

Term 1
Week 2 – 12 February 2015
Distributed weekly on Wednesday

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Term 1

29th Jan – 27th March

8 weeks, 2 days

1 public holiday – Labour Day

2 pupil free days – Dyslexia Awareness & Training

To Be Advised

Cycle and room excursions if conducted and other events if the need arises

9th – 12th Monday – Thursday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

16th Monday – Cycle 3 Swimming 1pm – 3.00pm

17th Tuesday District Swimming Carnival, Cycle 3 - only those who elect to participate will attend

March

5th & 6th Thursday & Friday – Pupil Free Days, Dyslexia Training for staff

9th Monday – Public Holiday - Labour Day

12th Thursday – Hockey Roadshow – Cycle 2&3

17th Tuesday – Harmony Day student performances 1.30pm

18th Wednesday – BBQ 5pm & AGM 6.00pm

21st Saturday – World Harmony Day


23rd – 26th – Cycle 2&3 Parent teacher interviews. Room schedules to be communicated prior to this date

27th Friday – End of Term 2.15pm finish

From the Principal

Have you had a look at the new website? If so let us know what you think. We will endeavour to update the parent room weekly with the news from the rooms and photos of events.

Now that the website is up and running our School Stream app for smart phones needs to be upgraded as the app and website are integrated. Consequently as of Thursday you will need to reinstall the School Stream app, following these instructions. If you have already downloaded the app, follow the deleting instructions and then do a fresh install using the installing instruction. For all new users, simply follow the installing instructions.


 **Instructions for Installing & Deleting the School Stream App from Your Device**

iPhone / iPad iOS 7.x - 8.x

Installing	Deleting
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From your mobile device go to the App Store search for School Stream 2. Tap the FREE button to the right of the School Stream listing 3. Tap the INSTALL button 4. Enter your iTunes password & tap OK 5. Wait for the install icon to change to OPEN 6. Tap the OPEN button 7. You will be prompted to accept push notifications, you will need to select OK 8. Start typing your school name into the search then SELECT your school 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From your device press and hold down the School Stream icon until the icon begins to jiggle. 2. Tap the little x in the upper-left corner of the School Stream app. (A dialog appears, informing you that deleting this app also deletes all its data). 3. Tap the Delete button.

Android/Tablet

Installing	Deleting
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From your mobile device go to the Play Store search for School Stream 2. Tap the School Stream listing 3. Tap the INSTALL button 4. Tap the ACCEPT button 5. Wait for the app to install then tap the OPEN button 6. Start typing your school name into the search then SELECT your school 7. Tap the DONE button in the top left 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tap on the Menu button 2. Tap on Settings: Applications: Manage applications 3. Tap on the School Stream app 4. Tap on Uninstall

 **schoolstream**
A smart solution for smart schools

Student council – As Edan outlined last week in the Cycle 3 News we are establishing a student council this year. The Beechworth Montessori model will not be functioning as per most mainstream schools there won't be elections or prefects/heads elected. All students who expressed interest will initially meet fortnightly, with Heather during classtime, and all students will take on leadership roles, run the meetings, take minutes, make decisions and take action. 23 Cycle 3 students will initially take their place on the Council and they are aware that there is some flexibility around "trying" out. I'm excited about the possibilities and where they will take the direction of their student body. I look forward to working with them.

We will be holding several excellent Parent Education Sessions this year, including an MWEI Foundation Philosophy Workshop (info to come in Term 2, save the date Sat May 16 \$cost to be advised, full day workshop), and "Setting your child up to learn"

with Liz Campbell on Wednesday March 25th 6.30-8.30pm, free but rsvp required. An invite to the March event will be placed in parent pockets in the next few weeks. Liz is an informative, helpful and inspiring presenter delivering essential information – we hope you can attend.

Playground at lunchtime – here’s a few photos of the children at play last week.



