



Monbulk Pre-School Newsletter

May 2017

Dear Parents,

The weeks are going by fast and before we know it Term 2 will be over. Becky will be back next week if anyone has a query.

Judy, Jenny, Sue, Shelley & Becky ☺

May Birthday's



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Jack
Joshua
Sienna
Benji
Judy

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Open Pre-School-2017

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.

General Health and Well Being

Always a good time to give your child (and the family) some "worm" medication. Children are always picking up germs and bugs

Term 2 Fees

Term 2 fees are now due. Please ensure they are a paid as soon as possible. If you would like to start a payment plan see or send (an email) 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.

FUNDRAISING

Mother's Day Stall

Mothers Day Stall is this weekend. Please take some time to bake some goodies (remember to list the ingredients)

Other items can be donated like flowers and shrubs. Small gift items which can be sold. If you can't donate anything maybe you could donate a small contribution (\$) to the day. Pop down and support the stall on Main Street outside the ANZ Bank. Thanks to those that put their name down to help. It's always a fun day.

Entertainment Book or App

These are available on line or from the Office (hard copy) for only \$70. You will make your money back on the purchase in only two uses! A proportion of each purchase is given to the Pre-School.



Thanks

Slade's family for taking our hard Rubbish
Nate and Amon for some vegies
Hadley for some dress ups and toys

Monbulk Primary School Website

We 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.

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 12th June- Queens Birthday Holiday

Friday 30th 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.

Inspiro Dental Screening

We have been approached by Inspiro to run a mini clinic here at the Pre School. Forms for you to decide are in note pockets this week to be returned by 29th May.

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

Blue Room News

Second term is well under way- the children are becoming more confident both within their environment and with their peers – developing friendships can be an exhausting task, they need to use all of their skills to break into a play situation and then to maintain it: language- negotiating, emotional, ideas, sharing and conversation.

Understanding facial expressions of others – accepting rejection – becoming resilient and trying new things. Shelley and I will continue to support and guide your children through these social experiences – they are continually learning and adapting their skills :

Sometimes they're successful and other times they do not achieve their desired outcome so we continue to give them 'play strategies' and set up situations / experiences for them to achieve a successful outcome. We often hear '..... won't play with me!' We ask – what could you do to make a difference, and sometimes it's ok to find someone else to play with.

Shelley 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!



Green Room News

Last week we had a couple of walks to collect some Autumn leaves.

The days have been kind to us outside. Won't be long before the temperature drops and the cold sets in.

The ducks continue to grow and change. Plenty of families have taken them home for a night which is great.

One more week until they need a permanent home.

We have been documenting children's art work (picture of ducks) in our floor book.

Our Spanish should begin in the next two weeks. The delay has been due to our devices not being capable of storing the extra information, so we have purchased a larger capacity iPad.

I'll let you know when we start so you can join the children's journey at home.

There has been a few changes made in our outdoor environment to keep the area stimulating.

Next week we'll change a few of the areas in the indoor environment with the children.

We will be revisiting blowing noses and coughing over the next week as there seems to be plenty of colds around.

This week we had some apples donated, so the children have been making apple crumble.

Towards the end of the term we will have a Luncheon for our group.

Towards the end of the term we will be sending home your child's folder. Please look after these as if lost much of it is irreplaceable. When returned we can make a discussion time to talk about your child. It is also the time to discuss if your child would benefit from a second year of preschool.

This time of the year is also the time when you should be visiting the schools of your choice for next year. It is important to put your name down somewhere so schools can begin their planning for teacher numbers etc. Many of the open times are held this month.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers out there.

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, ie. 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 2016/17

