



Monbulk Pre-School Newsletter

May 2016

Dear Parents,

The weeks are going by fast and before we know it Term 2 will be over! Judy is away this week and will be back at work on Monday 16th. We thank Ellen Pedley and Jody Palmer for working with us while she was away.

Judy, Jenny, Sue, Ann & Becky ☺

May Birthday's



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Joep on May 3rd

Nerida on May 6th

Layla on May 18th

Elora on May 21st

Judy on May 30th

Thomas on May 31st

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Assistant Position

We have advertised for the Assistant position and have had a good response. Applications close this week and we intend to start interviews as soon as possible. Many thanks to Robyn Barrow who is helping us in the 3 year old group (Robyn has relieved for us many times and the children know her well) and to Jenny and Ann for helping with the 4 year old Friday session.

Open Pre-School-2016

In the past, as part of Education Week we have had our Open Day on a Saturday. We now do not have one set day but let families know we are open anytime for them to pop in, meet staff and look around our wonderful facilities. All current families are also welcome to visit and have a look at what your children are doing. If your friends are looking for a great Pre-School let them know as well. This year we are having our Open House in June and July, Monday-Thursday from 10.00am to 11.00am.

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

The children in both 3 and 4 year old groups recently enjoyed having their Mum's visit for Mother's Day morning and afternoon teas.



Monbulk Pre-School Centre

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Dates for Your Diary:

Monday 13th June- Queens Birthday Holiday

Friday 24th June- Last day Term 2

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

School Information

For interested families we have on display in the foyer or a folder available in the Office to look at, lots information on local Schools in the area and their upcoming Open Days.

General Reminders

- With the cold and wet weather it is essential you include in your child's bag a change of clothes, waterproof coat and gumboots. Hats are also to be worn all year, beanies in the colder weather. This is a must for outdoor play. Judy recently attended a PD by a renowned expert in the field regarding the value of outdoor play for children, whatever the weather. No excuses for children not having waterproof coats for play- if concerned about cold you can put thermals on them. The mud patch is always very popular making a change of clothes a must.
If you like you can also bring some slippers for your child to wear indoors. Please ensure all items are named.
- Some of the children's snack boxes and wrappings are still too difficult for them to open. We recommend that you check with your child at home before using them

Term 2 Fees

Term 2 fees are now well overdue. Please ensure they are paid as soon as possible (either via BPay code or by cash in the payment cupboard in the kitchen). If you would like to start a payment plan see Becky in the Office.

Quality Improvement Plan

As part of our funding agreement with Department of Education and Training and good governance, we are required to have a commitment to continuous improvement, which includes conducting annual surveys.

Our survey this year will be linked to the 7 quality areas of the National Quality Framework. It will be sent out to families in sections with the first one sent out this week focussing on Quality Area 3- Physical Environment.

FUNDRAISING

Mother's Day Stall

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, baked goods or flowers/plants. We were blessed with beautiful weather and raised \$899.90.

Special mention goes to Jo Heap for organising and co-ordinating the stall. Thank you also to the following people for helping on the day: Erin Beer, Veronica Makaay, Jenny Burnside, Sarah Kennedy, Audra Wilson, Deanne Thyssen, Lauren Francis, Natalie Nicholls and Bree Simpson.

Thank you also to Lily's Dad Ashley for the plants donated from Brooks Nursery (and also bringing a slice too) and Anne-Katrin (Jakob and Zoe's Mum) for their generous financial donation.

Congratulations to Jenny Burnside who was the lucky winner of our Tupperware raffle.

Entertainment Book or App

These are available on line or from the Office (hard copy) for only \$65. You will make your money back on the purchase in only two uses! \$13 of each purchase is given to the Pre-School.

Bunning's BBQ

We are again lucky to be given a date at Bunning's Bayswater. Please add Sunday 13th November to your diaries as we will need lots of helpers on the day.

Election BBQ

We will most likely be running a BBQ on election day at the Living & Learning Centre. This will be on Saturday 2nd July. More information will come as date gets closer.

Aver&Line Family Photos

Due to not enough bookings we have had to cancel the photo session on Sunday 15th May. We apologise to the families that had made a booking. We will be re-scheduling the session for Sunday 20th November when Monbulk Primary School is having their School Fair. Booking process will be the same and we will put out more information as gets closer to the date. Just in time for a great Christmas present idea.

WANTED

We are running short of supermarket bags so if you have any spare at home please bring them to the Pre-School.

Photo Gallery



Spanish with Pilar



Spanish



Making scones



Mud patch fun!

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Blue Room News

We hope you enjoyed your Mother's Day- the children enjoyed spending time with you at kinder and what a great job they did serving you scones and pouring glasses of water without spilling too much! Children love being able to do things like this – it reinforces that we trust that they are capable of looking after someone else, taking the focus off them and allowing them to see the needs of others. It's all about small steps and setting them up for "successful outcomes". Small jugs of water and small glasses- if it gets spilt it doesn't make much mess. All of these activities reinforce to your child that they are capable of contributing positively to most situations- with guidance, encouragement and sensible limits, most goals can be achieved.

