Welcome back - to our final term for the year!

**Warmer Weather**
As the weather warms up, the children will need to wear their hats this term. If you have taken yours home please return it this week.

Please also send along a water bottle each day. Children will continue to have access to fresh water at kinder.

**Extra General Meeting and Kindergarten dedication**
It is hard to believe that the kinder has been open for nearly a year! By now you would have received an invitation to our EGM for the MECS Association. Prior to the meeting we have a semi-formal dedication to officially ‘open’ the Kindergarten. Please come along as representatives of the first body of parents to utilise this wonderful space, and to recognise God’s provision to our school by enabling Christian Education at MECS for families from the very beginning of the children’s education.

*Kindergarten dedication: Thursday 17 October 6.00pm in the Kindergarten*

**Parent Assistance**
Thank you for entering your name on the duty roster for this term. The laundry roster is also available. If you have missed either roster please write your name down in an available spot. We greatly appreciate your assistance and support.

**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 for after kinder.
As a reflection on previous learning about God’s creation, we are looking at the season of Spring and all of the wonders that happen around us during this time of the year. It is God who sustains the order of the seasons, giving good time to each for our provision. We will wonder at the new life that Spring brings - from the growth of seeds to the miraculous change that occurs when a caterpillar changes to a butterfly.

In many respects the children are facing change, as our transition to school continues and we look towards next year. We will focus on ‘School is a Community’, with many visits into the physical environment of the school, such as the library, the playground and Mrs Emery’s (Primary Coordinator) office! We will look at some of the types of things they will be doing in Preps, meet the teachers and familiarise themselves with the room and equipment.

Details of these transition events:
Tuesday 22 October 2 - 3pm
Tuesday 29 October 2 - 3pm

We will bring the children up to the Prep room at 2pm. Please meet your child at the Prep rooms at 3pm. You will be able to sign your child out at the Prep rooms and the children will have their bags with them.

Wednesday 6 November 9 - 10.15am
After dropping your child off please make you way up to the main staff room to have morning tea and hear from the Early Learning team and Mrs Emery, our Primary School Coordinator.

If your child is not attending MECS Preps in 2014, you may wish to pick your child up before 2pm on these days. While all children are very welcome to join in these sessions, it would be helpful to have a conversation with your child’s teacher in regard to the best plan for your child’s transition to school.

Over the term we will also look at community helpers, with a focus on looking at how God wants us all to use our gifts and talents for others. We come back to our focus verse:

‘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)

As we look at specific jobs people do, we would love parents to come and share with the children a little about what you do, in your role. This could include paid work or volunteer work that you do. Please speak to your teacher to arrange a time.

As the term progresses we then plan to ‘travel around the world’ to visit some different countries and their cultures. Once again, if you have a background different to Australian we would welcome your contribution to share a little about your country and culture. We aim to look at differences to point to God who created us wonderfully, in all of our diversity.
**Transition to School Statements**

Next week you will receive your child’s Transition Statement. This is a written document which aims to provide the Prep teachers with information about your child that will lead to a smooth transition to school.

There are 2 parts to this document. **Part 1** is to be completed by you (the child’s parents), providing information about your child from your family’s perspective. Part 1 also requires you to provide permission for us to pass all the information (contained in Parts 1 & 2) onto the Prep teachers. **Part 2** has been completed by your child’s class teacher.

*Please read the information written in Part 2, complete the permission section in Part 1 and return only Part 1 to kinder by Monday 28 October.* The copy of Part 2 is for you to keep.

Once we have received your Part 1 with signed permission, both Parts 1 and 2 will be handed to the Prep teachers.

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**Bluebirds News**

Karen and I pray you and your families had a restful break over the Spring holidays. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed Darwin, treasuring lots of wonderful memories.

Bluebirds will be looking at the wonderful Season of Spring, and all of the changes that come during this season. During Term 4 we will also look at ‘Our Senses – God’s plan for learning’. The gifts of sight, sound, small, taste and touch are the way we learn and engage in God’s creation. We are reminded that God created us in our mother’s womb, ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’. (Psalm 139: 13 -14).

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**Busy Bees News**

It has been wonderful to enjoy some of Spring’s warmer weather as the children go outside and make the most of the lovely kindergarten yard.

*A quick reminder that when children are outside parents must be with their children in order to adequately supervise them.*

This term Vee will lead Wednesday Playgroup until 13 November. She will be heading off to complete a placement in a remote area of Australia to contribute to her study in Early Childhood and primary education. We want to thank Vee for her wonderful leadership in playgroup and we wish her all the best for the remainder of the year. We welcome Leonie Williams who will lead the Wednesday playgroup from this date until the end of the year. Naomi will continue to lead Monday playgroup until the end of the year.

Blessings from the Kindergarten Staff,

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