



Term 3

Week 8 – September 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

The child can only develop fully by means of experience in his environment. We call such experience 'work.' Such experience is not just play . . . it is work he must do in order to grow up.

Maria Montessori

From the Principal

Tonight is our annual Father's Day Night from 5-6 pm. All rooms will be open and a light late afternoon tea provided. We hope that those who play a fathering role with the children can attend.

Thanks to Karen for holding the parent THRASS information session last Wednesday and to those who attended. I gather there were lots of questions. Hopefully you took away a better understanding of how THRASS is used to support the Montessori language curriculum and the learning of the children.

Students in years 3&5 who participated in the NAPLAN tests in May yesterday received an envelope with their results. We encourage parents to read the results with an open mind that at Beechworth Montessori School we do not teach to the tests....we do however expose the children to the types of questions that they may encounter on the tests. In Montessori classrooms we work with the whole child – social, emotional, physical and intellectual – to assist them as they construct who they are. The NAPLAN tests are a component of the intellect *on a particular day, under certain circumstances and in response to particular questions.*

Staff will use the individual and school results to assist them in the delivery of the Montessori curriculum – which should be noted, has far greater depth and breadth than literacy and numeracy. As included in the Annual Report, which was distributed via email last week, we are required to report on the NAPLAN

A year calendar of events was distributed at the start of the year.
This section includes those events and any updates.

Term 3

14th July – 19th September

10 weeks

0 public holidays

1 pupil free day – Montessori Networks

September

3rd Wednesday – Father's Day Night 5-6pm

8th – 18th – Cycle 2&3 Parent Teacher Interviews

12th Friday – Gum Tree Pies Fundraiser orders due

12th Friday – Toy Catalogue and Uniform orders due

12th Friday – Prep/Grade 1, Cycle 2&3 Disco

12th Friday – Loads of Clothes Market registrations close

15th Monday – Tigereye Science Expo – 2-3pm. All welcome

16th Tuesday – International Peace Day celebrations 5pm

19th Friday – School photography orders due

19th Friday – End of Term 3 – 2.15pm finish

Term 4

6th October – 17th December

10½ weeks

1 public holiday – Melbourne Cup 4th November

1 pupil free day – Report Writing 3rd November

October

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

11&12 – Loads of Clothes Market – Memorial Hall

December

17th – End of Term 4. 3.15pm finish

More dates to be added throughout the term.

Keep checking this section to stay informed

results. The data from this year's tests continues to affirm that when comparing our students' outcomes to the State and National averages the trend data is that our students continue to improve across all areas. This is without teaching to the tests whilst delivering a diverse integrated curriculum.

Not all of you will be aware but schools have been advised that in future, students who undertake NAPLAN testing will be required to complete them online. This does not sit comfortably with us as Montessori educators on several levels,

including that computing skills require a completely different skill set to those required to undertake the tests. ACARA has undertaken preliminary testing around Australia this year with a view to fast tracking implementation.

Kind regards, Heather

General News

Hats – All students are required to wear hats outside from September to April

A reminder that as per our Uniform Policy, from September to April (inclusive) all students are to wear hats when outside. Hats must be broad brimmed or bucket/surf style with brims at least 7.5cm. Bucket or surf hats are to have a deep crown and a brim of at least 6 cm. Navy hats with the school logo can be purchased from the office – surf hats \$16, bucket hats \$12.50.

School Uniform Orders

Orders are due to the office by **Friday Sept 12th**. Uniform is not compulsory in the primary school unless attending a school excursion or representing the school in the the community.

Earlier in the year a few girls approached Heather to enquire whether a summer skirt could be made out of the school dress material. Before an approach is made to the supplier/manufacture to ascertain if it's feasible and the cost I'd, Heather would like some indication that this would be purchased by parents. Please let the office know or speak with Heather directly.

International Peace Day celebrations – Tuesday Sept 16th 5-6pm

Please join staff and students for our annual International Peace Day Celebrations. This year we will commence at 5pm for student performances and participation of families in a peaceful event of singing and music. Jane Darvall, representing the Committee of Management will then launch the Vision and Values document and update the community on the new strategic vision for the school. This will be followed by soup and bread co-ordinated by the P&F. The celebrations commence at 5pm in the Cycle 2&3 outdoor area (weather permitting). Please wear a colour of the rainbow.

