



## Term 3

### Week 6 – 20 August 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 3

**14<sup>th</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> September**

*10 weeks*

*0 public holidays*

*1 pupil free day – Montessori Networks*

#### August

27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – THRASS Parent Info Session 7pm RSVP essential

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Maria Montessori's birthday

#### September

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – Father's Day Night 5-6pm

8<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Cycle 2&3 Parent Teacher Interviews

12<sup>th</sup> Friday – Gum Tree Pies Fundraiser orders due

12<sup>th</sup> Friday – Toy Catalogue orders due

16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – International Peace Day celebrations 5pm

19<sup>th</sup> Friday – School photography orders due

**19<sup>th</sup> Friday – End of Term 3 – 2.15pm finish**

### Term 4

**6<sup>th</sup> October – 17<sup>th</sup> December**

*10½ weeks*

*1 public holiday – Melbourne Cup 4th November*

*1 pupil free day – Report Writing 3<sup>rd</sup> November*

#### October

10<sup>th</sup> Friday – Gum Tree Pies fundraiser delivery 12 noon & 3.15pm pick up

11&12 – Loads of Clothes Market – Memorial Hall

#### December

17<sup>th</sup> – 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

Today we took delivery of the new AFL goal posts and these will be installed next week in the Cycle 2&3 outside area. Cycle 2&3 staff are keen to publicly acknowledge the work of Andrea as the Phys Ed specialist until this point and the way in which she has raised the profile of physical movement at BMS – we had the Richmond Football Club visit, Hockey roadshow, Cricket workshop is coming, and the NRL have instructed the students in Rugby League. Students have also participated in all interschool events at the Cycle 3 level, with much individual and group success; including cross country, swimming, hockey, netball, and coming up, athletics. As Terie wrote in last week's newsletter we value more than just the physical activity and place importance on the respectful manner in which our children participate and the intrinsic motivation to train and improve their skills. Thanks Andrea. Josh will continue on with this work, in conjunction with Daniel in the bluearth program. Recently we've had a work experience student Isabel West working with several classes and she is now attending on bluearth days. The next event will be athletics – it's currently being planned for and more news will be shared once details are confirmed.

We regularly have parents and interested others in to observe in the classrooms so that they can see how differently the Montessori style of learning is. I'd also like to offer people the opportunity to undertake observations in the Cycle 2&3 outdoor area at lunchtimes (Cycle 1 is easy to see from the front of the

school). This would provide you with a better understanding of how children engage socially and physically in unstructured time and how the use of that area has evolved since our relocation. If you are interested in booking a day to observe, please do so through the office.

**International Peace Day celebrations:** An invitation from your child will be coming home soon to invite families to an evening event for our annual Peace Day celebrations. This year we will be holding it on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the school. Schedule it into your diaries and we hope that you can attend.

***Kind regards, Heather***

## General News

### THRASS Parent Information Session

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 7pm – RSVP essential. To be held in Turquoise room.

### Garage Sale of School Surplus Items

Thanks to Cathryn and Mick Mahon for running the garage sale. We managed to clear a major amount of surplus items and made a profit that will be used for the outdoor works.

### Cycle 2&3 Outdoor Learning Installation

Over the past 8 years, many of our students have had connections to circus arts in one form or another. Whether it be through in school workshops with Per Westman which began in 2007, with 'The Fruit Fly Circus' or 'Circus in Yackandandah'. In recognising and following the interests of our children, the school has engaged Xavier Pinard to make a tight wire for the Cycle 2 & 3 playground.

The act of walking on a tight wire is one which may be directly linked to Maria Montessori's exercise of 'walking the line' or 'walking the ellipse'. An exercise offered to the children in the Cycle one environment.

**"In the beginning you must subject yourself to the influence of nature. You must be able to walk firmly on the ground before you start walking on a tight wire." (Henri Matisse)**

*In a Montessori school, nestled in the environment of Cycle one, the child carefully walks on the ellipse, developing fine motor skills, balance, coordination and a sense of inner discipline. Later, he/she is offered the opportunity to step out of the early years nest, towards further refinement of movement and mastery of self.*

*Situated at the beginning of the wire, the bower bird's nest, reminds us of the ellipse in the early years and as the child steps onto the wire, she transcends the ellipse, moving away from the nest to balance her way through life as an independent human being. The act of stepping onto the wire thus represent the crossing of a threshold from early childhood to a state of finer control and awareness.*

We look forward to watching how the children engage with this installation.

