



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

November 2019

Dear Parents,

This year has again flown by so fast! The children have grown so much in so many ways. The last weeks will involve a few things happening for the children and you- keep an eye on your emails or child's pigeon hole.

Rachel, Jenny, Sue, Shelley, Veronica & Becky

Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Jenson
Teddie
Adelyn
Charlie
Gage
Lilly

Quality Area 6- Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

Thank You

Thank you to Rocky and his family for their donation of sunscreen for the children to use

Bendigo Bank Community Night

Becky recently attended Monbulk & District Bendigo Bank Community Night. The Bank spoke of the many wonderful things they do in the local community and as of June 2019 they have proudly contributed \$400, 406.80 funds back into the Monbulk and District Community. As part of the celebrations we were presented with our cheque of \$1,612 as part of their biannual sponsorship grants. The grant covered the purchase of a block trolley for our new outdoor blocks and drinks/food trolleys for each room They also launched on the night the new Tokens of Appreciation Program. Tokens add up to monetary donations. Next time you are doing your banking please pop your tokens into the Pre-School's box!

FUNDRAISING

Coin Race

Tubs for coin race fundraiser are located near the children's locker areas. If you can spare any 5 or 10 cent coins that would be appreciated.

Quality Area 7- Leadership & Service Management

Principal/Licensee Step into Prep

We've had a wonderful time welcoming the students and parents to Monbulk Primary School as the children get ready to Step into Prep! The children met their teachers and had a taste of school, classrooms, desks and learning. It was wonderful to meet the children, and our Prep teachers are already planning how to support each student. It was great for me to meet new families and talk about the school. We were able to share information about school readiness, literacy, numeracy, speech therapy and additional learning support, uniforms and Out of School Hours Care (OSHClub).

If you have any further queries please contact me at the school. We have limited places available in Prep, so if you are interested in a tour please come over for a chat.

Estelle Alder

Outstanding Fees 2019

Term 4 and other outstanding invoices were placed in pigeon holes at the start of the term. Please ensure these are paid or call the Office to arrange a suitable payment plan. Unpaid invoices may affect your child's 2020 enrolment or be referred to our debt collection agency.

Hats

We wear hats when the UV is 3 or more (usually terms 1, 2 & 4). Please make sure your child has one every day in their bag. Hats must cover ears and the neck, for example wide brim, bucket or legionnaires. No baseball caps.

Monbulk Pre-School Centre

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Dates for Your Diary:

Tues 17th Dec- Last day Magpies

Wed 18th Dec- Last day Lyrebirds

Tues 17th Dec- Last day blue/red grps

Wed 18th Dec- Last day green/yellow grps

Thurs 19th Dec- Staff pack up day- no kinder

Quality Area I- Educational Program & Practice

Upcoming Events

3 Year Old Room

Tuesday 17th December 10.30am-12.00pm- Magpies group end of year party and "Just for Fun Magic Show"

Wednesday 18th December 10.30am-12.00pm- Lyrebirds group end of year party and "Just for Fun Magic Show"

4 Year Old Room

Monday 18th November- 3 weeks of Spanish with Pilar (twice a week)

Tuesday 26th November- Paul Jamieson musical incursion

Monday 2nd December- potential police station visit

Wednesday 4th December- end of year celebration/concert. 5pm for a 5.30pm start @ Monbulk Primary Performing Arts Centre

Wednesday 11th December- end year party red/blue/green groups

Thursday 12th December- end year party blue/green/yellow groups



Quality Area I- Educational Program & Practice

3 Year Room

I can't believe that the year is nearly over! We have 8 sessions left with the children, we continue to reflect at the end of each session (usually whilst cleaning up- they still make mess!). How can we extend and continue to encourage

experimentation and investigation. What areas do we need to revisit in order to consolidate skills, have we reached individual and group goals or does it continue to be a work in progress?

Each year is different- dynamics and group interaction, how the children interpret and relate to the program as individual and as a group. The year starts on the run with children requiring a lot of support- toilet reminders, many changes of clothes, routines consistent and reinforced, encouragement (have a try). The simplest things- opening a lunch box, pulling down pants for toilet and then pulling them up again, putting shoes on and doing things for themselves.

Then just about now it all comes together- what an amazing journey! We watch and wait for them to become comfortable in the room-: exploring activities, talking to staff and peers, being aware of others and the impact that others have in the group situation and in play. We move them through the stages of play, supporting and modelling social skills and problem solving. Veronica and I can safely say the children are confident and comfortable! The room is full of chatter and activity- in fact it's quite noisy! We look at each other with a surprised smile- wow, they are all engaged and no-one needs us! It doesn't last long but it's a great feeling, regardless of how brief it may be!

