



# Kinder Connections

Number 4, July 2017

Welcome back everyone - we hope you enjoyed your break! It's been so lovely to see the children arriving full of chatter about their experiences over the break.

## Parent Duty Roster

The Parent Helper duty rosters and laundry rosters for this term are out in the Piazza. Please sign in at least 3 dates that suit you. If you are unable to come on your chosen date we really appreciate you making arrangements to swap with another parent. Your help in the room makes a huge difference, and allows us to deliver and achieve a higher quality program.



## Winter

Please remember that we go outside regardless of the weather, even if only for a short time. Please send a named **jumper** and a **coat** to Kindergarten, and /or

wet weather clothing.

**Please continue to provide a spare change of clothes for your child, everyday**, as there is always the potential to get wet! If you wish to send gumboots for your child to change into for playing outside then they also need shoes for inside. You may wish to leave their wet weather gear at Kinder.

## Healthy Eating

Thank you for sending healthy options for children, including some whole foods such as fruit and/or vegetables. **We are amazed at the wonderful variety that children have in their snack/lunch boxes. Please keep special treats such as lollies and chocolate for after Kinder.**

Important dates		
<b>K4 Grandparents &amp; Special Friends Day</b>	<i>Koala</i>	Friday July 28 11.45am-12.30pm
	<i>Possum</i>	Friday July 28 12.30pm-1.15pm
<b>K4 Connect Morning Tea</b>	<i>Possum &amp; Koala Main Staffroom</i>	Monday August 14 8.45-10am
<b>K3 and Playgroup Myuna Animal Ark Visit</b>	<i>Rosella</i>	Thursday August 17 11am-12pm
	<i>Bluebird</i>	Thursday August 17 1pm-2pm
	<i>Busybee</i>	Thursday August 17 (During your Sessions)
<b>K4 Bus Trip to Montrose Park</b>	<i>Koala &amp; Possum</i>	Wednesday August 16
<b>K4 Fathers' Night</b>	<i>Koala &amp; Possum</i>	Thursday August 31 5.30-6.30pm
<b>K4 Kew Traffic School</b>	<i>Koala &amp; Possum</i>	Monday September 4
<b>K4 Bring your Bike to Kinder Day</b>	<i>Possum</i>	Monday September 11
	<i>Koala</i>	Wednesday September 13

If you are looking for healthy lunch box ideas have a look at this website:

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/nutrition\\_fitness/preschoolers\\_nutrition.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/nutrition_fitness/preschoolers_nutrition.html)

## Toys and Fidget Spinners

We are noticing many of the children's own toys coming to Kinder. It is important that the children do not have toys or gadgets when they arrive, and that they are ready to engage with the Kinder Program and friends, not distracted with toys they can use at home. Also, we are concerned that these toys are getting lost or broken, and this is valuable time spent trying to find/fix them. Fidget spinners are **very** distracting for everybody. Please keep them at home. If children require some sensory stimulation while listening together, then the teacher will choose from our sensory resources and teach the children when and how they can use these items. Thank you for your support.

## MECS Kindergarten Parent Survey

It is time for us to take stock and ask your opinion on some aspects of our Kinder. This is one way the 'parent voice' has a forum; a place to share ideas. We would greatly appreciate you spending 5-10 minutes completing this survey and adding your comments where appropriate. Please click on the link below to begin the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M3JX3QL>

We're looking forward to a wonderful term together!

Blessings,

*Wendy Mason - Kindergarten Director*



## Possum and Koala News

Last term we saw some wonderful inquiry-based learning as we delved into learning about the days of Creation. Toward the end of the term, during discussions about how 'God made People special' both groups took a look at the brain, we wondered at how God made brains, and learned about our small or 'baby' brain that takes care of things we don't think about like breathing, balance and blinking. The big brain, or '4 and 5 year old brain' is our thinking brain, and comes over the top of the baby brain. Take a look at this link to find out more ways to keep this conversation going with your child at home.