And finally, we have been ruled ineligible for the Telstra Business Awards due to the fact that we receive Government funding. I’ve been advised that in 2016 they will be changing the rules for non-profit organisations and funding and we will then be eligible if we are nominated again. Thanks to the person/s who submitted a nomination for us; we are appreciative. Perhaps you could submit again in 2016?

Enjoy your week.

Heather

General News

After Session Care at Beechworth Montessori School

We are currently running After Session Care on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. In order to open the Tuesday session from Tuesday 24th February we need one more child to book in for Tuesdays. Permanent and casual places are available on most days that the program runs. See Feona in the office if you would like to know more.

Photography Tender

Suppliers are invited to tender for the provision of the Beechworth Montessori School student photos for 2015. Contact info@bms.vic.edu.au for full details. Tenders close March 27 at 2pm.



Greetings from Bluearth

Your child/children may have mentioned Bluearth or you may have seen the Bluearth Coach out in the playground over the past few weeks and wondered what it was all about.

Bluearth is a movement and activity based program that uses the joy of movement to help children better understand themselves, peers, teachers and the important relationships that exist between them. In an inclusive and fun environment students experience a range of individual, partner and group activities to improve posture, function, self

awareness and mindfulness. This helps build lifelong habits in physical activity and movement that is so important for children's development, health and wellbeing. With skilful guidance and reflection, amazing results have been achieved. Bluearth provides on the job training for teachers so that the program can be sustained long term within the school. The Bluearth Coach will be working with teachers and their classes on a regular basis – please feel free to speak with them if you would like to know more about the program – or join in.

You might also like to visit the Bluearth website www.bluearth.org and look at our parents section for more information and activities for the whole family. We also encourage you to read some latest research in how mindfulness improved children's learning: <http://time.com/3682311/mindfulness-math/>

Loads of Clothes clearance

Final call for Loads of Clothes clearance – clothes, clothes racks, coat hangers. In the Meeting Room off the foyer – come have a look, grab a bargain (free) and help us declutter.

P&F News

We've been invited to participate in this year's Golden Horseshoe Festival Parade and we need to get our parade entry team together for the Golden Age of Rock'n Roll! This year's theme should inspire lots of fun and plenty of music for the Grand parade on Saturday 4 April. If you are keen to help organise the theme/costumes/music please contact Helen Sellar on 0427 283 221 or pandf@bms.vic.edu.au

The parade will commence at 2pm on Saturday 4 April. All members of our school community are invited to join our entry. More information will be included in newsletters prior to Easter.

Ruby Room News

Greetings to everyone, we hope your Christmas and New Year were happy occasions and the holidays enjoyable. Over the holidays our new floor coverings were laid and it was the finishing touch to the environment. It is more pleasant underfoot especially for the babies crawling and the little ones just walking. You are welcome to pop in for a look. Our sign in sheets for tots and transition are situated on the front desk at reception – below the Admin window – as are the parent roster sheets for transition.

Summer is an ideal time for toilet learning for those children who may be ready, some children from 18 months old and up. It is warm enough to let them run around at home with or without underpants so they can get a feel for when the moment strikes and introducing them to the potty as well. It can be a big step, sometimes more for parents than the child. If you are interested there is some printed information available.

We have a family of baby guinea pigs presently staying with us in the little wooden 'shed' in the courtyard courtesy of the Ryan family. The idea is a child can go into the enclosure to watch and handle the animals if they wish. Little children can go in with mum or dad supervising during playgroup sessions. The cage door needs to be locked after use please.

I would like to welcome Greta and her mum Jodie to tots; Charlie and Rachel; Kailash and Armandi too and Henry and his mum Anna from Wodonga. It is a pleasure to have you in our room. If you are not sure of something please ask me or another parent for assistance as we are only too happy to help.

If you have a hobby, a passion about a particular thing that is suitable to share at tots, play a musical instrument; a cooking treat or a craft idea we could do together at Tiny tots please mention it.

We would like to welcome Nina and Leonidis who have begun in the transition program this term. Parents of children in transition are encouraged to put your name down as a parent helper in Ruby room.

