

BLUE GUM – MONTESSORI NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 2011

Monday-Wednesday News.

The last week of term for 2011 for the year is here. It is a time for ‘**thank-you s**’ and farewells. We are **sad to be saying goodbye to 11 children** that we have got to know so well over the last two + years. We are also sad to be farewelling the families that are leaving this year, some of whom we have had collaborative partnerships with over many years with previous siblings attending as well.

Through being valued and contributing little members of our class community, the children will be able to become happy and secure members of their new classes next year. We see that they have developed a level of self confidence, positive self esteem, concentration and a love of learning which are tools for their future development.

So, farewell to **Jed, Julian, Benjamin Lobley and Benjamin Locke, Otto, Polly, Manu, Hannah, Torsten, Gracie and Sean.** Thank you to their families for their assistance and contributions to the class and to Blue Gum, and we hope that you might drop in for a visit after school sometime.

This term we have had some special visitors. **Billie’s Mum and Dad** shared their storytelling skills with us with an **Indian Festival and cultural story** which the children greatly enjoyed.

Benjamin and Benny’s Dads talked about their work of paramedics, about emergencies, and all the children got to go inside the ambulance and have a close up look. We also had a visit from a national parks Mum who brought in an orphaned baby wombat that she is rearing at her home. So thank you to those parents for bringing in an enriching experience for the class.

Thank you too to the wonderful team on the committee for their work, to the fundraisers, to our valued teaching and administrative colleagues, to the ‘green and wheeled’ who all looked so gorgeous at the Rhododendron Festival, to those who helped at the “mighty clean up / gardening/working bee day”, to the parents who produce this newsletter and all who have supported the preschool in any way throughout the year.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday with your families.

Carmel, Mary, Kathy and Jane.

Thursday-Friday News

Dear parents, after a very busy year full of learning experiences, the older extended day children will be leaving us to start school next year. We wish them well and feel proud to have played a role in preparing them for life as the Montessori environment is a mini society complete with social, academic and artistic experiences. We give the children the “keys” to future learning through working with practical, sensorial, language, maths and cultural materials. From these experiences abstract concepts are developed.

So we say goodbye to **Jem, Tom, Darsen, Max, Sierra, Jade, Rafaele, Otto, Rowan, Ibrahim, Gaia and Nikita** who will be going to other schools.

We will miss you.

We look forward to seeing the return of the three and four year olds next year and will be welcoming some new faces.

We have been busy lately doing Christmas craft, which the children enjoy, and they have been decorating the tree. We have been practicing songs to sing when the parents come and many children are still working away at math and language and doing maps and counting chains. We had the visit of **Jane's** niece last week. She is a scientist and brought bugs for the children to look at and a pitcher plant that eats fruit flies. The children loved the experience.

Anyway we'd like to thank you all for your help and support this year and wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Margaret, Kathy and Jane.

A snapshot of some special visitors to Blue Glum Montessori during term 4.



Benjamin and Keira's dad Steve Lobley showing the children around the Ambulance (Jed with safety helmet on).



A big thank you to Peter (Beni's Dad) and Steve (Benjamin and Keira's Dad) for bringing the ambulance for us to look at!



Our little master chefs.



Billies Mum Kath and Dad Bruce came in to share the festival of light with the class



We danced



Acted



And created.



Fire-fighter Mina and Fire-fighter Don came to both classes to give us advise about fire safety.



A few of the boys trying on the RFS gear. I think they will have to grow into them a bit.



BYE!!!!



**Lindsey came to visit us with some interesting creatures
The children are looking at a pitcher plant.**



Searching for worms.



Hop little grasshopper hop Fundraising Update

Montessori Blue Gum Fundraising Committee Update Term 4 2011

Trivia Night

The Trivia Night was a great success with 60 people attending the Blackheath Golf Club on 4th November. We had a wonderful selection of prizes donated and we raised \$420.00. It was great fun with lots of fun between games getting the players onto their feet.

A big thank you to our Quiz Host Steve Fleischmann (Manu's dad) who kept the players interested laughing, & eating & drinking – the kitchen were taken by surprise with all the meals ordered by the trivia attendees – so thanks to everyone for supporting the venue also.

We would like to thank very much all the support we received from Sponsors on the night:

Blackheath Golf Club, Watson's Hardware (Thriftylink), Mamusia's Giftware Gallery, Mt Boyce Nursery, KK MusikStudio (Kindermusik), Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum (Bathurst), Village Fitness, Debbie Hodgson Yoga, Blackheath Fitness, The Govetts Café, Chateau La Belle, Sustainable Baby book, Captain Cook Cruises, Red Door Café Leura, The Carrington, Hairloom, MITRE 10, ITW Proline, Escarpment, Beauty with Altitude, Gleebooks, Pierdmont Inn, Tommy Ruff, Massage by Veronika, Blackheath Butchery, Megalong Book Leura & Waratah Dental

Calendars & Diaries

The childrens artwork calendars & diaries are all back & judging from the box last week it looks like everyone has picked them up. They look great & I am sure there will be happy Grandparents & family members when they open the gift at Christmas. With Trivia night and calendars, we managed to raise more than \$1000!

Thanks to the Fundraising Committee Members

A huge thank you to Mewi & Debbie for all their efforts, cakes, tea & support with each of the events that have been undertaken in 2011, both Debbie & Mewi have Torsten & Manu starting Blackheath Primary School in 2012 so will not be at Blue Gum Montessori or on the Fundraising Committee for at least a year.

