



Monbulk Pre-School Newsletter



We acknowledge and pay respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Ngurungaeta- Murrundindi, their Elders as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Pre-School stands

August/September 2020

Dear Parents,
Even with remote learning and stage 4 restrictions Term 3 is going fast and almost over!

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

August/September Birthday's



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Elliott
Carter
Mitchell
Oliver
Kira
Amelia
Oscar
Ella
Jenny
Mirikki
William
Isla
Veronica

Quality Area 4- Staffing Arrangements

During these challenging stage 4 restrictions I am so pleased to be working with such amazing colleagues. We have all dug deep and developed new skills. Jenny and Shelley have been incredibly supportive, adaptable and hardworking as our program got turned on its head.

Sue and Veronica have thought and worked long and hard to create fantastic resources and activities that are suitable for younger children.

Becky has been so flexible and helpful, despite all the disruption.

I couldn't ask for a better team- thank you all!

Rachel

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Principal/Licensee

At Monbulk Primary School we are working through how to support our 2021 Prep students, both this year and next year. We recognise that children may have a greater range of needs due to the disruption throughout 2020. Therefore, at the start of term 3 we met as a school and pre-school to identify potential issues for our children, and how we could address these issues and support children with their social and emotional development, and have a solid foundation for their academic learning. Shortly we will be publishing our Transition Plan for children coming to Monbulk PS, which will outline how we will support children for the move to Primary School. As part of this transition Monbulk PS has purchased access to **Reading Eggs for all 4 year old pre-school children**, to help support learning of reading and letter-sound recognition. This is available for all the children whether they are attending Monbulk PS or not. We hope that this helps children and families greatly with learning at home. Login details will be sent shortly.

Estelle Alder

Primary School 2021

Just a reminder to families that if you haven't already you should have enrolled your child at your preferred school for 2021.

Outer Eastern Region government schools now require enrolment applications to be lodged by 7th August with schools notifying families of their child's enrolment confirmation by 21st August. If you are still not sure where to enrol your child call some of our local schools and speak to the Principal or view a remote tour on the schools websites.



****If your child has had recent immunisations, please update us with a copy of the new ACIR statement****

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

Web Information : monbulkps.vic.edu.au

Dates for Your Diary:

End of Term 3- Friday 18th September

Start Term 4- Monday 5th October

Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

4 Year Old Room

As we find ourselves at home for the next few weeks kinder will be coming to you quite differently. There is no doubt that the situation we are in is challenging, but I am in awe of how staff, families and children are continuing to navigate this time and show great personal resilience whilst at the same time offering assistance to others.

We have had lots of offers for help through ideas and resources, as well as support for activities we are organising.

Thank you all for this.

We are offering a wide variety of activities that hopefully meet everyone's needs, for example:

- We have sent your child a letter in the mail and also set up a letter writing group for those that were interested.
- We post a video on Class Dojo each session day (Monday-Thursday), often with a 'challenge' at the end for children to complete at home if they want to
- We communicate individually with children and parents/carers through phone, email and dojo, and try our best to meet individual needs and requests
- We make up take home packs of crafts and playdough. There is a new Fathers Day/Special Friend's Day pack for each child at kinder ready to be collected.
- We trialled short Webex group times last week which were very successful so you will continue to receive invites on your child's chosen day.

Please do not feel that of our activities are compulsory; your child will be fine if you are not able to participate and we'll be back to (COVID) normal when restrictions ease. If you would like some support to help you participate, we'd love to try to help.

Please continue to share your ideas of activities and also photos and video of your children learning at home. We love to see them.

Rachel, Shelley & Jenny

Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

3 Year Old Room

I mentioned in the last newsletter about how resilient and adaptable we are. But this year we are truly being tested!

Another term of being challenged with staying connected through remote learning! The need to be relevant to the children's developmental needs, keeping them interested, keeping it fun and not too demanding on parents, when so many of you are busy with older children's school work! To allow our "kinder children" to feel that they can do it to be confident and capable learners, to be given activities that develop language, conversations with you, connecting them back to the kindergarten environment and the activities that we have provided in the room. Keeping in mind that we haven't seen the majority of children since the end of first term!

At this stage of the year we would be endeavouring to move your children from the "Me into the We"- "Awareness of others". They begin to realise that their world is growing- there are others with ideas that they might like to hear. They learn to share and take turns to listen and respond. It's a big shift when they still very much want their own way! However, the joy of being in a group, to feel the happiness and excitement of others and to be able to join in and share that fun develops the connection to and awareness of "The Group"- their friends.