Please remember to pack a hat for your child and bathers and a towel for children in the ASC program so we can go under the sprinkler when it is hot. There is sunscreen provided for all near the sliding door.

Mel will be assisting Michaela at times in the transition classes (depending on numbers) and Lisa is taking the Friday ASC session.

We hope you and your family enjoy Ruby Room and our programs.
Thank you **Michaela, Mel and Lisa**

Cycle 1 News

Across Both Rooms

Outside play

As cycle 1 parents are aware, we have been playing outside first each morning until 9.30. This change in routine was initiated to beat the heat, however, we have found great benefits in the classroom:

- For children with greater social needs, they are able to indulge in social contact outside and then enter the classroom secure in their place and ready to work.
- For children who need help firing the limbic systems of the brain (these stimulate learning and retention), the vigorous outdoor play is just the thing to get them really going once we come inside.
- For those who just want to get down to the business of working, they are really ready to engage after some fresh air and imaginative play time.

Directors in both rooms have noticed significant differences for individual children in their ability to settle into work in the classroom with much greater self direction, more sustained concentration, fewer social distractions, and greater attention to the work at hand.



Amethyst

We have settled back into another school year. We would like to welcome Charles Lloyd and Brodie Cutter and their families to our room.

Martina would like to thank all children, staff and parents for making her so welcome, and for helping her find the routine of the day.

Sensorial

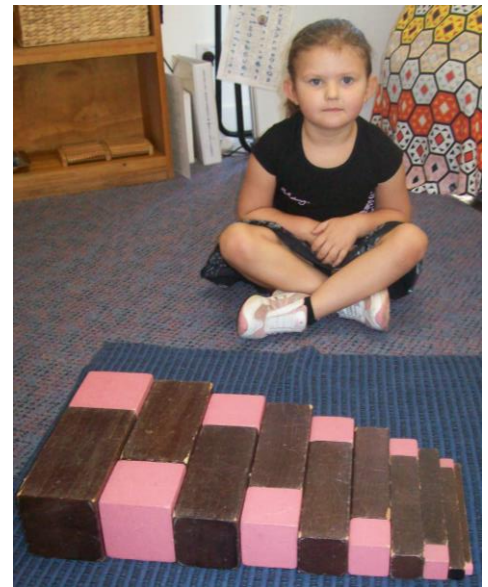
The Montessori materials children use to fine-tune sensory perception and discrimination, the *sensorial* materials, are some of the most distinctive and iconic of all the Montessori materials. The *sensorial* materials are sets of definitive or graded objects designed to precise specifications. Each set isolates one sensory quality only in regular and measurable ways. The qualities isolated by the Montessori *sensorial* materials include: texture, colour, shape, dimension, mass, taste, smell, temperature, pitch and intensity of sound. Children are taught a precise vocabulary to talk about the sensory qualities, and their variations, embodied in the materials. They learn these words in contrasting sets, for example, *red/blue/yellow*; *loud/soft*; *long/short*; *rough/smooth*; *triangle/square/circle*; *cube/sphere*. In addition, children are introduced to the superlative and comparative language for example *longer/shorter*, *longest/shortest*. This vocabulary then becomes a resource children can use to make more precise meanings about their world.



We have been focusing on the sensorial curriculum in the classroom. The children are engaged in language, matching, grading and exploring materials.

We are making a photo book of all the many and varied possibilities of combining the pink tower and the broad stairs.





Cultural Studies

We have been busy discussing our families: the members of our family (including pets), relationships terms and activities we enjoy doing with our family. Some children are making a family tree and all children have drawn and/or painted their family.

We have also made a handprint tree to celebrate our belonging to Amethyst room. Please come inside and have a look.

Cooking

Tameeka has excess zucchinis in her vegetable garden so the children have been making zucchini slice and zucchini fritters in the room for the past week.

Tameeka, Melissa, Martina, Lisa



Emerald

We start the year welcoming Emily Bussell, Rhys Vetter and Felix McLachlan and their families as they complete their transition from Ruby Room.

