



EASTMONT NEWSLETTER

September 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Holidays are almost upon us!

For our 4 year old families, the Victorian State Government announced they will be providing the kinder with additional funding support for Term 4 and have

stated that we should not issue 4 year old families invoices for Term 4. We have been in contact with 4 year old families who had previously rolled their past fees over to Term 4 in order to refund them.

For our 3 year old families, we will be issuing invoices to all 3 year old families who attend Eastmont during Term 4. This will be for the full amount of \$410 for the Term 4 fees. These invoices will be handed out in your first session of Term 4 (in the week starting Mon 5th Oct).

Early Childhood Educators Day was on Wed 2nd Sept. On behalf of the Eastmont community I thanked our staff on the day for all their work this year. It has been a long year so far with lots of new challenges but they have all done an amazing job. We are very lucky to have them educating our children.

The AGM packs for families returning in 2021 will be handed out early Term 4 (or mailed out to families not currently at Eastmont). These will have important information and forms that need to be completed and returned in a timely manner.

The upgrades to Eastmont under the Federal Government's Community Development Grants Programme are now moving quickly! Over the upcoming holidays:

- Our indoor fluorescent lights are being upgraded to LED lights.
- Extra security lighting is being installed outdoors, including replacing the lighting bollards along the path (which have not worked in years) and floodlights over the outdoor playground.
- Roof repairs are being undertaken.

As part of the Community Development Grants Programme, we are sad to say that the pirate ship will be removed as it is falling apart and starting to rot. Although safe for the children at the moment, this play equipment will need extensive repairs over the next year or two so the committee made the decision to remove it. We are very excited by all the other installations and upgrades that are happening. These have been designed to maximise the play space outside. Over the holidays and early in Term 4:

- A large activity fort is being installed. It will have a rock-climbing wall, scramble net, slide and ladder.
- A new dry creek bed with a bridge is being installed.
- The retaining wall and some of the overgrown plants are being removed to increase the area of our play space.
- We are adding a new smaller, movable boat.
- We are upgrading 'AdventureLand' (the play equipment near the walkway to the foyer).

Make sure you read our newsletter and website for more information and photos related to these upgrades.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Term 3 holidays!

Cassie

3 AND 4YO PLACES AT EASTMONT FOR 2021 ARE FILLING FAST!

If you or a friend are hoping to enrol at Eastmont next year, time is running out! We still have a limited number of places available in our 3 year old groups and in our 4 year old short day program (5 hours x 3 days per week). Our 4 year old long day group (7.5 hours x 2 days per week) has already filled, with an extensive waitlist.

We cannot currently offer in-person tours at the kindergarten due to COVID-19 restrictions, but you can view our 'Virtual Open Day' resources, including video tour, on our website and our enrolments officers are always happy to answer questions.

Eastmont Pre-School offers a creative play-based program for 3 and 4 year olds, delivered by experienced teachers and supported by a wonderful community.

For enrolments enquiries, please contact:

enrolment4yo@eastmont.org.au or

enrolment3yo@eastmont.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our lovely kinder and community.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT / 4YO GROUPS REPORT

Since our last report the teaching team have increased our

class google meet session offerings, to twice weekly. Our busy families have the opportunity to select which of the two sessions they would like to attend to better suit their schedule. In addition we are continuing to upload content to Eastmont's Edublog each week.

During the class google meet sessions the children have enjoyed opportunities to contribute to class discussions, and this supports each child to continue to develop positive self-identity. In one such activity the children introduced their special teddy, or soft toy and told the class a little bit about it.

Music and movement has contributed to positive wellbeing as we sing, dance, and follow actions that build coordination and have us all smiling together.

Father's day enriched our Google meetings as the children took pleasure in introducing their dad, grandad, or uncle, either in person, or with a photo, and told us what they call them, and what they think is most special about them.

In recognition of 'R U OK' day on Thursday the 10th we are uploading a video to the Edublog based around feelings, and

positive strategies for managing big feelings. This is a great opportunity to check in with loved ones, and the kindergarten community and ask, 'R U okay?'

Over two sessions, 38 children attended our Melbourne Museum's Learning Lab Live-Dinosaur and Fossils virtual excursions. We learned lots about some Australian dinosaurs, what they ate, their size and how fossils are created. There was lots of interaction as the children eagerly answered questions and had a giggle about the fossilised dinosaur poo. We have booked another virtual excursion for the last week of term. An educator from Healesville Sanctuary will present a webinar called Nature and the Wurundjeri Way, aimed at igniting children's curiosity to use their senses to explore, play and connect with the natural world. There will be a choice of sessions for families to choose from.

Thank you to Cassie and Melissa and all the other committee members who have been busy organising works to be carried out at the kinder during the coming holidays. We can't wait to see the new additions to the playground.

With the recent announcement we look forward to welcoming the children back on site at kindergarten in term four.

