



HIGHMOUNT NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES:

Term 2 finishes Friday 26th June

Term 3 begins Monday 13th July

SCHOOL CLOSURES:

Term 2

Monday, 8th June – Queen's
Birthday
Public Holiday

School Holidays

Saturday, 27th June – Sunday, 12th
July

Term 3

School Holidays

Saturday, 19th September –
Sunday, 4th October

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Virtual Dance Party

Wednesday, 8th July

Bake Off Competition

Opens Monday, 13th July and
closes Tuesday, 28th July

Science Incursion

Monday 17th August 2020
10:00am.

Little World Photography

Week commencing 17th August –
date to be confirmed.

President's Report

Dear Highmount Families,

What a year 2020 is shaping up to be!

I'd like to thank all our families for their patience and understanding during the past couple of months, and our wonderful educators who have worked so hard to provide both face-to-face and home learning for the children.

Storypark has been an amazing tool for our educators and families during this time, allowing much needed two-way communication and information sharing.

Kinder is beginning to resemble something like normal as the weeks go by, with more children returning, and some exciting events being planned.

Our committee is busy planning some online events for families, including a virtual dance party and a bake off 😊. Details will be provided in the coming weeks, so make sure you dust off your dancing shoes, and think of something amazing to bake!

Due to the current circumstances, a term two working bee will not be held. At this stage we are looking at possible dates for early in term three.

We have received COVID-19 government funding to provide support in delivering our programs, and also to assist with additional cleaning costs. Strict procedures are in place to ensure we maintain a safe environment, and this includes additional cleaning and sanitizing.

Thank you again to our community for your support, and to our families that are still overseas, I hope you make it safely home soon.

Kind Regards,

Lou Skepper

President

highmount.president@gmail.com

HIGHMOUNT COMMUNICATION

Please “Like” our page and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) 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 on [Google Review](#) too!



[Story Park](#) 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 Highmount Preschool to receive updates and reminders on your chosen device.



Sun Protection

The Cancer Council of Victoria recommends sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher. Average UV levels in Victoria are three or higher from mid-August until the end of April.

Please ensure that a hat is packed in your child's school bag in Term 1.

We also suggest that you apply sunscreen on your child at home before the kindergarten session on high UV level days.

UV levels can be checked on the Highmount Preschool website:

www.highmountpreschool.org.au

Highmount Preschool is committed to:

- promoting sun protection strategies for children, families, staff and visitors to minimise the harmful effects of over exposure to the sun's UV radiation
- ensuring that curriculum planning will minimise over exposure to the sun's UV radiation and promote an awareness of sun protection and sun safe strategies
- providing information to children, staff, volunteers, parents/guardians and others at the service about the harmful effects of exposure to the sun's UV radiation.

3 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents,

Well, what an interesting and unusual Term 2 we have had! This term has been a steep learning curve for me and I'm sure for most of you too!

For the majority of the term, the 3YO group have had one child attend kinder. During the past two weeks, we have seen the return of the majority of the 3YO group. It's been wonderful to see the children again and they seem really happy and excited to be back at kindergarten! I've loved seeing their beautiful faces back at kinder!

The children have re-connected with each other and easily settled back into routines, which is a sign of their growing emotional resilience. For the remainder of Term 2 we will continue to support the children in the following areas:

- Encouraging resilience and wellbeing
- Listening
- Sharing and respect for each other
- Participating in group activities
- Asserting themselves and working through conflicts
- Making new friends and extending their social groups
- Having fun!

Thanks to all the parents for participating in Storypark. It's a great way to keep in touch and share stories and activities. During isolation, it's been wonderful to receive feedback and photos of the children and their activities at home.

A big thank you to Bec and Jenny for their continued support and wonderful ideas and to Lou and the Committee for all their support.

Reminder – Given the colder weather is approaching, please remember to bring hats and coats, and as always, a healthy snack pack!

