

Term 2
Week 6 – 28 May 2014
Distributed weekly on Wednesday

03 5728 2940
03 5728 2500

info@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

www.beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

42 Gilchrist Avenue

PO Box 306

BEECHWORTH VIC 3747

Find us on facebook
Twitter @beechmonty



*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

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

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

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

Music teachers are hard to come by it would appear and after announcing that we had made an appointment, I now have to advise our community that the applicant has decided NOT to commence at the school and so we are advertising again for a music specialist, part time. Please pass the word around your networks.

We are now in our reporting cycle which means that there are diagnostic tests being undertaken in the classrooms and staff are referencing their student records (observational notes, communication records, mastery checklists, term plans, and diagnostic testing results are amongst the files) to prepare the first of the two written reports that all children from Prep – Grade 6 receive. We schedule two reporting pupil free days a year so that staff are able to undertake uninterrupted work on these important

documents. Each report can take up to 3 hours per child so it is vital that staff are supported when these important records to be prepared. We are required to meet compliance under State and Federal legislation regarding student reporting but are given some freedom to produce documents that reflect Montessori practice and pedagogy. For example we do not report on the levels of achievement against other students, and all learning comments are individualised. There is NO opportunity for staff to prepare these reports during the school day and this work is undertaken before or after school. It's a mammoth task that our staff place high importance on. Reports will be distributed prior to the end of term.

Kind regards, Heather



Music Director (part time)

Commencement Term 3

The following exciting opportunity exists 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 June 16th 2014

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

Sellers are now being called for the Loads of Clothes Market to be held on October 11 & 12. All terms and conditions are supplied upon enquiry. Contact loc@bms.vic.edu.au.

Long Lamb Lunch

In the Dappled autumnal light with paper lanterns and threaded leaves bouncing in the breeze above our heads, the Cycle 2/3 yard came to life last Sunday with over 100 family and friends of the Montessori P&F.

With an abundant spread of seasonal fare (even for those who don't eat meat), the grown up chatter flowed, the kids climbed, chased and lucky dipped!

Our resident dip queen, Georgia Marlow made sure her double dose of homegrown garlic will keep everyone's winter colds at bay. While the closet baking marvels: Kerry Riddoch, Helen Sellar, Christie Rodda and Bec Holmes (who despite not being able to attend, still supplied two beautiful cakes and all the crockery) satisfied even the most earnest dessert lovers.

The basketfuls of fresh, still warm bread could only have been the work of Silvercreek Sourdough baker, Lou Ritchie and despite the abundance, not a crumb was left with everyone ripping and sharing across all courses.



Of course a long lamb lunch cannot happen without the lamb and when it is prepared by the farmer himself, it's little wonder it was beautiful in every way. Thanks so much to Harry (who we discovered has a knack for whipping up simply luscious scones...in the BBQ) and Nicola Bussell - they seeded the idea way back when.

It was a gorgeous, relaxed day of good food and a gathering of new and old friendships with the added bonus of raising some fabulous funds (\$1,000) for our school yard.

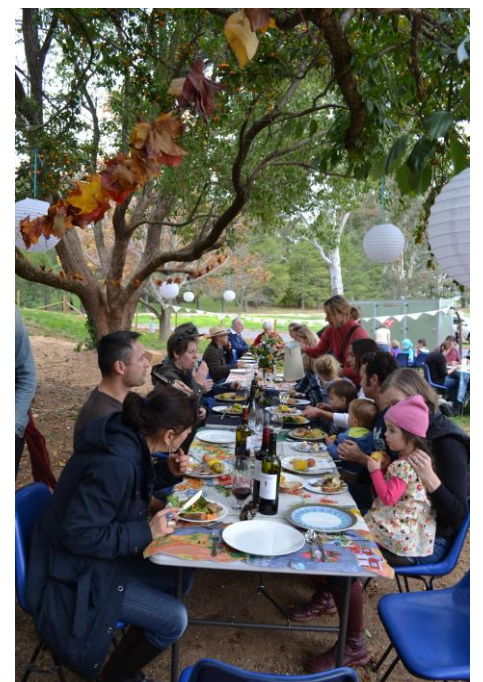
Thanks so much for every bodies help - most especially the young ladies who busied themselves with the PILES of dishes for the better part of two hours - little gems.

