



Term 2

Week 4 – 14 May 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

May

9th Friday – blueearth (then fortnightly each Friday)

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

16th Friday – Beechworth & District Cross Country – Cycle 3

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

Stay connected via the facebook and Twitter school accounts and also access a range of parenting and educational philosophy posts and articles.

Please note that Wednesday the 21st May is a pupil free day.

From the Principal

I attended the Beechworth Secondary College information night for the Montessori Adolescent Program that is planned for commencement in 2015 at the College. I have been asked if this a component of our school and the answer is NO! MAP is a Beechworth Secondary College program that will be funded and run completely by that school however we will link closely with them as it is going to be a Montessori program. The Montessori Secondary Education Centre (MSEC) work with BSC to fund and train staff to create this Montessori stream in a Government setting with the view to delivering an authentic

adolescent Montessori program. Laureen Barnard will be heading off to the US for training soon. The staff, Committee of Management and myself are supportive of this program but recognise that this program is run independently of us. Laureen, will be working with us, as they are keen to have Montessori students transition to their program but it will be open, subject to interview, to non-Montessori students also. We have recently received some enquiries from non Montessori primary families about possible enrolment with us as parents are keen for their children to enter the MAP at BSC. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like some contact details or more information regarding this new program at BSC.

I am conducting the Naplan tests with the grade 3&5 students. They are very positive in their attitude towards doing their best and have even managed to enjoy (most) of the tests. As always, they enjoy the reading test and many are looking forward to the Numeracy Test tomorrow. Thanks to Kat and Terie for accommodating the

Melissa will be the acting director in Amethyst one day per week commencing next week. Tameeka will be moving to a 4 day Director role to enable her to complete her qualification that will enable her to continue in her role at the school. Days have not been finalised at this stage and we will communicate the arrangements once confirmed. Tameeka will continue to have all planning and reporting responsibilities for the children. Lisa and Melissa will continue to work as per usual arrangements.

I have also been advised by Donna Hughes, Cycle 2 Turquoise Assistant that she is resigning as off this Friday. We wish Donna well for her future endeavours and thank her for her time at the school. Dina will replace Donna until an appointment is made. Please see the advertisement in the newsletter.

Kind regards, Heather

Position Vacant



Employment Opportunity at Beechworth Montessori School

Cycle 2 Assistant (full time)

Commencement ~~asap~~

The following exciting opportunities exist for the right person at our progressive Montessori school that caters for children aged from birth – 12 years. Beechworth is situated 300 kms NE from Melbourne and within 30 mins of the regional centres of Albury/Wodonga and Wangaratta. Beechworth is a great place to live, work and play.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons.

Position description, selection criteria and details are available upon request.

Please contact the Principal Heather Gerrard
principal@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au
03 5728 2940

Applications close Monday May 26th 2014

From your Committee

Hello parents, friends and children,

This is my first report on behalf of our Committee of Management since the recent annual general meeting. Since this meeting we have been settling into our portfolios, prioritising and working through the endless list of tasks that a school dedicated to ongoing improvement churns out. During this process I was reminded of a previous life of mine, prior to teaching, managing the Economic Development and Tourism Unit for the Indigo Shire.

It often struck me during this time that the rural businesses, organisations and communities who were most successful had a number of similar characteristics: they took the long view, had people involved who were prepared to work beyond a base level of expectation because they committed and believed, who supported (and lifted) during the inevitable tough times and who were brave enough to be different. If you look around our town you see fine examples of the products of these values and behaviours.

As a parent, educator and board member, I would like to thank the many of you who have done the heavy lifting over the years to build a school community which strives to embrace and enrich. There are, quite simply, very, very few examples of this being done. As we move from completing our new school and grounds towards our other strategic priorities we will endeavour to do justice to those who have laid the platform for us, for you and with you.

Best regards, Seane Pieper, President

P&F News

Wanted – dinner plates you no longer want, coffee cups, glassware, CUTLERY. Please think of us before you give to the op shops or throw out. The P&F will put them into storage and use for their functions.

