



EASTMONT NEWSLETTER

July 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to Term 3 – we are now halfway through the kinder year and this is not really how we expected to be starting the term. Thank-you to everyone who responded so quickly with your intentions for Term 3 – either

through the Skoolbag App or emailing us. If your kinder plans change at any stage, please email the kinder at eastmont.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au to inform us of this.

As I said in my email to families just before Term 3 started, staff will be continuing to temperature check students. Physical distancing between adults remains very important. We request all families continue to social distance at pick up and drop off by using the red crosses on the footpath. Please come and go promptly at all times.

Again any children, parents/carers and staff who feel unwell must stay at home, get tested and not attend an early childhood service to help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community.

The Victorian State Government's support of a cleaning grant for Term 3 means the kinder will have extra professional cleans during the week and we can buy extra cleaning supplies that our staff are using for their cleaning throughout and after the sessions.

The Victorian State Government has also announced some funding support for 3yo and 4yo kinder. Please note that we have delayed the sending out of 3yo Term 3 invoices whilst we await clarification on this financial support.

I am pleased to announce that the Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, has approved the funding for Eastmont Pre-School to receive up to \$80000 under the Community Development Grants Programme. With this grant we will be upgrading our roof, installing acoustic panels inside the kinder, upgrading our inside and outside lighting as well as upgrade our outdoor play space. We will provide more details later in the term.

I would like to welcome our new 3yo enrolment officer, Fiona, onto the Eastmont Committee of Management and I also want to thank Selina (our previous 3yo enrolment officer) for her great work as part of the committee for the first half of the year.

Thank you to Will, our projects/maintenance officer, who came in over the holidays to work on a few jobs in the outside area of the kinder to ensure that everything is ready for the children. Thanks also to Kim, Fiona and Ivana as well the executive team (Melanie, Natalie and Melissa) for all the hours and hours of background work they did over the holidays in their various roles.

Our enrolment officers, Fiona and Kim, will be emailing out the 2021 groups within the next week. Please check your emails if you are expecting to return next year. We still have places in all our 3yo groups and in our 4yo old Koala Group for 2021. If you know anyone looking for a 2021 kinder place, please direct them to our website.

Please look out for each other and keep safe.

Cassie

2020 POLICY UPDATE



Every 2 years, all of Eastmont Pre-School's policies are reviewed and updated if needed. This has now happened for 2020 (some policies require yearly updates - our Emergency Management Plan was updated at the start of the year and our Fee Policy will be reviewed over the next few months).

To view our Policies and Emergency Management Plan, please see our website. A folder of the policies is also located in the foyer and can be viewed when parents/guardians are allowed back into kinder.

IMPORTANT TERM 3 DATES



*Please note that we have delayed the sending out of 3yo Term 3 invoices whilst we await clarification on government financial support.

Monday 7th September –

Invoices for Term 4 fees for all families will be issued

Friday 18th September –

Term 4 fees are due (last day of Term)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT / 4YO GROUPS REPORT



I would like to thank all of the families for their support regarding

the new procedures that we have implemented over the last couple of months. I know many families are feeling quite disconnected by not being able to enter the kinder for drop offs and pick ups- hopefully things will return to normal soon. In the meantime however, there are some positives with the "Gate Goodbyes". One of those is the independence skills the children are developing as they walk up the path, put their bags away, wash their hands etc. without assistance/prompting from the adult dropping them off. These experiences will hold the children in good stead for when they start school next year.

This week there have been between 14 and 17 children attending each session. The smaller numbers have given children an opportunity to get to know some of their peers that they may not normally play with, allowing new social connections to form.

We have all been enjoying lots of fresh air with our indoor/outdoor programme running. We have been eating at tables outside and enjoying "grass time" instead of mat time to listen to stories before going home.

The children have been enjoying role playing in the new space corner. There are lots of stars and planets and books about space, the moon and stars. There are also astronauts oxygen

tanks (made from foil covered soft drink bottles) attached in pairs to elastic, so they can be worn like back packs, as well as space related puzzles. The space display has inspired lots of paintings of rockets, stars and aliens! We are planning to add some large boxes so that the children can make and decorate a rocket ship.

Spending so much time outside, the children are really noticing the changes in the Wintry garden. Some of the children have commented about the trees having no leaves and this has led to discussions about why some have lost their leaves and others haven't. There have been lots of toadstools springing up after the rain and once again, this has started conversations about differences between toadstools and mushrooms, how/ why they grow where they grow and whether or not fairies really do live underneath them.

We plan to use some of the daffodils, that are flowering at the moment, for still life painting next week. Together with the children, we have planted peas and lettuce seedlings and look forward to harvesting our vegies in a couple of months.

Families will have now been sent their child's mid-year assessment and Kate and I are organising times for parent/ teacher interviews for the week commencing Monday 20th July.

Sonya & Kate



3YO GROUPS REPORT

Our attendance went back to normal by the end of Term 2 and children were more and more used to the temperature check, indoor-and-outdoor program as well as hand-washing procedures.