<http://www.heysigmund.com/how-to-teach-kids-about-the-brain-laying-strong-foundations-for-emotional-intelligence-by-dr-hazel-harrison/>

This term our program unit is called 'Where in the World do I live?' An overview and sub-topics include:

- **God Created Order - Winter.** We will spend the first week settling back into Kinder after a long break, looking at God's good creation and wondering at how the seasons are cyclic in nature, and a part of the created order of the world. Winter is a time of rest from growth and production; even the trees are resting during this time. The children will spend time re-connecting with each other and with Kindergarten expectations.
- **'Me, My Family, My Friends,'** - realising that God made the first family, and he rescued his chosen people from slavery. This is the distinguishing factor between God's people and other nations. We are ultimately a part of God's family.

- **Grandparents and Special Friends Day** is on **Friday July 28**.
  - *Koalas* - 11.45am to 12.30pm
  - *Possums* - 12.30pm to 1.15pm.
- **'Where Do I Live?'** is significant for children as they explore where they are in relation to our school, and to others. Streets and suburbs are small communities, with support systems built within each, such as the local shops that promote community, the post office, green grocer and butcher. Both groups hope to visit the Montrose shops and playground on **Wednesday August 16**, and we will post a letter home to you! More information in this regard to follow soon.
- **'My City is Melbourne'** is about widening the circle of local community to discussing familiar and common icons in our city. Melbourne is a major and important part of Australia, being the capital city of Victoria. Children at this age are learning that we live in suburbs, which are a part of the city.
- **'How Do We Get There? All Sorts of Transport'** introduces the children to different modes of travel as well as road safety awareness and road rules. While road safety is embedded in the program over the whole year, this will be a special focus. Children are often interested in different modes of transport. Communities operate within rules that help us stay safe and secure. God's commands for the people and the way he wanted them to live is summed up by Jesus, not only in Exodus 20 but "All the Law of Moses and the books of the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:40), when he said:
 

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39).
- Our visit to the **Kew Traffic School** is on **Monday September 4** where children will be looking at specific safety education. More details will be given closer to the event.
- **Bring Your Bike to Kinder Day** is on:
  - *Possums* - **Monday September 11**
  - *Koalas* – **Wednesday September 13**
- **'My Country - Australia'**. We hope to have some Indigenous visitors to our Kindergarten, to show the children aboriginal culture and land care perspectives.

**'Footsteps to Foundation'** is our transition to school activities, which begin this term. During the last week of term, our wonderful Foundation Teachers will visit each Kindergarten class as an opportunity to get to know the children in a familiar environment. These dates will be **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**.

### Outdoor Learning

'Outdoor Wonder in Nature' commonly known as Bush Kinder will continue this term. This entails the children making regular visits to the bush areas on the MECS property to play, wonder and learn. We have already noticed the children discovering and recognising changes that occur in the Bush, and more care and respect for this beautiful area. Please ensure the children have adequate shoes and clothing for these experiences, on these days.

### K4 Songbook

This week you will receive a small booklet containing some of the songs we sing at Kinder. A few parents have asked us to provide the words of some songs so that they could sing together at home. We have collected just a few that we will sing during the year. Ask your child to sing them for you! Not

all of the songs will have been sung at Kinder as yet, so keep it in a safe place, ready to get out when a new song has been learned! Watch the Seesaw App for a video of the children singing!

## PMP-Perceptual Motor Program

We continue our PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) this term. PMP is designed to enhance the children's ability to determine their body in space. This ability to 'perceive' where their body is has links to 'cross patterning', which is both sides of the brain working together with gross motor functions. These exercises have fantastic benefits for fine motor skills, which are also linked to eye-hand coordination and cognitive (intellectual) thinking - critical for developing literacy and numeracy skills! Other benefits are improved concentration skills and ability to focus.