### Photo orders

Orders are due Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September and photos will be taken early in Term 4 with photos available approx. 3 weeks later. If requiring sibling photos choose portrait or combo package and indicate "sibling" on the order forms.

### Cycle 2, 3 and Preps/Grade 1 Disco

Just a reminder that on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, we are having a disco. It is going to be held at the Neighbourhood Centre. It's \$5.00 per person.

- Cycle 1 Preps and grade 1: 5-6pm
- Cycle 2: 5-6.30pm
- Cycle 3: 6-7.30pm

Parent helpers and dancers welcome with child's permission. Please return the permission form that was on the invitation placed in parent pockets.

Thanks ☺

The Disco Event Group

## P&F News

### Loads of Clothes Market

Registrations are being received and word is out that this will be the place to make some \$ and pick up some quality pre-loved clothing and accessories. Please share with your friends that if they have quality items that they'd like to sell, then they can register as a seller with the Loads of Clothes Market – email [loc@bms.vic.edu.au](mailto:loc@bms.vic.edu.au) or call 03 5728 2940.

## **Gum Tree Pies Fundraiser**

An order from has been placed in parent pockets for this fundraiser. ***Please ensure that you use the green flyer; the yellow copy contained a pricing error.*** Orders are due back by 12<sup>th</sup> September (Friday) and delivery of freshly made, unbaked pies suitable for cooking or freezing will be delivered Week 2, Term 4 – Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. We receive \$1 per pie and only quality products are used in these locally produced, award winning pies. You can check out their products on [www.gumtreepies.com.au](http://www.gumtreepies.com.au)

Testimonial – Kerrie Riddoch

*I absolutely love the gum tree pies 'honestly best pie ever eaten'. These pies are all individually made with real meat and vegetables with the added benefit of being produced locally. Try these amazing pies and discover for yourself how yummy and healthy they really are. I'm a big fan of the Lamb and Mint and can eat these to the cows come home, so please support this fabulous fundraiser and get your orders in.*

## **Ruby Room News**

Hello everyone, I would like to thank those staff that filled in for me while I was away on my placement last week...thanks to Lisa, Khy and to Mel. I will be writing a report about my experiences there that were very positive and an opportunity to see a wonderful Montessori program working well in a childcare setting.

I would also like to thank Amber – Jack and Charlie's mum- for the beautiful baby crocheted rings that she presented to our babies to be part of their activities. Also thank you to the Ryan family for their ongoing care of our courtyard playground in planting of new plants and maintenance of it as well

Another working bee is planned for the playground of the Ruby room on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am. All welcome with tools such as shovels, drills, hammers, pliers and wire cutters. I will update closer to the time with more details, children most welcome.

Welcome to Lennie Merrington who will be starting in the transition class this week. I will be working with Mel on Friday mornings due to an increase in children attending. If any parents would like to stay as a parent helper in a Transition class please fill in the roster form next to the sign in book.

Thank you

**Michaela, Mel and Lisa**

## **Cycle 1 News**

### **Across Both Rooms**

We have completed our study on Antarctica and have now begun Europe. The children have been engaged in making booklets with information about people, food, countries, flags, buildings and animals.

The next two weeks we are doing European cooking, languages, coins, maps and flags.

- It would be great to have parents who know a language to come and read a story, teach a song or some greetings. If parents can't come in but have a CD and picture book we could use on a listening post for the next 2 weeks we would appreciate it, we would like to expose the children to some of the many languages of Europe.
- We are also looking for parents who could assist with pasta making.
- We would also like the children to experience some coins from Europe, if you have some at home that we could use please bring them in.

Our Culture/Science lessons are on Mondays from 1:30 to 2:45, if you can contribute to this program please talk to Lynda or Tameeka.

Last Friday Lynda, Tameeka and Tere went to Melbourne Montessori to meet with their staff. Tameeka and Lynda explored the three Cycle 1 classrooms, taking many photos of new materials and different ways of displaying activities. We shared our experience of moving premises as they prepare for their move at the end of the year and we discussed how they have engaged staff and community in the National Quality Framework, their process of developing the Quality Improvement Plan and what their assessment visit looked like. We would like to thank Teri for being the driver.

