



EASTMONT NEWSLETTER

August 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Again, I cannot believe how quickly things have changed since my last report. 2020 has definitely been a challenging and very different year! The children attended kinder for 3 full weeks before Stage 4 restrictions

were introduced. Under the current restrictions, families need permits to send their children to kinder and need to have been in contact with Sonya at eastmont.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au before children can attend. Staff who need to be onsite to supervise children have been issued work permits to work at Eastmont- something I thought we would never have to do! I'd like to thank Sonya for all her work on our policies and our COVID-Safe plan to ensure we can still operate onsite for permitted workers. All our policies have been updated in the last few months, but in particular our "Dealing with Infectious Diseases" policy had a further update last week. All policies can be accessed on our website.

I would like to thank the staff for their work so far this term.

From starting the term educating our children on-site to now changing quickly to remote learning again, the staff have taken it all in their stride. Video calls with the 4-year-old groups have already happened and all staff are working on ways to support families during this time.

Our planning for upgrades under Federal Governments Community Development Grants Programme are well under way. Eastmont Pre-School will receive up to \$80,000 and we will be upgrading our roof, installing acoustic panels inside the kinder, upgrading our inside and outside lighting as well as upgrading our outdoor play space. We are hoping to start some of the smaller parts of the project shortly after stage 4 restrictions are lifted.

With restrictions in place it is important to stay in contact with people. Everyone has been sent a contact list for their groups. Why not get in contact with someone on the list to say hi? You might just brighten the day of someone just by making contact.

Stay safe and look after each other!

Cassie



DIRECTOR'S REPORT / 4YO GROUPS REPORT

introduction of stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne, almost all children are now learning from home. So, currently staff are attending Eastmont on Wednesdays and Fridays only.

Due to the restrictions we will not be putting together take-home Learning/Activity packs but will be supporting children's learning from home in a variety of other ways.

We will be connecting with families at home via a combination of emails, weekly videos (uploaded to Eastmont's Edublog) each Monday morning, Google Meet video calls (for 4yo groups) and individual video and/or phone calls. In addition, we will continue to post resources to promote positive parenting and at home play based-learning ideas in the Useful Links and Other Activities categories of the blog.

We hope you are all keeping warm and well at home. Since the

We made our first video calls via Google Meet this week, with 12 Koalas and 17 Possums joining in. It was nice to see the children so attentive and engaged-I think they really enjoyed connecting as a group and seeing their friends. The children responded enthusiastically during the 20 minute meetings and joined in some songs, a short interactive activity and a story. We will be scheduling weekly Google Meets for families who would like to participate over the rest of term or until we return to on site learning.

Please free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. By email eastmont.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au or phone on Wednesdays and Fridays (9874 4044).

Sonya & Kate



3YO GROUPS REPORT

The children of the Wombat Group had a good time doing art exploration on bubble wrap, using iPad to play treasure hunt and developing their science process skills through the viscosity experiment. They also

started to identify the letters in their names by the 'name clips' activity and practiced their numeracy and gross-motor abilities through the hopscotch outdoors. As children spent a large amount of time outside, to encourage their literacy and cognitive developments, a book corner and a music corner were introduced. In addition, during our 'grass time', children enjoyed singing the 'letter A' song and clapping hands based on their names' syllables. We also discussed their daily emotions and represented them by putting stickers under different Emojis. After that children counted the stickers and decided the most popular emotion.

When it comes to the parent-teacher interviews, we received positive feedback from the families. Parents shared what they have been working on at home with the children as well as how their children enjoyed the kinder. We also contacted the families that preferred to stay at home and sent fortnightly reflections to those who attended the kinder.

As we have moved to remote learning again, we will touch base with all the families in the next couple of weeks and schedule video chats with those who want to have "face-to-face" communication. On top of that, we will keep uploading videos to the blog on a weekly basis which will cover numeracy, literacy, social-emotional and cognitive learning. Some home learning ideas and worksheets will also be sent to the families via emails.

Julie



SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING

Hello to all the Eastmont Kinder community!

I hope you are all keeping well and safe through this unsettling time. It has definitely been a challenging

and different year so far that is sure! As for fundraising I have scaled back to the bare minimum, which is the memento style fundraising - such as the Picture Products and the Expressions tea towels. The teachers are on track and have been collecting some of the children's self portrait drawings and will continue to do so once kinder is open again. I was just about run the Picture Products before stage 4 was announced, so this is on the back burner but I will be able get it up and running quickly when we return to kinder.

Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to have our biggest fundraising event that brings in a huge amount for

the Kinder - the Bunnings BBQ, which is such a shame and so sad. Next year, fingers crossed. We had to re-schedule the Aver and Line fundraising family portraits once already from May, to the 12th September. Unfortunately due to the current restrictions I have made the decision to cancel the fundraising event totally this year. I have emailed Aver and Line and they will be contacting the people who have booked and refunding the money soon.

I am hoping that we can run a few other fundraising events towards the end of the year and fingers crossed that we can hold some form of an end-of-year and Christmas celebration too, as unfortunately we haven't been able to organise any social events this year except the Welcome BBQ.

Please keep safe and well.

Megan

UPCOMING PARENTING WEBINAR

Another useful webinar coming up, on a topic that may be relevant to a lot of us - fussy eaters! This is a FREE webinar hosted by Dietician and Nutritionist Marie-France Laval, founder and CEO of Fussy Eater Solutions. It is designed specifically for young families and the early childhood education sector. The session is on the August 27 from 7:00 - 7:45pm, register [here](#).

STAY UP TO DATE WITH YOUR KINDER



Preschool to get all our latest news and notifications.

Install the Skoolbag app available in the App Store or Google Play, and add Eastmont



Facebook at www.facebook.com/eastmontpreschoolvermont

If you'd like to keep up with the social side of life at Eastmont, you can follow us on



VICTORIA
State Government

Education and Training



Parentline
13 22 89
Counselling and support
for parents and carers

Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. We offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.

www.education.vic.gov.au



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.

YOUR 2020 KINDER COMMITTEE

President - Cassie
president@eastmont.org.au

Vice President - Melissa
vicepresident@eastmont.org.au

Treasurer - Melanie
treasurer@eastmont.org.au

Secretary - Natalie
secretary@eastmont.org.au

Minutes Secretary - VACANT
minutessecretary@eastmont.org.au

Enrolments (3yo) - Fiona
enrolment3yo@eastmont.org.au

Enrolments (4yo) - Kim
enrolment4yo@eastmont.org.au

Fundraising - Megan
fundraising@eastmont.org.au

Social - Aisling
social@eastmont.org.au

Grants/Policy/OH&S - Ivana
grantspolicyohs@eastmont.org.au

Projects/Maintenance - Will
projects@eastmont.org.au

Communications - Amanda
communications@eastmont.org.au

Administration - Lynette
admin@eastmont.org.au

Director - Sonya
eastmont.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

CONTACT US

📍 32 Frank Street, Vermont
✉ eastmont.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
☎ (03) 9874 4044
🌐 eastmont.org.au