



# 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 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to the beginning of a very important year for your children. We hope it is a fantastic year for all.

Newsletters will generally be issued once a month.

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

## Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

### **Staffing**

We welcome back in 2019 Rachel, Jenny, Sue, Shelley and Becky. This year with Shelley working in the 4 year old room as the Diploma Educator we welcome Veronica Makaay as the Educator in the 3 year old room. Veronica will be a familiar face to many families as a local whose children have all attended the Pre-School and as a swim instructor at Monbulk Aquatic Centre. Veronica brings with her over 10 years experience in early childhood education both here and overseas.

### **Principal/Licensee**

At the end of 2018 we farewelled Lynn Ordish as Principal and wish her all the best at her new School. We welcome Estelle Alder as the Acting Principal of Monbulk Primary School and Pre-School.

### **Invoices**

Term 1 invoices will be soon 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, or pay with cash/cheque in the locked money cupboard in the Pre-School kitchen. Credit card envelopes are also available beside the money cupboard. Unfortunately the QKR payment App is not available to use for Pre-School fees. Please ensure you also fill out the register in the red folder so we can track all payments left in the cupboard.

### **2019 Pre-School Photos**

Aver and Line will be taking photos of your child on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Pre-School. See brochure later in newsletter.

### **Old Uniform Sale**

Please see Becky in the Office if you are interested in purchasing any old uniform stock (discounted prices).

Payment can be made by cheque, credit card or cash (correct money only).

Plain bucket hats (red/navy)- \$5

Red size 5 jumpers (3 only)- \$10

Pink size 7 t-shirts (2 only)- \$8

Assorted colours size 6 jumpers- \$10

Assorted colours size 7 jumpers- \$8

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

### **Bags, Food and Drinks**

Children are already showing how capable they are by putting their lunch box and drink bottle on the trolley and their bag in their locker. Don't forget to encourage and help only if needed. Some children are unable to fit their food, water, hat and change of clothes in their bag at home time so if you have a larger bag please consider sending it with them. This would make it easier for them to pack at the end of the day.

A reminder that children are encouraged to bring healthy items in their snack/lunch boxes.

Please remember that drink bottles should only contain water. Children need water to keep their bodies healthy, without water their bodies don't process as well, physically and mentally. In addition water jugs are available in each room and a bubbler/water fountain 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 kinder. Please also label your child's bag as some children do not recognise their bag. As always, we re-enforce the importance of washing hands before we eat.

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Hats**

We wear hats when the UV is 3 or more, so please make sure your child has one every day in their bag. Hats need to cover ears and the neck, for example wide brim, bucket or legionnaires. No baseball caps please.

### **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.

**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 11<sup>th</sup>** : Labour Day Holiday  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March:** So What's The Hurry? Seminar  
**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March & Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Photos  
**5<sup>th</sup> April:** End Term 1

### Website

Fantastic website for families is BeYou- initiative by Beyond Blue, Early Childhood Australia and Headspace.

<https://beyou.edu.au>

This is the federal government investment in children's mental health and wellbeing covering the early years, through school and up to age 18. It has lots of helpful topics including: separation anxiety, feelings, positive fathering, belonging, getting along, self regulation etc.

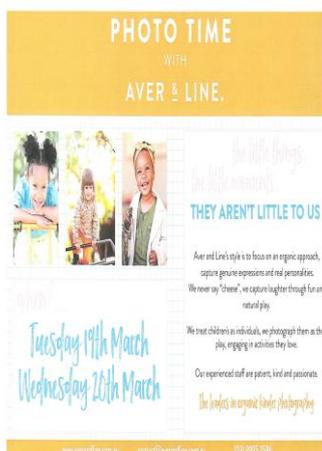
### Birthdays



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

**January-** Camryn, Charli, Jamieson, Logan, Loki, Pippa, Becky, Rachel

**February-** Harry, Rome, Aodhan, Jordan, Shelley



### Foyer Area

Just a quick reminder that we are using a building that we share with Shire Yarra Ranges staff and other community members. Unfortunately the design of the foyer area means that noise travels upstairs very easily. As such please be respectful of Shire staff on the phone or people using the upstairs meeting room or library and keep noise in the foyer down. In addition if you use the door stop to hold open the foyer entrance door, please ensure you shut it after.

### Entrance Security Gates & Fence

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

### CAR PARK

Please be aware that we have to share a very busy car park with the local community, Shire staff and the Primary School.

