



Term 2

Week 9 – 18 June 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

Money was found on a footpath near school. Please contact the office if you think it may be yours.

Due to maintenance on the power lines, we will be without power on Thursday between 9-11am.

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

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

July

14th Monday – Term 3 commences

18th Friday – Scouts Raffle Tickets due back to school

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

Following on from safety in the carpark issues last week and the riding of bikes and scooters I would like to remind parents of Cycle 1 children that they are responsible for the supervision of children entering and leaving the premises. At present we have a number of children from the Cycle 1, Tots and Transition programs who entering or leaving the building unsupervised. An effective way to deal with this is to ask your child to please walk with you, give them the reasons (busy time of the day, the school has asked the parents to do this etc.) Please DO NOT allow children not directly supervised to enter or exit the Cycle 1 courtyard. The children are very excited at seeing their friends so arrival on time for sessions (pick up or delivery) is recommended so that there may be time for a social hello under supervision on the way into class. When parents are engaged and focused on their children the results are immediate and their

safety is a priority. We are keen to not install childproof security fencing at the front of the building and therefore seek your support in supervision and safety.

It is with regret that I have accepted the resignation of Zoe Pinard, our Inclusion Support Assistant who currently works in the Amethyst Room, 4 mornings a week. Zoe is throwing her energies into her circus arts schools with her husband Xavier, and whilst she will still be connected to the school through her children and in relief work, she won't be regularly in the rooms. Best wishes for your future Zoe and thank you for your work at the school. You'll be missed.

This week we had the Changing Minds project group from the Beechworth Health Service visit the school. They toured the building and the Grade 3 Moonstone children catered morning tea. The purpose of the site visit was to help inform the integration of Montessori style living for the residents of the service. As you are aware yourselves, it's often easier to understand the Montessori method to see it in action. They were extremely impressed with what they saw and I was justifiably proud of our school and students.

I hope that you find the newsletter full of timely and relevant information and that you take the opportunity to read what happens across all the rooms and programs in the school. Much of the information is relevant to many children, not just the rooms that report and all the information should give you an insight into Montessori education.

One week until holidays. There are lots of tired and ill children. Hopefully the holidays will be a time to recharge and recuperate. ***Kind regards, Heather***

From the President of the Committee of Management

Scorecard

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

From June to November 2013 we commissioned Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) to conduct an in-depth survey into our operations and strategy. We were one of approximately 150 ISV schools participating. Other ISV schools include Cathedral College, Fintona, Lauriston, Wesley, Scotch College and Geelong Grammar.

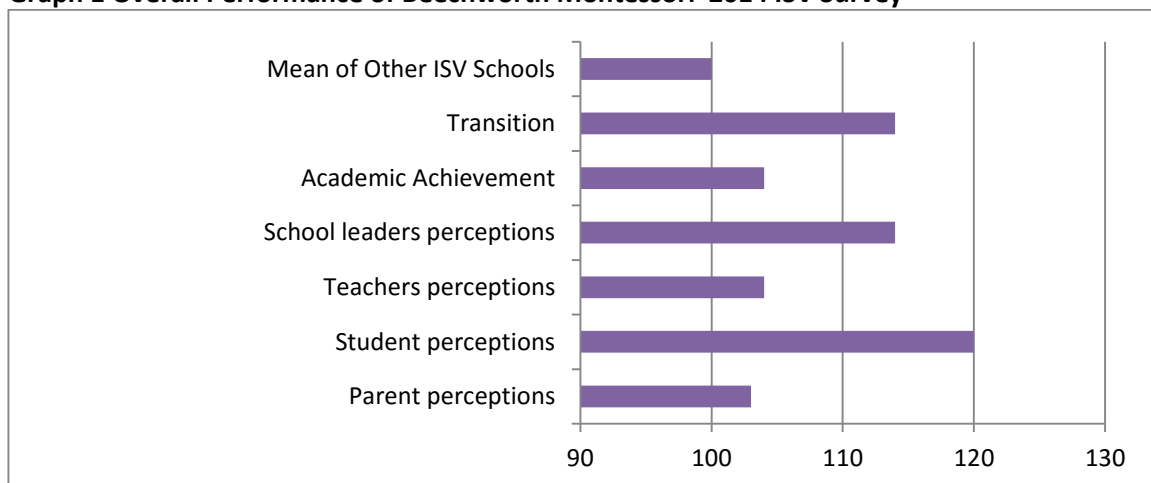
The aim of participating in the survey was for us to be able to receive an independent view of our current state relative to other ISV schools and also from the perspective of parents, students, teachers and our leadership to guide our path forward. Many of you and your children will have contributed. The survey looked at educational program and practice, childrens' health and safety, our physical environment and learning spaces, staffing, relationships with students and the community and leadership and service management.

