



Kinder Connections

Number 3, April 2017

DEAR PARENTS,

Welcome to Term 2! We trust that you were able to celebrate Easter with your families and that you all had a wonderful break.



I'm sure you will all join with me in giving a warm welcome to our newest team member Mrs Julie-Ann De Vincentis (Mrs D). Julie-Ann comes to us as a very experienced early childhood educator and past parent of MECS. Julie-Ann will be working in the Possum group while Karen Grant is on Maternity leave and we look forward to continuing the year together.

Recently we have been looking at the name of our Kindergarten foyer space and what it means to all who use it. The word 'piazza' is an Italian word meaning 'meeting place.' On reflection we have realised that the 'Piazza' is a meeting place for everyone who comes to MECS Kinder. It has been so effective that all of the new school cluster buildings will have a piazza! The Kinder staff collaborated and penned this poem, which defines our space beautifully!

Our Piazza – Our meeting place

This is a space where we come together - children, parents, and educators.

We come to learn, to share, to connect, to support, to pray, to rest, to anticipate.

Together we meet in this special space.

Our Piazza – Our meeting place.



| Important dates | | |
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| Photo Day | Possums & Koalas | Wednesday 26 th April |
| Photo Day | Bluebirds & Rosellas | Thursday 27 th April |
| MECS Open Day | ALL | Saturday 29 th April 10am-1pm |
| K4 Return Individual Learning Profile | Possums & Koalas | Friday 5 th May |
| Mother's Day Session | Bluebirds & Rosellas | Thursday 11 th May (30 mins before pick up time) |
| | Possums & Koalas | Friday 12 th May (45 mins before pick up time) |
| Wildlife Incursion | Bluebirds & Rosellas | Tuesday 23 rd May |

A Few Housekeeping Items:

- The 'Piazza' is our special meeting place. Please feel welcome to take the time to meet with others before or after a session. As we continue to create an atmosphere of respect, we ask that you supervise your children in this special place, firstly with our furniture by not allowing them to jump or climb on them and secondly with the toys and books. Please help them to return the items to the baskets or shelves before you leave, thank you.

- Please remember to clear out your pigeon holes; important notices, newsletters and sometimes children's work will be placed in them. It is one of the ways that we can communicate with you, so please be vigilant and check them regularly.
- We have some lost property on the lower shelves under the parent pigeon holes. Please check for missing items.
- Please take the time to read the program each week - we would love you to make comments. This is our way of informing you of what the children are involved in, and the group learning intentions.
- Have you connected to Seesaw - The Learning Journal yet? Many parents have been enjoying their child's digital portfolio, following along with their learning, milestones and participation in the program. Teachers have been including information specific to their child's group as well. It is very easy to use! If you need a new QR code please see your child's teacher.
- Here is an article about Kindergarten: that Kinder is **NOT** preparation for school, so what **IS** it about? It talks about the difference between readiness and preparation for school. I highly recommend that you read this article: <http://earlylife.com.au/info/node/181>



OUTSIDE PLAY REMINDER....PLEASE SEND ALONG APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR ALL TYPES OF WEATHER!

This term we need to rug up! We firmly believe in learning through nature, so being outdoors is a very important time for learning. As well as continuing to send a spare set of clothes, please ensure your child has warm clothing - layers are best. A **coat** and **sturdy shoes** are a must. It was wonderful to see children getting out their Mudlarks wet weather clothing last term when we had some rain. You may choose to keep their wet weather gear at Kinder if you wish. We will send it home if it needs laundering. Please continue to provide a spare change of clothes for your child, **everyday**, as there is always the potential to get wet or muddy. You may wish to supply **gumboots**; this is a great idea, however some inside shoes also need to be sent if this is the case. We plan to venture into the school to explore the natural bush around us. Four-year-old children will start Bush Kinder later this term...stay tuned! Even if it is raining and wet, **we will all go outside**.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!" – Claire Warden, international lecturer and educational consultant for experiential learning.

SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTHY EATING

Just a reminder about our sustainability practice – we aim to promote concepts such as looking after God's world and good stewardship. Please help us as we endeavour to embed the sustainability practices in our everyday routines.

- ❖ We encourage children to sort rubbish and use the paper recycling bins.
- ❖ We ask that you send '**nude food**', as much as possible. This means no/reduced/reusable wrappings in the children's snack/lunch boxes. Small named containers or compartment lunch boxes are also helpful.
- ❖ We will compost/worm farm any fruit/veggie scraps, however we will try to send home any uneaten bread or meat left overs, firstly so that you can see what they haven't eaten, and secondly because these items are not healthy for the compost, as they attract vermin.
- ❖ We have placed a watering can near the empty drink cup bucket, for children to collect left over water. They have loved taking responsibility for taking it out and pouring it on the plants.
- ❖ We are also striving to reduce lighting at appropriate times during the day.

