

DATES TO REMEMBER

Young Australia

Wed, 30 May

Fees are due

Thu, 31 May

Library

Thu, 7 Jun

Public Holiday

Mon, 11 Jun

Thomas Eccles Gardens

Wed, 13 Jun

Last Day Term 2

Fri, 6 Jul

Dropping Off

Please remember to use the Woolworths carpark to drop off and pick up

Hats

Children need a broad brimmed hat to play outside

From the Director's Desk

The staff and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the children and families who have joined the Montessori Community this term. The staff and I look forward to getting to know you and your children.

The 'Question of the Week' initiative has continued to assist planning at the Pre-School and offer families a way in which to express their thoughts on a variety of topics. Recently the question was posed about preferred times for planned afternoon events at the Pre-School, thank you to everyone who responded. I can now advise many of you were in favour of a 3.00pm to 4.00pm time, which will be adopted for future events

On another note, It is with sadness that we will be farewelling Eileen in June. Eileen has been with Yass Montessori Pre-School for 12 years and in this time has demonstrated a tireless passion and devotion for Montessori education in Yass.

Eileen has tirelessly shared her experience and knowledge of the Montessori curriculum with many children and families in this time and we hope she will continue to be a friend of Yass Montessori Pre-School for many years to come. Eileen will be greatly missed by everyone at the Pre-school and we wish her well in the future.

Cheers
Wendy

Committee Corner:

The Committee wants to take the opportunity say a very big and heartfelt thanks to Eileen Muscat who is leaving the Pre-School next month. For the past 12 years Eileen has nurtured and inspired children across the Yass district. Eileen, we will miss you very much but wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

Everybody is welcome to attend our next meeting on:

Wednesday, 13 June 2018, 7:30pm at the Pre-School

Meetings wrap up no later than 9pm!

General

Meeting Dates:

7 Mar (AGM)

9 May

13 Jun

11 Jul

8 Aug

**Everybody is
welcome**

In the Children's House:

'If we build our classroom on simplicity, the children are free to find our common soil. If we build our classrooms on patience, they are free to grow at their own pace' Catherine McTamaney, The Tao of Montessori.

There has been a constant buzz of activity in the classroom since the start of Term 2. The children have been moving through the 'Children's House', engaging in the activities offered in the Practical Life, Transition, Sensorial, Cultural, Botany, Mathematics and Language areas of the classroom.

The children have hosted events and had a variety of visitors over the past four weeks.

'Visit with Me' was well attended by families during week 2 of the Term. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with your child, experiencing a part of their day at Montessori.

We ask parents, whenever visiting, that respect is given to the children's work cycle within the classroom, by not bringing younger siblings with you.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea: The children hosted an afternoon tea for their special guests on Wednesday the 9th of May, this event was well attended. The children assisted to prepare pikelets, chocolate strawberries, and corn relish dip and fruit platters to serve to their guests. It was a great afternoon.

At the **end of this Newsletter is the Raspberry Yogurt Cake recipe** which has been requested by many of you who came along to the afternoon tea.

Visit from Gilbert the Garbage Truck program:

Wednesday, 9 May the children had a visit from Gilbert the Garbage Truck and friends. This program presents to the children lessons on Reducing, Reusing and Recycling waste and taking care of the environment.

Following the visit from 'Gilbert' the garbage truck the children and educators have been discussing 'composting', some of the children sharing information about the compost bin or heap they have at home.

The educators with the assistance of the children have implemented an experiment in the classroom to investigate composting. The mini composter has been filled with soil adding different items to each section. A banana skin, piece of paper and a foil biscuit packet have been added and the question posed 'which item will compost first?'

"Now, what really makes a teacher is love for the human child; for it is love that transforms the social duty of the educator into the higher consciousness of a mission'."

Dr Maria
Montessori

*“When children
come into
contact with
nature, they
reveal their
strength.”*

Dr Maria
Montessori

The same week Edward brought in some worms to show the children and educators and kindly agreed to add the worms to the compartment with the banana skin.

The children have continued to view the mini composter regularly, with some children adding their own documentation of what they have observed.