From the P&F

Following the proceedings of our Peace Celebration this year the P&F would like to invite all children and families to join us for a bowl of warm soup and some crusty sourdough. We hope this will provide an opportunity for us all to catch up after a long, dark winter. If you think you may be able to provide a pot of soup to share, then please contact Helen Sellar on 0527283222 or helensellar@yahoo.com

A variety of yummy home cooked soups will be much appreciated. Please provide a list of ingredients so that allergies/food restrictions can be catered for. Thanks Helen.

Photo orders

Orders are due **Friday 19th 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.

Account details for EFT:

BSB: 193-879 Acc: 475 339 294 Name: Natalie Ord

Please identify the child's name in the payment description so payments can be recorded.

Cycle 2, 3 and Preps/Grade 1 Disco

Just a reminder that on **Friday the 12th 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 close September 12th – don't miss out. email loc@bms.vic.edu.au or call 03 5728 2940.

Gum Tree Pies Fundraiser

Orders are due back by 12th September (Friday) and delivery of freshly made, unbaked pies suitable for cooking or freezing will be delivered Week 2, Term 4 – Oct 10th. 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

Toy Catalogues

Orders forms are required at the office by Friday September 12th.

Cycle 2&3 Parent/Teacher Interviews

Cycle 2 & 3 interview times can be found below in the table. To book a time, complete the sheet located in the Cycle 2 & 3 parent waiting area or contact the office and we can secure a time for you. To enable efficiency and fairness directors will adhere to the allocated times. If parents are late for interviews, the time will need to be reduced so that following families are not inconvenienced. A room timetable will be placed in parent pockets this week in addition to the table below.

Children are welcome to attend the interviews and an opportunity will be made available if there are issues that would be best discussed without your child present.

	Moonstone <i>Susi</i>	Turquoise <i>Karen</i>	Tigereye <i>Kat</i>	Topaz <i>Terie</i>
Tuesday 9 th September	3.30pm – 6.30pm	3.30pm – 6.30pm	3.30pm – 5.30pm	3.30pm – 5pm
Wednesday 10 th September			3.30pm – 5.30pm	3.30pm – 5pm
Thursday 11 th September	3.30pm – 6.30pm	3.30pm – 6.30pm		3.30pm – 5pm

Ruby Room News

Spring is springing into action...blossom is everywhere. With that comes into action our sun smart policy when during outside time the children and parents will need to be wearing hats. Parents please ensure there is a named hat packed into your child's bag for your child to access when needed as no hat means no outside play.

Today in Tots we made some apple pikelets for morning tea that were greatly appreciated. The recipe is as follows:

1 cup of self-raising flour

½ cup grated apple –or more if you like

1 cup rice milk – any type of milk can be used

¼ oil

1 egg

Sift flour into mixing bowl, add grated apple, mix together

In another bowl add all wet ingredients and egg mixing together

Add wet to dry ingredients and mix until a smooth batter

If needed more liquid can be added

Spoon into a preheated oiled pan and place tablespoon size of mixture.

When small bubbles appear flip pikelet over

Spread with mashed banana, honey, your favourite spread

ENJOY!

Could parents with children in Transition have a look at the roster sheet next to the sign in book to see if you are able to come in and be a helper, particularly on Wednesdays?

Also a reminder for children to bring either one or two pieces of fruit only for shared snack on Transition days.

The scheduled working bee for Sunday 7th September has been moved forward to the following Sunday 13th September at 10.30am -12.30am (or as long as you can stay) due to this weekend being Fathers day. Children welcome as well.

Tools needed will be shovels, drills –with an auger bit, hammers, handsaw/jigsaw- preferably, pliers.

Ruby room will be open tonight for Fathers day/night from 5-6pm and we would like to invite you to come along and see what it is your child likes to do here. A light supper provided.

I would like to thank Jessica and little Enso for the music CDs they donated to Ruby room I am sure we will great enjoyment from them.

Thank you
Michaela, Mel and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

Across Both Rooms

Cycle 1 Cultural Subjects Program

We have been studying Europe in our combined classes on Monday afternoons. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have worked in small groups to experience: preparing and cooking Dutch pancakes (poffetjes) with Tameeka and Lisa, making fresh pasta with Lynda and Amber (thanks so much to Amber Croft for volunteering two afternoons to assist with this), listening to stories and learning songs in French with Zoe, Spanish with Jaime Horne, and German with Mel Mayer, a little Netherlands with Tameeka and studying the flag, map and iconic buildings of a European country of their choice, with Wiggy. Thank you to the parents who participated in this program, it was an enjoyable 2 weeks where the children were equally engaged in each of the groups. Next we plan to learn a folk dance that we will perform at a date to be announced.