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

Thank-you,

Hilda Cousins – 3-year-old Activity Leader

4 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents,

The 4YO Kindergarten children have been kicking goals this Term, as they continue to make significant progress and achievements in their learning and development. At the start of Term 2 the children were showing a keen interest in Numeracy based learning and play experiences. They developed their understanding of number and engaged with wider mathematical concepts through play and organised group learning experiences. The children demonstrated that they are becoming confident and highly capable learners who are able to take on challenges and take risks in their learning.

The children have now turned their focus to developing their skill, knowledge and confidence as literacy users. We have started a 'letter of the week' learning focus, which the children are really enjoying. As a result of this ongoing learning experience we have seen a huge amount of development in the children's ability to identify letters and their knowledge of letter-sound relationships, word knowledge, pre-reading skills/beginning reading skills, print awareness and mark making/writing skills. We are incredibly proud of them!

Our literacy focus is not limited to a thematic 'letter of the week' learning approach. Instead it is an integrated approach to learning that incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, home languages, science, art, cooking, construction, mark making, dramatic play, movement, sensory experience, imaginative play, ICT and multi-modal story-telling as literacy. We recognise language and communication in all of their forms.

The children have also developed their cultural competence and actively participated in our service-wide journey of reconciliation by acknowledging and celebrating National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. The open, interested and respectful manner in which they have engaged with learning about reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures provided a glimpse of how much better our future could be if we continue to work towards a nation-wide view that recognises and respects the histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as part of our shared national story and identity.

In the coming weeks we have a few exciting experiences taking place, these include:

- Pen-pal program
- Weekly kindergarten library experience
- Crazy Hair Day
- Weekly science experiments facilitated by Jenny
- Weekly cooking experience facilitated by Bec
-

We are looking forward to a fun filled finish to the Term!

Thank-you,

Rebecca Tyson – 4-year-old Activity Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

VIRTUAL DANCE PARTY!



Highmount Preschool's Committee of Management would like to invite you and your family for a virtual dance party during the school holiday period.

Please see details below.

DATE : 8 July 2020

TIME: 2.00pm

RSVP: 22 June 2020

To join the Highmount community for the exciting virtual evening there will be a \$8.00 joining fee.

We will be providing party bags included in the cost for this virtual evening, which you can pick up from the preschool the last week of Term 2. However if you are unable to pick up arrangements can be made to drop this to you.



WE ARE HAVING A BAKE OFF!

This is one competition you won't want to miss!!!

See yourself as a bit of a baker?

Well grab your wooden spoon, this is the competition for you. Show us your best creation to win a prize!



Participants may enter the competition upon paying a \$5 joining fee.

The bake off theme is RAINBOW!

Simply bake and share a picture of your masterpiece and we'll put you in the draw.

All masterpieces will be displayed on our social media and our wonderful educators at Highmount preschool will be the judges.

Good luck and happy baking!

Competition opens 13 July 2020 and closes 28 July 2020.



STAY AND PLAY ROSTER

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

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.

FOOD ALLERGIES

We aim to be a nut free kinder.

Please do not send foods that contain nuts (including Nutella), to minimize 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)



KELLY SPORTS

4YO sports incursions with Kelly Sports will start in Term 3 with sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

This year Highmount Preschool has engaged the services of Kelly Sports! More information is available through this link -

<https://www.kellysports.com.au/public/schools/pre-school-programmes>

Parent information and registration forms will be circulated before this date.

SIGN IN BOOK

When your child is attending their kindergarten session the person bringing your child will need to sign the attendance book with the time you arrived, your name and the name of the person, who will collect your child.

When collecting your child, the person collecting your child must sign the book again and record the time the child is being signed out.

This is a requirement of the Department of Education and Training.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

Highmount's responsibility for a child within the kinder grounds 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 and guardians are required to wait with their children on the veranda until the teacher is ready to receive the children.

Parents/guardians arriving late will be reminded of the kinder's drop-off/collection policy which can be found in the handbook. Late collection is an inconvenience to staff and can cause distress for children.

Please do not allow your children to stand on the gate when entering and leaving the kinder. It puts stress on the hinges and prevents the gate from closing properly. Thank you for your co-operation.

