



Highmount Pre-school
36 Lechte Road, Mount Waverley, VIC 3149
T (03) 9802 2812

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Highmount Families,

Welcome back to another fun year at kinder!

I would like to welcome all our new families that have joined us this year. It is wonderful to have you at our kinder, and I hope your children are settling in well.

As some of our families may know, we are planning to upgrade the playground in the near future. The plans are in place and we have been working hard to raise the required funds over the past few years. We have been very lucky to secure many donations of materials and labour, however we still need approximately \$40,000 to meet the \$125,000 cost.

If any of our families have business contacts that may be interested in making a donation or purchasing some new play equipment for the Preschool, please let me know. Any donations will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on a plaque in the new playground. Our playground plans are included in this newsletter, and an official donation request letter is available if required.

We would love to have the playground completed this year, as next year Highmount Preschool will celebrate 50 years at its current location! We are beginning to organise a special event to celebrate the wonderful community history of our Preschool. If you know of any families that attended Highmount, spread the word that there will be a big celebration in 2019 and they are invited!

Finally, remember to put your name on the parent help roster in the foyer. It is a great way to meet everyone, see your child interacting with their friends, and join in fun activities with the children. Your child will love you being there! Even if you can just spare an hour, your help will be very much appreciated.



Our next Committee meeting is Tuesday 13th March at the Preschool. All parents are welcome to attend.

Kind Regards,

Lou Skepper

President

highmount.president@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SIGN IN SIGN OUT BOOK

It is important that our teachers are able to identify the person picking up your child from Kinder. Please remember to complete the Sign-in/out book properly to include the FULL NAME of the person picking up your child.

KINDER DUTY

Do not forget to put your name down for kinder and laundry duty. Just a friendly reminder for parents who are on Kinder Duty - please remember to record your details on the Highmount Preschool Visitor's Book provided.

KINDER PARKING

When dropping and picking up your children from 3 or 4 year old kinder, could you please make sure that you do not park over neighbour's drive ways. If there is no space available out the front of the school grounds, please park your car in the side street and walk down.

KINDER GATE

Could all families please help to make sure that the Kinder Gate is properly shut behind them. It can sometimes become stuck in the open position.

NUT FREE KINDER

We aim to be a nut free kinder. We urge you to avoid sending nuts and related products to kinder to assist those children with allergies and anaphylaxis. Thank you!



SUMMER

During summer can parents please apply or bring sunscreen and hats for your child when they play outside in the beautiful sunshine. Remember to label all of your child's clothing belongings.



LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure you do check the lost property box before the end of term 1 and collect your child's belongings. The lost property box is located at the front entrance where you sign in. Remember to label your child's name on all of their belongings, such as drink bottles, lunch boxes, hats, jackets etc.



PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Parents and children are welcome to socialize and play in the playground before and after Kindergarten session.

However, please note that Highmount Pre-School, Teachers and Educators accept no responsibility for any incidents that occur outside the formal kinder session times.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

Unless other arrangements have been made, children should be dropped off at the kinder no more than five minutes before the beginning of the session and picked up no later than five minutes after the end of the session. Highmount's responsibility for a child does not start until the session begins, and it

reverts to the parents/guardians as soon as the session ends. At the beginning of sessions, parents/guardians are required to wait with their children on the veranda until the teacher is ready to receive the children. Unless by prior arrangement, children must not enter the preschool building before the start of a session.

Late arrivals are an inconvenience to the staff and the other children. Parents/guardians arriving late will be reminded by the Director of the kinder's drop off/collection policy. Parents are solely responsible for their children in the playground before and after kinder session times.

We also ask that parents and children do not move any equipment as it could be dangerous. Additionally please leave the playground as you find it. The staff work hard to maintain a tidy safe, clean and pleasant environment for the children.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM DATES

End of Term 1 Thursday 29th March 2018

Beginning of Term 2 Monday 16th April

CHICKEN HATCHING

Our 3-year-old group & 4-year-old group will be learning about Chicken Hatching during these 2 weeks and be able to witness little chicks hatching from their eggs. This is an exciting experience for everyone.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our 3 & 4-year-old groups will be hunting for Easter Eggs during the last week of Term 1.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Labour Day Monday 12th March

Good Friday 30th March

3 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents,

Our three-year-old groups are settling into kinder and most children are enjoying the experience. Our groups are a diverse mix of children with different skills, temperaments, languages, experiences away from home and age range.

During this term, we are working on supporting the children's wellbeing. Helping them feel safe, secure and familiar with the kinder environment. Also learning to trust their teachers and know that when their parent says good-bye, they will come back! As parents, you can support your child's wellbeing by arriving on time for pick up at the end of session. If your child is still having trouble separating, this is perfectly normal and will resolve after a few weeks. The teachers are on hand to help all parents through this sometimes-stressful process.

