

Term 2
Week 4 – 6 May 2015
Distributed weekly on Wednesday

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Term 2

13th April – 26th June

11 weeks

1 public holiday – Queen's Birthday

1 pupil free day – Report Writing

To Be Advised

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

May

6th Wednesday - Mother's Day Night 5-6pm

8th Friday – RSVP Montessori Foundation Theory Workshop

12th -14th Tuesday – Thursday – NAPLAN testing

16th Saturday – Montessori Foundation Theory Workshop – MWEI
Trainer Dianne Davis

20th Wednesday - Pupil Free Day - Report Writing day

June

8th Monday – Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday

15th Monday – 19th Friday – Cycle 1 Kindergarten (Funded and
Unfunded children) Parent teacher interviews. Room schedules
to be communicated prior to this date

19th Friday – Reports distributed – Prep, Cycle 2&3

22nd Monday – 25th Thursday – Cycle 1 Prep Parent teacher
interviews. Rooms schedules to be communicated prior to this date

26th Friday- End of term 2.15 finish

Saturday week. Please ensure that you rsvp by Friday. The school is covering the cost of this event as we are keen for as many people as possible to more fully understand the philosophy of Montessori education. This event won't be held again until 2017. I have had a few people request that the day be filmed and the materials made available. Unfortunately this is not possible as it is run through an accredited training organisation and their materials are copyrighted to participants.



Bluearth Community Event –

Feedback on the Bluearth community event has been positive and it was good to see so many attendees. Unfortunately my Taya and I have were sidelined with gastro and the virus doing the rounds so we missed the event.



From the Principal

Open Day – The grade 6 children were very keen to show our guests around the school and we received such positive feedback from those that did take the opportunity to tour the school. Unfortunately there weren't sufficient guests to enable all the grade 6 children to act as tour guides but we appreciated those who did take the time out of their day to come to the school.

Mother's Day Night – Tonight is the annual Mother's Day night from 5-6pm. All the Cycle 1, 2 & 3 rooms will be open for parents to come along with their children and see what work their children do in the school. Please note that staff will be in the rooms, but the aim of the night is for children and parents to work together so to encourage that staff will be minimising their presence. Of course if you have a question please don't hesitate to ask – some staff may be visiting their own children's rooms at times and therefore unavailable.

RSVP MWEI workshop – There are still a number of places available for the Theory workshop to be held



Student Council – The Student Council continues to meet fortnight and the students are now becoming more confident in running the meetings and taking minutes. Last week two students from Cycle 2 came with a proposal and asking for help and I was so proud of the way in which the other members of the Student Council offered advice and support. We will



have some exciting news in the near future about some work the Student Council will undertake. In addition some members of the school demonstrated leadership and an active role in the community through their representation at the Anzac Day service. Thanks Taya, Mathilda, Jade

NAPLAN Testing – Naplan testing will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for students in years 3&5. I will be administrating the tests and will meet with the children on Thursday afternoon. They will bring home information regarding the tests but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask either your child's Director or myself.

Hothouse Theatre Performance – Regional Arts Victoria have offered to bring the play Warning: Small Parts to our school. As we do not have a suitable performance space they have offered to pay for the hire of Memorial Hall and students only have to pay for the play. We are very appreciative of their offer and as such all children will be invited to attend the performance at the Hall in June. A permission form detailing costs will be distributed later this month. The performance is perfect for primary students and is a mix of audience interaction, puppetry, song and theatre that weaves in themes about personal development, the environment and Australian history. It will be held on a Thursday afternoon and the performance is 45 minutes duration. If you would like to attend with your children who are not at school on this day, please let Heather know and I will check with the co-ordinator whether it is suitable for younger children. We can organise the logistics around cost and meeting us at the hall.

Heather

General News

The Corena Solar Panel installation recently made the news. This link will take you to the article.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-28/crowd-funding-solar-panel-systems-for-australian-charities/6426782?section=sa>

Can you help? In the foyer a whiteboard has been set up and on this staff will add the "tasks" that they would appreciate community support with. It may be a one off task, a regular event, big or small, donations etc. As the list alters we will put the information in the newsletter so that those of you who don't call into the school can also be kept informed. Don't forget that classroom teachers are always keen to have your support in their rooms – they will email, include information in the newsletter or you can just ask them or offer your assistance. As the first point of contact for the items below, please see Feona or Nicola in the office or Heather unless another staff member's name is specified.

Do you have ideas for projects or events for Beechworth Montessori School? An informal group of parents will be gathering Thursday 7th May from 9am to discuss. Join us in the courtyard at the new Honey shop (weather dependent).

