



# 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

May 2019

Dear Parents,  
Welcome back to term 2. We hope you all enjoyed the break. Thank you to the mum's/special friends who came to our Mother's Day celebrations.

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

## Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

### **Principal/Licensee**

Welcome to Term 2! I hope you had a wonderful holiday, and that the Easter Bunny visited you. I certainly had quite a bit of chocolate to work through, but when it comes to chocolate, I have a strong work ethic!

This term is very exciting as many families are touring schools and looking for the right primary school for their child. I strongly recommend going for a tour and seeing students in class and at play, to get a good feel for the school and how it fits with your family. If you would like to tour Monbulk Primary School, call the front office (9756 6481) and we will organise a time which suits you best.

In the coming weeks I will also be joining some of the mat times with the children in both the 3 and 4 year old groups.

Estelle Alder

### **Term 2 Fees**

Term 2 fees are due. Please ensure they are paid as soon as possible. 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. We are always working on our plan if you have any suggestions please let us know.

### **Sign In/ Attendance Books**

A reminder that our sign in books are an important legal document. As such we need you to always write the legal name of who is collecting your child so we know your child is leaving with the correct person. Please do not use Mum, Dad, Grandma, nicknames etc.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Co-ordinator**

We require a volunteer to co-ordinate our fundraising for the rest of the year. If you are interested in this role please speak to Rachel.

### **Earn & Learn**

Woolworths Earn & Learn is on again! This year it runs from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> June. We have sticker collection boxes located in our foyer and in Monbulk Woolworths. We also have sticker sheets in the foyer for you to use or you can print sheets yourself at [teaching.com.au](http://teaching.com.au). Happy sticking!

### **Bunning's BBQ**

Just a reminder that our BBQ is booked for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Bayswater Bunning's. More information will be provided closer to the date.



To all families,

EduThreads is committed to supplying your community with quality garments including prints which are comfortable, durable and stand up to daily preschool life.

Due to a handful of print issues we experienced at the start of the year an extensive review of our printing and QA procedures has taken place. We have worked with our suppliers to improve the print and application processes. Internal and independent testing on the durability of our prints has been conducted and we are pleased with the results.

If any parent experiences issues with an item purchased we will replace these at no extra cost. A warranty exchange request can be created on our website at any time.

We are grateful to have Monbulk Preschool's Community on board and will continue to deliver a great product and service that we are renowned for.

The team at eduThreads is available at anytime should you need assistance. We look forward to working alongside your community for the years to come.



Regards,  
Justin Molnar  
Co-Founder & Director

(03) 9029 5325 | [www.eduthreads.com.au](http://www.eduthreads.com.au) | [info@eduthreads.com.au](mailto:info@eduthreads.com.au)

## Monbulk Pre-School Centre

Address: 21 Main Road, Monbulk, 3793

Telephone: 9756 7379

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

**Dates for Your Diary:**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June-** Queens Birthday Holiday  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June-** Last day Term 2

### May Birthdays



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

**Alissar**  
**Keegan**  
**Willow**  
**Ryden**

### Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

#### Foyer Area

We will shortly be re-organising how we display information in the foyer to make it less cluttered and to clearly separate general notices and advertising from legislated information we are required to display as part of our licence or important Pre-School notices for families. Our aim is to create a specific area for all community-related information. As part of these improvements we will be putting together a folder full of information we receive from local and broader area schools. This will include any general information or details on event's, open days that they have provided us and we will update it as required.

#### Congratulations

More exciting baby news! Congratulations to Emmaline and her family on the arrival of her new brother Landyn and to Isla and her family with a new sister Lily.

#### Old Uniform Stock

We have slashed prices even more. All old uniform now \$5!!! We have available mainly jumpers, some hats and a couple of t-shirts.

Please see Becky if you are interested in purchasing or trying on items.

### Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

#### 3 Year Old Room

Second term is well underway, both groups have settled well and the children are becoming more confident both within their environment, with educators and their peers.

We are beginning to have more conversations as a group, both at mat time and snack. At snack time it usually centres around food, everyone is interested in what their friends have in their snack boxes. It is at this stage where children want to share food with their peers and Veronica and I put a stop to it very quickly, saying mummy has prepared your snack just for you and there may be things in your snack box that your friends can't eat. One little girl piped up and said- "yes, they can be allergic" and I said- "that's right, we have a boy in the 4 year old group that is allergic to nuts so we don't bring nuts to kinder or have peanut butter or nutella sandwiches. To which she responded- "and we can't have potatoes in this room either!" I looked at Veronica and thought to myself- that's odd, where has she got that from! So I asked the question- "why can't we eat potatoes in this room?" She said- "there's a potato on the door with a big red cross on it- that means no potatoes in this room!" So I went and looked at the sign on the door- it's a picture of "nuts" but one of those nuts looks just like a potato! I must get a clearer sign.