Looking forward to doing it all over again next year!

Jade Miles

General News

Walk Safely to School day was on Friday 23 May. A small but fast walking group headed up the hill after a short history discussion regarding the growth of Beechworth and a look at some pictures of Beechworth in the early days (check out the page Lost Beechworth, on facebook). We also marvelled at some amazing cloud formations. Some people are discussing regularly



(weather permitting) walking up the hill from the post office on a Friday at 8.30am. Please feel free to join in.

LOST: Children's reference book on Portugal. Belongs to the Wodonga Library. Lost outside Turquoise room at the end of term 1. Please contact Bec on 0438416445.

Found: Vision glasses found in the carpark at school. Could they be yours – check at the office.

Upper Home Division Cross Country

On the 23rd of May 2014 four cycle three students left at 11:00 o'clock for Regional cross country with Pamela Walpole. These children were Lia Ladbrook, Fred Wilkinson, Ulrika Wild and Charlotte Hopp. The first race was Lia's, at 12:15, 9/10 girls. Lia raced 2 km and at the end did an amazing sprint down coming 7th. Next was Fred, at 12:30 in the 9/10 boys. He was also running 2 km. He did a great job and came 51st. Then Charlotte and Ulrika (Uli) were next at 12:45 running 3 km! Charlotte was amazing and bet her personal best, coming 29th. Uli's training paid up, she came 4th. Just as they were leaving it started to rain. I think we all did really well and tried our best. Uli and Lia will be going to Broadford to compete in Regional on the 18th or 19th of June.

Ruby Room News

I would like to thank Kim, Paul and little Felix for their participation at the working bee on Sunday. There are still things to do so if you are keen there will be another one in term 3 you are most welcome to attend. Stay tuned for a date and time.

This term in Tots and ASC we have been cooking various dishes with pumpkin; pumpkin scones, pumpkin pikelets, pumpkin lanterns and pumpkin chips. Pumpkin is a versatile vegetable and the tots and children enjoyed eating them even though I was told by a couple of older children they didn't like pumpkin!

We have also been creating with clay, the children trying their hand at making an animal and a person. We have been using some of the tools for clay modelling as well.

The children in the transition program are becoming familiar with their new Cycle 1 rooms with either Mel or myself taking them over for visits.

Another reminder for parents of children in the ASC program to please ensure their personal toys stay at home if possible as they are making an appearance into the room.

Transition will be closed on Monday 9th June due to long weekend.

Many thanks to you all,
Michaela, Mel and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

Emerald and Amethyst children have begun new outdoor projects. On Wednesday afternoons, after sport, the children will come together to work on these projects, which include, weaving the A frame with fabric, planting our winter vegetables, repotting plants, and creating a succulent garden. We would like to involve parents in these projects too and will be holding another gardening afternoon next week where you are welcome to join us. Check your emails for further details.



Amethyst

Cooking

We have had an emphasis on cooking in Amethyst this year, so we thought we would share our recipes from this term. The kinder children cook on Tuesday mornings with Lisa and every second Friday we prepare a shared morning tea while the Preps are at Bluearth. The Prep children cook every Friday afternoon.

An abundance of bananas in our fruit bowl in term 1 and early term 2 lead to us to freezing bananas. We cooked banana muffins but the children particularly enjoyed using the bananas to make banana smoothies.

<i>3 frozen bananas</i>	<i>Blend all ingredients together until smooth</i>
<i>½ cup yoghurt</i>	
<i>¼ teaspoon cinnamon</i>	
<i>2 cups milk</i>	

We made ANZAC biscuits to share with our families. The children learned the origin of the biscuits and what the acronym stands for.