- Meals on Wheels – assist some Cycle 3 children once a month from 11.15am – 1pm to deliver meals through the Indigo Shire Council Meals on Wheels program. Working with Children Check required.
- Concrete pad in Cycle 2&3 playground for ball sports/skipping
- Pathway Cycle 2&3 playground – along the building wall to minimise mud when there is wet weather
- Continue landscaping the immediate front of the school
- Bike storage Ruby room – **Michaela**
- Donations of gumboots, glass jars, plastic lids from milk containers – **Cycle 1**

Lunch Orders next week – Week 5

Hamburgers - \$4.00 each next Wednesday.

Vege burgers available

Patty, cheese, lettuce, tomato, beetroot, pineapple – build your own (Cycle 1 orders will be delivered – please specify if you don't want any item on the burger)



MONTESSORI FOUNDATION THEORY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 16 MAY 2015

This is a FREE event
RSVP by May 8 is essential as places are limited.

Education should no longer be thought of as imparting knowledge, but must take a new path that seeks to release the human potential within us all. Maria Montessori

Invitation to parents and friends, interested community members, staff and the wider community to attend a Foundation Theory Workshop. This is a great opportunity for networking, social engagement and education.

Reaffirm that you've made the right educational choice for your child, develop a deeper understanding of your child's journey at Beechworth Montessori School and get to the heart of the philosophy.

Some of the topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Montessori Education
- Maria Montessori's life & influences
- Montessori Principles, Features and Aims
- Myths and Misconceptions
- The Absorbent Mind & Sensitive Periods
- Four Planes of Development
- Human Tendencies
- Preparing the Environment
- The Hand and Independence
- Montessori Materials
- Preparation & Role of the Teacher
- Discipline and Normalisation
- Freedom & Limits
- Rewards & Punishments

The Presenter will be Dianne Davis. Dianne has worked in the field of education for over 30 years which included doing emergency relief at a Montessori School. Working in a Montessori environment inspired her to undertake Montessori studies. She taught in a 9-12yrs Montessori classroom for 7 years and was appointed Principal at Plenty Valley Montessori School, a position held and enjoyed for 10 years. Thereafter she spent a further 3 years as Principal at Melbourne Montessori School. Dianne also does consultancy work for several Montessori schools nationally, as well as for a number of smaller independent schools in Melbourne. Dianne holds a Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Montessori 9-12 MWEI, Diploma of Montessori Leadership AMS.

VENUE: Beechworth Montessori School, 42 Gilchrist Avenue, Beechworth
DATES & TIMES: 16 May 2015
8.50am for a 9am start - 4pm (if attendance for the whole day is a problem, please see Heather)
COST: FREE, places are limited so be quick to confirm your place

Sorry, but we cannot accommodate children at this event.
Bring a plate to share for lunch. Morning tea supplied.

Closing date for registration Friday 8 May 2015 – please advise the Office staff or Heather

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Ruby Room News

I would like to thank the Rodda family who bought an apple peeler and slicer tool for us to use (and to make yummy apple crumbles too) as they have no more children coming through after 5 years of tots. We are sad to see them go but we are lucky to see Gabe as he is in transition for a short time before the family completely move on into other rooms.

Thank you to Jacinta for bringing in their home grown apples which we will use on the new machine. Also a big congratulations to Jacinta, Seth, little Malakye and Alish on the safe birth of baby Thorston.

Thank you to Rachel and Charlie for bringing in some maple tree saplings for us to plant in the playground, their leaf colour is a beautiful deep red at this time and they will look stunning as they grow.

I had the good fortune to listen to a short lecture by Dr Peter Dingle, an environmental scientist and toxicologist speaking about chemicals in the home and helpful and harmful foods. Dr Dingle is a University lecturer at Murdoch University in Western Australia and has been researching and speaking on these topics for over 25 years. I have bought a couple of his books and a CD, one very easy to read with humorous illustrations for parents and children regarding healthy and harmful foods. If you are interested, the items are on the parent lending library shelf in the Ruby room. Please sign in the book there with the name, date and item borrowed. Most enlightening!

At Tots there will be drawing an outline of your child on paper as an activity and colouring it in, also using the new apple peeler/corer machine with parent help to cook up to make apple crumbles. We will be doing this in ASC as well and hopefully in transition (time permitting).

In all Ruby room programs we have been working on making recycled paper pots this term so far, decorating them and then using them for bulbs to be planted as gifts. The children and parents have spent some time on completing this project and the finished product looks colourful and practical.

Please ensure your child has warm clothes, coat and a beanie for the cold days that are sure to arrive so we can still go outside and play regardless of the weather.

Thanks and Enjoy!

