



# 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  
February 2017

Dear Families,

Welcome to the beginning of a very important year for your children. Our Pre-School building is fantastic and all the children are enjoying the space. We look forward to sharing it with you and hope it is a fantastic year for all. We welcome back Director / 4 Yr Teacher Judy Hayward, 3 year old Co-ordinator Sue Warren and Educators Jenny Burnside & Shelley Greenberg.

Newsletters will generally be issued once a month.

Judy, Jenny, Sue, Shelley & Becky ☺

## Entrance Security Gates & Fence

Please remember to ensure the gate is shut after you and to only let your child/ren in or out.

## Invoices

Term 1 invoices were recently placed in your child's pigeon hole. As we use the same financial system as the School all invoices have Monbulk Primary on the top (as the School is the licensee of the Pre-School). This does not change how we run and manage the Pre-School- all finances (including fundraising) are kept separate to the School. If you prefer you can now use BPay with all relevant information included on your invoice.

## SPARE CLOTHES

Remember to pack a spare set of clothes in your child's bag as we always have wet sensory play available to the children.



## Hats

We wear hats all year round so please remember to ensure they have one every day. Hats need to cover ears and the neck. We also have lots of spare kinder hats for children to use if they need.

## Office Hours

Becky generally works Tuesday 9.30am-3.30pm and Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm. Any query outside these days can be referred to another staff member or Becky will attend to when she is next in.

## Wanted to Borrow

Does anyone have a long handled duster we can borrow to clean away some of the cobwebs and bugs around the outside of the windows/building?

## Food and Drinks

A reminder that children should be encouraged to bring healthy items in their snack/lunch boxes. Please remember that if you bring drink bottles they should only contain water. Children need water to keep their bodies healthy, without water their bodies don't process as well, physically and mentally. Water jugs are available in each room and a bubbler is located outside. It is also a good idea to check whether your child can open their snack box or containers before they bring them to kindergarten. Please also label your child's bag as some children aren't recognising their snack bags. As always we re-enforce the importance of washing hands before we eat.

## Code Red Day Closures

Monbulk Pre-School is included on the bushfire at risk register and under legislation legally required to close on days identified as Code Red. As per policy, parents will be notified via text message from Monbulk Primary School in regards to closures. As much notice will be given as possible in regards to closures. Please be aware that no staff will be at the Pre-School on declared Code Red days. For other emergencies our evacuation point is at the Primary School. On extreme heat days we still operate but the children will be reminded to drink water regularly/seek shade and to keep cool in the air conditioning if required.

**\*\*\*Remember to label all children's clothes, hats and food/drink containers (on outside of containers)- many are still un-named\*\*\***

## Sun Screen

Sun screen is available to use in the foyer for families to apply before the start of their child's session. If your child cannot use ours please bring a labelled bottle to leave here.

## Programme

The children will be learning to be away from you for longer periods of time, and for some of them this will be in a totally new environment. A more structured setting where they will be making many independent choices. They will learn that they are capable of doing many things themselves.

## Website

Fantastic website for families is Kids Matter- Australian Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative

[www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood)

This website has lots of helpful topics including: separation anxiety, feelings, positive fathering, belonging, getting along, self regulation etc.

## School Information

We have a folder in the Office with information about local School's you can look through if interested. Alternatively School's are always happy for you to arrange a time to meet the Principal and have a tour.

**Monbulk Pre-School**  
**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:**  
**Monday March 13<sup>th</sup>** : Labour Day Holiday  
**Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>**: Last Day Term 1

### Money Payment Cupboard

All payment of monies are to be placed in the labelled cupboard in the kitchen (beside oven). Please ensure all payments are placed in a labelled and sealed envelope and the register book is filled out. Please also make sure you use correct change, we do not keep any money at the Pre-School and do not have the ability to issue change. Book clubs orders and money can be ordered & paid online or given to Judy/Jenny.

### Sign In/Attendance Book

Families are reminded that the sign in book is a legal document required under legislation. Please ensure you only complete the line allocated to your child and that you don't allow children to scribble on any of the pages. You also need to put the name of the person collecting, not "mum". If we need to speak to you after a session we will highlight your child's name.

### Visitors to Pre-School

Reminder to everyone that we have a policy which requires all visitors to sign in when entering the Pre-School. If you are visiting your child or are on duty you need to sign (in/out) the visitor's book located near each room door or add your name to the day's attendance book. This ensures that if in an emergency we need to evacuate, in an emergency we are able to account for all people at the Pre-School.

### Green Room (4 year old) Items Newsletter to follow shortly.



### Happy Birthday to.....



**Becky-** 3/1  
**Mikalya-** 7/1  
**Pippa-** 7/1  
**Jamieson-** 16/1  
**William W-** 21/1  
**Flynn B-** 30/1  
**Shelley-** 14/2  
**Morgan-** 23/2  
**Tyler-** 23/2

### Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Kody and his family who welcomed a baby brother called Christian and to Eliza and her family who welcomed a sister called Georgie! Both arrived over the holidays.

### CAR PARK

Please be aware that we have to share a very busy car park with the local community and the primary school. If you are unable to find a car park out front, the Safeway car park is only a short walk away or there is plenty of room near the oval (a short walk up the pathway to the Pre-School entrance). Parents are reminded that the disabled parking spaces are for cars displaying a disabled sticker only. We do have school children and community members that require these car parks so please do not park in these spaces if you are not legally allowed to. Police will be regularly patrolling this car park at School and Pre-School drop off and pick up times. If the weather is inclement you will need to plan your journey beforehand so that you have enough time to park and walk the short distance to the pre-school if necessary. If you park out the back of the School near the oval please be aware that the School has updated it's policy and made David Hill Road an exit only. This is due to heavy traffic in this area at school times that was making it dangerous to see children. The Moore's Rd side of the oval is both an entrance and exit.



