



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

## NEWSLETTER TERM 4, 2019

### IMPORTANT DATES

**End of year parties/concerts:**  
(more information to come)

**3-year old group**  
Wednesday 18 December

**4-year old group**  
Thursday 19 December

**Clean up day- assistance requested**  
Friday 20 December

Please come any time between 9am and 2pm to help with some basic cleaning tasks.



### President's Report Term 4

What an eventful year it has been at Highmount!

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It was wonderful to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to see so many past and current families attend the official celebration. The opportunity to chat with staff, catch up with old friends and reminisce about the kinder years was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone that attended, and to our amazing parents who organised the day!

#### Thank you to Carol

We have experienced a lot of staffing changes this year and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding. A huge thank you to Carol on behalf of the Highmount community for stepping in and being such a wonderful teacher and team member over the past two terms.

#### Committee Acknowledgment

Sincere thanks to our 2019 Committee of Management for their contribution, support and commitment throughout the year. Running a kindergarten entails an enormous amount of work, especially behind the scenes. To have such a dedicated team in a volunteer capacity reflects our amazing kinder community and the wonderful families that are willing to help.

A huge thank you to Anastasia for her ongoing support and commitment to improving our operations, we could not do it without you!

#### 2020 Staff

Hilda has settled in well as assistant educator this term, and we are thrilled to announce her appointment as the three-year-old program leader in 2020!

We are also very excited to welcome Rebecca Tyson to our teaching team in 2020. Bec will be the four-year-old teacher and educational leader, overseeing both the three and four-year-old programs. Bec is very much looking forward to meeting our families at our AGM on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Jenny will continue as a co-educator alongside Hilda and Bec, sharing the co-educator role with Hilda for the four-year-old program.

### **Farewell to our 4 year-olds**

Good luck to our four-year-old children heading to school next year. I hope you have enjoyed your time at Highmount and have lots of happy memories!

### **Lou Skepper**

President

E: [highmount.president@gmail.com](mailto:highmount.president@gmail.com)

## **HIGHMOUNT COMMUNICATION**

Please “*Like*” our page and follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with news and events happening at the kinder! We would love as many parents as possible to leave a review too!



**Flexibuzz** is a free App available for Apple and Android phones and tablets. The App is designed to keep parents up to date with newsletters, notices, news and events.

Please download the App, register/Log in and “Find & Tick” Highmount Preschool to receive updates and reminders on your chosen device.



### **RESOLVING CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS**

Families are encouraged to direct any feedback, concerns, complaints or grievances to the **Nominated Supervisors**, Fiona Williams or Carol Sharp on **9802 2812**

Alternatively, you can contact the **Approved Provider**, Highmount Preschool Association Incorporated:

Name: Lou Skepper

Position: President

Email: [highmount.president@gmail.com](mailto:highmount.president@gmail.com)

Mobile: **0403 327 762**

**Or Contact:**

Department of Education and Training (DET)  
Quality, Assessment & Regulation Division (QARD)

Eastern Metropolitan Area  
North-Eastern Victorian Region

Level 4, 295 Springvale Road  
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

Ph: 1300 651 940

[emr.qar@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:emr.qar@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## 4 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear parents and carers,

Thanks to all our families who have supported us over the past term.

Here are some of the highlights:

The science for Pre-schoolers incursion was held on Thursday 15 August. We all got to make our own mini volcano and grow a seed. Science experiments continue in our weekly program. Today, we tried to make different sounds with varying amounts of liquids in glass jars.

On Monday 26 August, we held a Father's Day event. As gifts, the children made cards and completed a 'Dad survey' that went along with a photo. It was lovely to see the Dads enjoying spending some time (and a sausage!) at preschool.

On Thursday 12 September, we took a bus to Kew Traffic School where we had the chance to explore the layout, learn about road safety, bike helmets and then rode the bikes on the mini roads.

The following week, we held a Footy Day event. Children were encouraged to come dressed in their team colours. We made mini footballers and practised our handballing and kicking outside.

We have also had a Citrus Dance incursion on 7 November. Two dance instructors from Citrus Dance came with their equipment and music, ready to dance! We warmed up, balanced on stilts, went forwards and backwards through a tunnel and over a ladder before learning a dance routine!

On 12 November, we invited Joe from Rhythm Fun to come and teach us a bit of percussion music. The children (and adults) had a ball! We learned about rhythm and tempo and experimented with many varied percussion instruments before having a turn on the drum kit! We have also been enjoying group games together, such as 'The Shoe Shop'. Ask your child how to play at home.

Our cooking experiences have continued: traffic light biscuits; fruit kebabs; popcorn; lemonade; and fruit pizzas. Yum! We have also practiced our scissor skills by cutting leaves and grass, made hundreds of playdough cakes, painted with brushes, sponges, marbles, bubbles and stamps and dug dinosaur sized holes in the sandpit!

The 'Child of the Week' program has been continuing with many wonderful photos and stories shared. The children seem to be genuinely thrilled to be chosen as Child/children of the Week!

Moving ahead into the rest of Term 4 will see us all busy creating Christmas decorations and gifts, singing Christmas Carols and rehearsing for the end of year concert. We wish all the 4 year olds and their families the very best for the upcoming celebrations and for the year to come.

