



# EASTMONT NEWSLETTER

## November 2020



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year has gone so quickly and the children have certainly grown up since their first day of Kinder in Feb.

The Social/Fundraising Team have had their busiest term of the year so far. Aisling and the team did a great job with the Virtual Trivia Night. Congratulations to the winning team "The Clarkoids"! Megan has also been busy organising the annual Tea Towel and Picture Product fundraisers as well! Thank you everyone on the Social/Fundraising Team for their work with all the recent activities.

The big news is our new outdoor area is finally finished! We thank everyone for their understanding with these works and we are looking forward to seeing the children playing and exploring the space. The works have been inspected by the Whitehorse Council's playground auditor to ensure it adheres to the standard required. It took longer than expected but I'm sure you agree that it looks amazing! We would like to thank the Federal Government Community Development Grants Programme and the Committee Members over the past 2 years who have made this project a reality.

The last part of the project is the installation of acoustic panels in the kinder. This is scheduled to happen on Wed 25th November but will not impact the children at all as Waveform Acoustics will undertake all works outside of kinder hours.

Our AGM is to be held on the Wed 25th November at 7:30pm. A link to the meeting will be sent out a couple of days before the meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has nominated (or expressed interest) in a role on the 2021 Committee. The kinder cannot run without the support of the parents who volunteer to be

a part of the Committee of Management. There are still a number of roles that currently have no nomination/expressions of interest (such as President, Social & Fundraising Officers and Grants/OHS/Policy Officer) so if you are interested then please email Natalie at [secretary@eastmont.org.au](mailto:secretary@eastmont.org.au). We have had some expressions of interest for our social/fundraising team but we are more than happy to have more people on this great team!

I'd like to thank the current 2020 committee for all their hard work this year. Melissa, Melanie, Natalie, Fiona, Kim, Megan, Aisling, Amanda, Ivana and Will who have all done an amazing job in this difficult year. The Committee have had to make important decisions under short time frames as the COVID-19 situation unfolded and I really appreciate all the effort the Committee have put into making sure everything has run smoothly. I especially want to thank the Executive Committee (Melissa, Melanie and Natalie) who have worked hard all year and have gone above and beyond their roles in the running of Eastmont Pre-School this year. It has been a pleasure working with everyone on the committee and getting to know them throughout the year.

This is my last monthly President report as my youngest is finishing 4yo kinder at the end of the term. I would like to thank everyone at the kinder for their work and support of Eastmont over the last few years. In particular I want to thank all our current families, staff and committee for all their support, patience and understanding through this unusual year. My three children have all attended Eastmont and have loved every minute. The staff and families are what make Eastmont such a lovely kinder and I wish everyone all the best with everything in the future.

Good luck to all the children starting school next year!

*Cassie*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD-WINNING PREZ!

Our outgoing Committee President, Cassie Morris, has been named as a recipient of this year's Deakin Community Awards, in recognition of her contributions to our local community. The Deakin Community Awards seek to celebrate volunteers who give their time, skills and energy to community organisations, helping to make our local area a better place to live.

Cassie, this award is very well deserved. You have given so much to Eastmont over your 4 years as part of the Committee, all while working and raising three children. You have been a wonderful asset to Eastmont Pre-School and we will miss you!



**2020 Deakin Community Awards**

Celebrating Service to Our Community



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT / 4YO GROUPS REPORT

As recommended by the state government, we have been continuing to

run an indoor/outdoor program each day. Children move freely between the spaces throughout the sessions and we come together as a group for lunch/snack times and at the end of the day for dancing, games, stories etc.

Outside, the children have been spontaneously starting games of Musical Chairs, Duck, Duck, Goose, What's the Time Mr Wolf and inventing lots of others. These play episodes provide valuable opportunities for children to build connections as they negotiate various roles and relationships.

There's been lots of fun drawing with chalk on the blackboard in the cubby house and on the concrete. The children have also been developing their gross motor and coordination skills while playing with the hula hoops-rolling them along the ground, racing them against each other, spinning them around their waists, arms, legs and skipping with them.

Inside, the children have been engaging in lots of painting experiences-creating butterfly pictures and using foam stamps in addition to painting at the easels. The blocks, doll's house, Lego and other construction materials have all been popular as well.

To celebrate NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week, we provided opportunities for the children to revisit dot painting techniques and explored the various symbols used by indigenous artists. We examined a didgeridoo and discovered that they are created using trees that have been hollowed out by termites. We also explored the meaning of the symbols and colours of the Aboriginal flag and its importance to indigenous culture.

On 11th November we marked Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence and reflected upon the importance of peace in our lives.

This term we are focusing on supporting the development of fine motor skills. We work with the children, individually and in small groups, and model and encourage correct pencil grasp, name writing, cutting with scissors etc. The children are enjoying practising these skills which are also important for school readiness.

The playground is finished, and the children are delighted! There are so many new things to play with, including the rocky creek bed, fort, pirate ship, speed boat, noughts and crosses frame as well as new, white sand in the sandpit.

Thank you to Cassie and Melissa for all their hard work in getting this project completed. Well done!

*Sonya & Kate*



## 3YO GROUPS REPORT

Over the last couple of weeks there have been between 17-20 Wombats attending each session. They were very happy to be back at kinder and there was a lot more collaborative play happening indoors and outdoors.

Inside, the children have been enjoying making Halloween decorations, creating snowflakes with glass beads and "rescuing" dinosaurs. The puzzle table and play-dough table have been busy too. The children have also started to identify the letters in their names and their friends' names in name-colouring activity.

All the children have been enjoying outdoor play. They had birthday pretend play and treasure hunt in the sandpit. They were highly interested in playing "What's the Time - Mr. Wolf". They also practiced their numeral recognition ability by playing

the number matching game. Trains, basketballs and blocks were also popular among the children. It is worth mentioning that they showed strong interests in the new speedy boat and playground renovation. They dressed up as builders and asked the workers "Do you need help?"

The children have also been dancing and listening to music outside. Some of their favourite songs include Taba Naba, Chicken Dance, Skeleton Dance and Sleeping Bunnies. To celebrate Children's Week, we read stories about friendship and had lovely discussions regarding why we need friends and how to solve conflicts.

We will keep sending reflections to families on a fortnightly basis and having ongoing communication with them in regard to the children's development. We also look forward to the photo shoot that will happen on 17/11 and 19/11. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you would like to discuss anything concerning your child.

*Julie*



# THE PLAYGROUND UPGRADE IS COMPLETE AND READY FOR FUN!

We are very excited to announce that the playground is finished! We thank everyone for their understanding and it has been fabulous to watch the children having an amazing time exploring the space. It has taken a little longer than planned but we are sure that the Eastmont children will enjoy playing in all the different areas for many years to come. We would like to thank both the Federal Government Community Development Grants Programme and the Committee Members from the past 2 years who have made this project a reality.

Our new dry creek bed is a great space for imaginative play



So much space to run with the retaining wall gone



Our new activity fort is ready for adventures



## 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**



**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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**Treasurer** - Melanie  
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## CONTACT US

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