We celebrate a diverse range of cultural celebrations at kinder. We recently celebrated Chinese New Year by handing out red envelopes with chocolate money inside for good luck. We also read stories and set up a table with culturally appropriate dolls and cooking items. In this way, we support Learning outcome 2 'Community', in which we "explore the diversity of culture, background, heritage and tradition" of families and children.

With this in mind, we will celebrate Easter. We are excited to have a chicken hatching program that will come to kinder for two weeks. The children can observe baby chicks close up. This ties in with the Christian tradition of birth and renewal and the giving of chocolate eggs. The program will offer various art experiences and activities eg making baskets and cards to celebrate Easter. We will be reading realistic books about life cycles and picture books about chickens, eggs and the Easter Bunny. We will have an Easter egg hunt in the last week before the end of term. Monday the 26th and Wednesday 28th. Friday 30th is Good Friday and the kinder is closed. We start back in Term 2 on the 16th of April.

The children have enjoyed these sensory experiences: water play with sea creatures, colour-matching games, playing with the train set, cutting and pasting, easel painting and outdoor activities. Role-play in home corner, dressing up, cooking and playing with dolls.

Every session we are working on:

- Listening and following instructions
- Conflict resolution...sharing and respect for others
- Independence with self-help routines
- Participating in a range of activities
- Making friends
- Having fun

TIC TOC

Tic Toc

Tic Toc

The clock says Tic Toc

The clock says Tic Toc

It's time to say hello

Hello _____ (childs name)

Thanks to all our parents for helping during the session and taking home washing. Please put your name on the roster if you can help with laundry. Our parent pockets are hanging in the foyer against the windows. Please check for notices after you drop off your child.

Thanks also to Cathy and Jenny for their hard work this term. Also to Hilda and Sue our volunteers.

All the best for a happy Easter and holiday break.

Please feel free to come and see me if you would like to discuss your child or the program.

P.S remember to bring your child's hat each session.

Thank-you,

Fiona, Cathy & Jenny

OUR 3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN





4 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and productive start to term one. We have been encouraging the children to develop a strong sense of their own identity, within the kindergarten program. By getting to know all their friends' names the children will begin to feel that they belong to their kindergarten community. Every day we will be using photos of our friends, so we can become more familiar with their names. We are also gradually teaching the children which group each child belongs to and therefore becoming familiar with who comes on which days.

The children have been exploring aspects of their identity through lots of role-play both at indoor and outdoor play time. They have also started to become familiar with the routines of the kindergarten and they can confidently explore their environments during play. The educators have been encouraging the children to play co-operatively and work collaboratively with their peers when they are involved in activities. The children are also encouraged to negotiate their rights in relation to others using their verbal skills, rather than physical responses.

All the children enjoyed the Soccer program. The children showed enthusiasm for participating in the physical play and soccer skills. We will continue to play soccer games at outdoor and indoor activity time.

Also, a big thank-you to Tess, our class rep, for organizing a wonderful catch up for all the parents. The children loved icing the cupcakes and eating them. It was good to hear that we had such a great attendance of parents for the morning tea.

We are looking forward to the chicken hatching, the eggs will be delivered on Tuesday March 13th and we will have the program for two weeks at kinder. We will have discussions about the chickens and their life cycles as well as discussions about other animals that lay eggs and their life cycles.

The children were also involved in Chinese New Year activities, whereby we learned about how firecrackers are lit up at this time of the year and how money is given in red paper envelopes for good fortune. We are now also looking forward to Easter festivities, such as the Easter egg hunt. We will have a few Easter egg hunts during the last week of term.

The visiting teddy, Coco the bear has begun his/her home visits-every child will get a turn! We are looking forward to seeing all the adventures he/she goes on with the children and their families. Next term we can look forward to the Responsible Pet Education Program, kinder photos and the waste and recycle talk and a dental talk.

Thank-You to Fiona, Cathy and Jenny for their tireless efforts and enthusiasm this term. In addition, it is so fantastic to have Surila Chandra and Sue McIntyre back as volunteers. Abida Khan is our lunchtime relief staff member. Please introduce yourselves to her.

Working as an effective team is fantastic for all the families and children at our kinder! Please feel free to make comments in our program books and you are always welcome to come and discuss your child's progress.

Best Wishes,

Rachel

OUR 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN





UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

EASTER RAFFLE

There will be an Easter Raffle this term. Monies raised will go towards the upgrade of our new playground and other maintenance expenses. Each family will receive a booklet with 15 tickets. The cost of each ticket will be \$2 OR 3 tickets for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn on the 23rd of March and winners will be notified by telephone to arrange pick-up of their prizes. Please ensure you return your tickets by the 20th March to be in the running for a winning ticket!



