



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

March 2019

Dear Parents,
First term is almost over and we have all enjoyed getting to know the children and their families.

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

March Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

**Milla K
Jessica
William A
Hazel
Grace
Ethan
Mila S
Hudson**

Scholastic & Book Fair

We all love receiving the Scholastic Book Club catalogues in our pigeon holes. Apart from the fact that Book Club is an easy way to purchase beautiful books at reasonable prices, the best part is the rewards for our Pre-School. For every purchase made, we receive reward points to the value of 20% of the total order. These points can be used to buy books and resources, at no extra cost. An added bonus for families is that once you have ordered through 'LOOP' for three consecutive issues, you begin to earn free books for yourself too!

Thank you to all families who order, we hope you enjoy reading your new books!

A reminder also that a Scholastic Book Fair will be held at Monbulk Primary School on Thursday 21st March and Friday 22nd March from 8.45am-4.30pm. It will be in the McAllister Hall building (building next to Pines area on David Hill Rd). You are sure to find many great book bargains!

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following families on the recent additions to their families. The Lucas family on the arrival of Jango and the Judd family with Lucy.

Wanted

We are having to replace all our soap dispensers and will need someone to help us to install the new ones. Please see Rachel or Becky if you can help.

QA6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

Fundraising Reminders

- Bendigo Bank Community Movie Night
- A reminder that the Bike-a-thon sponsorships are due back before the end of term

Please don't hand any money to the Educators. All money is to be recorded in the folder in the kitchen and the money placed in the locked cupboard.

Allergies at Pre-School

Please be mindful of the allergies/sensitivities we have at the Pre-School this year. If you have any questions please see a staff member. These allergies are either by ingestion and/or touch.

Appreciation

We appreciate all the effort that families have put into completing all the relevant enrolment documents, this makes our role much easier and streamlines the process as much as possible. Becky is just chasing up a couple of missing documents.

Thank you to Justin (Keegan's Dad) for completing some maintenance tasks for us.

Thank you also to Liz (William's Mum) for taking on the role of Scholastic Co-ordinator and to Sam (Willow's Mum) for taking on the role of fundraising Co-ordinator.

Unwell Children

During the Pre-School year children often get sick as they are being exposed to a whole lot of new people and environments. When young children are unwell they are most comfortable at home with their parent/family. Educators and other families will also appreciate sick children being kept at home to limit the spread of germs.

General Reminders

- We continue to practice our monthly evacuation, earthquake drills and lockdowns as part of our regular compliance
- Practice hand washing at home with your children- 20 seconds wash, 20 seconds rinse, 20 seconds dry (or sing happy birthday song twice)
- Families are requested not to put lollies, chocolate biscuits etc in their child's snack box. These are treat foods and we try to promote healthy eating
- With late warm weather please ensure children have appropriate clothing for the day (and change of clothes in their bag). With hot weather we are also having a lot of water play so again a change of clothes is advisable.

Monbulk Pre-School

Mailing Address: PO Box 375, Monbulk, 3793

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Email: monbulk.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Dates for Your Diary:

March 14th: Bike-a-thon

March 19th & 20th: Photos

March 21st & 22nd: Scholastic Fair

March 29th: Community Movie Night

April 5th: Last Day Term 1

April 23rd: First Day Term 2

April 25th: ANZAC Day Public Holiday

QA1- Educational Program & Practice

3 Year Old Group

What I learnt at Pre-School- firstly and most importantly:

- I learn to be away from you- my parents and this may take some time
 - I learn to work with a large group of children
 - I learn to work alone
 - I learn to share and co-operate
 - I learn some rules and routines
 - I learn to complete a task or activity
 - I learn to question and answer
- I learn to be independent but not be afraid to ask for help
- I learn to share my family and experience with others

I need to learn all of these skills to grow into a happy healthy person.

Children are settling well and are becoming familiar with the routine, each other and staff. The noise level in the room is rising as the children are becoming more comfortable and confident within their environment and with their peers. They are beginning to greet each other on the mat. The room is set up to support parallel then associative play through sensory activities and small social areas- blocks, train set, play dough, rice and water play- allowing the children to explore and develop in all areas and at their own pace.