PHOTOS

Reminder - we have a professional photographer from "Hello Photo" coming to capture some moments of your child at Kinder. The photographer will attend the sessions, take about 5-8 pictures of your child individually as well as a class photo which will become available for you to purchase. There is no obligation for you to buy, however you will need to pay a **deposit of \$15** which will be taken off the overall cost of your purchases. **Please do this ASAP if you intend on having the option to purchase photos.**

Class photos are \$20 each. This allows the photographers to concentrate on children whose parents are interested in purchasing Kinder photos. Please see above for your child's group date. All viewing prior to purchasing will be online. For more information and prices please visit:

<http://www.hellophoto.com.au/home>

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is a special time to honour all mums! We would like to invite mums (or special friends) to come a little earlier before the end of the session to participate in a special activity for Mother's Day before home time:

Possums and Koalas: Friday May 12 – please arrive 45 minutes before pick up time

Bluebirds and Rosellas: Thursday May 11 - please arrive 30 minutes before pick up time

HYGIENE AND HEALTH PRACTICES

- We want to maintain a very high level of hygiene in the Kinder especially as we move into the season of coughs and colds. We will be reminding the children to wash their hands before eating and after using a tissue – please support us in this by encouraging your child to do the same at home. We've attached a copy of our hand washing routine in case you would like to use it at home.



- As you sign your child out in the attendance register, you may see your child's name highlighted. This indicates that we need to talk with you after the session, possibly to inform you of an incident or injury, or to chat about something that may have occurred during a session. Please make sure you catch up with us before you leave.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

The children are becoming well accustomed to the arrival and departure routine. It is helpful if you say goodbye to your child in the foyer, then send them off into the Kinder room (although the 3 year old children may prefer their parents to enter the playroom to help them unpack their snack). This promotes independence and helps towards a swift goodbye. We will continue to support your child to set out their snack/lunch boxes and drink bottle.

HELPING AT KINDERGARTEN

This term's roster is ready for you to sign! We greatly appreciate your help at Kinder. The session runs much more smoothly, and it has been wonderful to see children involving their parents in the program. We hope you have enjoyed it as well! Thank you for your continued commitment.

Blessings,

Wendy Mason – Early Years Coordinator



POSSUM AND KOALA NEWS

This term the children will be learning about **'God made the world'**. As we wonder and explore the things in the world and relate them to the days of Creation, we can marvel at how our God created all things, amazingly.

Firstly, we will be looking at the season of Autumn. God made the seasons with purpose and order. We notice the environmental changes around us; activities that involve using Autumn leaves create opportunities for us to talk about how Autumn comes after Summer, is a season of production and is preparation for Winter - a season of rest for the trees. **If you have some autumn leaves, please bring them along to Kinder throughout the week!**

We start the day with a **'Welcome Circle'**, which means the children come straight in to sit on the mat, we have a quick chat and share some news (this is NOT a show and tell opportunity, so please encourage children not to bring their toys to the mat at this time). We share a song and/or story and then we go off to be involved in learning experiences. Our first priority is to the children arriving at the beginning of the day. Please continue to use the communication Family Voice Book to alert us of anything you wish us to know. Speaking with the teachers after a session is best - or make a time that suits both parties. This way we have the least amount of disruptions at the beginning of a session.

Individual Learning Profiles will be given out to all 4 year old Kinder parents in Week 2, and we would love you to add your comments, goals or any relevant information that will help us partner with you in your child's learning at Kinder for the year. Please hand it back to your teacher by **Friday May 5**.

Wendy, Julie-Ann, Cherie and Lee - K4 Educators



BLUEBIRDS AND ROSELLAS NEWS

This term the Bluebirds and Rosellas will be focusing on **'God created ALL animals'**. The Bible says God is supremely and uniquely Almighty. (Gen 1-2) As His children who are made in His image, we are also creative beings. God gave Adam the opportunity to create when he named all the animals. So too, we have been given the mandate to look after the world that God has created for us to live in. So this term, we will be looking at all the different kinds of animals that God has made, together with embedding sustainable practices within our program to equip the children to care for God's wonderful creation.

We will be having an incursion on **Tuesday May 23** with **Wegs Wildlife** presented by Andrew Wegner.

- Bluebirds: 11:00am-12:00pm
- Rosellas: 1pm-2pm

Mother's Day Session Reminder: On **Thursday May 11**, please arrive 30 minutes before pick up time as the children have something special prepared for Mother's Day.

Naomi and Sandy - K3 Educators



BUSY BEES NEWS

Busy Bees

I hope everyone has had a restful Easter break and are all ready for Term 2.

This term we will be doing some autumn activities, looking at the colours and leaves around us. If you have some autumn leaves in your garden, please bring them along to show us.

The children are all settling in well and are comfortable in the Kinder room space. If your child has something special they would like to show the group, they are welcome to bring it along and can show it at mat time before their snack.

Please bring jackets for both you and your child for when we have outside play as the weather is getting cooler. Also remember to bring nude food for snacks (no packet food).

Thank you

Lynda – Playgroup Leader

From all of the Kindergarten Staff,

Cherie, Lee, Naomi, Sandy, Susan, Lynda, Julie-Ann & Wendy