Overall the survey results confirmed that we were performing extremely well in many areas with some specific areas that require improvement. A graph of our survey performance below illustrates this. It is particularly pleasing to see such strong results given the quality of the schools generating the ISV average (mean) score and the fact that most of the survey questions were administered during a very challenging time for us as we transitioned from our La Trobe premises to our Gilchrist Avenue site. Indeed, this transition is still occurring as we look to finalise our grounds and internal spaces.

We have identified some actions addressing opportunities identified in the detailed version of the survey and these are now logged into our strategy and tactical plans. We will be measuring the success of these by resurveying over the next twelve months. The next survey may not necessarily be the ISV package, but rather an internally designed document. We intend to participate in the ISV surveys again as part of our cycle – potentially bi or tri annually.

We look forward to you contributing and taking an interest in how we are going.

Graph 1 Overall Performance of Beechworth Montessori 2014 ISV Survey



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.

Junior Council

On Thursday the 12th of June I went to Wahgunyah for Junior Council. I was first on the bus and we picked up everyone else on the way. Just before we got to Wahgunyah we stopped at Cofield winery. They showed us how they make their wine.

After that we finally got to Wahgunyah primary school, we had our lunch and then had a tour of the school. Wahgunyah primary is only a small school it has about eighty kids. Once that was finished we went and sat down in one of the rooms. Everyone said what fundraising they are going to do. Junior council is fundraising for Aturo island long drop toilets and we are fundraising for bird homes for Indigo Shire parks. My fundraising idea it to make a really long loom band and parents would sponsor everyone who is interested. Also my other idea is to have a pyjama day.

By Eadie Pfahlert

The Tigereye Fundraising Kitchen presents.....

SAUSAGE ROLLS

\$3

THIS FRIDAY

In the Cycle 2/3 Courtyard

Orders to the Tigereye room by Thursday please

VEGETABLE ROLLS ALSO AVAILABLE



P&F News

Trivia Night @ The Plough Inn

Wednesday 25th June at the Plough Inn, Tarrawingee.

Trivia kicks off at 7.30pm, finishing approx. 9.30pm.

Gold coin donation per person, per round, goes directly to Beechworth Montessori P&F fundraising (no cover charge). Plenty of prizes!!

Get together a table of six or just book yourself in and join a table on the night. Book directly with the pub on (03) 5725 1609. Come just for drinks or have a bar meal before or during the trivia.

Anyone interested in joining a minibus down and back please let Feona at the office know.

All welcome (this is not just a Montessori event)!

Cycle 2 News

Author visit:

As a part of our incursion and excursion program, children's author Susan Berran spent all day Monday sharing her work, stories and passion for language and art with the children. Susan was a very engaging speaker and had the children attentive for 1 ½ hours on the mat!

The children loved her stories and she has left order forms if children wish to purchase her books. Copies of the books have also been kindly donated to the school, and they are also on offer at the town library. We encourage parents to read her website before ordering, as whilst the children loved them, we feel that the content is better suited to year 4 and up. If parents would like to place an order, please request a copy of the order form (either personally or via email) from Susi and Karen.

Moonstone

The Unveiling of the Great Wall

After weeks of planning, research and building, the Great Wall of China is ready to be unveiled and will be on display in the foyer this week. Please take the opportunity to come and see the work first hand.

The Human Body

Small groups are researching different body systems or other interesting aspects of the human body and present an explanation of their research to class. Bertie, Berti and Cooper present an amazing pop-up digestive system poster.

Susi & Sally



Turquoise

Cooking:

Rainbow foods continue in the room. The children made a delicious tomato and vegetable soup and then the next week a scrumptious fried rice – it's great to see the children so enthused about colourful and healthy cooking and eating.

Body systems:

Since the last newsletter we have been learning about the respiratory system and the sense of taste. The children had fun (along with some difficulty) making their replica lungs from bottles and balloons. Then last week saw us delve into the world of taste and how it is impacted upon by texture, sight, smell and saliva.

5th Great Story:

The children have also heard the 5th Great Story – how numbers developed – which saw some inspired discussion regarding roman numerals and ancient Egyptian number systems.

Readers:

I encourage all children to return their reader each and every week for review. It seems regular routines are waning at the end of term.

Karen, Dina & Sonja (starting today)

Cycle 3 News

Tigereye

Maths

There has been a lot of measurement going on around the classroom and the school. Uli, Eadie, Kezia, Akeidha and Edan have been learning about volume so calculated the volume of various objects and spaces including the pink tower, the broad stair (which involved a visit to Amethyst) and Heather's office! Ruby, Mathilda and Charlotte have been estimating and then measuring various lengths of objects and then doing the same for distances around the school. To measure distances the students use the very popular trundle wheel.