Covid-19 has made this social interaction impossible. So as teachers we do our best to accommodate this need. Zoom and Webex work well for older children, where they have sound language skills, turn taking and listening skills have been established, however at 3 or 4 years old this level of communication can be quite daunting and challenging for them! Veronica and I have once again resorted to "book form" learning.

Hopefully by now you have received "The Old Grey Cats" in the mail. Because it is addressed to them it gives them ownership and confidence. This is a book about them and their friends, their teachers, familiar activities- it is linking them back to their kinder community.

They can talk to you about the book. Can you name your friends? The first thing they will want to do is find themselves but once they have done that make them aware of the others, what are they doing?

Language can be developed, environment- do we have mice in our house, where would a little mouse live, what would they eat, where would they hide? Count the mice hiding under the table, how many cats, would you be scared or would it be fun? So many questions and possibilities. You can extend the learning to the areas that they require support- it is learning through play.

Veronica and I will be in Wednesday morning and Fridays. We would love to hear from you- give us a call if you need some advice on developmental needs, appropriate activities, behaviour management etc (or what is normal behaviour for this age!).

Sue & Veronica

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Father's Day 2020



Annabelle with her Dad, Shane



Jordan with his Dad, Dylan gutting fish they caught together kayaking and then feeding it to the seagulls



Milla H and her Dad, Mark

Teddie said "I like to work in the shed with Daddy, and I love my Daddy".

Ella said she loves riding her bike with her Opa. She also loves going outside in the garden with him and playing different games and puzzles (which she always wins!).

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Monbulk Primary "Spoonville"

A "Spoonville" village has been set up at Monbulk Primary School. It's just inside the fence beside the Hub carpark. If you live within 5km and are out for exercise or collecting your kinder packs, feel free to have a look or contribute.



Schoolpix Photos

Due to the introduction of stage 4 restrictions we had to again postpone our kinder photos. We are now on a waiting list for term 4. We will update families once we know more.

Yarra Ranges Council Parent Support Webinars

Yarra Ranges Council invites parents, carers and professionals of children to FREE webinars presented by Building Better Brains Australia.



Presented by Sian Chambers Vallance, clinical play therapist, parent educator and consultant and Tony Vallance, educator, consultant and Australian Teacher of the Year (2019).

Taming the Tiger

Tuesday 1st September 2020 7-8:30pm

Identify the emotional triggers in yourself and your family that lead to anger, understand the science and function of emotions, explore coping skills, resourcing, effective communication and practical tools and techniques to help restore calm and emotional health to your family.

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKYG>

Diving Deeper - Trauma Smart Parenting

Thursday 17th September 2020 7-8:30pm

Building on the basics of brain and behaviour research this webinar is all about growing a toolbox of practical coping skills and strategies that we can use to support ourselves and those in our care during these challenging times.

Opportunity for Q and A

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKYNL>

Yarra Ranges Council is a Child Safe Organisation

Further enquiries please contact: earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au 1300 368 333



4 Year Old- Remote Learning Term 3



William making The Incredible Hulk with playdough



Camryn's nature face with daisy earrings



Hugo & his new dog "Teddy"



Isla making an egg carton caterpillar while her sister Lily watches

4 Year Old- Remote Learning Term 3



Kit's volcano he made



Grace and her "desert" picture from her take home pack



Milla F picture from craft she created from the take home pack



Happy birthday Kira!



Harry & his kite he made with the take home pack

4 Year Old- Remote Learning Term 3



Ava having "messy fun" learning how flowers drink water using food dyes



Katy & her magna tiles house



Hazel and her brother enjoying playing with playdough

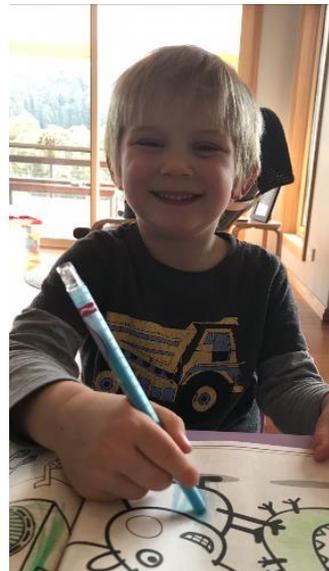


Oscar making coloured foam

3 Year Old- Remote Learning Term 3



Grady concentrating hard while he cuts out colours



Teddie colouring