Aboriginal Culture and Ngunnawal Language:

Bob Buffington and students from Yass High School have begun to visit the Pre-School sharing ‘Yarnin Stories’, music ‘clap sticks’ and the ‘Didge’ and Ngunnawal Language

At morning mat time the children come together and greet the teachers and one another the Ngunnawal words for boy ‘Bubal’ and girl ‘Mullangan’ are being taught to the children.

National Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June

Next Wednesday, 30 May, ‘**Young Australia**’ will be coming to the Pre-School to present a program Aussie Animals and Landscapes at 10.00am.

Housekeeping:

Working Bee/ Shade sail/ Rock Steppers/ Soft Fall:

- **Shade Sail:** It is time to think about taking down the large shade sail in the yard as the days are getting shorter and cooler. The Pre-School takes down the large shade sail during the cold winter months.
- **Rock Steppers:** Assistance to reset some stone pavers to ground level again in the yard would be appreciated. The steppers are quite large and heavy.
- Bark soft fall needs to be reapplied around the sandpit/cubby house area
- Screening on the fence in the yard is looking a little worse for wear and also needs replacing.

If there are any parents who may have time available, please contact Kathy or Wendy, suggested dates for our working bee will be either Saturday, 16 or Saturday, 23 June. Please indicate date preferred by placing a stone in the

corresponding jar in the foyer. Help is always greatly appreciated; many hands make light work of big tasks.

Wood for Woodworking Bench:

Sadly the children have been unable to use this activity for some time as we do not have any suitable offcuts of timber to use. If you know of anyone or where to source timber that is safe for children to utilise for woodwork construction please let us know.

Sustainability

Green Eco Tips for Sustainable Living.....

- **Go zero waste:** The ultimate goal—learn how to zero waste at home.
- **Simplify:** Simplify your life as much as possible.
- **Determine your impact:** The Eco Footprint can give you great ways to determine how you are impacting the environment.

Our Community

It is National Reconciliation Week is 27 May to 3 June, it is a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Thursday, 31 May the Pre-School will be hosting a playdate with the Koori Playgroup. We are looking forward to this time. We will be planting a native purple plant as a gesture of remembrance of the Stolen Generation in a pot which we will hand paint with the playgroup.

StEPS vision Testing:

This will take place at the Pre-School on Thursday, 31 May between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. If your child turns 4 years old this year you would have received forms to complete and return.

What is StEPS?

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 years old children free vision screening. NSW Health advises all children to have their vision screened before they start school and strongly recommends that all four year old children participate in the vision screening program.

Why would my child need their vision screened?

“As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability and learn to concentrate.”

Dr Maria
Montessori

“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.”

Dr Maria
Montessori

- ◇ Children rarely complain of eye problems or realise that they can't see well. The only way to tell if a child has a vision problem is to have the child's vision tested one eye at a time.

Berinba Public School Education Evening:

Berinba Public School will be having a Parents evening on Tuesday, 19 June 2018 for those families who are considering sending their children to Berinba in 2019. See Flyers in Foyer.

Raspberry Yogurt Cake:

1 cup rice bran oil

1 ½ cups caster sugar

2 eggs

1 1/2 cups of plain natural yogurt

2 cups self-raising flour

1 cup frozen raspberries

Vanilla Bean Cream Cheese Icing:

1 ½ cups soft icing sugar

50g butter

1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (can use extract)

200g cream cheese

Method:

- ◇ Grease a 25cm round or square cake tin and line with baking paper. Preheat oven to 170c
- ◇ Whip oil and sugar together, add eggs one at a time and beat until fluffy.
- ◇ Stir in yogurt, don't worry if it is a little lumpy.
- ◇ Fold in flour until just combined
- ◇ Fold in raspberries, making sure they are still frozen or they will turn the cake pink.
- ◇ Bake for 50 – 60 minutes. Do not overcook
- ◇ For the icing, beat the butter, cream cheese and sifted icing sugar until well combined and fluffy. Mix in the vanilla bean paste. Ice the cooled cake.