DEAR PARENTS,

END OF THE YEAR

It’s hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the year! This will be our last Kinder Connections newsletter for 2016. Thank you all for your contributions over the year, whether it has been doing parent duty, cutting and getting materials ready, sorting and tidying, filing into the portfolios, we thank you for your support; we have enjoyed getting to know you and your children!

There are always goodbyes at the end of a year as children and families move onwards in their educational journey. This year we will say goodbye to Andrea North. Andrea has been a much-loved educator with K4 in Koalas for the last four years and an original staff member in the Kindergarten, however we hope to see her in a CRT capacity in the future. We will also say goodbye to Sarah Eastham, who has served here at MECS Kinder as a K3 assistant this year. We wish Andrea and Sarah all the best with their endeavours next year; you both will be greatly missed.

HELPING AND CLEAN UP

We want to thank you all for the willing and able help that you have consistently given to us at Kinder. Your time is of great benefit to the program and the children. We would appreciate any available extra parents on duty at this busy time of year, for any amount of time that you can give us. We have a large amount of jobs to do before the end of the year. Please speak to your teacher about helping.

Our official clean up day is on Tuesday 13 December. We would appreciate any available parents dropping in to help out between 8.45am and 12pm, even just an hour would be of great help to us. We will be washing down the furniture and stacking it in the centre of the rooms ready for the big cleaning of the floors that happen over the break.
Kinder Parent Information Night- 2017

We have our annual Parent Information night coming up on Thursday 24 November for parents of children who will be attending K3 or K4 in 2017. It will be held in the Primary-Use-Multi-Purpose room (PUMP) starting at 7.30pm. We hope you can attend this important evening. This year’s Information Night will be focussing on ‘Learning in Nature.’ You will also receive your child’s group and session times on this night.

Child Safe Policy

MECS has developed a Child Safe Policy in response to the new child safety protection laws. You will find a copy of this policy near the policy folder in the piazza. It is in a booklet format and details the school and Kinder’s commitment to protecting children. We focus on prevention, as well as to educate, empower and protect.

End of Year Celebrations

We have our final days coming up with some special celebrations to end the year. We have a party planned for each group, short concerts to share with you with some singing of our favourite songs. Each group will receive a letter very soon with more details.

This Christmas, I pray that you will celebrate (in recognition of the astounding love that God has for us) that he sent Jesus to live on Earth with us.

However you may celebrate, we pray blessings on your families and may the Joy of Christmas be in your hearts this season;

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Blessings
Wendy Mason – Early Years Coordinator

Possum and Koala News

How the weeks have quickly flown by this term. In K4 we have been looking at the many different countries and cultures around the world. The children have begun to share their knowledge of different countries and cultures. We have talked about ‘culture’ in terms of different places, climate, food, clothes, language, music and money. Thank you to the parents who have helped to contribute to our discussions.
As a hand response to our learning about people around the world, the children made Terrariums to sell to you. Thank you to Anna Larsen who kindly provided the materials. Thank you all for your contributions! We made approximately $70 between the Koalas and Possums, which will go towards buying a goat and a chicken for communities in Africa.

Over the next couple of weeks we will visit stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus. Advent means ‘The Lord is coming’ and in the two weeks before the end of the year we will look at Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, to prepare for Christmas. We will read stories that show us how blessed we are that the word of God has been spread throughout the Earth. We also have been exploring what it means to “love thy neighbour”. We found through our discussions that your neighbour is not only the person that lives next door to you but it can be the person you are sitting next to or even the person you are playing with in the playground. In other words, God wants us to try our best to love all people no matter who they are.

The ‘Footsteps into Foundation’ transition program has gone very well, and the children have been well acquainted with the classrooms and teachers by now. Last week we visited the Library and Mrs Distefano, who read a story to us. It was great fun. The walk up to the Library was an adventure, and it is an important part of getting to know our school better, in preparation for next year. We also visited: Mr Mealy in the music room where we sang some songs and played a listening game, and Mrs Clark in the PUMP room for P.E., where we played a movement game. It was great fun and very helpful to have the children see and talk with some specialist teachers they will have next year.

**Orientation Day** for the whole of MECS (Primary and Secondary) is on **Tuesday 6 December** from 9am to 12pm.

**K4 Party Celebration Day** is on **Wednesday 7 December** during lunchtime. Could we have parents to volunteer over the lunchtime to help out please? Our last session for Possums and Koalas for 2016 is **Friday 9 December**. On this day we will be finishing with our concert. We will soon send home some further information in a letter regarding these special celebrations.

**Wendy, Karen, Cherie and Andrea - K4 Educators**
BLUEBIRDS NEWS

During this term, the children have been exploring our senses, learning that God has given us our senses as a gift and a way to learn about the world around us. The children have been smelling lovely aromas from herbs, spices and flowers, tasting an edible rainbow (assortment of colourful fruit), learning about braille and sign language, just to name a few exciting experiences they have encountered so far.

For the last three weeks, we will focus on the Biblical and historical account of Christmas and of course, practise our songs for our special concert that the children have chosen themselves!! We will celebrate the end of our awesome Kindergarten year with a special celebration and concert with yummy party food on Thursday 8 December where all families are welcome.

Rosellas – 10:30am – 12:00pm
Bluebirds – 1:00pm – 2:30pm

We will be sending your Kinder hats home over the summer to wash, mend if needed and maybe re-label in a creative and colourful way. If you are attending K4 next year, you will need to bring this hat with you on the very first day in 2017.

Thank you for an enjoyable and fulfilling year

Lee and Sarah - K3 Educators

BUSY BEES NEWS

Busy Bees has certainly been a hive of activity this term! As the year draws to a close, we would love to celebrate on our last sessions, which will be on Thursday 8 December.
Please bring a plate of food to share, as we celebrate our year together.

Lynda - Playgroup Leader

Blessings from the Kindergarten Staff,
Sarah, Cherie, Andrea, Lee, Karen, Susan, Lynda & Wendy