Sarah and I both enjoyed and laughed our way through "The Making of You" presents. These are examples of intentional, sequential teaching- what does a body look like- head, arms, body, legs, eyes, nose, mouth, hair and clothes. We worked on this for nearly a month and most of the children through watching their peers, listening to rhymes and songs were able to create a wonderful likeness to their favourite person. I hope we captured the learning, the joy and the laughter. Happy Mother's Day!

This term will be full of change for the children. Robyn will relieve until we fill Sarah's position. I have worked with Robyn on and off in various situations for the last 15 years. We are comfortable with each other, Robyn shares a similar philosophy to mine and is able to adapt to and accommodate the philosophy and program easily. Thank you Robyn. I think it is important to be positive and encouraging at this time- both Sarah and I have explained to the children about change- and as we know as adults our lives continually change, as does the world around us. So this is an opportunity to teach that change is OK. Yes it can be inconvenient and annoying but we are able to adapt. In Early Childhood we call this "resilience". So let's be positive and excited about what's to come!

Green Room News

The children's portfolios are nearly ready for sending home- please look after them with the care of which they have been put together. When they are returned everyone is more than welcome to have a discussion with Judy (appointments made) with regards to progress or any input you would like noted.

We recently ran the responsible pet program which is such a beneficial session. All the children can quickly identify how a dog may be feeling. Along with the lovely Mothers Day luncheon we will soon have "breakfast sessions" where the children and staff come along in their PJ's. Not only is this an element of change for them it gives us a good indication of a child's resilience, can they make independent choices, can they dress themselves without help or look after their belongings.. We have been revisiting blowing noses and coughing over the last week as there seems to be plenty of colds around. Pete the Cat is our focus book at the moment which is about resilience- the children are enjoying his adventures.

Monbulk Primary School Website

We now have a link to the Pre-School on Monbulk Primary School's updated website. We will also be putting our newsletters up on the site as well. Check out our link at www.monbulkps.vic.edu.au.

Quality Area 6 & Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

“School Readiness- thinking about when to send your child to pre-school or school?”

Helen Spooner- Shire Yarra Ranges Pre-School Field Officer (adapted from original version written by Chris Bowen)

Each year parents are faced with the decision of whether to send or defer their child from pre-school. This can be a difficult decision as many parents believe a child is ready when they are age eligible... but this is not always the case. Further thought and discussion may be advantageous before deciding in which year to enrol your child.

Currently the Victorian State Government funds only one year of pre-school per child- the year before they start school. Therefore it is important to consider when you will access this year as a second year of funded pre-school is not guaranteed and is only available under certain circumstances.

A second year of pre-school maybe granted for your child if and only when your child's teacher has assessed your child as having delays in two developmental areas. This delay can be identified when comparing the average rate of learning and development for children of the same age, i.e. not in comparison to other children in the child's pre-school group, who may be older. Your teacher must then sign a legal document, a Declaration of Eligibility, which must then be submitted to the Dept. Education & Training (DET) by the end of term three. In the process of seeking a second year of pre-school for your child there is a series of steps which must be taken. A second year of pre-school discussion with the family must be started in term two and a plan for learning and development (which identifies strategies that focus on the developmental outcome areas where a delay is identified) will be presented in term three, reviewed and then continued into term 4. It is recommended that the Pre-School Field Officer (PSFO), the child's Maternal & Child Health Nurse or family Doctor contribute information and advice about the child's level of learning and development.

If your child is deemed ineligible for a second year of pre-school funding, the family may choose to self-fund an additional year, although children who have yet to have a year of pre-school will get first priority of any available places. Self-funding an additional year as of July 2013 is at a minimum \$4500 per child (standard per capita rate for 15 hours plus individual pre-school charges and levies).

DET- school entrance eligibility

“Children must be a minimum of five years of age by April 30 in the year they are eligible to start school. However, children are not legally required to attend school until the year which they turn six years of age.”

Considering your child's readiness for 4-5 pre-school and school the following year....

Even though your child may enjoy pre-school and appears to be coping in day to day activities, parents should be aware of the long term challenges of school the following year. School children need to be independent as they play with other children in the playground and be able to solve problems and disputes in a friendly manner, look after their own belongings and go to the toilet by themselves. These skills are always encouraged at the pre-school level but adult support is more readily accessible and the staff:child ratio is lower.

It is important to remember that activities at pre-school are usually free choice, play based and generally open ended. Whereas, at school activities are generally task-centred and require extended concentration on designated activities. Think about the difference between school and pre-school: the number and age of children your child may need to mix with, the physical environment including the amount of classrooms, buildings and school boundaries, working and talking with different teachers and supporting staff and importantly the amount of hours your child may spend at school.

When thinking about pre-school and then school you will need to consider your child based on his/her personality, development and maturity, as we know, all children develop at different rates. For some children waiting an extra year may mean the difference between being “okay” at school and “thriving” at school. For other children parents generally know that their child is ready for that next big step of childhood and they are confident and ready to guide this transition.

Recommendations for further reading:

What's the Hurry?- Kathy Walker

Raising Boys- Steve Biddulph

References:

DET/VCAA Victorian Early Years Learning and Developmental Framework

DET The Kindergarten Guide 2013

DET Does my child need a second year of kindergarten

