



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

July 2020

Dear Parents,
Welcome back for term 3-in our new normal of lockdown 2.0! We hope you had a safe and relaxing break. We welcome back the families that are attending and look forward to when we see all the families that are currently choosing to stay at home

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

July Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Austin
Ayaan
Jack J
Willow M
Alesha
Kit

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Principal/Licensee

I hope you all had a lovely time together over the holidays and had time to enjoy the sunshine!

Once again we're back in lockdown, and school students are learning remotely. The teachers have worked hard to make remote learning easier and more engaging. We are now using Google Classrooms to help personalise learning for the children, as well as adding in more initiatives to help with student's social development and wellbeing. I would like to thank all of our wonderful Pre-School staff for the hard work, care and dedication to our children over this time; they have done a magnificent job supporting both onsite and remote learners.

Enrolments for Primary School are open, and I invite you to explore our virtual tour, or pop over and say hello (masked and distanced!) when you see me doing drop off and picked up duty at the carpark gate.

Take care and stay safe!

Estelle Alder
Principal



Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

SchoolPix Photos

As advised earlier, due to the first lockdown, we changed our photo dates to 25th, 26th & 27th August. These dates fall the week after this current 6 week lockdown is due to end. We are in constant contact with SchoolPix and if these dates need to be changed again we will advise all families accordingly.

Term 3 Invoices

With the introduction of a second lockdown period, the Department Education & Training has slightly updated their funding for term 3 to what was advised to all families at the end of term 2.

3 year old program- we will receive \$400 per each non-attending enrolment. As previous, any children attending will be invoiced \$505 for the term (or pro-rata if applicable)

4 year old program- we will receive \$460 for each eligible fee paying enrolment. Non fee paying enrolments are already fully funded. Therefore as with term 2 families will not be invoiced for term 3.

This terms additional funding is only partially covering fees. The Pre-School will be absorbing the small shortfall.

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Congratulations

Congratulations to Harry and his family on the arrival of baby Issac over the holidays.

FUNDRAISING

Choc Top Cones

We still have some cones available in all flavours- vanilla, choc-mint and boysenberry. Please call or email Becky if you would like to order some.

Information

We are constantly receiving information for families on online webinars and useful resources that we would normally display in the foyer. If you would like a copy of any of the information listed please let us know and we will email it to you.

- Seeing Other People Wearing Masks (a story for children)
- Shire Yarra Ranges "All Come Out to Play" virtual music sessions (August)
- Shire of Yarra Ranges resource for families- covers many areas including mental wellbeing, parental supports, remote learning, parenting webinars on many topics
- Yarra Ranges Linking Learning Network "Parenting Through Stress & Social Isolation"- 30th July

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:

SchoolPix Photos- 25th, 26th, & 27th August

End of Term 3- Friday 18th September

Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

3 Year Old Room

Well, what an interesting year it's been and continues to be so. We are faced with new challenges- how do we deliver our programs with both onsite and remote learning? What do families need and how do we continue to engage, develop, challenge and extend the children's learning?

We pride ourselves in early childhood about being adaptable and resilient, we embrace collaborative and reflective practice and I think we have proven this to be true!

Veronica and I thought about how would remote learning look in our 3's, we tried to avoid too much "screen time". However we did enjoy Class Dojo with the team- revisiting and acting out stories that we've read to the children- Very Hungry Caterpillar, Who Sank the Boat (Veronica did!), Bugs and Beetles and Mucky Duck. Learning should be fun for everyone- both children and adults!

We loved designing and making the book "Veronica & Sue went Exploring" for the children. The children still ask us to read it every session and they know all the words.

Another aspect of our remote learning was to keep our children engaged and connected to their kindergarten and peers. Encourage them to reflect and then build onto previous learning and continue to practice and consolidate skills. We know that children enjoy seeing photos of themselves engaged in activities and play.

Sending them letters and activities in the mail made the learning about them, empowered them to tell you about their "kinder", sharing their knowledge. It also appeals to their "sense of self", where they fit within our learning environment and community.

We have never been met with a challenge like this before.

As early childhood educators we believe we do our best teaching face to face but when that isn't possible we solve the problem.

We really enjoyed the challenge of staying developmentally appropriate, meeting their needs, staying connected and providing a learning program that embraced play and was fun for both parents and adults. We shall continue with both programs this term. We have had only 3-4 children attending onsite. We will continue to support your family in whatever choice you make through these difficult times- we are just a phone call away.

Stay safe and well.

