



# Monbulk Pre-School Newsletter

April 2019

Dear Parents,  
We wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday and a happy Easter.

Rachel, Jenny, Shelley, Sue, Veronica & Becky ☺

## Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

### Principal/Licensee



I am very pleased to have been appointed the substantive principal for Monbulk Primary School and Pre-School. So far this year I have enjoyed getting to know our students, staff, parents and our community. There is a very special connection between the community, the School, the Pre-School and the shared history we have. It is an honour to be a custodian and leader of such a great School and Pre-School.

My vision is that I lead a learning community which provides a safe and engaging environment with active and responsible students. My primary focus is on the continued improvement of the learning, achievement and wellbeing of all of our students. Our teachers, educators and staff are passionate, caring, committed and hard working and I am very fortunate to be able to work with such a great team.

I am deepening my understanding every day of the connection between our School, Pre-School and wider Monbulk community, and I intend to continue and nurture our relationship.

Thank you so much for all the kind messages of support, encouragement and congratulations on my appointment. Please continue to feel welcome to contact me with any question, concerns or feedback about our School and Pre-School and our work together.

Estelle Alder- Principal

### Photos

Information regarding ordering photos will be available early term 2.

## Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

### Term 1 Fees

Term 1 fees are now overdue. Please ensure they are paid as soon as possible. If you would like to start a payment plan please speak to Becky in the office. Term 2 invoices will be distributed in the first week.

### Quality Improvement Plan

As part of our funding agreement with Department of Education and Training and good governance, we are required to have a commitment to continuous improvement. We are always working on our plan if you have any suggestions please let us know.

### Old Uniform Sale

We still have some old uniform available at fantastic prices.

Plain bucket hats \$5

Red jumpers (size 5) \$10

Pink t-shirts (size 7) \$8

Assorted jumpers (size 6) \$10

Assorted jumpers (size 7) \$8

See Becky in the office if interested.

### Sign In Books

Just a reminder that these are a legal document. You must sign your child in and out for the actual sign time not when you arrive. For example arrival is 9.00am not 8.50am. The children are not legally in our care until the session starts or ends.

### Foyer

If you use the stopper to open the foyer door to get your pram in/out please ensure you close it after for safety of all children.

### April Birthday's



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Harley

Milla F

Lyla

Hugo

Austin

### Flu Vaccine

Are you aware that Victoria provides free flu vaccine for all children from six months up to five years of age? It is generally available from mid April. With the upcoming flu season see your Doctor or local Council for more information.

## Monbulk Pre-School Centre

Mailing Address: PO Box 375, Monbulk, 3793

Address: 21 Main Road, Monbulk, 3793

Telephone: 9756 7379

Email: monbulk.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

## Dates for Your Diary:

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Last day term 1

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Easter Monday Public Holiday

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: First day term 2

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April: ANZAC day Public Holiday

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Bunning's BBQ

### Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

#### FUNDRAISING

A reminder that the Bendigo Bank movie night is now on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at the reserve. The Pre-School will be selling ice creams and pop corn.

We have received a date for a Bunning's BBQ. Please put Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October in your diaries/calendars. More information about helping on the day will be provided closer to the date.

#### Earn & Learn

Woolworths Earn & Learn is back for 2019. Stickers are available to collect to earn "points" to purchase new resources from 1<sup>st</sup> May until 25<sup>th</sup> June. We will have a collection box available in the foyer after the holidays.

#### Bike-a-thon

Congratulations to Harry and Jack J for their fantastic sponsorship efforts for the bike-a-thon- they received a small prize for their efforts.



### 3 Year Old Room

We have just completed first term and what were our goals?

#### 1. Emotional:

Our first and foremost goal is to provide a safe and trusting environment for the children. For all of the children it is the first time they have experienced "kindergarten in our centre with Veronica and I."

Our priority is to develop a relationship with the children both individually and within a group. To show them that kinder is fun- it is an environment where we learn through play.

The most difficult thing they will do is learn to be away from you. They will stand alone, perhaps for the first time and this can take some time to adjust. Some children make this adjustment easily and others take time- we are all different. Every child has areas of development that they require support with throughout the year and this is simply one of them.

#### 2. Social:

Moving from the "me" into the "we". Being part of a group- belonging.

We continually work on "social skills" all year, however first term can be quite intense and that's why social and emotional are hand in hand.

Awareness of others- their thoughts, ideas and needs. We need to share- sharing doesn't always come naturally at this age, it needs to be taught. Turn taking also doesn't come naturally, it also needs to be taught.