RESOLVING CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

Families are encouraged to direct any feedback, concerns, complaints or grievances to the **Nominated Supervisor**

Rebecca Tyson on **9802 2812**

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

Name: Lou Skepper

Position: President

Email: 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

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?

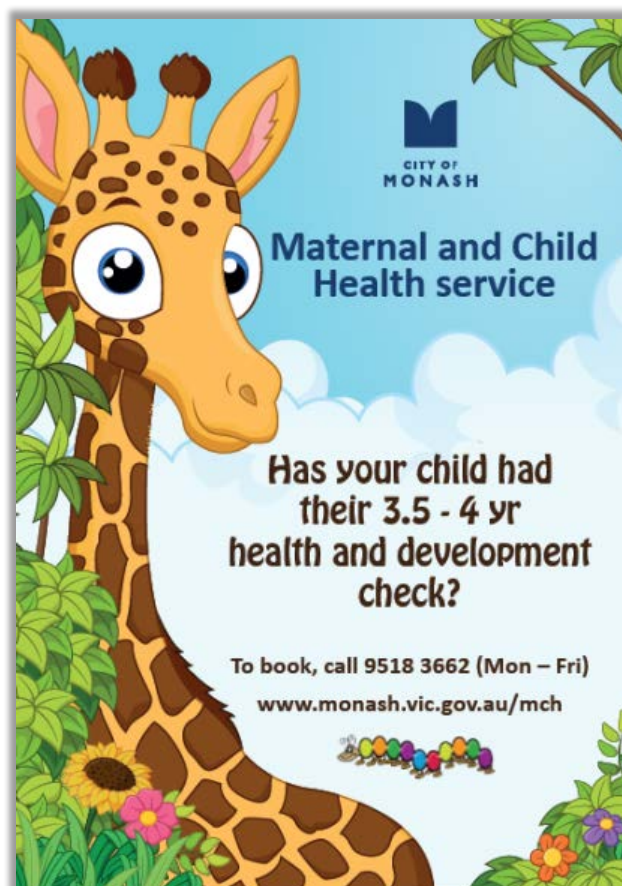
If not, please provide us with an up to date statement from the Australian Immunisation Register:

- 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



IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

CITY OF
MONASH

Help is Available

There are a variety of services available in our community to help you and your family manage this challenging time.

www.monash.vic.gov.au/community-information

COUNCIL SERVICES

Monash Customer Service

☎ 9518 3555

✉ mail@monash.vic.gov.au

💬 www.monash.vic.gov.au (webchat)

Waste Transfer Station

7:30am-3pm (7 days)

Monash Youth Services (Remote Access)

☎ 9518 3900

✉ YRCR@monash.vic.gov.au

Monash Community Support

☎ 9518 3555

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Mobile App



Download the "Coronavirus Australia" government app in the Apple App Store or Google Play

WhatsApp

Join the Federal Government's WhatsApp channel on iOS or Android.

🌐 www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp and then follow the instructions.

FINANCIAL HELP

Australian Taxation Office

☎ 13 28 65 🌐 www.ato.gov.au

Centrelink

🌐 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

Money Smart ☎ 1300 300 630

🌐 www.moneysmart.gov.au

Eastern Financial Counselling Service (Anglicare)

☎ 9896 6322 ✉ efcp@anglicare.org.au

National Debt Help Line

🌐 www.ndh.org.au

HEALTH SERVICES

Emergency Number ☎ 000 Police, Fire, Ambulance

Coronavirus Hotline ☎ 1800 675 398

Nurse on Call ☎ 1300 606 024 (24 hours)

FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICES

Maternal and Child Health Advisory Line

☎ 13 22 29 (24 hours)

MCH App free from app stores for child health tips and advice on your phone.

1800RESPECT

☎ 1800 737 732

National sexual assault, domestic family violence counselling service.

Kids Helpline

☎ 1800 551 800

(24 hours)

🌐 www.kidshelpline.com.au

Free phone & online counselling for kids, teens, young adults, parents and carers.

