



# EASTMONT NEWSLETTER

## July 2021



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back to term 3! I can't believe that we are over half way through our Kinder year. I hope you all had a wonderful break and enjoyed the downtime of no kinder lunches

and slower mornings. Kinder pick up and drop off will continue to be the same with parents staying off site. Please continue checking the Skoolbag app for any updates or changes to this arrangement.

It was lovely that parents were able to have their Parent/Teacher chats before the holidays and receive their mid-year report. Thank you to the teachers for making themselves available.

Over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th July Will arranged our first working bee in 18months. It was extremely disappointing that there was such limited buy in from the community. Only 6 families attended and all of these families are on the committee or subcommittee. The reason we choose to send our children to a community run kinder is to be part of the community. Our kinder cannot and will not continue to run without the support of all families.

Having said that, even with such low numbers a lot was achieved over this weekend. All the gardens were tidied. Tan bark was purchased and spread around. Both sheds were thoroughly cleaned. A skip was arranged and lots of broken

equipment and rubbish has been cleared. Thank you Will, a lot of work behind the scenes organising things had to happen and we are all grateful.

Another big thank you to Sharlene and Monika for a lovely Mum's night at Sage. It was lovely to have the opportunity to talk , get out of active wear and enjoy some yummy food. Everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves and I hope we can do it again before the end of the year.

This month we also signed off on our playground grant. The playground is now completed and we have received all the money from the Federal Government to allow this makeover to happen. Thank you to our current committee and previous committee for making this happen.

2029 the Victorian State Government will increase 3 year old Kinder hours from five hours to 15 hours. This is very exciting for our future 3 year old's. As a result we will need to expand our Kinder rooms to facilitate the increased hours to house both the 3 year old's and 4 year old's. If you are interested in forming part of a subcommittee that will look at creating the extra room please email me [president@eastmont.org.au](mailto:president@eastmont.org.au) This will be a big process but something that we need to start planning now.

Please make sure you have installed our Eastmont Pre-School Skoolbag app. This will keep you up to date with things that are happening around the Kinder. Also follow us on our Facebook page (search for @eastmontpreschoolvermont), keep checking your notice pockets regularly and reading our monthly newsletter!

Take care, Courtney



### 4YO GROUPS REPORT

Hello everybody and welcome back for Term 3. Before I begin about what has been happening, I want to thank the committee for organising the working bee during the holidays. It was so lovely

to come back into the kindergarten with paths swept, no leaves on the ground and edged garden beds. Thank you to all who participated in the working bee. Your hard work has made our kindergarten look lovely.

The term has started with all the children in the Koala and Possum groups excited to be back and see all the familiar faces of their friends and teachers. It has been lovely settling back in with a lot of familiar activities which are constants in the program such as the playdough, easel painting, puzzles, construction, pasting and drawing.

This term one of our focus areas will be supporting children to practice and develop their fine motor skills. We do this by providing lots of fun and stimulating learning experiences,

with educators providing guidance as the children work on these important skills. Families can support this at home, by providing crayons or pencils and paper for children to draw. If children are initially reluctant, they can often be encouraged by suggesting they draw a picture for Nanna, a friend, to put up on the fridge etc. You might also like to suggest some ideas of what to draw-themselves, the family, friends, house, pets etc.

Another important skill is being able to concentrate at more structured activities so table top games will be available for the children to participate in. These are not only great at supporting the children to mix with each other but it also practices their skills in waiting, turn taking, losing, winning and counting or matching.

STEM activities will also be on offer. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. These activities are great at engaging children's interest and challenges their thinking to solve problems and understand concepts in a more lateral fashion. I am sure many more interesting activities will emerge as the term progresses and children contribute their ideas and wonderings about the world.

Sonya (Director) and Lizette (4yo Teacher)



## 3YO GROUPS REPORT

The Wombats had a fun and busy end to term 2. The children enjoyed utilising their dramatic and imaginative play skills in our hairdressing home corner. In this play space the children took on roles

of client and hairdresser at the Eastmont Salon, acting out a typical trip to the hairdresser from washing and styling each other's hair (with blow-dryers and shampoo bottles), to utilising the wigs to test out new colours and styles.

The Wombats utilised their fine motor skills along with developing their alphabet knowledge and literacy skills while exploring our letter stamps and magnetic letter boards. These activities lead to some great discussions about the letters that make up the children's own names and the names of their friends, as well as discussing letter sounds and words that begin with various letters.

This term we are targeting a range of curriculum areas through the children's engagement and exploration of sensory trays, the paper cup tower STEMM activity, pom-pom pattern making, our ocean animals exploration activity and bubble wrap prints. The Wombats are really loving creating what they like to call "Splat Paintings", using fly swatters and potato mashers to create unique pattern prints and art pieces.

This term we are working to extend children's counting and numeracy skills beginning with the introduction of the children's new favourite song "Once I Caught a Fish Alive". They are working on using both hands to count on their fingers from 1 to 10, through the actions in the song, during Mat Time. During these Mat Times we are also developing our confidence, self expression and gross motor coordination through singing and dancing to "Twist Shake and Wiggle", "Let's Dance" and undertaking whole group Circle Time activities/songs/games.

It was really lovely to touch base with our Wombat families during parent teacher interviews last term. I very much enjoyed discussing the Wombat's growth and learning during term 1 and 2 and working together with families to outline some goals that we will be working towards in term 3 and 4. I hope that all of our Wombat families had a safe and enjoyable break and I look forward to continuing the Wombat's learning journeys this term.

Heather (3 Year Old Teacher)

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH YOUR KINDER



The SKOOLBAG app is one of our main communication channels with families. You can install the Skoolbag app from 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!

You can find our page at [www.facebook.com/eastmontpreschoolvermont](https://www.facebook.com/eastmontpreschoolvermont)

## 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 2021 KINDER COMMITTEE

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