We have particularly enjoyed using the produce from our vegetable garden. The children have made Zucchini Slice, which we shared with our families on Mother's evening

<i>335g Zucchini grated</i>	<i>Combine all ingredients.</i>
<i>1 large onion grated</i>	<i>Cook 30-40min at 180°-200°.</i>
<i>1cup grated cheddar cheese</i>	<i>Variation: This recipe works fine with</i>
<i>1 cup SR flour</i>	<i>gluten free flour. Can add bacon.</i>
<i>½ cup oil</i>	
<i>5 eggs</i>	

We also shared chocolate balls with our mums.

<i>1 can sweetened condensed milk</i>	<i>Crush biscuits.</i>
<i>2 cups plain crushed biscuits</i>	<i>Combine all ingredients, mix well.</i>
<i>1 cup coconut</i>	<i>Roll into balls, coat in coconut.</i>
<i>2 tablespoons cocoa</i>	

Digging potatoes is very exciting and the joy when a potato is unearthed is shared by all those around. The first harvest of potatoes we cubed and baked, last week potato and leek soup.

<i>2 tablespoons olive oil</i>	<i>Heat oil in a large pot over low heat.</i>
<i>2 leeks, white part only, sliced</i>	<i>Cook bacon and leek for 5 minutes 5 bacon rashers, chopped</i>
<i>until leek is soft.</i>	
<i>1kg potatoes, peeled and chopped</i>	<i>Add potatoes and mix to coat in the 1L chicken stock</i>
<i>flavours of the leek and bacon.</i>	
<i>375mL cream</i>	<i>Add stock, bring to the boil, turn heat down to low, cover and simmer</i>
	<i>for 30 minutes.</i>
	<i>Allow to cool slightly, then puree. Stir through cream.</i>

Due to an excess of apples in our fruit bowl we made apple and cinnamon muffins. Recently we made Rijste Brij, a traditional favourite children's dessert in the Netherlands and a regular in my house. The Amethyst children also enjoyed Rijste Brij, most having more than 2 helpings with no leftovers.

<i>4 apples</i>	<i>Chop apples into 1cm cubes and</i>
<i>½ cup sultanas</i>	<i>place in a bowl.</i>
<i>1 cup milk + more if needed</i>	<i>Add sultanas and cooked rice, stir.</i>
<i>1 cup cooked rice</i>	<i>Add milk, cinnamon and nutmeg, stir.</i>
<i>cinnamon and nutmeg to taste</i>	<i>Simmer on stove but do not boil or cook in microwave for 5min.</i>
	<i>Allow to cool, serve and eat!</i>

The children thoroughly enjoy their cooking session each week. I often am asked, "Are we cooking today." It is an activity you could do with your child at home using the recipes they know from Amethyst room.

Cooking is an important part of the Practical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics and Health Awareness areas of the Montessori curriculum and it aligns to VEYLDF Outcome 3 - Children have a strong sense of wellbeing and VEYLDF Outcome 4 - Children are confident and involved learners.

Tameeka, Melissa, Lisa, Zoe



Emerald

Thanks very much to Amandhi who started our expanded bread making program last Friday. As all Emerald parents know, children have the opportunity to independently make bread each day. We are expanding on their skills and experience this term by inviting in interested parents to share their bread making skills and knowledge of different types of bread, tools, techniques and ingredients. On Friday the children enjoyed making chapati (check your email for the recipe) with Amandhi. We hope to be able to offer this weekly on different days so children attending part time can participate for the rest of the term. Thanks to Danielle, Juliet and Lou for offering to assist.