The program takes place in the PUMP Room (Multipurpose Room) in the Primary School. Children will need to remove shoes once we are in the PUMP Room. This adds to the sensory experience. **PLEASE** send children in comfortable clothing and easy to self-manage shoes. Velcro shoes are **VERY** helpful. No tights or stockings on Wednesdays please, as the children gain the maximum benefit from using bare feet (giving important sensory input) as well as the fact that socks or tights can be slippery and not safe. This is also a great opportunity for children to practise taking off and putting on their shoes!

## Arrival

Now that we are half way (can you believe it?) through the year, we are encouraging independence and being responsible for your own belongings. **It is now time to say goodbye to your child in the Piazza in the mornings**, and allow your child to walk into Kinder! We will assist children with any unpacking. This is a really important step for your child, and best practised while in the Kinder environment before going to school.

Mrs Helen Snelling will join Possum Group as an additional assistant till the end of the year. She is employed through Connections and we welcome her to our team!

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



## Bluebird and Rosella News

We enjoyed a fabulous Term 2 as we spent time investigating many of the animals that God created. Our last session was filled with a celebration of animals as the children enjoyed bringing their favourite soft toy animal, doing some cooking and digging for dinosaur bones - definitely a highlight!

This term we will look at the unit 'God Provides'. Throughout this unit we will explore the various ways God provides for our needs of food and clothing and the connection between plants and animals for this provision. As part of this unit we will enjoy a visit from **Myuna Animal Ark on Thursday August 17**. This will be a great hands-on learning experience as the children get to see, feel and hold various farm animals.

Our Term 3 roster is now available for each parent to nominate a date to come and help out during a session. As we have a 9 week term if every parent is able to do at least 1-2 sessions we will have covered the whole term. We really appreciate your help and remind you that we welcome grandparents, special friends or other relatives too. This term we are introducing our **helping hand** in

conjunction with our roster. When you are helping at Kinder your child will be our nominated helping hand for the session. They will have some extra special jobs throughout the session building identity, confidence and a sense of belonging to our group. Make sure you nominate your Kinder session ASAP.

Our Kinder Pets – Rosella and Bluebird have been a much-loved friend to bring home. Thank you parents for preparing a special page for your child to share. It has been great to hear about all the adventures that have been had. As we finish off the final children in the next week or two, we will then introduce our 'Treasure Bag.' Each child will get the opportunity to bring a special treasure from home to share with the group. We ask that you bring something of special interest rather than just a toy. During this sharing time, the children will be encouraged to ask each other questions about their treasure.

It's winter and hopefully we will get some more rain - please feel free to bring a **pair of named gumboots** to Kinder. There will be lots of opportunities to jump in puddles or play in the mud. You are welcome to leave them at Kinder in the large black tub outside or bring them to each session. If you would like to bring slippers for the children to wear inside it does make it warm and comfortable in winter.

Introducing Faith Grey to K3's. Faith is a student who is currently studying her Diploma of Children's Services. Faith will join us during Term 3 and will spend time getting to know the children, observing and planning for them in conjunction with the teaching staff.

Welcome to Jesse Smith in the Bluebirds group. Jesse has joined us this term for the remainder of the year. Please say hello and give him and his family a warm welcome to the group.

We hope you have enjoyed receiving some pictures of your child's learning at Kinder. Thanks to those who have returned them and we encourage you to do so if you haven't yet. It's great to get your feedback on what your child enjoys at home, what they may be interested in or any other information you would like to share with us that may support their individual learning.

*Naomi and Sandy - K3 Educators*



## Busy Bees News

Welcome to Term 3.

We will be having some new families joining both groups in Busy Bees this term. It's great to meet new people and build community; I'm sure they will soon feel right at home with us friendly people.

We look forward to having the petting farm come in August. It is a great opportunity for the children to get up and close to animals like chooks, ducks, guinea pigs, rabbits, goats and many others. We will talk about how God made these animals for us to enjoy and look after.

Please remember to bring coats for you and your child as the Kinder has a wonderful outdoor area that you both can explore.

*Lynda - Playgroup Leader*

**Blessings from all of the Kindergarten Staff,**

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