1st Prize: Easter Hamper + free swimming lessons & training sessions from Monash Aquatic + free entry to Lollipops Playland + a discount voucher Rush HQ

2nd Prize: Easter Hamper + free dance lessons from Kinderballet + discount vouchers to Lollipops Playland and Rush HQ

3rd Prize: Easter Hamper + discount vouchers to Lollipops Playland and Rush HQ

4th Prize: Easter gift pack + discount vouchers to Lollipops Playland and Rush HQ

KINDER COMMUNICATION

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE FLEXIBUZZ APP YET?

Previously known as Tiqbiz, FlexiBuzz is available for free download for Apple and Android phones and tablets.

It is an app designed to keep parents up to date with newsletters, notices, news and events. It also helps to reduce paper waste.



Please download the app and make use of this great communication tool.

1. Download app to your device
2. Once installed, follow the steps for registration / log in
3. Click on the 'Find' tab to search for our preschool
4. Click on grey tick beside the preschool – when the tick turns green you're connected
5. Click on the inbox icon to view messages

HIGHMOUNT IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Please "like" our page to keep up to date with news and events happening at the kinder!



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

MELBOURNE EASTER SHOW

The Melbourne Easter Show is indeed a show; it has so much to offer. There will be amusement rides, Easter egg hunts, an animal farm, a show bag pavilion, children's craft activities, monster trucks, circus play as well as appearances from Paw Patrol and Abby and Elmo – just to name a few!

The Melbourne Easter Show will be located at Cranbourne Turf Club, Grant St Cranbourne from 30th March to 2nd April 2018, open from 10am-9pm daily.

For more details, please follow the link to the website.

<http://www.melbourneeastershow.com.au/>



SCIENCEWORKS

Scienceworks has a new area dedicated to 0-5 year olds. It is a screen free space with lots of opportunity for children to test, tinker and problem solve. There is sensory play, construction play, and imaginative play for children to begin to develop their foundational science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills.

For more information include opening times and admission costs please visit the website.

<http://tothotornot.com/2017/12/ground-up/>



KIDS CORNER – PRINTABLE ACTIVITY



EASTER CRAFT ACTIVITY

You can do this very simple and fun activity with your child at home.

Begin by mixing up some paints. This is a great opportunity to learn about colours and experiment with your child to create different colours such as pastels.

Paint the palm and fingers of your child's hand (but not their thumb) to give the illusion of an egg shape. Place your child's hand on some paper to print the "easter egg".

Once the paint has dried, your child can paint their Easter egg and / or you can use any craft material you have at home to decorate.

Happy painting!



RECIPE CORNER

EASTER BUNNY PIKELETS

These cute little pikelets are basic to make yet quite fun and easy for toddlers and small children to assemble and decorate. Perfect for breakfast on Easter morning!

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1 cup (150g) self-raising flour
- 1 cup (250ml) buttermilk (or milk with a squeeze of lemon)
- 1 tbs caster sugar (optional)
- Zest of one orange (or cinnamon if you prefer)
- 2 tbs vegetable oil
- Honey flavoured yoghurt to decorate
- Blueberries
- 1 orange segmented



Method:

1. To make the pikelet batter, combine all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl and whisk until smooth. Set aside for half an hour.
2. Heat a little of the vegetable oil in a large non-stick saucepan and cook tablespoon-sized dollops of the batter at a time.
3. To serve, place one pikelet in the centre of a plate, cut another in half and arrange the halves as ears (see photo). Decorate with the yoghurt, blueberries and orange segments.

https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/easter-bunny-pikelets-3419?ref=collection_view%2Ceaster-baking-recipes



MONASH CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION



Understanding School Refusal Seminar

Does your child worry and feel anxious so that it impacts on their ability to attend school?

Would you like to gain a greater understanding and learn some helpful strategies to support them?

Children worry about many different things. Learning to cope with their anxiety, stress and fear can be really difficult, not only for them, but also for their parents and family. Developing a better understanding of why children refuse to go to school and some strategies to help understand and support them is empowering for families.

The Anxiety Recovery Centre of Victoria (ARCVic), a specialist state-wide mental health organisation, is passionate about supporting and educating parents so that they feel able to help their children.

Join our relaxed and informative seminar which includes:

- » Defining school refusal
- » How to approach it with my child?
- » The school's role
- » Parents' and family's role
- » What's helpful and unhelpful
- » Relaxation techniques with tips on building resilience
- » Where to go for more information and help and take-home material support.

DATE: Tuesday 6 March

TIME: 7pm-8.30pm

WHERE: Monash Civic Centre, Function Room, 293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley

Seminar is free. Bookings are essential as there are limited places.

Please contact:
Rebecca Giles ☎ 9518 3571
✉ Rebecca.Giles@monash.vic.gov.au