History

As we have been looking at different early civilisations we have been making a large timeline along one side of the classroom to look at the rise and fall of various civilisations. So far we have been learning about Ancient China and Mesopotamia, particularly about the inventions that came from these civilisations. Students have been completing written projects on a civilisation they have chosen and are also planning to make various model items, dioramas or even recipes from these civilisations.

Visiting author- Susan Berran

Also this week we had an author Susan Berran came to speak to us about her job. She read out a passage from one of her books 'Chomped', that was about her holiday in Carins. She gave some tips about how to start a book. She showed us how to blow up our stories and to make them stand out. She talked about her puppy dog fluff butt. And she told us about her daughter who is now fifteen.

By Charlotte, Tilda & Ruby

Zoology

Last week, we enjoyed a talk from retired Electron Microscopist, Colin Beaton (who also happens to be my dad!) who used to work for CSIRO in the Division of Entomology. The CSIRO is the major scientific research organisation in Australia and Entomology is the study of insects. An electron microscope is the most powerful sort of microscope and it uses electrons (that bounce off a specimen) instead of light.

Colin showed the students some great images and told the students about some of the work that he did as an electron microscopist.

Kat



Electron microscope picture of the eye of a fruit fly.

Topaz

Beechworth Transition Day

On Wednesday, July 11th the older Cycle 3 students visited Beechworth Secondary College for a glimpse of a day in the life of a secondary student. The day began with a brisk walk from our school down to the college where we were greeted by students welcoming us to their school. Other schools from around the area were also there and an estimated 200 primary students joined together with some very helpful and friendly year seven and eight students, for a day of mixed activities which ranged from: Afro drumming, Science, Indonesian, and English, as well as games organised on the oval. Lunchtime and recess were spent catching up with old friends and past students and it was great to be welcomed by Lukas, Oscar, Dom, Kauri, Jarryd, Finn and Harry and to see how well they were doing at secondary college. The day ended with a drumming concert conducted by Wendy McDugall, with several of our students participating. All in all it was a great day enjoyed by all.

On Friday we had our second **Restaurant Topaz** serving lunch to Karen, Dina and the Turquoise room. We prepared chickpea burgers, vegetables and red rice, salad and for desert, apple and rhubarb crumble with vanilla yoghurt. The teamwork was an inspiration to be part of as was the hearing the interaction of the older students with their younger friends.

School supplies: Can parents assist their children to check their pencil cases and replenish supplies for next term. There are many students with no gluesticks, erasers or pencils. Thanks

School yard: Rob Holden will be adding chicken wire to our existing fence to help catch the soccer balls which are escaping across the road during lunch time. Thanks to Rob for his assistance.

Terie

Montessori Matters

From the site www.milkweedmontessori.com (please note US spelling)



There are all sorts of reasons for bringing Montessori home. And there are all sorts of ways of doing it. There doesn't have to be a divide between working moms and stay-at-home moms (who are, of course, also working). There really are just moms, and we're all just doing our best.

Let's have a bit of grace with each other (and ourselves), shall we?

With that said, there are some practical differences. Those of us who go out of the home to work have to focus our efforts into some shorter timeslots and more specific times of day. There may not be as much time for themed-trays and seasonal art work, but there **can** be simplicity, respect, and a prepared environment.

Here are a few ways we try to bring Montessori into our home:

1. **Focus on the environment.** Maybe you can't give your child all of the time you'd like to, but you can prepare a space in the home that is his own. It doesn't have to be a lot of space. By focusing on creating a welcoming environment for the under three-foot set, you are giving your child the gift of independence — and giving yourself a mini-break in the midst of a working mom's jam-filled day of attention and tasks. When it's time to brush teeth, I know Jasper can open the cupboard and get out his own toothbrush and toothpaste.

2. **Keep it simple.** I once read online advice recommending doing Montessori-shelf/work preparation for 40 minutes per child every evening. That would be wonderful, I'm sure, except that I have two other loves in my life: my husband, and good fiction. Both of those loves would suffer without a bit of attention every evening. And realistically, a 40 minute per evening commitment is not something that would be sustainable for me — if it is for you, by all means, do it. Instead, we incorporate the Montessori way into the little things. It's waiting while he puts on his own boots or shoes. When bath time is done, he pulls the plug in the bath tub. Like I said, little things.