Carol, Fiona, Cathy, Jenny and Abida

The 4 YO Educator Team



## 3 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear parents and carers,

Term 4 has capped off a happy and productive year for our three-year-old groups!

Some of the year's program highlights include:

- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Dress Up Day
- Chinese New Year
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Diwali
- Multicultural day
- Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations
- Children's birthday celebrations

Activities during Term 4 have included:

- Art and craft experiences including: drawing and colour wash painting, chalk drawing, painting directly onto the easel and taking a print, painting with rollers; and cutting and pasting. These experiences have given the children an opportunity to express their feelings through art and experiment using different mediums. The children have drawn or painted things that are important to them, such as families, pets, planets and space, unicorns, rainbows and other interests. The children have also developed their fine motor skills and developed an understanding of cause and effect (such as colours created when mixing paints).

- Music experiences have included: singing songs together at group time such as "Row row row your boat", "Speckled Frogs" and "Boat on the sea", children dancing and playing drums along to music, learning to stop and freeze when the music stops, and playing various instruments while singing songs during outdoor play time.

These experiences develop the children's listening skills by noting changes in rhythm and beat, developing their social skills when playing cooperative musical games, learning to share instruments and improving their balance and co-ordination through dancing activities.

- Imaginative Play: The imaginative play props have been very popular with the children, including the fairy castle, circus, pirates, and playing "home", "shops" "office" and "restaurants" in the home corner. These activities have seen the children engage in social and emotional roles through cooperative play, learning to take turns and drawing on past information and experiences (such as "my dad works on the computer").

Other activities included:

- Board games, colour matching, jigsaw puzzles and number games
- Group stories and props – for example, "The Selfish Crocodile"
- Making grass heads
- Kinetic sand, playdough and clay experiences
- Using scissors in cutting and pasting activities
- Outdoor activities, including the sandpit, riding bikes, climbing outdoor equipment.

It has been rewarding to see the children develop their independence, confidence and maturity. I look forward to seeing their achievements in the four-year-old kinder program next year!

Thanks so much to our parents who support our program and given their time to help. Thanks to Fiona, Jenny, Cathy and Jessica for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also goes to our wonderful President Lou and the committee for their support and hard work.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and wonderful new year. Looking forward to seeing you next year!

Hilda Cousins – 3 and 4 YO Educator



# Meet the Teacher

## Bec Tyson



**Hello,** I'm Bec and I will be your child's 4-year-old Kindergarten teacher in 2020!

This will be my 7th year teaching Kindergarten and is my 15th year working in the field of education. I am deeply passionate about quality education for all children and aim to provide children with meaningful and engaging learning experiences and foster a life-long love of learning.

The Kindergarten year is a very special year for your child as they meet new challenges, go on adventures, experience new things and open their minds even further to the possibilities that life holds for them. With this in mind, I know how important my role is in ensuring Kindergarten is where they find their love of learning and experience learning as fun. I cannot wait to show them how capable they are and how amazing the world is when you are a seeker of knowledge and understanding.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all and I am excited for what this year holds at kindergarten.

### Professional Experience

From 2007-2010 I worked as an assistant educator in the Toddler Room and as a relief educator at Rosanna Village Child Care and Kindergarten. During these years spent in an early learning setting, I discovered my passion for education and learned many valuable skills and knowledge regarding early childhood education and care practices, pedagogies and philosophies.

In 2011 and 2012 I was a graduate classroom Teacher at Briar Hill Primary School. In this role I catered for students with diverse learning needs, developed positive relationships with students and parents, formed positive professional relationships with my colleagues and was an active member of the school community. Throughout my time at Briar Hill Primary School I was able to engage my students through a connected and integrated approach to learning whilst fostering the values and practices required for a supportive learning environment.

In 2013 I took on the role of Kindergarten Assistant at Rosanna Village Childcare and Kindergarten while completing a Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Teaching. This was a role that I greatly enjoyed and provided me with a first-hand opportunity to put my learning into action. At the end of 2013 I completed my Graduate Diploma with distinction and was offered the position of Kindergarten Teacher at Rosanna Village Child Care and Kindergarten. Since the beginning of 2014, I enjoyed working in a role that I love. In 2017 I was made Educational Leader, another role which I am deeply passionate about.

Next year, 2020 brings a wonderful new challenge for me as I take on the role of 4-year-old Kindergarten Teacher and Educational Leader at Highmount Preschool. I am very much looking forward to being a part of the Highmount community and providing a high-quality Kindergarten program for the children and families to enjoy. I know that in 2020 together we will learn, gain understanding, be challenged and inspired, experience adventure and wonder, and most importantly we will form connections and have fun!

### Who Am I?

When I am not teaching and caring for children, I spend time with my family. I have a daughter Phoebe, whom is 1 year and 8 months old. She is my greatest source of happiness and I love being her mum. My partner, Craig, and I enjoy spending time with Phoebe's grandparents, aunties, uncles and nieces. Craig and I also enjoy exploring the Yarra Valley, finding new natural spaces to take Phoebe, working in the garden and spending time with our friends. My own hobbies include painting, drawing, watching the cricket, finding and restoring mid century furniture, trying new restaurants in our amazing city and selling second-hand children's clothes to support sustainable living.