Most people have had a chance to have a good look at the flooring in our classroom – all parents across the wider school community are also welcome to come and have a look. It is the same flooring that the rest of the classrooms will have so if you are interested in a sneak preview, come down for a wander through after 3.15.

We are trialling a new way of programming and documenting what the children are doing in the room. There is an active plan on the cupboard inside the classroom detailing broadly what our goals and intended activities are for the fortnight. We invite you to come in and have a look at this and make any comments, feedback or suggestions directly onto the plan. At the end of the fortnight this will be displayed (scribbles and all) with photos of the children in action. You are always welcome to enter the room at any time, but drop off time is a great opportunity to spend time looking at the plan as we are outside playing and you can linger and discuss any issues with Lynda. Your child's learning portfolio (the black book) is also kept in this cupboard for you to look at whenever you want to – please do not remove these, they will be given to your child when they leave Emerald room and will be a record of their learning over a period of time.

All children have settled in quite well considering the length of the summer break. After a few quiet tears farewelling parents in the first couple of days, everyone is happy to be back and really enjoying their lessons. School aged children are adapting to the rigour of completing certain activities each day to ensure that numeracy, reading and writing are practiced daily; whilst younger children are focussing their attention on expressive language associated with concepts such as colour; length; width; and height. They are practicing sorting, matching and classifying simple objects and discussing their reasoning for the choices they have made. Having the language to describe concepts and thinking is a

critical part of the learning process and we have many activities in the sensorial, practical life, and early language areas that stimulate language development.



Children are enjoying learning about Australia – we have been learning a circle dance about travelling to each of the capital cities, and have plotted the birth place of all children on our blackboard map. We will soon be moving on to discuss history of our nation and Indigenous culture. If you have



anything to share including photos or mementos, stories, songs or family tales, please let me know – we’d love to have you visit the class to share your knowledge and experiences.

The alphabet song is very popular in the room at the moment, particularly when used to support construction of the alphabet with letter cards. As they become ready, children work hard at developing their understanding of the alphabet, order of letters, names of letters, beginning sounds made by letters and formation of letters. There is a great deal of this work occurring in the classroom.

We have introduced a number of new activities to the maths and language curriculum areas to support a multisensory approach to learning which engages multiple ways of learning symbols – in particular, we throw and catch bean bags with letters or numbers on them, and jump, skip or hop to large floor cards to facilitate recall of letter and numeral names – the brain recalls large muscle movements and information connected with these more easily than it does small muscle work and we are finding that retention and recall of information has improved considerably after lessons incorporating activities with large muscle activities.



If you have any questions about what has been going on in the classroom, please let us know.

Lynda, Wiggly, Geraldine

Supporting your Montessori Child

What is Normalization?

Montessori Perspectives *Normalization “is the most important single result of our whole work.” ~Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind, (Chapter 19)*

The Montessori term of “normalisation” is a term that can cause confusion or unease if you are not sure what it means. Normalization is the term Montessori used to refer to children who are able to concentrate and work freely in the Montessori environment, exercising self-discipline and peace. It is in no way meant to suggest that children who are not able to do this are not normal. It simply means they are in a different stage of their development and personal journey.

Montessori said there were three stages each child goes through on the way to normalization. The first stage is when children do something because they want to. This is typical behaviour of toddlers and two year olds. As the child matures, they move to stage two and do things when they are asked of them. The third stage is when the child does something because they know it is the right thing to do.

Stages of Normalization

1. The child does something because they want to.
2. The child does something because he/she is asked to do it.
3. The child does something because they know it is right.