This term we have started an expanded cooking/art program on Friday afternoons. The children have been split into two small groups and have a focussed lesson on either art or cooking which is then repeated with the other group on the following week. We are finding that we are able to really expand children's skills and knowledge with this small group program. Children's cooking experiences, skills and vocabulary are being broadened, and they are creating some amazing art works. We have studied the mosaic art of Sonia King and the charcoal works of Jim Meskimen. Children have discussed materials and tools and have been encouraged to consider the techniques evident in sample works available in the classroom. We will have a regular exhibition of photocopies of children's work (many don't want to display the original so this is a good compromise). Keep an eye on the classroom window for this.

Lynda, Wiggy, Geraldine

Montessori Matters

The most important aspects of Montessori in the home

<http://midwestmontessori.tumblr.com/post/86601498791/the-most-important-aspects-of-montessori-in-the-home#>

"I recently became a member of a few Montessori Facebook groups. They were set up to provide support to Montessori parents and educators by Montessori parents and educators. Each day I peruse the problems described in these groups and the advice offered. Common themes provoked me to write about some important and very basic aspects of Montessori in the home.

*First let me say that if you are looking to incorporate Montessori education in your home, **the most important things you can do involve no Montessori-specific materials.***

So many parents want to buy their children's education. They want to buy or DIY these neat little Montessori activities, and check Montessori off their list. I'm here to tell you - it's not that simple.

*Montessori is so much more than the materials. It is so much more than the activities. In fact, it is even more about **the way you talk to your children**, and **how you keep your household.***

*The most important aspect of Montessori education is **respect for the child**. This respect manifests itself as providing as much opportunity for **independence** as possible, by creating a **prepared environment** that provides **freedom within limits**.*

No set of materials can substitute for creating this respectful environment for a child.

Here is how to do it.

1. Adjust how you speak to your child - and possibly how you speak to (or about) anyone. *Your child's emotional, mental, and social development depend on it.*

Do you communicate respect with each interaction you have with your child? Are you patient? Do you get frustrated when she doesn't take to an activity like you'd hoped? Do you speak gently and calmly? Do you ask politely or do you demand things of her? Do you respond fully to her questions or do you dismiss her curiosity with an oversimplified answer? Do you praise her rather than allowing her to feel accomplished for herself-without a need for your approval? Do you punish her despite her inability to have self control?

How are your relationships outside of your children? Maybe a partner, other children, your parents, siblings, friends, coworkers? How do you speak of those relationships with your child? How do you interact with those people in front of your child? Are your interactions patient, kind, and respectful?

Don't be ashamed if you aren't perfect in how you speak to your child. No one is. In fact, we are all far from it. If you are anything like me, most of this doesn't come second nature. In most cases how you deal with other people comes from how you were taught, and none of us were taught perfectly.

We can, however, seek ways to improve so that our children have the opportunity to be more emotionally, mentally and socially stable than we are.

The best resource that I have found for learning effective ways to speak to children are from RIE - that is [Resources for Infant Educators](#). It is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating parents and caregivers on this special approach to parenting. It was developed by Magda Gerber, author of [Your Self Confident Baby - How to Encourage Your Child's Natural Abilities - From the Very Start](#).

Another powerful and helpful RIE resource is [Janet Lansbury's website](#) where she writes articles on topics such as [toddler discipline](#), [how to talk to toddlers](#), [setting limits with respect](#), [real reasons toddlers push limits](#), [how we misunderstand our children](#), [fostering](#)

[emotional literacy](#).....I could go on and on.. A compilation of her most popular posts are available in print form in her book [Elevating Childcare](#).

I highly encourage reading about RIE as I believe that through the process you will start recognizing opportunities to show respect to your child and more effectively communicate with him or her. I also believe that learning these things helps our relationships with adults as well. We could all use help in our relationships, right?

For strengthening a marriage (or similar relationship), I recommend [MarriageBuilders.com](#). It has been a wonderful resource for marriage advice for my husband and I. From establishing our marriage to conflict resolution, literally every obstacle we have we have been able to work through with much of the advice on the site.