Michaela, Geraldine and Lisa

Cycle 1 News

Across Both Rooms

Thank you so much to the many families that came along to the working bee on Saturday to tidy up the Cycle 1 and Ruby outdoor spaces. We managed to achieve so much: the spaces look great; the chooks have a swanky new home; and the children have responded very positively to the new spaces with renewed interest in many spaces (special thanks to Ruby Ryan (Cycle 3) and Ella O'Meara (formerly Cycle 3) who kept everyone fed throughout the afternoon).



Jobs achieved include: trees pruned; gardens weeded; native grasses separated; sand pits topped up; soft fall replenished; pebbles installed to make steps and play spaces safer; the succulent garden finally completed; and items installed such as a mirror for dancing; a safer basketball ring; and castors to make our shelves and woodwork table more portable. However, the biggest job was by far the improvements to the chook pen – we relocated fencing and installed a shade structure to make the environment safer (and escape proof) for the chickens.



What a lot of people don't realise is that the Early Years part of our school (Ruby, Amethyst and Emerald) is subjected to much more stringent safety requirements under legislation than the rest of the school (in fact, the most stringent in Australia). Just fixing up the chook enclosure required considerable contemplation and debate to ensure that there were no climbable spaces whereby children could gain a foothold to get over the fence.

We are very aware that there are many of our families who would love to be involved in major projects to improve the use of our play spaces and however, we have gained some expert advice and planning as a masterplan for the outside can then take a staged approach to projects that will be compliant with necessary legislation. We hope to be able to undertake this planning in the near future and will involve as many families in the process of developing our play spaces as possible.



Amethyst

Art

We looked at some of Albert Namatjira's water colour paintings of landscapes as well as the art work in our room that was painted by a Warlpiri man from Yuendumu who was inspired by Namatjira. They haven't use the dots or the cross hatching methods that we have already explored. Instead he painted what he saw using water colour paints. The children used the tree in the courtyard to create their artwork.

Science

We have been conducting many simple experiments. Focussing on hypothesising, procedure and recording our observations. This week we made dancing raisins. You need a jar, soda water and raisins. The children's hypothesis was that the raisins would froth and bubble all over the table and make a mess. Put some (10ish) raisins in a jar, then pour in the soda water and observe. A great experiment for home with lots of rich language and explanation. The Amethyst children have renamed this experiment 'Jumping Raisins'. What do you think?

Mothers

Some comments made by the children:

Mum gives me treats.

Mum helps me get better when I am sick.

Mum gives me toys I can play with.

Mum gives me lots of hugs.

Mum is the best cook.

I love my mum.

I love her hugs.

I love everything about my mum.

All families are welcome to visit our room from 5pm to 6pm tonight.

The staff hope the Amethyst mother's appreciate their gift (that is actually a science experiment that the children can tell you all about on Sunday, if they haven't already). Relax and enjoy your day.

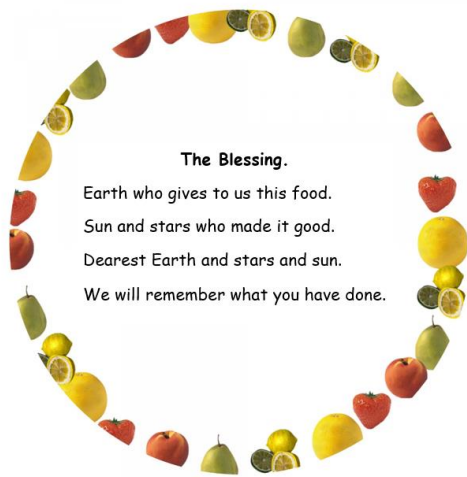
Donations

If any families have children's gumboots that are no longer used, then our Cycle 1 collection could do with some more, particularly larger sizes.

Glass jars are always useful and our supply is a little low; if you have any we will happily take them.

Plastic lids from milk containers, etc are used at the woodwork bench and we always run out of them. If you can collect some for us the children would be very happy.





Blessing

Here is a copy of the blessing we say in our room before we eat:

Tameeka, Melissa, Martina, Lisa

Emerald

As a staff group we have been working hard on strategies designed to encourage children to become more independent as learners: to select suitable work for themselves; to seek assistance from their peers; to know when to come to an adult for help. We are starting to see the emergence of greater independence, particularly in our older students, but also in many of the younger children who are working purposefully in the room.

Children are enjoying the historical artefacts being brought in: particularly old phones and watches which we can compare with current versions; old clothing and old boxes used for shopping. Wednesday is "show and tell" day and this week we are once again inviting old fashioned items for discussion.

Thanks to those families who have contributed family photos and individual photos of children. Wiggy is currently revamping our class quilt to incorporate a tree which family photos will be attached to – this assists children to feel part of a bigger community, but also promotes discussion about differences in families and respect for diversity. We will be using individual photos of children later this week to start creating personal timelines of the child's own history to give a concrete impression of the passage of time.