We will continue to encourage the children to "help themselves". Put your bag in you locker, find your hat, your lunch box. Where are your shoes and socks- can you put them on? They are very easy to take off!

Many children are still having trouble opening their lunch boxes and the twist lids of yoghurt pouches. Please check that your child is comfortable with this and have the conversation- did you like what was in your snack today? We encourage the children to talk to you about the food they didn't like and what they would like to have. This encourages problem solving, language (communication) discussions- what do you like? They are also very interested in what others have in their snack boxes!

***** please remember NO nuts are allowed at the Pre-School- including pea nut butter and nutella sandwiches*****

QA1- Educational Program & Practice

4 Year Old Group

Across the service, Educators have been focusing upon establishing relationships with families and children, settling the children into their new environment and engaging families through interaction and conversations. Familiar and unfamiliar experiences have been provided, such as dinosaurs, trains, books, blocks, drawing and painting, manipulative experiences fostering fine motor developmental skills and group times. Educators are introducing and assisting children with routines as well as expectations, safety, playing together and learning each other's names.

We have also had discussions about whole body listening where we encourage children to listen with their ears, their eyes and their whole bodies.

Please continue to allow your child to independently unpack their bag each morning when they arrive at Pre-School. They not only experience a sense of achievement, but then are also more likely to remember where they put their lunch box, drink bottle and bag. Thank you for encouraging their efforts.

Children have been helping to weed and plant seeds. We are growing peas, beans, radishes, rocket and spring onions for Autumn. Incursions this term are Melbourne Museum with their dinosaurs and Responsible Pet education program. Thursday 21st March is Harmony day celebrating Australia's cultural diversity. We would love you and your child to share an aspect of your family's culture (via song, movement, music, costume, art, stories or toys). Please speak to Rachel if you would like to do this.

Next week we will be starting to use the Spanish app on the iPad. Children will take turns of 10 minutes (max) per day, if they wish, to use the government's educational app (Early Learning Languages Australia) to learn about Spanish language and culture. They will learn how to say ola, gracias, uno, dos, tres, adios and other simple words. They may even tell you about going on a rocket ship into space or through a maze.

Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th April are the last days of term. All children are invited to "dress up" in their favourite colour/s and we will be doing colour activities.

A green (2 sided) sheet is next to the attendance register for you to choose a time for an interview with Rachel, if you wish. We will talk about how your child is settling in to Pre-School and goals so far. If you cannot make the allocated days, please speak to Rachel to organise an alternative.

Lastly, please remember that staff are all very approachable and hope that you will take this year as an opportunity to work with us to make your child's Pre-School year a memorable one.

New Resources

In anticipation of raising funds for new resources at the Bike-a-thon we have purchased a 3-way bike (children need to walk together, make eye contact and use language), a steering wheel and some other resources. The children helped build the bike and steering wheel using an alun key and screw drivers.



QA7- Leadership & Service Management

Achievement Program

Monbulk Pre-School is part of the Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program in order to create a healthy environment for all community members. Priority areas include healthy eating and oral health, sun protection, physical activity and safe environments. Children will be doing lots of learning and activities around these subjects, and we will be asking for family input too. If you would like to be involved in the development of the program (in a working group) please speak to Rachel.

Quality Improvement Plan 2019

Families will be offered the opportunity to comment upon the development of our Quality Improvement Plan.

Pre-School Photos

Reminder that photos will be taken on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March by Aver & Line.

Car Park & Road Safety

Please take great care when in the car park or crossing the road with young children, and make sure to use the school crossings supervised by Dawn and Andy.

Professional Development

In February Rachel attended a Yarra Ranges Network meeting about technology in Pre-Schools. She has also recently attended a seminar on learning & development to improve outcomes in early years and trauma informed practice. All Educators will be participating in a Respectful Relationships professional learning to help support children to develop resilience, confidence and respectful relationships.

We also thank Melissa Vander Reest from Early Life Foundations for her interesting and informative presentation for staff and the community on March 6th. We learnt about children's anxiety, how their brains and minds differ from adults and what SUCCESS looks like for a child. She also shared six parenting tips and seven indicators for success.