Another resource for how to talk with children that I find very helpful and very “Montessori” is anything by [Alfie Kohn](#). My summer reading includes his book [Unconditional Parenting: Moving from Rewards and Punishments to Love and Reason](#). I have been inspired by many of his [articles](#), so I am anxious to read this book.

Most importantly, seek to understand how your child’s brain works and how you can best facilitate it’s growth. Show empathy to your child. Communicate love and compassion and understanding through your patience and kindness and gentleness. Learn how to handle conflict. Learn how to deal with stress and frustration. Like I said before, your child’s emotional, mental, and social development depend on it.

2. Evaluate how you keep your household. Organization, simplicity, and practical life activities are at the very core of Montessori education - without them, the materials and other activities are meaningless.

Is your house neat, tidy and organized or is it a cluttered mess? Is having too much stuff getting in the way of keeping your home organized?

One of the most common questions on the Montessori Facebook groups goes like this: “Here is photo of my child’s play space. Suggestions to make it more Montessori?”

Ten times out of ten, every Montessori-trained commenter recommends to pare things down. Get rid of 90% of what is out. Children get so easily overwhelmed. You may not see it, but I guarantee you that your child gets overstimulated. With too many choices, a child doesn’t know what to do with himself and “gets bored” or starts to pull everything out all at once, making a huge mess.

The truth is, most children (at least most American ones) have way too many toys and materials at their fingertips. Less is more. Get rid of it. If it’s not serving an important purpose, toss it (or sell it or donate it, whatever you do with your unwanted things). And do this with every area of your home - not just in the children’s spaces.

*Doing this will help you to simplify. It will help you to **create a place for everything** so that you are empowered to **keep everything in it’s place**. Set yourself up for success in this area by setting aside time each day to tidy. Maybe set up additional time each week to making deeper improvements, and then each month for even more. Maybe each season you have a big purge. Whatever helps you to be successful in this area.*

Once you have purged, you can focus on how you go about keeping your household. How do you do laundry? What is your system for keeping things clean (floors, furniture, bathrooms, etc.)? What is your system for planning and preparing meals? What is your system for taking care of yourself (grooming, etc.)?

Everyone has a system. It may be unplanned or unorganized, but we all have a system. The question here is, how can we make these systems child-friendly? How can we include our child in keeping our household? Are there any road blocks keeping us from including our child?

Ask yourself these questions, and then truly adjust your systems as needed, with the goal of helping your child to be included as much as possible. The goal is to create independence and encourage autonomy by allowing the child to have a hand in his or her own self care.

Your children will thrive in this orderly environment that allows for their full participation. Practical life activities shouldn't just be something sitting on a shelf. They should be adapted to how you already keep your household.

Let me say that I write about these things because I have learned them first-hand. I was guilty of trying to incorporate Montessori principles without truly contemplating my day-to-day interactions with my daughter.

Each diaper change, each trip to the toilet, each meal, each nap, each playtime, each cleaning day, each tidying time is an opportunity to show respect and provide opportunities for independence. Caring for ourselves and our home is a huge part of our lives and if not, they should be.

We need to communicate the importance of these activities to our children by not rushing through them, but by taking our time to enjoy them. Soak in each meal and appreciate your food and the nourishment and enjoyment it provides. Enjoy caring for your home. Enjoy caring for yourself. And teach your child to enjoy these things as well.

Once you have made adjustments in how you speak to your children and how you keep your household, then it is a great time to look into Montessori materials and activities. I look forward to posting more about those in the future."

Community News



**COME ALONG TO OUR FREE MORNING TEA
SATURDAY 31ST MAY FROM 9.30 – 11.30AM
ENJOY A WARM CUPPA, A SLICE OF CAKE AND WATCH THE
CHILDREN PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY GARDENS WITH THE
BEST TOYS IN TOWN!
6 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR ANYONE THAT COMES
ALONG!
EVERYONE WELCOME**
Beechworth Neighborhood Centre, Ford St