At this stage of the year the children are becoming aware of others, friendships are developing and this can be an exhausting task and quite emotional. It requires all of their skills to break into a play situation and then to maintain it. They require language skills- to negotiate, to share ideas, to problem solve, to understand what their friends are saying. They need to listen. They need to understand facial expressions and body language. And then there's the emotional- accepting and in turn dealing with rejection, to become resilient and self reliant and to try something different- perhaps play with someone else. Veronica and I will continue to support and guide your children through these social experiences. They are continually learning and adapting their skills, sometimes their successful and at other times they do not achieve their desired outcomes. So we continue to give them "play strategies". We set up situations and activities that will allow them to practice their new skills.

The most difficult lesson of all is sharing, it involves being aware of others and their needs. It's moving the child from the "me" into the "we" and they don't move easily! From now on most activities will be set up to encourage sharing. They will have to wait, they will need to use their words- "when you've finished with the roller I would like a turn." They may need to negotiate and problem solve and we will be there to give them the language and encouragement to support their learning. Learning isn't always about being successful and getting what they want, learning is about persisting and trying different ways of finding satisfactory outcomes.

#### Autumn Weather

Please remember both winter, ie. beanies and sunsmart, ie. bucket hats. At the moment it is cold in the morning and UV over 3 by the afternoon.

#### Construction Materials

If you have small, clean boxes that the children can use for box construction in the 4 year old room, you are welcome to bring them in. No medical boxes please.

## Quality Area I - Educational Program & Practice

### 4 Year Old Room

As usual our educational program is rich and varied, and is developed by educators in collaboration with children and families to meet their interests and developmental needs. During the last three weeks the children have helped to organise a "pamper session" and afternoon tea for their Mum's and have made them invitations, Mother's Day cards, decorated a terracotta pot and planted and watered seeds. They were all able to communicate why they loved their Mums or what they love doing with their Mums. Many were able to understand the concept of how what they said about their Mum was transferred to written word in their card and then read out later by their Mum. Magic!

Children are using name cards in Victorian cursive to practice writing their name on artwork and cards.

We have begun letter and number recognition through play-based learning. Children are recognising and using Indigenous symbols in story, play and mark making, and they have been using toy animals to re-tell the Yorta Yorta story of the koala. This week they are learning to recognise and react appropriately to their own and other's sad emotions, and will be sharing ideas with each other of how they make themselves feel better when they are feeling sad. They are also learning how to ask to join play, invite someone to play, or when to move away or seek help if play goes wrong.

We have introduced the children to relaxation and guided visualisation. They are learning to become aware of their breathing, to slow their bodies down and to focus their attention. They have been learning about money, what it is, how we get it and what it does; and they are using it in the play shop to buy fruits and vegetables.

In science they are learning about the lifecycles of chickens and caterpillars, and growing snow peas, beans, radishes, rocket, spring onions and beans from seeds. Through trial and error (blowing through a straw) they are investigating the properties of bubbles. Last week they hammered some dried up clay into powder and then found some rainwater to make it clay again.

This week they are learning how to use a real screwdriver safely, and have begun deconstruction of old technology to see what is inside.

Children are interested in how the body works, so have helped set up a play hospital where all operations are free! They have also been learning about why our bodies need sleep. To develop fine motor skills children have been using a variety of painting and drawing media, using pipettes, hammers and nails,

### 4 Year Old Room continued...

spinning tops, tongs, tweezers, building a marble race, giving their Mum's a massage and painting their Mum's nails.

The development of social skills at this age is critical, and we are reading "Have you filled a bucket today?" a book about being kind, generous and loving and how this fills ours and other's metaphorical buckets. Children have actual mini-buckets, tongs and fluffy balls to help them visualise this abstract concept.



## Aver and Line Photos

We hope you are all enjoying your child's photos.

If you haven't already ordered or you want to order more you still can. Aver and Line have no cut off date for orders.

To order log online at [averandline.com.au/photos](http://averandline.com.au/photos) and enter the user code you were given. All orders will now include a \$11.95 postage fee and will be delivered to your home address. If you do not have your user code you can call Aver and Line on 9995 3586 and speak Belinda.



## Quality Area 6 & Quality Area I - 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.

#### 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 2018/19