Children who are normalized not only know the ground rules, they follow them because doing so leads to peace and harmony in their environment. They are patient with themselves and others. Normalized children are respectful of all things, living and non-living. They exercise self-control and self-discipline. In short, normalized children are independent which leads to greater learning. "In the normalized child, his freedom to take an interest in all kinds of things, leads to his focusing his attention... on the knowledge he derives from them." *The Absorbent Mind*, (Chapter 22)

The Montessori environment is structured to lead the child naturally and gracefully through the stages of normalization. Normalization can neither be forced nor coerced. Each child is a unique individual with a unique timeframe of development. The Montessori materials were developed to help the child develop these necessary skills by presenting learning challenges incrementally. With repeated practice and built-in self-correction (also known as "control of error"), the child learns to develop his focus and concentration as well as developing a curiosity for what comes next. The Montessori teacher and parent is a gentle, loving presence who uses positive guidance and redirection to help the child acquire independence.

More on normalisation in the next edition of the newsletter.....

Community News

Friday 27th Feb 2015 **6pm - 8pm**

A free meal for the whole community

Community Sharing Feast

Everyone welcome
Places are limited Bookings Essential
5728 2386
This is an alcohol free event

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

Proudly supported by:

Food Share, FRRR, Beechworth Community Support, Indigo Book Hotel, Beechworth Health Services

SUMMIT 8000 **ANDREW LOCK**
LIFE AND DEATH WITH AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST MOUNTAINEER

BEECHWORTH THU 26 FEB BRIDGE ROAD BREWERY

COME EARLY FOR A DRINK! Book signings, drinks & nibbles:
Cash bar from 6:00pm Presentation 7.30pm sharp **TICKETS \$20**

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COME AND TRY HOCKEY

Are you interested in having a go at hockey?
Beechworth and District Hockey Club are having a come and try session in the lead up to our hockey season.
Where: Beechworth Primary School oval
When: Wednesday 18th February
Time: 3-45pm to 5pm
This is a free session run by some of the clubs very competent players.
So come along and have some fun.

SUMMER HOCKEY

We have commenced summer hockey, this will run for the next 4 weeks on Monday nights of the 9th, 16th and 23rd February and ending with our 2015 registration evening on the 2nd March.
It is not too late to come and have a hit so please join us at the Beechworth Primary School Oval from 6-30pm.



**Writers, Readers and Poets' Weekend in Beechworth
13th – 15th February 2015**

Children's Poetry Workshop with Paddy Dewan
Saturday 14th February



Paddy Dewan has been writing poetry since he went to Ireland as a Paediatric Surgical trainee in 1988. His poems reflect his travels conducting surgery in many developing countries, the rough and tumble of life, love, hope, family, inspirational characters and injustice. Paddy uses humour in his day job, as reflected in a collection of children's poems, to make the children he works with healthier through smiles and laughter. Born in Cobram, raised in Wangaratta, his heart resides at the original settlement site of the Dewan family in the Woolshed Valley, outside Beechworth.

Poetry can be great fun, but sounds dull to young people. This workshop will explore rhyme and rhythm and the use of illustration to enhance the words. We will share poems of some of the famous, sing and laugh and dance to the content of "Watermelon on my Plate" and explore how poetry can come alive with performance. The audience is encouraged to bring their own work to share.

Robert O'Hara Burke Museum 'Street of Shops'
Loch Street.
1.30pm-2.30pm

There is a \$5 fee for each child for this workshop and the number of children is 15. So be early to secure your place. Phone Cath 0428286556.

We'd love you to join us as a founding member!

Beechworth Food Co-op



Visit the website or the Co-op Store
www.buls.com.au/foodcoop or
Co-op Store at 'Kiama' MayDay Hills
(cnr Currawong Way & HaHa Place)

The following tuition is now available in
Beechworth:

- Classical Guitar Lessons
- Junior Music Program (3-5 years old)
- Chinese (Mandarin) Classes

For more information, please go to www.bulmersinbeechworth.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bulmersinbeechworth

Phone: 0404 617 650

Email: leesokyi@yahoo.com

"Fighting Poverty Through Education"



Gemma Sisia, an Australian teacher, and founder of "The School of St Jude" in Arusha Tanzania, is coming to speak at a Community Event in Beechworth on Friday 20th March from 5.30-7.30pm at The Beechworth Town Hall. Finger food, tea and coffee provided. RSVP Vicki Connell on 0357281694 by 10th March.