3. **Get your child involved in your daily routine around the home.** Life is full of little tasks and frequent joys. As a working mom, in addition to loving and bringing your best self to your partner and child after hours, you likely also play a big part in the domestic duties around the house, and you need to get supper made and the rec room vacuumed on evenings and weekends. Practical life is most practical when it actually contributes to life at home, and no one feels this more keenly than your child. Get her involved washing potatoes for dinner. Give him his own broom to sweep when you do. What better polishing work than wooden spoons needing to be oiled? Provide your child with the right tools (I know I've mentioned it before, but a Learning Tower is a dinnertime god-send), arm yourself with patience, and ignore the clock.

4. **Find a caregiver whose values reflect your own.** It doesn't have to be a formal Montessori program — sometimes that's unavailable, or out of reach. What is important is that your child is respected and given opportunities for exploration and independence. If you can't be with your child full time, there's no better feeling than knowing that they are in the care of the best substitute possible.

5. **Intentionally set aside time for observation.** With everything on my plate, I find it easy to get stuck in a do-do-do mindset. When I'm at work, I'm making a mental chorelist for when I'm at home, when I'm at home, I'm making a mental grocery list for when we go out and when I'm with Jasper I catch myself wondering about the next work I could add to the shelves or worrying that he hasn't had enough time outside that day. I've written before about the importance of observation, but now that I'm back at work, I find I need to make a priority of it and even schedule time for it.

6. **Stay connected.** One thing stay-at-home moms have is each other; you can often find them at the park on a fine Monday morning or commenting with words of support on a Facebook comment. Find your own tribe of folks, either in real life or online, who understand what your days are like and what your hopes are and want to know more and share

their own. I'm still building my own tribe, but every confessed worry and every "I get it, I feel ___ too," goes a long way to encouraging me to continue on this journey.

Maria Montessori shared a lot of wonderful wisdom about the child as teacher, and the child as the shaper of his own education. One of my favourite MM quotes says: "This is the first duty of the educator: to stir up life but leave it free to develop." I feel like one of the most important things I can do as a mama-guide to my child is to take a deep breath and remember it's not about me.

The best we can do — whether working outside the home or in — is to prepare the environment to offer our child opportunities for independence and responsibility. How do you stir up life? *How do you fit the Montessori way into your family's everyday life?*

Community News

CHRISTINE WHEELER and FRIENDS

Rain in the Mountains

Yackandandah Public Hall

Friday 20 June 8pm (doors open 7.15pm)

Book online: www.arts.yackandandah.com

\$25 adults/\$20 concession/\$5 child

From country waltzes and Irish style slip jigs to exquisite, introspective airs and lively comic turns, jazz-tinged ballads and upbeat anthems this will be a musical evening to delight all ages.

Arts Yackandandah dedicates this performance to our dear friend, Karen Roben.

Enquiries: 0417 292 917

Tickets available online until 5pm Friday, and at the door from 7.15pm

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

Term 3

International circus artists, Xavier and Zoe Pinard are pleased to offer places for Term 3's 'Circus in Yackandandah' classes.

Through skills such as trapeze, tumbling, handstands, juggling or pyramids, you or your children will develop core strength, balance and agility.

Tuesday (younger primary) 3.50 - 4.50

Tuesday (older primary) 4.50 - 5.50

Wednesday (under 3's, Circus playgroup with Jaala) 9.30 - 10.15

Wednesday (3-4yrs) 2.30 - 3.15

Wednesday (older primary) 3.50 - 4.50

Saturday (Adults) 9.15 - 10.00

Saturday (younger primary) 10.00 - 11.00

Saturday (older primary/teenagers) 11.00 - 12.00

Circus Playgroup and Tiny tots - \$130 per term

Primary children and Adults - \$150 per term. (5% off for first sibling, 10% off for second or more siblings)

If you wish to secure a place please email us at:
xavierzoe@mac.com

or call on - 0478 055 091

* The introduction of trapeze to our classes this week was an important step in bringing an authentic circus program to our community and one which is very close to our history and our hearts.

For those of you who don't know, Xavier and I used to perform a double trapeze act together. You can see us in action by going to the following link: <http://youtu.be/T4GhcaOZTr4>

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

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!



Please contact Juliet for
more info or to book:
julesandluc@hotmail.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 365 300)

PLUS
Stories and
activities
for little kids
at all sessions

The Lego Movie (PG)

Chiltern Memorial Hall

Wednesday 9 July, 2pm

Yackandandah Public Hall

Thursday 10 July, 2pm



Fruit and healthy
snacks provided
+ hot soup at
Beechworth!



Indigo North
Health



Information: Indigo Shire Council ph: 1300 365 300
indigoshire.vic.gov.au/movies

Let it go...
**because everything is
AWESOME!**