Loads of Clothes Market

Yes, LOC Market will run on the weekend of October 11 and 12. Rebecca, Danielle, Heather, Georgia & Anne are heading up the organisation but if you'd like to offer to help on the weekend, in marketing, etc. please let one of these people know. We will be calling for sellers soon – thanks to Lou for agreeing to manage the logo and flyer creation.

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

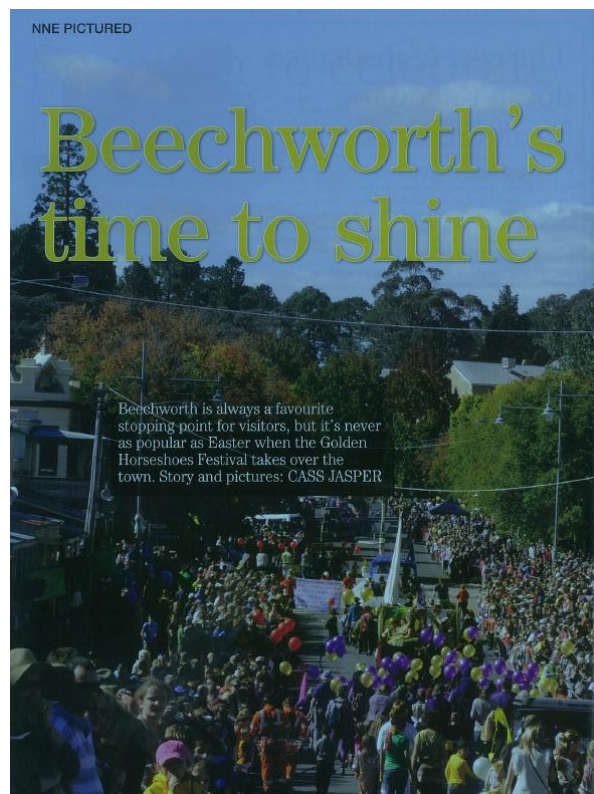
- Slow Cooked Lamb donated by Alpine Dorpers and Salad Buffet donated by P& F. Drinks at bar prices.
 - Fundraiser for school play-ground development
- Bad weather alternatives have been made so it will not be cancelled

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

North by North East Magazine – feature article

This photo appeared in the magazine – look at our balloons!



General News

Walk Safely to School day is on Friday 23 May. Parents, students, teachers are invited to meet at the post office at 8.30am to walk to school together. This is not associated with the walking school bus so everyone can join in, no registration required. The idea is to encourage safe and regular walking. If you have to drive – park somewhere and meet us at the post office or join us along the walk up Albert Road. Parents and staff welcome.

Ruby Room News

This term the children in Ruby room will be investigating colour; pumpkins and some of the things we can do with them and food we can make; our bodies; the change of seasons with Autumn leaves and planting bulbs and seeds that grow in Autumn.

In the last Ruby room newsletter I mentioned an opportunity for a working bee in the rear playground. If you are able to join us on Sunday 25th May 10.30am 1230pm please let Michaela know.

Tiny Tots

We have had a family on holidays from Japan come to tots for 2 sessions last week. Their 5 year old attends a Montessori preschool near their home in Japan and so has enjoyed the opportunity to do some cooking, listen to stories and sing songs in English. His mother was saying Japan has only 1 Montessori primary school in Tokyo and it is a long way from their home so her son will not be attending it when he turns 6.

A few children are going through 'toilet learning' – transitioning from nappies to independent toileting, which at times can be a tedious and rewarding process. I have found a link that you may find helpful posted by a Montessori mum <http://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/toilet-learning/>

Our Tiny tots sessions provide the opportunity for your child to explore and choose activities of interest to themselves and to be able to start, engage and complete an activity, accomplishing much of this by themselves (if it is developmentally appropriate). Your job as a parent is to guide and help your child **only** when necessary and **not** to do the task or activity for them. Your child needs the physical act of doing to establish the pathways in the brain that by repetition are formed. We as adults already have these pathways formed and so we are great at washing paintbrushes and drying dishes etc. What we want in this environment is to let the child experiment, explore and become slowly responsible for their choices so that over time they will learn to make good choices and also have the ability to drive their own learning. For this to happen we must trust the child and become wise so we know when to sit on our hands and when not to.

One other reminder, please ensure adult voices are kept at a low volume as this is the child's room too.

