



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

June 2020

Dear Parents,

Where did our “different” term 2 go! It has been wonderful to see many of the children return to the Pre-School- we have all missed the sounds of them playing. We thank all families for embracing the changes we have recently introduced to ensure we meet all social distancing and hygiene requirements.

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

June Birthday's



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

**Leo
Katy
Amelie (belated May Birthday!)**

Baby Congratulations

A belated congratulations to Austin and his family on the arrival of “Shelby” last term.

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

2021 Enrolments

Enrolment applications for 2021 will be sent out early in term 3. Please get them returned as soon as possible so we can plan groups and sessions early. If you don't think you are on our database please see Becky in the Office.

Welcome Michaela

We welcome Michaela into the 4 year old room. She will be working part time for a few weeks as an Additional Assistant through the Kindergarten Inclusion Support program.

Term 2 Invoices

As previously advised, no parent fees are required for term 2 in the 4 year old funded group. Families who have returned for term 2 in the 3 year old group will be pro-rated invoiced. These will be placed in the children's pigeon holes shortly. Fees will return to normal for everyone in term 3.



Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Principal/Licensee

It's wonderful to see our community starting to return to life, and to hear children's laughter and voices once again. We continue to put in place hygiene and social distancing practices at the kindergarten and school. Like many of you, I have been enjoying on class dojo the performances of children's books by our Educators. I never knew we had such as talented bunch! At school we have Prep-Gr 2 back onsite and the children have settled in beautifully. You may have noticed a new “kiss and drop zone” which we have implemented to assist families with social distancing and support children into the school. This has worked very smoothly and we are proud of the children who have all managed to walk inside. To help our children return to school they each received a social story, and some class dojo video messages. School enrolment forms are now available from our website, the front office and the kindergarten foyer. We cannot conduct physical tours, but you are welcome to watch our virtual tour, and watch out for the “Be-gerk!”.

Estelle Alder

Covid-19

What we are doing to stay safe:

- All staff have completed the Australian Government Department of Health Covid-19 Infection Control training
- Providing additional weekly cleaning during term 2
- Daily sanitising of high touch areas throughout the Pre-School
- Maintaining 1.5m social distancing rules between adults
- Staff not attending work if feeling unwell
- Following all DET health and safety advice for early childhood services in the context of covid-19

If you have any questions please email or call.



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:

Monday 8th June- KINDER CLOSED

Friday 26th June- Last day Term 2

Monday 13th July- First Day Term 3

25th, 26th & 27th August- Photos

Quality Area 2- Children's Health & Safety Illness & Absences

We are entering cold and flu season so please make sure you give the Pre-School a call letting us know if your child is away sick. Especially so if your child has an infectious illness that requires us to notify all families (information is kept confidential).

Additionally, and most importantly, with Covid-19 no child is allowed to attend if unwell. A medical certificate is not required to return after a period of illness, however children should not return until all symptoms resolve. If a child becomes unwell during a session, staff will contact families to collect them.

Families are also reminded that exclusion is required for some childhood illnesses. For example children can only return to kinder 24 hours after vomiting or loose bowel has stopped. If you are not sure if your child can return to kinder after an illness you can call and speak to staff for advice.

A copy of "The Blue Book: Guidelines for the control of infectious diseases" is also available in the office. This contains a lot of information sheets that can be photocopied for you on request. We will also display relevant information in the foyer when required.

Immunisation Reminder

We are required to keep evidence showing your child is up to date with immunisations. If your child has had any scheduled vaccines since you gave us your child's Immunisation History Statement (ACIR) earlier in the year please provide us with an updated copy. If the statement we have on file is current and no vaccines have since become due, you do not need to give us another copy. You can get an updated statement from the Australian Immunisation Register via your MyGov account, the Medicare Express Plus App or by phoning the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.



Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Bendigo Bank Grant

We were recently successful in receiving a grant from the Bendigo Bank. This enabled us to purchase another outdoor block trolley, a play tunnel and a cover for our sand pit. Thank you Bendigo Community Bank!



Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Pre-School Photos

Due to Covid-19 our photos with SchoolPix have been re-scheduled to Tuesday 25th August, Wednesday 26th August and Thursday 27th August. One difference this year is that the traditional group photos will now be a "composite" group- individual head shots will be added to make the group.

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic have now returned to distributing catalogues but you can still view their catalogues online at [scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents](https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents).

Shade Sail

Last week our new shade sail was installed in the upper play area. It will be fantastic when the weather gets warmer later in the year.



QAI - Educational Program & Practice

3 Year Old Room

Children have re-settled well- it's as though they haven't been away!

We will continue to run a program that extends and challenges the children, meeting their developmental needs on all levels, providing a predictable, secure and safe environment.

Social play is very much the focus at the moment. The children have missed seeing their friends and are enjoying being back together. We are averaging 8-10 children per session at the moment- with the remainder of the children returning in term 3.



QAI - Educational Program & Practice

4 Year Old Room

Children have settled in amazingly well and adapted to some new routines quickly. It always humbles us how flexible, resilient and smart young people are. Thank you parents and carers for supporting your children through this difficult time.

Rachel is completing referrals for speech assessments and occupational therapy (currently via Tele Health) through Inspiro in Belgrave. If you have any concerns about your child's speech or physical/emotional development speak to Rachel.

Please ensure that you complete your child's primary school enrolment by Friday 7th August. Most schools have a website with a virtual tour if they cannot be visited at this time. We understand that choosing a school is a big decision, you can contact schools and speak to educators and members of the community to gather information. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of a second year of Pre-School for your child speak to Rachel.

Normally we would be doing lots of cooking, having breakfast at Pre-School and welcoming special visitors at this time of year. We are currently not permitted to do food sharing, incursions or excursions (except to local parks) due to Covid-19. We will let you know if this changes. When the weather dries up we will be doing sport regularly on the oval.

We would also usually send either our stuffed wombat or possum home to your house for a visit. Because of the risk of infection we cannot do that this year, but please look out for a covid safe alternative coming your way next term.

As part of National Reconciliation week activities we have been learning about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, listening to a story about a Koala in English and Woiworung (local Koori language), dot painting on bark, listening to We Are Australian in an Aboriginal language, saying our

Acknowledgement of Country, reading the book "The Lost Girl" about the stolen generation and learning about Aboriginal symbols and then water painting symbols onto rocks. We have been very fortunate to receive a small grant from the National Reconciliation Council as part of National Reconciliation Week celebrations. This will fund a visit from Reptile Encounters later in the year once all children have returned to Pre-School and we are allowed to have incursions again. The topic will be Buladu Mamingadha- Meet the Rainbow Serpent. Children will explore the ancient culture of Australia's first Peoples. Learn about their totem animals, be absorbed in dreamtime stories, and examine which animals they depended on for their survival.

Children at Pre-School have been learning about dental health (teeth brushing as well as healthy foods), making play dough, playing hospital (SO many broken limbs!), going on a nature scavenger hunt, using tongs and playing the rocket game, as well as lots of other fun and educational play.

This week we also joined a national Aboriginal Music Time via Zoom.