If you are unable to find a car park out front, the supermarket car park is only a short walk away or there is plenty of room at 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. Council Local Laws staff will be regularly patrolling this car park at School and Pre-School drop off and pick up time. 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.



### Fundraising

Allana (Grace's Mum) has volunteered to help with fundraising but would like one or two others to join her. Please speak to an Educator if you can help at all. Families will be informed about all events/activities we run this year and any help you can give is greatly appreciated.

### Scholastic Books

Liz White has volunteered to co-ordinate Scholastic Books in 2019. Order catalogues will be placed in your child's pigeon hole shortly. This year all payments must be online, no cash can be accepted. Payment details are on the catalogues.

### Child Health

If your child develops any diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition during the year, please inform their teacher so that we can put in place medical action plans to ensure that their safety, health and wellbeing is protected. Please also remember to keep them home and let us know if they have any infection/communicable illnesses such as head lice, conjunctivitis, diarrhoea, vomiting, hand foot and mouth, school sores etc. The Governments exclusion table can be found at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

Alternatively a copy is available from the Office.

**3 Year Old Group**

Over the next month we will be settling the children into their Pre-School environment:

- getting to know and trust staff
- getting to know their peers
  - following a routine
- learning the rules and expectations of their room
- becoming familiar with their environment
- becoming familiar with the play areas both indoors and out doors

There is a great deal to adjust and adapt to. This environment is new to them. Some children adjust and adapt quickly, others take longer. Even children who have attended “day-care” may find this new environment daunting. We need to give the children time to settle in, to be able to relax and realise that Pre-School is fun. Veronica and I plan the environment and activities to suit the needs of the individual and the group. The room is set for “parallel play”- this is one of the first stages of play and is suited for this stage of their development.

It is important to remember at this stage of the year that there may be tears, they may not want to come, but this will pass. Veronica and I will support both you and your child through this stage. It is important not to ask too many questions or over talk their Pre-School experience. Keep it simple and positive:

- did you do a painting today?
- did you bounce Trevor on the parachute?
- what colour was the play dough?

Please remember to name your child’s hat and lunch box. Spend some time with your child opening and closing the lunch box. Remember healthy food and drink choices. Limit choices to fruit, sandwiches, cheese, yoghurt, vegetable sticks, dried fruit and water.

The program, stories, songs and conversation starters will be displayed on the notice board next to our room door.

Please also remember to sign your child in at 9.00am and out at 12.00pm- this is a legal requirement.

**Children Left Unattended In Car Laws**

In Victoria it is an offence for a person responsible for a child to leave the child unattended for any longer than is reasonable, without making appropriate arrangements for the child’s supervision and care. This includes leaving a child unattended in a car. The penalties for leaving a child unattended in a car in Victoria include:

- A fine (currently \$4,030), or;
- A maximum of 6 months imprisonment, or
- Both.

[Children, Youth and Families Act \(2005\)](#)

Section 494 – Offence to leave a child unattended



**School Information**

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

**4 Year Old Group**

The children have settled into their new classroom extremely well, are learning the routine quickly and beginning to form friendships with peers and trust in their Educators. This bodes well for a wonderful year ahead.

With 30 children in the room things are very busy and hectic at the start of the year, but this will ease as they develop decision-making and self-help skills, allowing us to focus more on their education. Your children are at a wonderful age where they can learn to do so many things for themselves, although sometimes due to our love for them and busy lives we automatically do things for them instead of teaching them to do it for themselves. This includes accessing food, water, dressing and undressing, taking shoes and socks on and off and toileting. We are working very hard to empower children with these skills, so any practice you can do at home would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please talk to an Educator before or after kinder. We would also love for you to share your skills or knowledge with our children, be it art/craft, cooking, music, dance, drama, science, sport, practical skills (woodwork?), sculpture, magic, or anything else you can think of. We have an open door policy, so you are welcome to join us for all or part of a session, even just to “stay and play” if you like.

You should have received your laundry roster date in your pigeon hole by now. This will be sent home just once in the year with your child on a Wednesday or a Thursday. Rubbish and leaves collect at our steps and the gated entry, so in order to keep the area safe we will be sending out a sweeping roster for your family to please have a turn once in the year (it should only take 5 minutes to do). You can do your “sweep” before or after kinder if you like, or whenever is convenient for you. Just pop in to pick up a broom; we also have child-sized brooms if your child would like to help. If you cannot do your allocate week of either laundry or sweeping, please organise a swap with another family.

We use visuals to help children understand and use themselves. This week we are focussing on asking for help and using walking feet. Next week will be gentle touches, kind words and asking to play.



