool to climb up and sit on the family toilet. (A stool to the toilet works very well once she is toilet-trained and climbing one or two stairs independently.) She needs to feel secure when manoeuvring onto and sitting on the toilet, not at all concerned that she might fall in.
5. Provide a stool for access to the sink for hand-washing and tooth-brushing. This stool could also serve as a low seat for changing underpants.

Independence in Eating

6. Empty a low kitchen cabinet for your child's small drinking glasses, a small jug (pitcher), bowls, plates, spoons, and forks, each with their own place or container in that cupboard.
7. When choosing dishes, find child-sized versions made of breakable materials, not plastic. Your child will learn how to handle objects with care by occasionally dropping something that breaks. Breakage should be handled in a matter-of-fact manner, without anger or scolding. Children quickly learn to hold dishes with care.
8. Children are more likely to eat something if they have helped prepare the food. Small children can peel a mandarin orange or a banana if you start them off.

Independence in Sleeping

9. A low bed from the beginning gives your child the freedom to move around. It allows her to wake up and crawl off the bed in the morning. Toys placed on a low shelf will often catch her attention upon waking.
10. Create a routine that helps your child understand that it is bedtime. The routine may differ in every family, but whatever you choose, make sure it is one of diminishing activity: Play time, bath time, story time, sleep time works perfectly. Story time, bath time, play time, sleep time is a recipe for conflict!



Help me to do it by myself.

Learn more at www.aidtolife.org





Montessori Homework

Allowing Students to Find their Own Motivation

The article "After years of teachers piling it on, there's a new movement to [...] abolish homework" by Vicki Haddock (Insight, Oct. 8, 2006) resonated with me as a Montessorian educator. While the concept of abolishing formal homework may be new to Haddock and teacher Phil Lyons of Palo Alto, the concept is a cornerstone of the 100-year-old Montessori movement. As quoted in the article, a growing group of educators and researchers assert that what homework does "...is rob children of childhood, play havoc with family life and asphyxiate their natural curiosity. Learning becomes a mind-numbing grind rather than an engaging adventure."

For the purpose of this discussion, we need to differentiate between "homework" and "assignments." The homework referenced in this article is more accurately described as a series of assignments, that is to say, teacher-directed activity. Assignments of this nature actually limit the possibilities for exploration, substituting mere completion of task for the joy of discovery and personal understanding. Haddock rightly states that debate about quantity ignores the question of quality, "not all assignments are created equal – some busy work, others inspired." Montessori educators encourage and expect children to write their own problems, design their own follow-up activities, and determine for themselves what they need to do to experience success and comprehension. Homework in a Montessori sense is work that the child does at home as an extension of his/her own interests. Furthermore, the work should be meaningful and of high interest to the child – it should have a purpose. Assignments, whether they include the use of textbooks, workbooks, or worksheets for schoolwork or homework, or particular teacher-directed activity after a lesson should be avoided.

So what does Montessori homework look like? Homework runs a gamut of "real life" activities including chores, and using everyday activities as opportunities for learning skills and stimulating curiosity. Dr. Maria Montessori believed that children should be so inspired and enthused by school activity and presentations and that their interest will naturally carry over to after school hours. Given the opportunity, children will naturally create their own projects and challenge themselves. The Montessori approach is to provide a few well-placed suggestions for a variety of follow-up experiences, to different small groups of children and opportunities for learning, contributing to exciting and meaningful occupation in the classroom workplace. It is essential for educators to trust that children will create their own meaningful work without being compelled by teachers to complete assignments.

Gunn High School senior Akila Subramanian, as quoted by Haddock, summed the situation up perfectly, "It all comes down to whether adults trust us to learn. Having no homework lets you find your own motivations." Rather than just focusing on academic developments, Montessori advocated aiding the overall development of each child as a human being. The more freedom children have to make up their own problems and choose their own work, the more they will challenge themselves and the better able they will become at evaluating themselves. What you believe about a child is exactly what the child will believe about himself or herself – and that is one of the most important factors in school success.

Are we up to the challenge?

Community News

Wangaratta High School – Music Concert

Wed 25th at 7pm (usually finishes around 9.30pm - but it's relaxed and you may leave at any time).

Great opportunity to inspire students to play a musical instrument

Student performances covering a wide range of genres such as classical, rock, jazz, modern, movie themes etc performed by different bands - stage band, concert band, junior bands, along with drumming groups and singers.

Families \$20

Concession \$10

Students \$5

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Take advantage of the BNC school holiday program cooking classes for kids and expose your children to foods from a variety of countries. Give your kids the opportunity to learn to Cook and (in some cases) eat foods from this multicultural melting pot of cuisines.



Bread for Kids

Mums and Dads, why not drop your kids off at the BNC for the first of our school holiday cooking classes? In this hands on class kids will learn how to make bread from scratch and create delicious buns, rolls and scrolls. BYO container to take their treats home.

Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, 30 Ford St, Beechworth

When: Tuesday 1st July 2014

Ages: 8-16 years

Time: 1pm-4pm

Cost: \$35

Junior Master Class: Curry & Chapathi



In the second of our school holiday cooking classes your little chefs will be travelling to Sri Lanka to discover their exotic and delicious cuisine. Learn to make Indian flat bread and dhal...and let your kids enjoy "playing with their food" as they learn the traditional technique of eating with their fingers as they experience the joy's of communal feasting.

Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, 30 Ford St, Beechworth

When: Thursday 10th July 2014

Ages: 8-16 years

Time: 9am-12pm

Cost: \$35

Places are limited for these classes, so please book your place by calling us on 03 5728 2386 or email on programs@bnc.net.au

Chinese (Mandarin) Classes for 4 years old

Learn a second language in a fun way through songs, games, acting and art! Group Mandarin Classes available for 4 year olds. Lessons involve learning basic vocabulary, recognising basic questions and answering in proper sentences, holding simple conversation and singing songs and nursery rhymes in Mandarin. Classes to start in Term 3.

There are 4 sessions that you can choose from:

Wednesday	Thursday
11am – 11.40am	11am – 11.40am
1.30pm – 2.10pm	1.30pm – 2.10pm

Other days/times could be arranged if there is enough interest

Class size: 4-6 children

Cost: \$10 per lesson

Venue: To be announced

For more details please contact Sok Yi Bulmer (Bachelor in Music Teaching and Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning) at 0404 617 650 or leesokyi@yahoo.com

Junior Music Program for 3-4 year olds

A fun introduction to music to the little ones through singing, movement, imagination and musical games. Parents will need to accompany children in the class and join in the fun! Classes to start in Term 3.

There are 4 sessions that you can choose from:

Wednesday	Thursday
10am – 10.40am	10am – 10.40am
12.30pm – 1.10pm	12.30pm – 1.10pm

Other days/times could be arranged if there is enough interest.

Class size: 4-6 children

Cost: \$10 per lesson

Venue: To be announced

For more details please contact Sok Yi Bulmer (Bachelor in Music Teaching and Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning) at 0404 617 650 or leesokyi@yahoo.com

Free family movies on the school holidays



Frozen (PG)

Tangambalanga Community Centre

Thursday 3 July, 2pm

Beechworth Memorial Hall

Friday July 4, 6pm

(please book on 1300 365 003)

The Lego Movie (PG)

Chiltern Memorial Hall

Wednesday 9 July, 2pm

Yackandandah Public Hall

Thursday 10 July, 2pm

PLUS
Stories and
activities
for little kids
at all sessions

Let it go...

because everything is
AWESOME!



Fruit and healthy
snacks provided
+ hot soup at
Beechworth!



Indigo North
Health inc



Information: Indigo Shire Council ph: 1300 365 003
indigoshire.vic.gov.au/movies

Benefits of Transcendental Meditation (TM)
practiced for 20min twice per day
 Improved sleep, concentration, creativity & emotional stability
 Decreased anxiety, blood pressure, drug use & biological aging
 For more information: meditationmelbourne.org.au



Please contact Juliet for more info or to book:
julesandluc@hotmail.com

Beechworth TM Course
Sat 26th – Tues 28th July 2014
 4 discrete sessions over 4 days to learn the valuable life skill of TM

Course Cost
TBC, based on 10 participants including 20% discount off std fee
 Adults: \$1200
 Students: ½ price
 Family discounts available.

Limited places!

**Beechworth Primary School
Vacation Care Program**

Please note bookings for our Vacation Care program are essential as we have limited places available. Changes to the program may be necessary at short notice.

Staff: Andrea, Rick, Naomi
 Assistants: Rick, Aliza, Sarah, Naomi

Please note the program may vary due to weather conditions.
 In the case of extreme heat or cold, the children will be kept inside in the classroom.
 Please bring appropriate shoes and clothing for activities, (outdoor activities sturdy shoes and jumpers)
 # Weather permitting we will be eating lunch whilst on our walks.

Week 1. July

Monday June 30 Rick & Naomi	Tuesday July 1 Naomi & Sarah	Wednesday 3 July 2 Rick & Aliza	Thursday 4 July 3 Naomi & Sarah	Friday July 4 Rick & Aliza
Morning activities Cartoon drawings Lunch Afternoon movie Wii dance moves & sports challenge	Morning activities Burke Museum Lunch Afternoon movie <u>Multi purpose</u> Gym activities	Morning activities 10.30 am Chinese gardens visit & story Lunch Wii dance moves	Morning activities Craft morning Lunch Wii Fit/Dance Outdoor or indoor games	Morning activities Beechworth Library visit and activities.

Week 2. July 8th – 12th

Monday July 7 th Naomi & Aliza	Tuesday July 8 th Andrea & Sarah	Wednesday July 9 th Andrea & Aliza	Thursday July 10 th Andrea & Sarah	Friday July 11 th Rick & Sarah & Aliza
Morning activities Beechworth neighbourhood centre community garden & Beechworth Honey Visit Lunch Afternoon movie Wii dance moves	Morning activities 10.00 am Beechworth cemetery (weather permitting) Netball and football activities Picnic Lunch Late arvo movie	Morning activities 10 am Burke museum Lunch Afternoon movie	Morning activities 10.30am Afternoon Movie Craft activities <u>Multi purpose</u> activities	Morning activities Beechworth Library activities