End of the Year

It’s hard to believe that we’re approaching the end of the year! This will be our last Kinder Connections newsletter for 2014. Thank you all for your contributions over the year, we have enjoyed getting to know you and your children!

Arrival and Departures

Please remember that your child’s educators are very busy at the beginning of a session and their first priority is to the children arriving. 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.

Kinder 2015 Parent Information Night

We have our annual Parent Information night coming up on November 27 for parents of children attending K3 or K4 in 2015. It will be held in the Primary Multi-Purpose room (PUMP) starting at 7.30pm.

We hope you can attend this important evening. You will receive your child’s group and session times, we will spend some time getting to know the staff followed by a focussed discussion based on current research on ‘Making Learning Visible’ and ‘Seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary’ - all aimed at communicating how learning happens in the Early Years.

End of Year Celebrations

We have our final days coming up with some special celebrations to end the year. The very last day for each group will be a short concert and singing some of our favourite songs for you, followed by sharing some party food. Each group will give out a letter closer to the time with more details.

Christmas can be confusing time for parents as there is so much commercialism around us. I’ve included a link to an article that looks at gift giving and Santa, reminding us the ultimately, it is the astounding love that God has for us that he sent Jesus to live on Earth with us. Here is one person’s view, for your interest.
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

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 quite 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 **Thursday December 18.** There will be no sessions that day however parents are asked to drop in between 8.45am and 12 noon - even just an hour would be a 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 happens over the break. Other jobs include washing sandpit toys, sorting books and puzzles and tidying the storeroom.

Blessings,

Wendy Mason – Early Years Coordinator

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**POSSUMS AND KOALAS NEWS**

How the weeks have quickly flown by this term. In K4 we have begun to look at the many different countries around the world, and to explore different cultures. 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. If you have a cultural background different to Australia, we would love to hear a little bit about it - please talk to your teacher about a convenient time for you to come and share your ideas and knowledge with the children. If you and your children have visited a different country, maybe you could write that down for your child to share at morning news? We would love to hear about it.

On Monday November 24 we have King Marong from Africa coming to kinder for a drumming workshop with the children. He will share his people’s love of drumming and celebration. The children will participate in singing, dancing and playing the drums – the Djembe, Tombea, Silba and the Conga.

Over the next couple of weeks we will visit stories that lead up to the coming of Jesus. Advent means ‘The Lord is coming’ and in the few weeks before the end of the year we will look at Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, to celebrate the coming of Jesus. We will read stories that show us how blessed we are that the word of God has been spread through out the Earth.

We have been exploring what it means to ‘love thy neighbour’. We found that your neighbor 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 ‘Step into Prep’ transition program has gone very well, and the children have been well acquainted with the Prep rooms and teachers by now. We continue to talk about school, and coming up we have a visit with Mr Brown the PE teacher on the oval for games. Last Wednesday we visited Mrs Brydon in the music room for some singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. It was great fun - just walking up to the music room was an adventure! - and an important part of getting to know our school better, in preparation for next year. Next week we will also go and visit Mrs Distefano, our librarian teacher, who will show us around the library and read us a story.

Orientation Day for the whole of MECS (Primary and Secondary) is on **Tuesday December 9.** 2015 Preps attend from 9am to 12pm.

Our last session for Possums and Koalas for 2014 is **Monday December 15.**

Possum and Koala Concert/Party Day will be **Wednesday December 17.** On this day, both groups arrive at 11.00am. We will begin with a dramatization of the Christmas story followed by some singing. We will then join Koalas and Possums together outside for a ‘party’ lunch. Please bring a plate of food to share. We will send home some further information in a letter regarding this special celebration day in a couple of weeks.

*Wendy, Robyn, Cherie and Andrea-K4 Educators*

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**BLUEBIRDS & ROSELLAS NEWS**

This term the children have been learning that God made them wonderfully (Psalm 139). We have been talking about our senses that God gave us to explore and discover the wonders around us. We looked at the wonders of Spring and marvelled at the beautiful ranunculis that changed colour by absorbing coloured water through their stems. The children learnt that like the flowers, we too absorb water to help us grow. This was an important lesson of how drinking water is very important for our bodies to grow.

In the coming weeks we will continue to talk about our senses and how we use them for learning - in particular, our sense of touch, taste, smell and movement.

Our orientation session went well and all of the children met the Koala and Possum educators in readiness for next year.

In December our program focus will be on the biblical and historical account of Christmas. We will celebrate the end of our awesome kindergarten year with a special celebration and concert with yummy party food on **Thursday December 11.**

*Rosellas – 10:30 – 12:00  
Bluebirds – 1:30 – 3:00*

*Lee and Karen-K3 Educators*
Busy Bees News

Busy Bees has certainly been a hive of activity this term! Thank you to Naomi Jones who filled in to lead Playgroup over the last two weeks while I was away.

As the year draws to a close we will have a celebration at our last sessions on Thursday December 11. Please bring a plate of food to share, as we celebrate our year together.

Lynda- Playgroup Leader

Blessings from the Kindergarten Staff,

Robyn, Cherie, Andrea, Sandy, Lee, Karen, Susan, Lynda & Wendy