To adhere to the social-distancing policy, we sent the end of term summary to families through emails instead of in a face-to-face manner. The summary included the classroom activities we did with children, the learning goals behind them, children's individual learning progression and feedback from families.

Based on the feedback we have received, families were pleased with children's developments and how they smoothly reconnected to the classroom community. In Term 3, in addition to the summary, I will scan the observations in the portfolios and send them to families so they can have a more specific picture of their children's preschool life. For children who preferred to keep staying at home, we also had a chat with their families and invited them to collect their learning packs.

We will keep running the indoor-and-outdoor program and upholding the latest policies in Term 3. Hopefully the pandemic can end soon and everyone is safe and well.

Julie

UPCOMING PARENTING WEBINARS

There are some handy webinars coming up to help families get on top of the more challenging aspects of parenting:

- Maroondah City Council is hosting a webinar on anxiety in kids on Wednesday 26th August. The cost is \$10, book [here](#).
- HealthAbility is offering a webinar on managing challenging behaviour on Wednesday 29th July. Cost is \$25, book [here](#).

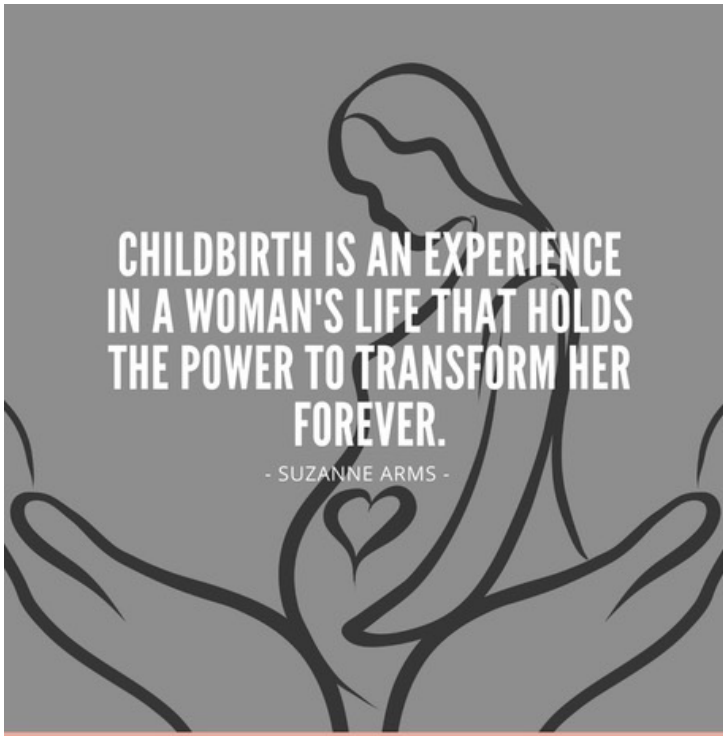
STAY UP TO DATE WITH YOUR KINDER



Install the Skoolbag app available in the App Store or Google Play, and add Eastmont Preschool to get all our latest news and notifications.



If you'd like to keep up with the social side of life at Eastmont, you can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/eastmontpreschoolvermont



**CHILDBIRTH IS AN EXPERIENCE
IN A WOMAN'S LIFE THAT HOLDS
THE POWER TO TRANSFORM HER
FOREVER.**
- SUZANNE ARMS -

I am a mature aged midwifery student studying at ACU and have the privilege of being able to follow women and their family through their pregnancy, birthing and post-natal period.

If sharing your journey and having the support of a student midwife is something that interests you, please get in touch.

Deborah.vukic@myacu.edu.au | 0411 104 998

SHOP AND SUPPORT EASTMONT

Bendigo Bank

Bendigo Bank Wantirna Mall donates to the kinder when you open an account or take out insurance.

Bakers Delight Brentford Square donates 5% of any purchase to the Kinder through their Dough Raisers program.



Bright Star Kids donates 20% of your purchase price if you select Eastmont PreSchool Vermont at checkout.

 SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic Book Club donates back 20% of any purchase for the Kinder to purchase new books and educational aids.

Would you like a midwifery student?

For a familiar face through your journey, or perhaps to bounce your thoughts off in a supported way?

Evidence shows continuity of care can improve your experience. So, I'm all ears!



Someone to help you navigate information and appointments, help with getting extra evidence-based information, and be a supportive thread through all of it.

As part of my Midwifery degree at ACU Melbourne, I have the privilege of accompanying women throughout pregnancy, birth (optional) and 6-week postnatal journey. No matter who your formal carer is. For you it can provide someone who is dedicated to your journey, extra support.

I've had my own babies, but as a student it allows me to experience supporting women in a variety of care experiences.

I can travel to wherever you need to go in Melbourne's eastern suburbs and CBD.

You can start anytime before 35 weeks pregnant. *You don't have to be early in your pregnancy.*



Feel free to contact me or to ask more before you decide: **cheryl.connolly@myacu.edu.au.**

YOUR 2020 KINDER COMMITTEE

President - Cassie
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Vice President - Melissa
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Treasurer - Melanie
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Director - Sonya
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