The room is set up to support their play and to lead and challenge them to explore and practice these social attributes. We given them the language to use "when I'm finished playing with this, you can have it". We ask the question "whose turn is it next". We use the word "wait" and we also sign the word wait as we say it.

We give the children strategies to deal with their peers and it is in this area where language and speech play an important role. To understand and be understood. Can I communicate my needs to the teachers and my peers? We support the children's language through modelling, songs, stories, activities, role play, using basic sign language, repeated phrases and visual supports.

Our routine is predictable. Our expectations are predictable. Our activities and songs are repeated- children learn through repetition.

Activities are designed to be extended, to be fluid, responding to the children's needs but also continuing to consolidate basic skills.

#### 4 Year Old Room

All children are now familiar with our routine and successfully navigate their way through the day, learning so much in so many ways, and SO quickly. It is a delight to see them make new friendships, teach each other new skills and become more confident in our environment.

We have introduced a variety of “speeds” to the day to allow for energy boosts and lows. This includes splitting the group between inside and outside to the child’s preference, allowing for quieter investigations and less wait for resources or equipment. It also affords more time in small groups and with educators.

We come together as a large group once a day for “intentional teaching” (called ‘middle mat time’), including music, games, songs, dance, story, drama or just to share knowledge and ask questions, depending on the energy and interests of the group.

Children’s social skills are of prime importance during Pre-School, and opportunities for practicing them include greetings, being encouraged to use each other’s names when sharing resources (“here you are Bob”, and “thanks Jane”), egg timers at popular activities, turn taking board games and raising a hand at group time to let the educator know you want to speak.

We have been discussing using gentle touches and kind words at Pre-School, and children have shared many examples of how we can do this. We have also been discussing how people can express their feelings without hurting others and how they can say “stop” or “I don’t like it” if someone is doing or saying something they don’t want to happen.

Over the past four weeks in addition to and linked with our normal educational program, we have had some special/events/days where we focussed on important subjects:

1. Being safe around dogs
2. Dinosaurs
3. Colours and colour mixing
4. Recognising angry feelings, appropriate responses and calming self

Children embraced these exciting days with enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and participate.

We are mindful to give children control over their learning by having choice over what they investigate and how they will use our equipment. This is very important, because it makes the learning experience relevant and meaningful to them, and caters for a variety of interests and skills. Linked to this also is our Pre-School emphasis on PROCESS not PRODUCT. We provide a variety of open ended creative opportunities for children to explore as they choose. They can select from a variety of colours of paper, pencil, crayon and pen, both indoors and out. They can also gain valuable pasting, cutting and tape experience without the pressure of having to create a particular end product. On the “self select” shelf and trolleys are a variety of wooden, paper, material and plastic products for children to think creatively

and have fun experimenting with. In the same way that no two end products are the same, no two processes to get there are the same either. Just look at our fantastic art gallery! The same child will often return to the easel, pasting table or drawing table twice in one day but create an entirely unique piece of art because of using a different PROCESS. This allows for a large variety of creative skills to be developed.

We hope this has given you a little insight into our goals and how we achieve them. We hope that we have made your child’s transition to kindergarten as gentle as possible and we are looking forward to term 2!

We practiced and implemented our emergency management plan by doing an evacuation a few weeks ago. Many of the children are already familiar with this drill from here and other places they have been, and they were great leaders and role models for those for whom it was all new. We will also practice a “lock down” next term, where we all go into the kitchen in case there is a “threat” outside.

Thank you to the 33 families that were able to come parent-teacher interviews over the past few weeks. It was beneficial to get to know your child better in the context of their family, to share what we have learned about your child, and to discuss their learning goals and strategies to help them get there. In the busy-ness of life if you did not get the chance to come along, please speak to Rachel to organise an afternoon early next term.

Thank you to the families that were able to make it to our bike-a-thon. It was great to spend time with the children and their families. The children are all enjoying the new 3-person bike that the money raised purchased. They have to look at each other, and communicate to work together to make it move, all very good for confidence and social skills.

A small round aqua coloured ice block has accidentally gone home with the wrong child. If it has appeared in your child’s lunch box could you please return it.

We again thank Justin (Keegan’s Dad) for the wonderful work he did earlier on some maintenance tasks. There is still more to do, so please speak to Rachel or Becky if you can help.

We welcome in term 2 Madison, who is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student from Deakin University. She will be with us for a five week placement.