DirectLine

☎ 1800 888 236

(24 Hours)

Alcohol and drug counselling and referral.

Lifeline

☎ 13 11 14 (24 hours)

Crisis support and suicide prevention.

Elder Abuse Helpline

☎ 1300 368 821

Parentline

☎ 13 22 89

(8am-midnight)

Counselling and support for parents and carers every day of the year, including public holidays.

Beyond Blue Support Service

☎ 1300 22 4636

Mental health support services.

Headspace

☎ 1800 650 890

Youth mental health service for 12-25 year olds.

Suicide Support Line

☎ 1300 651 251

MensLine Australia

☎ 1300 789 978

Telephone & online counselling service for men.

Wavecare Counselling

☎ 9560 6722

Telehealth consultation & counselling available for referred clients.

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND SUPPORT

Victorian Government Emergency Relief

☎ 1800 657 398

🌐 www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#emergency-relief-packages

Monash Oakleigh Community Support and Information Service

25 Downing St, Oakleigh
(Mon, Wed & Fridays: 10am-1pm)
☎ 9568 4533

✉ admin@mocsis.org.au

🌐 www.mocsis.org.au

Waverley Community Information and Support Service

☎ 9807 9844 or 9807 5996

✉ wavcis@bigpond.com

🌐 www.monashwaverleycis.org.au

Leave a phone message and one of the volunteers will call back as soon as possible.

CRISIS HOUSING

If you need further advice or assistance, contact Bill Kendall at Monash Council on

☎ 0412 787 850 ✉ bill.kendall@monash.vic.gov.au

Crisis After Hours ☎ 1800 825 955

During business hours this number will direct the appropriate housing service (determined by location).

Uniting Harrison (Suburb: Mulgrave)
321 Ferntree Gully Rd, Mount Waverley
☎ 1300 277 478

Community Housing Limited (Suburbs: Glen Waverley, Wheelers Hill & Burwood)
19-23 Prospect St, Box Hill ☎ 1300 245 468

Salvo Care (Remaining Monash Suburbs)
317 High St, Kew ☎ 9853 5680

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

If you, or someone you know, is at risk of losing their current tenancy, the Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP) has funding which can support at-risk households to sustain affordable and appropriate housing in the private rental market. PRAP funding can be applied for through Salvo Care or Uniting Harrisons.

Salvo Care ☎ 9853 5680 **Uniting Harrisons** ☎ 1300 277 478

USEFUL CONTACTS

Health Services

Monash Health – COVID-19 Screening Clinic

☎ 1800 675 398

🌐 monashhealth.org/patients-visitors/coronavirus#screening-clinics

Check website for further instructions before attending the clinic.

Refugee Health & Wellbeing Clinic

Monash Health - Dandenong

☎ 9792 8100

Health clinic for asylum seeker and refugee patients who require non-urgent medical care.

Carers Victoria

☎ 1800 514 845 🌐 www.carersvictoria.org.au

Provides advice or assistance to carers.

Disability Information Helpline

☎ 1800 643 787

Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun: 9am-7pm,
Not available public holidays.

Working for Victoria initiative

🌐 www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria

Links for more information for businesses

Australian Government:

- 🌐 www.business.vic.gov.au and search for the information you need.
- 🌐 www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp and then follow the instructions.

Victorian Government:

- 🌐 www.business.gov.au and search for the information you need
- 🌐 www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19

City of Monash

- 🌐 www.monash.vic.gov.au/business-resident-support
- 🌐 www.monash.vic.gov.au/Hardship-Policy

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There are 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 the preschool.

We are pleased to invite you to view the preschool's policies at <http://highmountpreschool.org.au/policies/> particularly those that are in draft form and provide any feedback via email highmount.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Hard copies of the policies can be made available 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

GREAT IDEAS START HERE...

Highmount Preschool continuously strives to improve our service and program.

We encourage parental involvement and input.

We welcome all comments, suggestions and concerns.

Feedback can be provided anonymously and will be treated with confidentiality and respect.

The Suggestion Box is in our welcome area next to the Attendance Book.