## Amethyst

### **Beechworth Bakery Excursion**

We began with the walk down the very long hill. This was not an issue because the excitement of going to the bakery and doing something out of the ordinary kept their little legs moving one step after the other. I took our class bell with us but did not need to use it because the children were so engaged and respectful, they received many positive comments about their behaviour. From the very onset the children were all responsible, thoughtful and polite. At every point the children listened to their instructions and responded appropriately. I was delighted. We walked through to the production bench in the heart of the bakery. The children were very quiet and wide-eyed. First the children pounded their bread dough, then shaped it as they chose. It went on a tray and into the huge ovens. There was a sense of ownership and pride of 'my bread' with the children.

Next we used biscuit cutters to cut the short bread dough and make various shaped and sized biscuits, which were decorated with small choc chips and smarties. The children were delighted to make such a treat and busting to eat them. We went upstairs and ate lunch from our lunch boxes, before eating a freshly baked biscuit. By the time kinder parents arrived the bread was cooked and very happy children were ready to go home with their bread and a bag of biscuits to share with their family.

The Prep and long day children made their way back up the hill, which was a little slower than a few hours earlier, but each and every child made carrying their own bag and bread. It was a wonderful day with many exhausted bodies by the end. I would like to thank Corrine, Therese, Jacqui and Mel for their support as parent helpers on this excursion. I look forward to our next outing.

As a follow up to our excursion we have written a class letter thanking the Beechworth Bakery for the bread and biscuits, and made a class photo book, We also plan to make our own bread and biscuits and classify food into eat always and eat sometimes.

### **Art**

We have started looking at Vincent Van Gogh's art works. The children had a go at mixing colours and replicating 'A Starry Night'. The concentration and focus of the children during this lesson was remarkable. The next week we moved to 'Sunflowers' where the children again replicated the painting and then made their own sunflower using a variety of materials. We will continue to focus on Van Gogh while the children maintain the interest.

### **Thank you**

The Amethyst staff and children would like to thank Terie and the students from Topaz for swapping their convection oven for our microwave oven. The children are very excited and want the room to smell like cooking; I think we can all relate to the comfort we feel when we can smell food cooking.

***Tameeka, Melissa, Lisa and Zoe***

## Emerald

Each Wednesday and Friday afternoon we have cooking classes with the school aged or kindergarten children attending. We have been working our way through recipes from the Moonstone soup cookbook produced by Cycle 2 last year. Each week children make a soup and an accompanying soup bread/scone recipe. So far, we have tried Minestrone, pumpkin and carrot and orange soup.

This week we will start discussion on European artists with children studying famous works of individual artists and using the medium they worked in to create their own versions of these iconic works and their own creations

***Lynda, Wiggly and Geraldine***

# Montessori Matters

## Montessori Adolescent Program

Parents and interested others are invited to a staff meeting at Beechworth Montessori School on Wednesday 17/9/14 at 3.30 – 4.30pm in which Laureen Barnard will involve staff in an update on the Beechworth Secondary College Montessori Adolescent Program, and her adolescent training at the Hershey Montessori School in Ohio. We will be participating in a seminar which will be a method of instruction utilised in the adolescent Montessori program.

RSVP is essential by Friday 12/9 as there will be some pre-reading so that you can participate in the session. All parents welcome however unfortunately we cannot cater for children at this information session.



### **Beechworth Bakery Excursion 8/8/14**

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We will complete various activities as a follow up to our excursion. We will write a class letter thanking the Beechworth Bakery for the bread and biscuits, make a class photo book, make our own bread and biscuits, classify food into eat always and eat sometimes and discuss and write about the bakery experience.

VEYLDFO Outcome 1: Identity Children have a strong sense of identity  
VEYLDFO Outcome 2: Community Children are connected with and contribute to their world

## Community News



### **COOKING CLASSES**

# **Bread for Kids**



Mums and Dads, why not drop your kids off at the BNC for a Saturday afternoon of bread making? In this hands on class kids will learn how to make bread from scratch and create delicious buns, rolls and scrolls.

Warning: This is a seriously hands on class and kids will be getting their hands messy!!

BYO aprons and containers to take their baked goodies home.

**Where:** Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, 30 Ford St, Beechworth

**When:** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Ages:** 8-16 years

**Time:** 1pm-4pm

**Cost:** \$35