It’s hard to believe that the Term is nearly over. We’ve had many wonderful things happening in the kindergarten, it has certainly been busy!

Last day for Term 3: Friday 20 September
First day of Term 4: Monday 14 October

The children will be wearing their hats next term. If you have taken yours home please return it first day next Term. It is also wise to ensure all hats are clearly named. Please send a water bottle each day. Children will also continue to have access to fresh water.

**POLICIES**
This month staff have been revising our Enrolment and Orientation policy. It is very relevant in light of all of the orientations going on at the moment.

Please have a look at the displayed Policies on the main noticeboard and make a comment if you would like to, by writing on a note supplied and placing it in the clear plastic pocket. We value parent input to the management of the Kindergarten.

**PARENT ASSISTANCE**
Next Term’s rosters are in the Piazza, next to the attendance register. Please enter your name on at least 4 session times. We greatly appreciate your assistance and support.

It would also be greatly appreciated if you could also think about your family culture and traditions? Next term we would love for you to share with the children.

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
During the past month the staff have attended a number of professional development sessions on sensory & motor development, behaviour management, neuroscience (how the brain works) and the Reggio Amelia approach to Early Childhood Education, as well as a session learning about Educational Kinesiology.

During these sessions we were amazed at how interrelated they all are. From the time we are born our experiences influence how we learn. Current research suggests that about 75% of our experience and 25% of our personality influences how we see and interact with the world. Consequently, the kinds of experiences offered in the early years are vital to a child’s learning potential.
Sometimes we forget that young children are sensory beings. They are continually gathering information about their world to create schemas or ideas about a concept, for example size, shape, number, colour & order. This is an unconscious process that all children go through. This sensory period is still very strong in the preschool years and that is why children repeat activities over and over again. Practise makes permanent!

Neuroscience explains that for new learning to be successful an idea must be linked to prior experience. Take learning the times tables – if your child has had many early childhood experiences sorting and grouping they will find the concept of times tables much easier to understand.

What does this mean for parents and early childhood educators? Deficits in sensory and motor development can manifest itself in learning and in behaviour. Therefore, providing a childhood rich in sensory and movement experiences can improve learning outcomes.

This link is an ABC Interview between Emma Alberici and Dr Judy Willis (U.S. Neurologist and Educator) on the best environments for education. Well worth watching!

http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2012/s3482571.htm

**POSSUM AND KOALA NEWS**

We are now investigating our wonderful country, Australia. On Tuesday we had Eva Jo Edwards from ‘Aboriginal Story Time’ come to visit us and share a little about Aboriginal culture. We were involved in some story telling, dancing and drama as well. In this way we learnt about Indigenous culture. During the week we have investigated painting styles, symbols and storytelling.

You may like to follow up this interest by visiting Healesville Sanctuary during the holidays.
Ask the children to think about animals in the wild, and how we as care takers of God’s world can contribute.

**SNACKS AND LUNCH**

Please remember that due to allergies and intolerances we strive to be NUT FREE at MECS Kindergarten. Therefore please check the ingredients on muesli bars and other applicable items. If treats are something your child looks forward to please leave them as an after kinder occurrence.

We will place another healthy eating tip in your pigeonhole this week!

**Possum Group please note-**

Next term our session times will change. As we start to prepare the children for transition to school, we will be changing our sessions to **2 longer sessions, and one short session**. This allows the children to get used to coming to longer sessions more often, like school. This change still means the same amount of hours of kindergarten.

From beginning of Term 4, our Possum timetable will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>No Kinder session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9am to 3 pm (no change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9am to 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9am to 1.15pm</td>
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**BLUEBIRDS NEWS**

This term the Bluebirds have shown that they are big kinder kids. They are quite comfortable at kinder now which has prompted us to make some positive changes in the routine to meet their growing needs. We now have ‘progressive snack’ – the children are in charge of when they eat, and we have taken out middle mat time in order for the children to enjoy their learning time uninterrupted. The children have proved to be more independent and self sufficient. Different friendships are forming and different activities are often being explored. Please send your child in clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty. We will be doing lots of sensory activities including finger painting, sliding hands through colored shaving cream and various other messy activities. Yes, children do wear art smocks but sometimes little accidents happen and paint just ends up in funny places!!!

The Bluebirds have been learning how God provides. They have learnt that God made certain plants for us to eat - we made soup from these plants, and bread from the grains God has provided. We’ve learnt that God created Oviparous (egg-laying) animals. The children discovered that the chickens aren’t the only ones that lay eggs - snakes, penguins and octopus lay eggs too!! Very interesting indeed. We were excited to have a visit from Solomon’s pet chickens; the children patted them so carefully and demonstrated they could be gentle with them- a skill learnt from Myuna Animal Ark visit back on August 14.

In Term 4 we will be looking at *Our Senses* - God gave us the ability to see, hear, feel, smell and taste, followed by celebrating God’s love for them - and the meaning of Christmas- the birth of Jesus.
Our Busy Bees children have enjoyed a wonderful term looking at all the amazing animals God created. They have enjoyed singing songs and listening to stories about animals, and meeting ‘Chocolate’ the Monkey, who comes to visit each session to sing Grace before our snack.

It has been great to enjoy some of Spring’s warmer weather as the children go outside and make the most of the lovely kinder yard. *A quick reminder that when children are outside parents must be with their children in order to adequately supervise.*

We have put together a list of jobs that we need parents to help with during and at the end of each session. Please familiarise yourself with this list as we appreciate your help to ensure our sessions run smoothly.

Monday Busy Bees group would like to welcome our new families. It has been great to have you join us and we hope you and your children will enjoy their playgroup experience.

Blessings from the Kindergarten Staff,

*Robyn, Cherie, Andrea, Lee, Karen, Susan, Vee, Naomi & Wendy*

*Mount Evelyn Christian School*