Therefore we will be looking for volunteers to help with the events in 2012. Please let me know if you are interested on hpitcher@pnc.com.au or 0417 469195.

Events in Term 1 2012

March - Tesselaar Garden Blossoms in Autumn

Other Events TBC in 2012

We wish you all a wonderful festive season including a joyous Christmas & all the best for the New Year.

Warm Regards,

Mewi, Debbie & Helen

Donations

Spare a thought for families in our community who are doing it tough. A box has been placed in the Montessori foyer to collect donations. Items such as children's toys (gift wrapped if possible) & non-perishable food would be most welcome. These items will be distributed to local families at Christmas.

Preschool End of Year Gathering

Let's take the children for a play and picnic in the park to celebrate the end of a wonderful year with the BlueGum community!

Meet any time from 10AM Tuesday 20th onwards at Blackheath's Memorial Park (aka Duckpond Park) near the main play equipment, or under the trees if it is very hot. If it's raining, come to 6 Irvine Ave Blackheath (Torsten's house). Please bring a picnic lunch.

See you there!

Debbie, Rob and Sharnie (picnic organising committee)

Ph: 0424 198 682 (Debbie)

Maintenance at Montessori

Sand blowing

Thank you to all the parents who has volunteered to help blow the sand off the playground equipment throughout the second part of the year.

Cat Corkins

Maintenance Coordinator

(Currently on holidays in the USA!)

School Holiday Activities

Blackheath Pool – Now open until 1st April 2012.

Opening hours – All day, every day from 9:30AM to 6:30PM.

Day Pass – Allows you to come and go as often as you like on any one day.

Ask for one after you swim.

Holiday Pass – Kids \$35, Adults \$45, family \$80 (use for period 26th Dec to 29th Jan)

Enquiries – ph: 4787 8018.

Parent's Businesses

The decision at the meeting (16th June) was that we would allow the inclusion of advertising for businesses run by parents only. This is on a trial basis until the end of the year (after which we will revisit the decision).

Cheers,

Jen Smith- Merry - President

Advertisement – FREE to a good home!

Anyone need an Ikea cot, a toddlers small bed or 3 wheeler pram available in good condition call Helen 0417 469195. Free to interested parties.

Waratah Dental

Waratah Dental Lithgow Creche will reopen Wednesday 1st February 2012.

Are you looking after yourself Mum & Dad? Remember dental care checks twice a year; keep your health in the clear!

Finding time for yourself with toddlers & babies in your care is not easy so we have come up with a solution? Waratah Dental is now offering a crèche at the

Waratah Dental practice on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.

While Mum or Dad get a check-up the child (ren) are given the best care available with Galloping Gumnut Mobile Children's Van Inc.

Call 6351 3520 today for your appointment!

*Child Care only Available with appointment at the practice on same day.
27 Railway Parade Lithgow 2790 T: 6351 3520 E: dentist@drhenriette.com.au

Yoga

Hatha Yoga

Friday mornings in Blackheath 10-11:30am

\$15 for casual visits, \$12 a class with a ten-class pass.

Contact Debbie: 0424 198 682

Christmas Shopping done for you!

Too busy to even think about Christmas Shopping? Let me help you!

Choose from an exclusive range of skincare and make-up products or jewellery. Baskets and parcels made to order and delivered to your door plus a 90 day 100% money back guarantee on all orders.

Call Eva (Ibrahim's mum Wed - Fri) on 02 4782 5180 or 0401 420 768 for a catalogue and shopping consultation today.

JC's Trees

Specialising in all aspects of tree work. None too big or small.

Also gutter cleaning and handyman services as well as garden design/construction.

Call Jamie Corkins on 0401493131 for a free quote

Bag Man Packaging

Bag Man Packaging is run by Oliver Grays parents and grandparents. We have been operating in Blackheath for 11 years. We provide packaging supplies to businesses throughout the Blue Mountains region but we also provide household retail items at wholesale prices.

We sell useful household products like dishwashing detergent, clingwrap, foil, washing up gloves, tissues and garbage bags. If you would like more information, prices or samples please give us a call and we offer free delivery

straight to your door.

Office: - (02) 4787 7866 Mob : -0407 462 145 email
bagmanpackaging@hotmail.com

Future newsletter contributions

Are you reading this thinking you would have liked to have shared some info with the rest of our school community? Well, it's not too late! If you'd like to still send Vanessa some info (or photos from events this year), it will be included in the 2012 Term 1 newsletter (we are sometime 'light-on' for content at the beginning of the year, so, some lovely photos of events from the previous year are always welcome!).

Please send your news, photos activities and stories to Vanessa
(veeandsteve@hotmail.com - m: 0409 207 788)

A big thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter and throughout the year. A special thank you to the teachers for their contributions. We have such fantastic teachers at our school and a lot of after-hours preparation (unpaid work) goes into making Blue Gum Montessori the fantastic preschool that it is!

Vanessa & Madeleine

Newsletter Coordinators 2011

PS Vanessa is keen to continue coordinating and collating the newsletter for Term 1 and 2 next year (2012). Vanessa and Steve have one child leaving the Montessori (Benjamin), though still have Keira attending in 2012. Madeleine's son Jed has graduated to big school so she will be taking a break from school duties.