Sue & Veronica

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

DET Early Childhood Covid-19 Updates

- DET has extended their cleaning funding into term 3. Therefore we will be continuing with the additional day per week with the cleaner and staff will also continue with their daily spot cleaning/sanitising of high touch areas around the whole of the service
- We are continuing to implement the recommended risk mitigation strategies that include strengthened hygiene measures, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette, ensuring all unwell children and staff remain at home, limiting access of persons into service (unless supporting essential operations), maintaining physical distancing of 1.5m between adults and implementing temperature screening for children on arrival
- In regards to temperature checks, if a child indicates a temperature of 37.5° Celsius or above, a second temperature will be taken 15 minutes later before a decision is made for the child to return home
- With the introduction of mandatory face coverings DET has advised that, like schools, educators do not have to wear a face covering when working with children (but those who wish to do so, can). At all other times staff are required to wear face coverings (such as in office, kitchen, foyers, providing first aid, taking temperature checks and travelling to and from the service)
- Local Covid-19 testing sites have just opened at Monbulk Reserve Pavilion and Emerald Hub. These sites are appointment only. Visit Shire Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Council websites for further details



Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Lockdown Photo Gallery



Mitchell & his sister Eliza with their Block Village



Mia in her PJ's all day and mostly getting along with her sister Jamieson!



Elliott made a circuit board with his big sister



Teddie playing in his sand pit



Happy birthday Jack J!



Jordan and Elsa helping build a new veggie garden



Rhylan sewing

Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice 4 Year Old Room

Thank you to the children and families who have adapted quickly to our risk mitigation measures, which include saying goodbye to parents/carers at the front door, and extra cleaning as well as washing hands A LOT! Children's understanding and acceptance of our new normal in such a calm and natural way is an inspiration to us all. They are our future and give us hope.

In response to questions and parent requests, we have been reading developmentally-appropriate books about Coronavirus and wearing masks Children's Health Queensland's Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health have released the children's book Birdie and the Virus to help young children process the unprecedented experience of COVID-19. The picture book and online animation, aimed at pre-school-aged children, tells the story of Birdie and her friend Mr Frog as a virus spreads in her community. Available as an eBook, hard copy and animation it is also accessible in a variety of languages including Auslan." At Pr-School we didn't read page 7 of the Birdie book in case it made some children worried. <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/covid-19-birdie-virus/>

With the majority of 4/5 year old children currently attending onsite it is not possible at the moment to offer distance learning programs and daily videos on Class Dojo like we did last term. Each fortnight we will email you the onsite educational program and post photos of the onsite children learning on Class Dojo. We love to get photos or video of your child learning at home, so please keep sending them through. If you would like to talk about your child's learning goals, or strategies which you could try at home, please give us a call or email. If your child would like to say "hello" to us, you are welcome to call too (Monday to Thursday 9.15-1.30 would be best).

In 4/5 year old group one of our current focuses is on storytelling. This takes many forms, including, dramatising a favourite story using costumes and props (Room on the Broom), making up a story using Aboriginal symbol story stones or cutting out and pasting symbols to make a story, collaborative small group picture stories or using children's words to make up a guided meditation-style story during relaxation. Children are developing skills in creating or re-telling a story, using scissors and glue, persisting with challenges and expressing their ideas through mark making and language, just to name a few. Some other areas of learning through play that have emerged from children's interests or developmental needs include feeling scared (recognising and soothing strategies), our 5 senses, rubbish vs. recycling, experimenting with magnetism and gravity, volcano chemistry, drawing around each other, and digging with a metal spade and using a wheelbarrow. At the end of last term we visited the oval for sport, and played cricket, freeze tag and What's the Time Mr Wolf. Children are currently enjoying deconstruction (taking things apart using a screwdriver). This develops strong hands and fingers and hand-eye coordination, as well as curiosity about how things work or are put together and problem-solving skills. If you have any items held together by screws that you no longer use, you are welcome to send them in with your child to be deconstructed here.

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Bendigo Bank

Below is information on Bendigo Banks Token of Appreciation program where you can nominate us to we receive "tokens" when you do your banking. Pop into the Monbulk branch of the Bendigo Bank for further information.

**COMMUNITY BANK MONBULK & DISTRICT
TOKENS OF APPRECIATION**



Our in branch Token of Appreciation wall allows customers to support your club in the process of banking with us

PRODUCT	TOKENS AWARDED
Bendigo Home Loan	10
Bendigo Personal Loan	5
Bendigo Credit Card	3
Bendigo Smart Start Super	2
Insurance Cover	2
New Business Account	2
New Term Deposit over \$10,000	2
Personal Account	1







Make your banking work for you and your club



The children are enjoying our new car that we were able to purchase using the money from the ice-creams sales. Play is very creative and collaborative.