Sonya & Kate



3YO GROUPS REPORT

The children in the Wombat Group returned to online learning owing to the current COVID-19 situation and Stage 4 lockdown in Victoria. To support their learning at home, we sent emails with online learning

materials and guides to families on a fortnightly basis. In addition to this, we kept uploading online teaching videos to the preschool blog every Monday. Some interesting videos include a story for Father's Day, lava lamp science experiment and the bilingual version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.

Because the maintenance of children's sense of belonging to the kindergarten and teacher-child relationship are important for their social and emotional well-being, we contacted the families and had video chats with those who preferred to have "face-to-face" communication. They shared their favourite toys, drawings and paintings and the things they did at home such as making apple pies, celebrating birthdays and playing with their pets. They also expressed how much they missed the kindergarten and their little friends.

In response to this, we delivered weekly Google Meet with each group of the children since the start of September. Thanks to Sonya's support, we were well-prepared and all Google Meets went well. Children showed great attention span during the "online group time" and enjoyed reading stories, singing nursery rhymes as well as playing games with their friends. After each meeting, Parneet and me also had a brief discussion in regards to how to further improve the meeting quality.

In addition to this, to have a more holistic picture of children's learning progression and develop our curriculum based on children's interests and capabilities, we did anecdotal observations on each child during the Google Meets, which covered literacy learning, numeracy learning and executive function development.

We will further support children's developmental goals and scaffold their learning through online learning packs, Google Meets as well as weekly videos.

Julie

OUR PLAYGROUND UPGRADE!

EXCITING NEWS! Our playground upgrade is starting!

The committee have been working very hard during the lockdown to get everything moving for our Federal Community Development Grant and we are excited to announce that the playground works are starting over the holidays. All of the works are happening in the tanbarked area with the sand pit, cubby and grassed area all staying the same. The attached example photos will give you a sneak peek at what will be happening!

The new play space will be very exciting and interactive for the children. Some of the existing wooden items are old and becoming more challenging to safely repair, so will be replaced with amazing new play spaces for all to enjoy.

The existing pirate ship, which has been a firm favourite with the children, needs to be removed. It will be replaced with an amazing interactive activity fort with a rock climbing wall, scramble net, slide and ladder.



We are also adding a small wooden pirate ship (as voted by the children earlier in the year) that can be moved around (by the staff) for different play experiences.

Another great feature will be a dry creek bed with a wooden bridge. We are also refurbishing the AdventureLand playground



(the play equipment currently near the walkway to the foyer) and keeping the swings and seesaw. Finally, the retaining wall and some of the plants across the front of the kinder will be removed to open this area up. This area will be reshaped and replanted and will give the children more space to play.

We expect this project to take 3 - 4 weeks. The works will possibly be continuing if the children are back at kinder in Term 4. Aarons Outdoors (our contractors) will ensure the safety of the children by fencing of small areas where they are working. This way the children will still have most of the playground for their outside activities.

As part of this Federal Grant we are also having upgrades to our roof and lighting, both inside and outside the kinder. These jobs will both be completed in the school holidays. The last part of the grant is going to be the installation of acoustic panels inside the kinder room. This will hopefully be completed in the coming months.

Keep an eye out on Skoolbag, Facebook and our website as we post updates throughout the holidays!

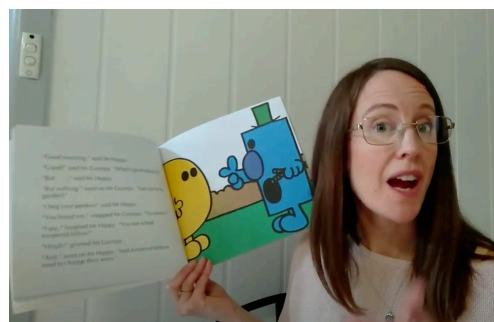
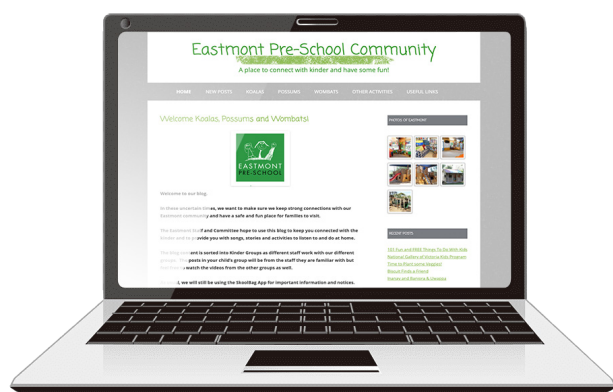


DON'T FORGET – THE EASTMONT EDUBLOG IS HERE TO HELP YOU

This has been a very tough year for children, educators and families. Keeping children occupied and learning during extended lockdown periods - often while also trying to work from home! - is certainly a challenge.

The Eastmont blog was created to help children and families maintain a sense of connection and support the continuation of play based learning activities remotely.

Staff videos were paused at the end of the term, but content is still being added in the Useful Links and Other Activities categories - perfect for school holiday entertainment!



SHOP AND SUPPORT EASTMONT



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

YOUR 2020 KINDER COMMITTEE

President - Cassie
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Vice President - Melissa
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