### My Education

- Bachelor of Arts with a major in History, completed at La Trobe University
- Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary), completed at Monash University
- Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education with Distinction, completed at RMIT University

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## STAY AND PLAY ROSTER

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Volunteering your time at the kinder can be a juggle. We know how hard it can be to fit into your busy schedules, particularly if you have work commitments or younger children. For your child, it is a special opportunity to share their experiences at kinder with you, and for you to watch your child interact with their peers.

*"Parents and families play an important role in supporting their child's education. Research has shown that when schools and families work together, children do better, stay in school longer, are more engaged with their school work, go to school more regularly, behave better, and have better social skills. Parent engagement also results in longer term economic, social and emotional benefits."* – [www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.gov.au)

The educators appreciate any time you can spare. Even an hour or two to read stories, play games and interact with the children is a great help to the teaching staff.

**The children always take great pride in having a family member there!**

***Please sign up on the roster which is located on the window above the sign in book.***



## SICK CHILDREN

Children should only come to kinder if they are well enough to participate in activities. Please keep your child at home if he/she is not well, even if he/she wants to come to preschool, to avoid spreading illness.

**If your child requires paracetamol or ibuprofen, they should not be attending the kinder.**

If your child is going to be absent from kindergarten due to illness or has an infectious disease, please notify the educators.

If your child has gastro they need to be symptom free for at least 24 hours.

Please encourage frequent handwashing and cough/sneezing etiquette to avoid spreading infection.

## FOOD AND ALLERGIES

We aim to be a nut free kinder.

Please do not send foods that contain nuts (including Nutella), to minimise the risk to children who suffer anaphylaxis and allergies.

The kindergarten also encourages the use of reusable containers to minimise rubbish.

Snack suggestions:

- Fruit or vegetables -prepared the way your child prefers, e.g. apples carrots, celery sticks, etc.
- Biscuits and cheese.
- Sandwiches, wraps, rice or noodles
- Water or milk to drink (no sugary drinks such as juice or cordial)

For healthy lunch box inspiration visit:

<http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/national/resource/school-lunchbox-ideas>



## Maternal and Child Health service

**Has your child had their 3.5 - 4 yr health and development check?**

To book, call 9518 3662 (Mon – Fri)  
[www.monash.vic.gov.au/mch](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/mch)





Mount Waverley North Primary School  
 Aspire • Believe • Achieve



# ENROL NOW FOR 2020

School Tours every Tuesday at 9:30am  
 Pre-School Playgroup, Fridays 10 - 12pm  
 By Appointment Only

Enquiries: 9802 3168 | [www.mtwavnth.vic.edu.au](http://www.mtwavnth.vic.edu.au)  
 Marcus Avenue, Mount Waverley

### Do we have the latest information about your child's immunisation?

**If your child has recently received a vaccination, then our records may be out of date.**

It is important for our service to know enrolled children's immunisation status.

In the event of a disease outbreak, this allows us to quickly identify children who may be at risk of infection and take any protective action required.

### Do we have an Immunisation History Statement showing your child's most recent vaccinations?

If not, please provide us with an up to date statement from the Australian Immunisation Register:

- use your Medicare online account through myGov or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app to access your child's statement
- visit a Medicare service centre or call 1800 653 809 to request a statement be posted to you.

**Receive reminders when vaccinations are due** using your mobile device. Download the VaxOnTime Victoria app available for iOS and Android devices.

**To view the immunisation schedule or to find out more about immunisation** search your topic of interest on [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

melissa martin

PHOTOGRAPHY

*for people who believe in making moments last*

[www.melissamartinphotography.com](http://www.melissamartinphotography.com)

Mount Waverley | Melbourne

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There is a total of 38 policies covering all mandatory and best practice areas related to the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (NQF). These policies have been developed based upon information provided by the national peak body Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA) to meet legislative, regulatory and funding requirements.

Highmount Preschool values and encourages family input into decision making and strives to draw upon this input to continuously improve the quality of our preschool.

We are pleased to invite you to view the preschool's policies at <http://highmountpreschool.org.au/policies/> especially those that are in draft form. Please provide any feedback via the email address [highmount.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:highmount.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Hard copies of the policies can be provided upon request.

Further information on the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood and Care (NQF) is also available on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website via [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)



### Quality Improvement Plan & Suggestion Box

Our QIP is located on the welcome area notice board. We invite families to have a look through our current goals and provide feedback and ideas via our suggestion box. Your comments and opinions are valued and will be confidential and anonymous if you wish.

## Parent Resources



Did you know we have a Parent Resource folder in the welcome area?

Information and Resources for your perusal include:

- Local Community Resources eg. Monash Link
- Developmental Milestones & The National Quality Standards
- Belonging, Being and Becoming & the Early Years Learning Framework
- Nutrition, Child Health and Development
- School readiness
- Literacy and numeracy tips and much more!

We also have a new **Community Library shelf** for our kinder families to explore!