Thanks to Karen Smith for visiting this week to discuss life in Canada. As part of our North America studies, we have been considering the various biomes associated with this vast continent, and Karen's presentation helped to consolidate why the landscape and weather differs so much across the continent. There is a detailed learning story on the classroom window for more information.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be making sushi in our cooking classes in response to lunch time conversations about diverse foods and who has eaten what kinds of food.

Lynda, Wiggy, Geraldine

Supporting your Montessori Child

Some notes from the Liz Campbell presentation held last term.

What's required for learning?

Stress, diet, sleep, general health and well being

One effects the other and all effect learning. Stress and anxiety shut down attending centres. Can also shut down language centres and can lead to poor food decisions. Liz asked us – "how is our engine running?" If it's fast, or harried then we need to SLOW down.

Resilience – practice being independent as young as possible, have a child order their meal when eating out, in the supermarket ask them what aisle the item is in, interact without you speaking for them/holding their hand.

Food

Restrict sugar in diets – World Health Organisation recommends less than 10% (not the natural sugars found in fruit and veg). Read the labels. That Sugar Film is worth watching. Give children water to drink, not juice or soft drink and restrict cordial to special occasions only. Give children good fats and a variety of fresh foods, don't eat out of packets.

Sleep – short term to long term memory occurs during deep sleep. Need 30 mins sunlight each day to increase melatonin levels needed for sleep. Have a sleep routine – same bed routine every night, particularly school nights. 11-12 hours daily in primary school. Read to them or let them read 15 mins prior to sleep. Lower the lights 60 mins before sleep to increase melatonin release. No screens before sleep, have a dark room. No technology in rooms. If a child has difficulty sleeping it may be anxiety related – seek help.

General Health and well being

- sleep, diet, stress
- physical fitness and wellness
- exercise
- set the example
- find the fun again
- illness requires rest, fluids and good food. Keep sick kids home. You can't learn when you are unwell.
- Be holistic. Consider all parts of the puzzle.
- Talk with, not at, your children.

Language Rich environments

- Vital to help develop language
- Promote language
- Language inhibitors – extended time away from primary caregiver in early years, TV viewing, screentime, social media, text as opposed to using language, poor relationships, stress, lack of independent communication practice.
- Adolescents regress with language whilst rewiring. Ease off language and executive functioning demands.
- New research – adolescent brains respond differently to mother's negative voice. Use of humour here is very important.

Stable speech sound system

- Children's speech should be 100% intelligible at 5 years of age (by people that are not familiar to the child).
- Ongoing speech difficulties indicate a difficulty within the phonological processing area required for literacy.
- Speech pathologists work to help children's speech sound delays.

Take home message

- Everything we do impacts on our children's ability to learn, and to be their best in everyday life.
- Always be mindful/conscious of your actions and how they impact on your children.
- Always be the grown up. Put your children's needs first. Be the example of the behaviour you want to see. Don't do one thing and say another.
- Always do your best. Your best will be different at different stages in life. Know that we will sometimes get it wrong.
- Apologise when you get it wrong.
- Be loving and available but don't suffocate them. Start raising adults – teach them the skills necessary to be an independent person.
- Access resources to help you and your child if need be.

Community News

CREAMY (Unjoined female) – I need a home with some other guinea pigs for a little while as I am all alone and need some company. I am hoping that Cycle 3 manage to raise enough money to build me a new home at the school soon, at which time I would like to be donated to the school if you did not want to keep me any longer. Thank you in advance for looking after me; I will bring you much joy. Please contact Rachel on 03 5728 7303 or 0427 403 926 if you can help me find a new home.



****BIKE NEWS****

Hey kids, who loves to ride their bike? Cycle Sport is a sport that kids can get into just like soccer, footy, cricket, swimming, hockey, athletics, tennis, and netball. The Wangaratta Cycling Club are holding their annual free "Come 'n' Try Day" starting at 1pm on Saturday 16th May at their clubrooms at the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange located in Shanley Street, South Wangaratta. Interested Junior Cyclists aged 8 and above are welcome to come along. Bring your bike, your helmet, and Mum or Dad. Places are limited. To register your interest please send an email with your name, your age, how long you have been riding for and your contact details to wangarattacyclingclub@gmail.com or contact our club president Mal Kay 0447 214 464. Beginners welcome.

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premiers'
reading
challenge

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Mother's Day Special

Dirty Dancing Princess Theatre

Saturday May 9
2pm show

Tickets in the Dress Circle

\$60 each

Jane Holden
0438 836 361



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This service is funded by Department of Human Services Victoria