



Kinder Connections

Number 5
August 2017

DEAR PARENTS,

We are well into the term now, with many rich learning experiences happening in all of the groups.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all our parents who completed the current users' survey. We were delighted with the response and thrilled with the feedback. It is so helpful for us to take stock and listen to parents' opinions – can I say that the general consensus is that our parent community is *very* happy with MECS Kindergarten!

HEALTH

Some skills we have continued to work on at Kindergarten are blowing noses and hand washing afterwards, and washing hands before eating. We appreciate you following up and helping children with these skills at home. Please remind your child that this is an important thing to do at Kindergarten.

If children are not well, coughing or have runny noses, please **do not** send them to Kindergarten, even if they say they want to go. Rest, warmth and quiet is required to help children recuperate properly and not spread germs. In this way we can reduce the spread of germs, and children remain healthy. This is important in the consideration of others.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AT KINDER

The children have been saying goodbye in the Piazza and walking into Kinder confidently. This growth of independence is an important step toward school readiness. It is also very important that the children arrive *on time*. We understand that difficulties arise, however the norm should be for the children to be ready to say *hello* as we open the door. Likewise, after a busy session at Kinder the children are ready to go home. Please be ready for your child at the departure time for your group. I would also like to take this opportunity to give a reminder

<i>Important dates</i>		
K4 Father's Night	<i>Koala & Possum</i>	<i>Thursday August 31 5.30-6.30pm</i>
K4 Kew Traffic School	<i>Koala & Possum</i>	<i>Monday September 4</i>
K4 Bring your Bike to Kinder Day	<i>Possum</i>	<i>Monday September 11</i>
	<i>Koala</i>	<i>Wednesday September 13</i>
K4 Foundation Teachers Visit	<i>Koala & Possum</i>	<i>Wednesday September 20 & Friday September 22</i>

about children going through the door and gate. It is vital that **only children signed out by you** exit the Kinder with you.

Blessings,

Wendy Mason – Early Years Coordinator



POSSUM AND KOALA NEWS

The children were very excited about our bus ride to Montrose a couple of weeks ago. We looked in the shops and talked about what was being sold there, however the highlight was definitely posting a letter home. The children were delighted to tell us about their letter arriving at home!



'ThingleToodle' is the road traffic authority mascot, teaching children to cross the road safely. You can YouTube these quick videos and look at them at home with your child to reinforce the importance of being safe such as holding an adult's hand, looking both ways, listening for traffic and importantly, thinking before you cross the road.

Here are some links to the songs and some parent information:

<http://www.childroadsafety.org.au/thingletoodle-visits/>

<http://www.childroadsafety.org.au/information-for-families/>

We have challenged the children to hold hands as they leave the Kinder, and walk with their adult down to the car park. Please support your child's learning by reinforcing this important safety rule.

BIKE DAY

Koalas: Wednesday September 13

Possums: Monday September 11

On these days please bring along your child's bike and helmet to kinder. When you arrive please leave them in the front entrance area of the kindergarten. During the session we will take the children out to ride them on the basketball courts, practising some of the skills we have been talking about at Kinder and will have learnt at the Kew Traffic School.

FATHERS NIGHT AT KINDER

We invite Fathers (or significant adult) of K4 children to a special night at Kindergarten. This is a time where children can spend time with their Father at Kindergarten, show them their favourite things to do, play, paint and at the end we will sing some songs for them!

POSSUMS AND KOALAS: Please arrive at Kinder on **Thursday August 31** from **5:30pm to 6.30pm**.

PMP- PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM

The children have been enjoying the Wednesday visits to the Primary School PUMP Room to do our 'exercises'. They have been involved in balancing, moving on scooter boards, eye tracking and ball skill activities. Could you please remember to send your child in easy to remove shoes and socks (**no tights**) as this can become slippery and children do not get the full benefit of the activities. Bare feet heightens the sensory experience. If you can stay to help with these exercises at the beginning of the session we would greatly appreciate the extra hands to make sure children get the full benefit of the program.

FOOTSTEPS INTO FOUNDATION (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS STEP INTO PREP)

Our wonderful Foundation Teachers will be visiting each Kindergarten class and undertaking meeting with each child. Our Foundation Teachers take this opportunity to get to know the children in a familiar environment. The teachers will be visiting the K4 kinder children during our last two sessions of the term.

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



BLUEBIRD AND ROSELLA NEWS

Since the beginning of this term, the children have been learning about farming and the way Jesus provides and cares for them. A highlight of this term has been our wonderful visit from Myuna Animal Ark, Farmer Kathleen and her very cute baby animals. This gave the children a hands-on experience of the animals you might find on a farm. *(Photos are coming – we are having some tech issues!)*



We have begun to extend their knowledge and make some connections between certain animals and plants and what they provide for us. Mrs Grey (our student) is currently running the program and has some exciting experiences planned around this topic. We may even get to head over to the MECS creation garden (Primary School grounds) to visit our hens and collect some eggs.

Our helping hand has been a big hit and the children have really enjoyed being part of this. It's been great to watch them call each other's names with growing confidence and feel special as they ring the bell around the outside yard to signal pack-up time. We will soon begin our Treasure Bag in which each child gets to bring a 'treasure' from home to share about at Kinder. The focus of this time is to ask questions to each other about the treasures we bring.

With Father's Day quickly approaching, we have started making our Father's Day gifts. These will be sent home on the Thursday before Father's Day for the children to give to their Dad.



Has your child had their 3 1/2 year old check?

This is a great opportunity provided by your Maternal and Child Health nurse. Click on the link below for more details.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/mch/Pages/3.5years.aspx>

Naomi & Sandy - K3 Educators



BUSY BEES NEWS

To Busy Bees Families,

We all had so much fun with the Petting Farm. It was so nice to see the children enjoying the animals and the love buckets were a great idea. This really is a highlight of the year for Busy Bees.

The children are really settling into our routine and it's great to see them take the lead to what is going to happen next. Your children are very clever!

Just a reminder that the Kinder is nut and coconut free, so no peanut butter, nutella or food with nuts or coconut are to be eaten in the room.

Lynda – Playgroup Leader

From all of the Kindergarten Staff,
Julie-Ann, Cherie, Sandy, Lee, Naomi, Susan, Lynda & Wendy