Transition

Our numbers are dwindling, as the children in transition are moving into Cycle 1 – a happy occasion for them to join more of their peers and have the opportunity to further their experiences and independence, as they are ready. If you have a child who may be ready for transition but you are not sure or you have questions, please feel free to talk to me (Michaela).

After Session Care (ASC)

The children's lunch table in ASC is a joy to be a part of with the children showing great manners, helping each other by passing the water jug, full of conversation and independent in cleaning up and putting their lunch things away. A lot of independence but also children realizing they are a part of a small dynamic group and wanting to help each other within the group.

We have been cooking up pumpkin scones, pumpkin pikelets and banana muffins with the children enjoying the process and of course the eating.

They have also had fun having their bodies traced on large paper and getting a surprise at their size mapped out in front of them and the little details drawn that identifies their individuality.

In the afternoons great play and creativity is occurring both in and out of the sandpit.

A note that we do have water for the children to drink so please refrain from packing them other drinks if possible please, it is amazing how the other children pick up what they each have for lunch and compare!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Michaela, Mel and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

With our focus continuing on environmental sustainability, particularly recycling and water conservation, the children have engaged in many learning experiences over the past 2 weeks.

Recycling - We had an incursion with Sally Atkinson from Cleanaway and she talked about what items can be recycled, she showed us 'before and after' photos of recycled items and we divided items into 'wasteful' and 'waste-wise'. Sally also had an activity with the children on wasteful and waste-wise lunchboxes, the children participated in packing a lunch box with no wrappings. We would like the children to continue this learning and ask for fruit, sandwiches, yoghurt and other lunch box items to come in containers (clearly label with your child's name) that can be taken home, washed and reused. We will be collecting our lunch time rubbish to discuss ways of reducing our waste even more.

Water Conservation - We had an incursion with Diane Doyle from North East Water, this was a very animated performance where the children were engaged in topics such as; the importance of water, where water comes from, the water cycle and water saving strategies. In our classrooms we have tubs in the sinks to catch water from going down the drain, the children then use this water to water the plants. We have a bucket to pour dirty water from the practical life and art areas to stop paint and coloured water from going down the drain, this dirty water gets poured onto the grass. We are focusing particularly on turning taps off and using the half flush.

Mothers' Day evening - We had many families visit both rooms last Wednesday; it was delightful to watch the children show their families around the room and engage in their favourite activities. Thank you for participating in the evening.

Clothing - As the cooler weather sets in, can you please ensure your child has adequate clothing. We do go outside each day for outdoor play time, so a warm jumper and/or a jacket is necessary. A change of clothes is also required for those occasions when a child gets wet or falls over.

Also a reminder that children coming in dress-ups is strongly discouraged as it is a distraction to other children and it does not fit in the Montessori philosophy of imagination being based in reality before fantasy (this comes in at approximately the age of 7).

Thanks for your support

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





Montessori Matters

From the blog – how we montessori

“At six years old Caspar is well past the sensitive period for practical life. This doesn't excuse him for helping around the home.

Non negotiable chores are a bit tough though. Of course if he is unwell, tired or simply having a bad day many of his chores are overlooked. So at six which chores are everyday chores for Caspar, the ones for the most part I don't have to ask him to do, the automatic and expected tasks include;

- Making his bed. This really includes just pulling up his blankets nicely and putting his water cup (from the evening) into the dishwasher. Often this including helping/role modelling for Otis also.
- Generally tidying up after himself. Dirty clothes in the dirty clothes basket and shoes in the 'shoe spot' are the two biggest.
- Clearing the table when finished. This includes clearing Otis' and any (children) guests we have plate/cutlery if they are finished also. All dishes are to be cleared (waste in the compost or bin) and into the dishwasher.
- Bringing his school lunchbox inside after school, emptying it and putting it in the dishwasher.
- Monitoring and filling his dog's water-bowl. This is frequent as our dog constantly empties his water.
- Complete care of his pet Hermit Crabs. This includes cleaning, filling with water, food and temperature control.
- Taking out the garbage if he notices the bin is full. This is one chore where I want Caspar to notice when it needs to be done. This applies equally to our recycling bin.