At home you could continue this learning on Europe by looking at books, maps or even an atlas and talk about points of interest for your child. If you have a pasta maker you can involve them in making pasta and also look at and make other recipes from European countries. The children are particularly interested in flags so finding and discussing flags as they appear in our community could also be an interesting activity.

In this program we aim for the children respond to diversity with respect (Outcome 2)

- *explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings*
- *become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people*
- *develop an understanding of the speakers of languages other than English and the countries, regions and communities where the languages are spoken*



Both classes have also been busy writing letters to families – we would love to receive your replies and plan to visit the post office in the near future to explore the whole process of what happens to a letter after we post it and before it arrives in our letter box. Stay tuned for details.

Amethyst

We have been learning 2 new songs, 'Look what I found' and 'Green Grass All Around' and the actions that go with these songs. Look What I Found is about items that we find in our natural environment and can be extended much further than the rock, leaf, feather and grasshopper in the song. The Green Grass All Around is about a tree growing and then a bird building a nest on a branch. Sing with your child often, its benefits are endless.

In art we have moved on to studying Picasso, over the coming weeks the faces of Picasso as interpreted by Amethyst children will be on display. The children have engaged very well with the new approach to art this term, they can name the artists we have studied and discuss the features that are unique to each artist. At home families could look at artworks from Indigenous Australia and discuss some of the symbols used, Mondrian's use of line and colour or Van Gogh's more famous pieces.

Emerald

The day of our bakery visit finally arrived last Friday with magnificent weather for the walk down the hill. We were early so took some time out for a look at the steam engine and throwing leaves on the way. We are so thankful to the staff of the Beechworth Bakery who



took the time out of their incredibly busy day to host our visit. Unfortunately with the limitations on time and space in the kitchen, there was little the children were able to do other than cut pre-prepared biscuit dough and roll bread dough into shapes, however, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all with not a lolly or chocolate in sight – catering for food allergies and dietary intolerances was very difficult for the bakery given the commercial quantities of their doughs and they were very respectful of our request not to provide confectionary to decorate biscuits.

Thanks to the parent helpers who made the experience much easier and safer! Lou Ritchie, Mat Saunders, Jacqui Leslie and Karen Smith helped out.

Montessori Matters

<http://www.michaelolaf.net/newsaugust2012.html>

Practical Life for the 3-6 year old child

All the activities connected with looking after yourself and your surroundings, such as getting dressed, preparing food, laying the table, wiping the floor, clearing dishes, doing the dusting, etc., are activities belonging to what Dr. Montessori called 'Practical Life,' and are precisely the tasks that adults like least. But between the ages of one and four years, children love these jobs and are delighted to be called on to participate in them. —Dr. Silvana Montanaro, MD and Montessori Teacher Trainer

Three Areas of Family Life

The main areas of practical life activities are:

1. The care of the self: dressing, brushing teeth, cooking, and so on.
2. Grace and courtesy and concern for others: moving gracefully, using good manners, offering food, saying "please" and "thank you," etc.
3. Care of the environment: dusting, sweeping, washing, gardening.

The First Six Years

Today the importance of the formative first six years of life is common knowledge. During this time a child becomes fully a member of her particular culture and family group, absorbing language, attitudes, manners, values, of those in which she comes in daily contact. A child who spends the first six years in a loving and supportive environment, learns to love herself and feels safe in the world. A child who has experienced the joy of making a contribution to her family or group, learns to love making an effort, and feels needed.

Every child, by instinct, wants to learn and grow to the limit of his abilities. In the first six years of life he does this by imitating those around him. To support this need we must carefully prepare the physical and social environment, provide

tools that enable the child to work to create himself, watch for those first tentative moments of concentration, and get out of the way, following the child as his path unfolds.

Participating in Family Life

The traditional work of the family is referred to in Montessori as practical life work. It is the single most important area of an education for life. The activities of practical life are generally thought of in three main categories, and looking at the child's life in this way helps to keep a balance in the activities we offer children to master. These areas of practical life depend on the culture in which the child is growing up, and may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Care of the environment—cleaning, sweeping, polishing, hanging up clothing, washing clothes, gardening, putting away toys.
- (2) Care of the person—bathing, dressing, brushing teeth, cooking, setting the table.
- (3) Grace and courtesy—walking carefully, carrying things, opening and closing a door, tucking in a chair when finishing work, rolling up a floor mat, offering food, saying "please" and "thank you" and so on.