Pilar has started Spanish lessons with both groups- they will have 3 lessons over the next 3 weeks. We are not doing a concert this year but rather we are having a magician put on a show for us- parents are welcome to share this special occasion with us. Younger siblings are welcome too but they must be seated and controlled by parents. Afterwards we will return to the kinder room for a party and a special song from the children.

Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practice

4 Year Room

The children have been so proud to bring back their helping homework and their achievements have been celebrated at group times. Thank you to the parents for supporting them to do this, and we hope the helping continues at home. We have seen a rise in them helping each other and cleaning up after themselves at pre-school.

Children's minds and the concepts they can understand are expanding rapidly. In response to their interests and developmental needs, they have been learning about gender, equality, space and the solar system, family diversity, comparing and estimating volume, capillary action in plants, bearded dragons (thanks Jasper), floating/problem solving, counting and corresponding this to written numbers and animals from different continents.

Skill development has included dramatising stories, using droppers/pipettes/squeezing bottles gently, using pumps, filling and pouring, scratch art, drawing families, washing and drying and being kind and inclusive (bucket filling) and asserting self (using strong words).

Children have also been identifying the ways that they stay safe (car seats, holding hands, being sunsmart, the police).

Police was a popular topic, so we organised a visit to Monbulk Police Station. Children learnt how the police keep us safe and got to sit in the police car and go in the old prison cell. We will go again in the next few weeks so that everyone gets a chance to go. Over the next few weeks we will be learning more very important ways that we can keep ourselves and others safe, including moving around carefully especially during active play, recognising when we do not feel safe, saying "no" assertively, what unsafe touching is, "yell, run, tell", and who we can go to if we feel unsafe.

Recently we have been focussing on completing tasks independently (or attempting them), for example managing clothing, shoes and sunscreen. A number of times during the day we ask the children to think about if they are feeling hot and what they think they could do to help themselves feel cooler (ie. take their jumper off or have a drink of water), and we guide/support them to do it if they are struggling or ask for help.

A few children wanted to make a schedule to help them be more independent in the morning. This was shared with all families (for home use), so all children could refer to it when practicing doing things themselves, or to inspire you to make something similar with your child at home (it is just not possible for us to make a different one with every child at pre-school as there are 40 children and we only work part time, sorry).

We have had some "buddy" sessions with Monbulk Primary School Grade 3 & 4 students this term. This provided an opportunity for children to become more familiar with the school environment and more confident about their transition to school, Even those going to different schools or staying at pre-school next year joined in and made some new school-aged friends.

This week children are making and eating vegetarian sushi for developing fine motor skills, understanding and following a process, accepting and persisting with challenges, trying something new and learning about healthy eating.

4 Year Old News Continued.....

Sport on the oval will include playing "What's the Time, Mr Wolf?" to learn about following game rules, counting/stepping/stopping, taking turns, spatial awareness and safe chasing (all very important school skills).

Pilar is back for 8 sessions and the children are loving her fun and interactive Spanish lessons.

On Tuesday 26th November we have Paul Jamieson, the Music Man, coming to get the children singing, dancing and playing instruments.

Transition to school

Thank you to the families who have already completed online or returned section 2 and 3 (family and child parts). If you haven't done so yet, please return these to an educator as soon as possible so that they can be included in the report sent to school at the end of November.

Party Day

End- of-year party days for pre-school children are on Wednesday 11th December and Thursday 12th December (Rachel's last days this year, as she will be away the following week). Children can come dressed up (if they like); we will be playing party games and dancing, and we will have a "feast" for lunch. In line with our healthy eating policy, we are no longer able to ask you to supply shared "red/sometimes foods" (ie. sausage rolls and lollies). Instead, your child will be making a "feast bag" (decorated paper bag), which they will bring home the day(s) before, for you to fill and send back on Party Day with their special lunch. This allows you to choose what special foods you would like them to have.

And finally, thank you to all the families for their contribution to their child's early childhood education, from helping at excursions, special days, fundraisers, working bees, general assistance, laundry, sweeping, to sometimes just getting children here.

From everyone in Green Room, we thank you for sharing your amazing children with us this year.

We would like to send our best wishes to the children going to school and families leaving the service. To those returning in 2020, we look forward to seeing you again at the end of January.