## Fundraising 2017

As usual fundraising is an important part of our budget. In saying that though we don't like to burden families with too many activities. Below is a list of some of the activities we are planning this year (this may alter during year). We have also put our name down for a Bunning's BBQ so hopefully we are lucky enough to get a date. If some good movies are coming out later in year we will also look at maybe organising a Movie Night fundraiser.

**Term 1-** Welcome Bike-a-thon and Easter Raffle

**Term 2-** Mothers Day Stall & Picture Plates

**Term 3-** Diana Ferrari night (in time for Spring Racing Carnival), Fathers Day stall (at Pre-School for children)

**Term 4-** Toy Catalogues and Christmas Raffle

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jo Heap for putting her hand up again to co-ordinate fundraising in 2017. This is her third child to go through the Pre-School and she has spent many years donating her time.

If you are interested in helping out with fundraising this year or have any other fundraising suggestions (that are not too time consuming or expensive for families) please see Jo Heap (4 year old group).



## Child Care Benefit (CCB)

Monbulk Pre-School is registered as a child care provider. CCB is a family subsidy paid by the Government to reduce the cost of childcare or kindergarten fees. Working families using registered care are entitled to minimum rate CCB.

You or your partner (or one if single family) must meet the residency, immunisation, work/training/study tests at some time during a week to get CCB.

Families can claim CCB by completing a claim form available from the Family Assistance Office and lodging it with a receipt from the Pre-School. Please see Becky in the Office for more information and to let her know if will be claiming CCB for 2016. Receipts are issued twice a year once fees are paid (terms 1 & 2 and then terms 3 & 4). You can claim CCB in 3 and 4 year old

Pre-School. Under the new no job/no play laws your child must also be immunised to receive this benefit. Families claiming the Kindergarten Fees Subsidy in 4 year old are not eligible to claim CCB as well.

## Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA)

We were accepted to participate this year in the ELLA program. This program is funded by the Department Education & Training and it is the first time it has been made available to Pre-Schools. It is a digital languages program designed to encourage more students to study a language in later years. We will be using specifically developed Apps on our tablets.

## Help Needed

We have a few small jobs/roles that we need help with during the year. If you are able to assist please see Judy.

- Person to assist with applying for grants- 2/3 per year
- A shopping person to get the odd items from the Supermarket or Mitre10
- A maintenance person to do small jobs/repairs as they arise
- A garden person for small gardening jobs
- A Book Club person (once a month) to collate and ring/email through any orders. Points earned are used to buy the children a small book at the end of the year.



## Blue Room (3 year old) Items

The children are becoming familiar with the room, the routines and staff. We often see the children checking our "visual schedule" on the wall to see where we are in the session. One boy who's been having a little trouble settling in said "Sue do you think you could read a story for everyone on the mat now?" He smiled and I laughed- we had only just begun indoor activities and a story on the mat is the last thing we do before home time! He just wanted to go home. Remember that 3 hours is a long time for a three year old as they have a limited concept of time. They will be tired both physically and emotionally for a little while.

Children being upset with staying at Pre-School is very normal and some children who start well can regress and say they don't want to come- this can happen on and off throughout the year. It is usually best to remain positive, re-assure them that they'll be okay and remind them of the things that they enjoy. If you ever have any concerns or questions please come and talk to myself or Shelley. If anything different is happening in their lives let us know, even little things can be important. Either Shelley or I are available at the beginning of the session or at the end- however if you feel you need longer we can make a time after session.

Throughout the year we will keep you informed on what's happening in the program (program, stories, songs etc are displayed near our door in the foyer). Towards the end of term we will put out a parent roster and you can spend a session with us. At this early stage in the year it is best for the children to settle in without Mum or Dad and develop relationship with staff and peers.

Please ensure that hats and snack boxes are named. Some children may have the same bag as another child. Can they also open the lids? Do this with your child and check. Being able to do things for themselves is important- it makes them feel good- I can do it. It's much better than saying "I can't do it". Set them up for success rather than frustration.

Shelley and I will be encouraging the children to do things for themselves- have a go at activities, perhaps help someone else. It makes them feel good, encourages confidence and resilience. Every activity we set up is for a reason, they can be extended and interpreted in many different ways by the child- allowing the child to be challenged but successful on many different levels.

We want to avoid frustration and confrontation- our rules and expectations are very simple but consistent and clear. Through this the children will begin to feel comfortable and confident in the room. Shelley and I model the behaviour in both play and social situations that we wish to encourage.

We hope that you enjoy the year with us and both Shelley and I thank you for the opportunity of sharing this Pre-School experience with you and your child (or children- twins!).



Sherbrooke Family and  
Children's Centre &  
Yarra Ranges Council  
Parent Information Session



## Bringing the Best out in our Children!

*A parent presentation for challenging child behaviour*

**Date:** Tuesday 14 March 2017

**Where:** Sherbrooke Children's Centre Multipurpose Room  
1443 Burwood HWY, Upwey

**Time:** 7pm - 9 pm

*A light supper will be provided*

**RSVP:** Monday 7 March 2017 to Reception on 9754 4432

*(Places are limited)*

*Jo Lange is a key presenter in the area of behaviour guidance and resilience, and has worked with parent groups for many years.*



**Session topics covered:**

- The Philosophy of Positive Discipline
- Prevention is better than cure
- The language of positive discipline
- Dealing with common challenging behaviour



If you need any further information about the event please contact

Kim Lewis [k.lewis@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:k.lewis@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

Or

Michelle Lehmann [m.lehmann@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.lehmann@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

*We Looking forward to seeing you there.*