We also have a general expectation that Caspar will help with other tasks when asked. These are quite frequent and often include;

- Walking, brushing, washing (all with assistance) his dog.
- Assisting with meal preparations. Peeling, chopping, grating, stirring etc. Caspar is at a stage where he doesn't enjoy this so I only ask when I really need to.
- Setting the table for meals.
- Generally tidying up rooms like the bedroom or study (this often includes helping/being a good role model for Otis - who is less conscientious on the tidying front).
- Loading the washing machine, helping with hanging washing. If I am putting away clean laundry I always ask Caspar to fold and put away his own clothing.
- Assisting with emptying the dishwasher. I don't ask Caspar to do this on his own but often I ask for him to do it with me.
- Vacuuming. This is a big one because Caspar is at the age where he is really good at it. I try not to ask too often but if there is a particular mess he is completely capable of setting up the vacuum cleaner and vacuuming a room (or the entire house).

The term chores has a negative feeling for me. We never ask or expect our children to do such tasks as punishment. For our family and to me it's really important the children know when and how to perform such tasks, to know there are some tasks that are necessary for our home to run smoothly and so they have the opportunity to contribute to our family and home.

Neither of our children receive pocket money. It's not something that I feel comfortable with right now.

I don't think it will be so easy to get Otis to do these chores at six. I have to say that Caspar is a very tidy child who also has a great awareness of meeting the needs of others."

Community News

Do you swipe your Community Benefits Card when you shop at Ritchies IGA in town? If so, we receive a portion of your spend in cash. Additional cards are available from the office if you'd like more or need a replacement. Please give them to other family members and help raise funds that can be used to landscape the grounds and provide equipment for the children. Every swipe helps and we encourage our community to shop locally, support local businesses and reduce our carbon footprint.

The Pillow Doctor is coming!

May 23rd & 24th

At the Flying Fruit Fly Circus building, Hovell St, Albury

Friends of Fruit Fly have organized a visit from The Pillow Doctor mobile pillow renovation van on Friday May 23rd and Saturday May 24th.

This is a truly old-fashioned renovation service, bringing your old and stained bed pillows back to their full glory, and comfort! The Pillow Doctor has not come to Albury-Wodonga for many years, so this is a great opportunity to pull out all your pillows and bring them down to 'the Y' for renovation and renewal. No more covering stained pillows with layers of pillow cases!

Feather - Dacron - Rubber - Wool

The pillow Doctor offers a full service:

- **Diagnosis** - The pillow Doctor will diagnose your pillows and renovate them if they still have life in them (and most do...)
- **Renovation**- New pillow casing – choice of cotton or stain resistant – sanitise contents and refill or top-up.
- **Replacement** - Excellent new handmade pillow protectors for sale. New pillows for sale too!

Costs:

New Dacron Foam Core Pillow	\$15	Renovate Feather Pillow	\$10
New Pillow Protectors	\$6	Renovate Wool Pillow	\$8
Renovate Dacron Pillow	\$8	Renovate Continental Pillow	Sm. \$12 Lrge \$14
Renovate Rubber Pillow	\$8	Renovate Boomerang Pillow	Sm. \$10 Lrge \$12

A proportion of every sale and renovation will come back to the Fruit Flies to support our projects.

How it works:

1. Gather up your pillows and pack them into a large plastic bag.
2. Prepare an envelope with your name, number of pillows and service required and your payment (in cash please). Staple/tape the envelope to the plastic bag (make sure we can open and close the bag as your pillows will be returned in this as well).
3. Bring your pillows down to the Pillow Doctor's van at the Y on the Friday or Saturday – **latest drop off 2.30pm both days please**. You can discuss your pillows with the Pillow Dr if needed and stay until they are done (it only takes a few minutes), or just drop off and pick up later in the day.
4. Pillows can also be left at Reception during the week preceding the Pillow Dr visit, and we will arrange to have them done and left in the foyer for you to pick up.

Thanks for your support,
Anne Stelling - Coordinator for this fundraiser.
0428 565 195

Pillow pickup: Anne will pick up pillows for the Pillow Dr service from Montessori foyer on the morning of Thursday 22nd May. Please have your pillows packed as per the instructions on the flyer and leave them in the foyer before 9.15am.