END OF THE YEAR

It’s hard to believe that we have been operating for nearly a whole year! Thank you all for your contributions over the year, we have enjoyed getting to know you and your children! Please check out your groups days and times for end of year activities.

PIAZZA

Please remember to actively supervise your children in the Piazza area. The time waiting for your session to start should be calm and engaging for the children, so that as they enter kindergarten they are ready for learning. Children should not be jumping or climbing on furniture or under tables, but waiting quietly with you or talking with a group of friends. Please leave the space tidy, with any toys put away in their baskets, thank you.

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.

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 child’s teacher if you’re able to help.

Our official clean-up day is Thursday 19 December. There will be no sessions on this 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.
How the weeks have quickly flown by this term. Continuing the theme of ‘Flying’, the children have taken a trip around the world exploring different cultures, and have shared their experiences of different countries and cultures. We concluded that ‘culture’ is different places, food, clothes, language, music and money. One child expressed “a country can be overseas, it’s not attached but some can be close to each other”.

We would like to thank Chitven Randhowa and Marion Barsoum from Possum group for coming to talk to both Possum and Koala children about their countries and cultures. We learned about India, the clothes, festivals and dance moves, and we enjoyed watching Mrs Mason get dressed up in a sari! We also learnt about Egyptian culture - the busy streets, the pyramids and ancient writing. We are so appreciative of your time and contribution to the children’s learning. Thank you for the great effort you put into your presentations, I know the educators learnt something new as well!

We had a wonderful African drumming incursion last week. Forday is from West Africa and he shared his people’s love of drumming.

The children participated in singing, dancing and playing the drums – the djembe, tombea, silba and conga. The children quickly picked up the rhythms, it was truly heartwarming.

We have visited the story of Cornelius and Peter’s vision, which showed us how blessed we are that the word of God has been spread throughout the world. We explored what it means to “love thy neighbour”. We found that your neighbor is not only the person you live next door to 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.

This term we have continued with the PMP program on Tuesdays and meeting with our Year 5 buddies.

The ‘Step into Prep’ transition program has gone very well, and the children have become well acquainted with the Prep rooms and teachers by now. We continue to talk about school, and recently had a visit from Mrs Distefano, one of the school’s Teacher-Librarians, who came to read a story to the children. We followed up with a walk to the library for a story.

Orientation Day for the whole of MECS is on Tuesday 10 December. Our Kinder children will be starting the day in Prep! Please take your child to the Prep room to sign them in. The Kindergarten teachers will pick your child up from the Prep rooms and take them to continue their normal kinder day at 12 noon, unless you wish to collect your child yourself. Children who are not going to MECS may come for a normal kinder day, or you may wish to arrive at 12 noon, to start with their kinder friends.
During the final weeks of term we will continue to look at different celebrations and the most important of them all, the birth of Jesus.

**Our last session for 2013 is:**

**Possums:** Friday 13 December  
**Koalas:** Monday 16 December

Possum and Koala Concert/Party Day will be **Tuesday 17 December**. Please arrive at 11.00am. We will begin with a dramatisation of the Christmas story followed by some singing. We will then join together outside for a ‘party’ lunch. Please bring a plate of food to share. We will send home some further information regarding this special celebration day in your pigeonholes next week.

**BLUEBIRDS NEWS**

This term the Bluebirds have shown that they are definitely learning through play and discovery. We have been learning about our senses. God gave us the ability to see, hear, feel, smell and taste. We have been incorporating their interest in volcanoes into the activities and program. It has been a productive term with the children developing their skills of sharing, taking turns, being independent and waiting and listening together as a group. They love to choose a song from our lovely new music tree. Miss Lee, the Primary music teacher visited us for a music session, which was fantastic.

We made a fruit person as we talked about the fruits of the spirit, making good use of all of our senses to learn!

We can’t believe we only have 3 weeks left of the year. The children have grown so much since they first walked through the Sunflower room door. In the next two weeks we will be learning about God’s love for them through the Christmas story—the birth of Jesus. Our last full session will be on **Friday 13 December**.

Our party celebration day will be **Wednesday 18 December**. Please arrive at 10.00am, and we will finish at 11.00am. The children will participate in a mini concert before delighting in a shared morning tea together outside. We will send home some further information next week about food to bring to share.
Busy Bees News

Busy Bees has certainly been a hive of activity this term! Thank you to Leonie Williams who filled in to lead the Wednesday playgroup for the second half of the term.

As the year draws to close we would love to celebrate on our last sessions, which will be **Monday 9 December** and **Wednesday 11 December**. Please bring a plate of food to share, as we celebrate our year together and say goodbye to our 2013 Playgroup Leaders.

Recently, I read an article about Christmas, the great Santa debate and gift giving. It can be a confusing time for parents as there is so much commercialism around us. Ultimately, Christmas is about the astounding love that God has for us and that he sent Jesus. Here is one person’s view, for your interest.


However you may celebrate, we pray for 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

Blessings from the Kindergarten Staff,

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