It is in learning to do such seemingly mundane activities as dressing, dusting, sweeping, preparing and serving food, and fixing or building, work that the child sees going on around her all day long, that she learns to use her body and mind for a purpose, to concentrate, to complete cycles of activity, to finish what she started, and most importantly to contribute to the important work of the family, the social group.

Practical life activities provide superior groundwork for physical, mental, and social development, and teach the work habits that lead to success in all later academic work.

Practical life work provides practice in eye-hand coordination, the control of large and small muscles, the ability to walk and to carry objects with control, and to behave with knowledge of good manners. These are the activities that bring the child's attention to his own progress and development, and that open up a world of important work. Learning to look a person in the eye when speaking, to listen patiently, to exhibit thoughtfulness through good manners, enables the child to be welcomed into a social group, to be happy and to make others happy.

Children have for eons shown an interest in daily life through make-believe cooking and cleaning. It was one of the pivotal discoveries of Dr. Montessori that, given the chance, children usually choose real work over imaginary. Allowing the child to participate in the daily work he sees going on around him is an act of great respect for, and confidence in, the child. It helps him to feel important to himself and to those around him. He is needed.

We can empathize if we think about the difference in treatment of a stranger, perhaps a dinner guest in our home, who is served and waited upon, compared to that of a good friend who is welcomed in our kitchen to talk and laugh while we prepare the meal together. Children don't want to be the guest, they want us to help them to do it themselves.

The Child's Purpose

The child's reason for, and way of, working is different from ours. Adults will usually choose to do things the most efficient and quickest way and to rush through or avoid anything labeled work. A child, on the other hand, is working to master the activity and to practice and perfect her abilities. She may scrub a table each day for weeks, then turn her attention to some other activity to master. We must not look upon this method as inconsistency or laziness but rather cumulative mastery of abilities. The child's purpose is not to complete the task as much as to construct the self.

Practical life activities may well be the most important work in the Montessori 3-6 class. By means of these activities the child learns to make intelligent choices, to become physically and mentally independent and responsible. She learns to concentrate, to control muscles, to act with care, to focus, to analyze logical steps and complete a cycle of activity. This lays the groundwork for sound mental and physical work throughout life.

Community News

Get ready for summer with a Spring Clean
and **sell your unwanted gear** at
The Beechworth Scout's



Sunday 9th November
8.30-2pm

Behind the Scout Hall in Lower Finch St, BEECHWORTH

\$25 per site - Sites are limited - book now!

Sausage sizzle and drinks available on site

Site bookings - Amanda 0412563620 - amanda.mcinnis@bigpond.com



Beechworth Wanderers Cricket Club

Invites girls and boys of all abilities to its

Annual Registration Day.

Date: Sunday 14/September 2014

Time: 11.00am to 1.00pm

Place :Baarmutha Park , Beechworth

Registration Day is for all junior and senior teams including:

- * Milo Cricket [5, 6 and 7 year olds]
- * T20 Blast Competition [8, 9, 10 year olds]
- * U12s, U14s and U16s
- * Seniors (A, B & C grade).

Come along for information, to register, meet the coaches, BBQ and guest speaker.

All Junior coaches are Level one Australian Cricket accredited.



NRL Holiday Clinic

FUN / FITNESS / FRIENDS

Come along this Holidays and enjoy a Rugby League Experience

Venue – Willow Park, Wodonga

Date – 30th September

Time – 10am to 12 noon

Cost - \$30 (Includes pictured pack)

Age – Girls and Boys aged 6 to 13

Follow link below to register and pay online or contact Dean Whymark 0411 159 456 for more details...

<https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regofrm.cgi?formID=30306>

LOADS OF CLOTHES
market | buy & sell
2014

The Loads of Clothes Market is back
Bigger and better than ever before

**Quality & designer
clothing & accessories.**
**Thousands of new & preloved items
for women, children & men.**

SAVE THE DATE...
OCTOBER 11&12
BEECHWORTH MEMORIAL HALL
Sat: 9am – 4pm
Sun: 9.30am – 12.30pm
FREE ENTRY

Don't miss your chance to take home
quality, designer clothes at bargain prices
Cash Only!

fundraising for

To become a seller
Register for free by Friday 12th September
Enquiries: LOC@bma.vic.edu.au
03 5728 2940