

HIGHMOUNT PRESCHOOL



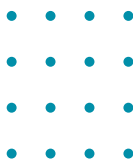
NEWSLETTER, TERM 1, 2024



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“For a small child there is no division between playing and learning; between the things he or she does ‘just for fun’ and things that are ‘educational.’ The child learns while living and any part of living that is enjoyable is also play.”

Penelope Leach



Upcoming Events /Key Dates

Term Dates – 2024

Term 1 Concludes - Thursday 28th March

School Holidays – Friday 29th March – Sunday 14th April, 2024

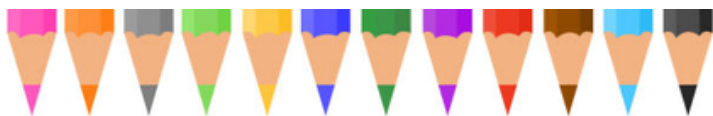
Term 2 Monday 15th April to Friday 28th June (11 weeks)

School Holidays – Saturday 29th June – Sunday 14th July, 2024

Term 3 Monday 15th July to Friday 20th September (10 weeks)

School Holidays – Saturday 21st September – Sunday 6th October, 2024

Term 4 Monday 7th October to Thursday 19th December (10 weeks)



Wishing everyone a safe,
happy and relaxing holiday break.

We look forward to seeing everyone return
refreshed and ready for a busy and exciting
Term 2.



Public Holidays – Victoria 2024

Friday 29th March - Good Friday

Saturday 30th March - Easter Saturday

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

Monday 1st April - Easter Monday

Thursday 25th April - Anzac Day

Monday 10th June - King's Birthday

Friday 27th September - AFL Grand Final

Tuesday 5th November - Melbourne Cup

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December - Boxing Day



IMPORTANT INFORMATION & NOTICES



Capturing the Spirit of Childhood



little world PHOTOGRAPHY

Highmount Preschool has invited Little World Photography to take our preschool photos for the 2024 school year.

Group and individual photos will be taken week commencing Monday 22nd April 2024.

Please note that Little World Photography operates using a web-based system to view and purchase photos, therefore registration via email is required. An email regarding with information on how to register, price list etc. was issued to families on 21st March 2024.

If you have any queries at all, please contact Little World Photography directly via email info@littleworldphotography.com.au

Please be assured the photographers have a Working with Children Check (WWCC) and will follow all kindergarten guidelines to ensure the wellbeing of children and staff.

WORKING BEE



A HUGE THANK YOU... to all who attended our first working bee of the year.
We had an absolutely fantastic turn out with over 20 helpers!

A big shout out to all the dads on the sand and bark, they smashed it out in record time.
Both the sandpit and playground looked fresh and tidy for the commencement of the new school year.

The CoM and staff are deeply grateful and we look forward to seeing many more volunteers at the next working bee!



Message from the President

It's hard to believe that Term 1 is almost complete!

As I reflect on my first term as President at Highmount I would firstly like to acknowledge our CoM for 2024. Their ability and enthusiasm to dive deep into their roles from day one has allowed the kinder to shine. I feel so very supported with them alongside me and have great pride in informing our community that we are supported by their knowledge and expertise.

Throughout the term I have made a conscious effort to work onsite to gain a deep understanding into how Highmount operates. Because of this I have had the pleasure of watching the children settle and grow into their learning environment. The relationships made between educators and children are a delight to watch, and a true testament of what we pride ourselves on here at Highmount.

This term has been a very busy one, that began with our first working bee. I would like to personally thank each and every volunteer that made the effort to come and help out. What a difference many hands can make, it was so wonderful to be able to begin the year with a playground that reflected the quality our children deserve.

We have been so very lucky to provide some exciting incursions this term to both the 3yo and 4yo programme. These rich learning experiences have been excellent opportunities for us to learn and bond with each other, centered upon organic lines of inquiry that the children are passionate about.

Our annual Bunnings BBQ was a fantastic success, in which we raised \$1391.10. To the many parents that dedicated their time on a Sunday, it would not have been successful without you! As a community kinder we rely heavily on the support of our community to support us. It was a great day shared by all making relationships and forging connections.

As we take a short break and connect with family over the holiday period, I encourage you all to bask in the presence of each other's company, have fun and surrender to the moments of silliness.

I look forward to the joy that Term 2 will bring us.

Sophie Swan
President

Thank You



A **MASSIVE** thank you to all who helped, donated and attended our Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 17th March in Notting Hill.

Our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser is our biggest fundraising event of the year and your time, presence and contribution towards our BBQ has made it a success.

We are thrilled to announce that we made a profit of **\$1391.11** which will go towards educational resources fund for our service.



Banana Productions specialises in digital garment decoration and promotional product branding. We offer Trade Services and provide a total solution to add value to your existing products. The services we provide include Design, Pre-Press, Digital Transfer Printing, Heat pressing and Embroidery.

A special acknowledgement to Banana Productions for designing and supplying these fabulous aprons and making us look super cool while promoting our kindergarten.

Contact Details

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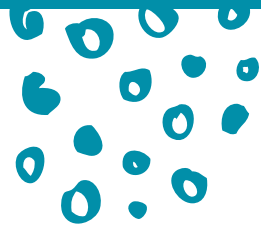
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3YO Report

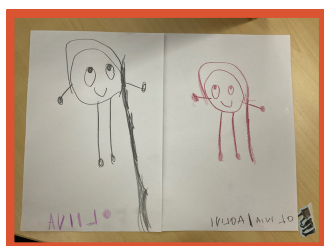


What a wonderful start to 3YO kindergarten at Highmount Preschool!

We are so happy to see the children settling into the kindergarten routine and environment. We commenced the school year with shortened sessions for the first two weeks which proved effective as some children had never attended any forms of care before.

Each child is a unique individual and the educators and myself are supporting and empowering the children to follow their own interests, to play, learn, grow and develop at their own pace.

Our focus in Term 1 has been to establish secure and trusting relationships and to promote social and emotional wellbeing. They have gradually developed their sense of belonging through accessing their schoolbags, lunch boxes, drink bottles whenever required, and to confidently engage in kindergarten activities.



Each child is a unique individual and has their own interpretation of their own identity.

To further support and to build strong, trusting relationships, and to acknowledge each child's unique identity, children had the opportunity to draw their self-portrait. The activity involved looking at themselves in the mirror and to draw themselves by using different colours, shapes, lines.

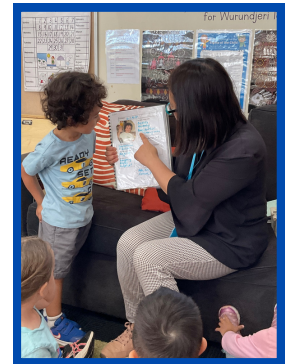


We also celebrated Lunar New Year through books, discussions and artwork to show an appreciation for and curiosity about the world, its cultures and the diversity of its people.



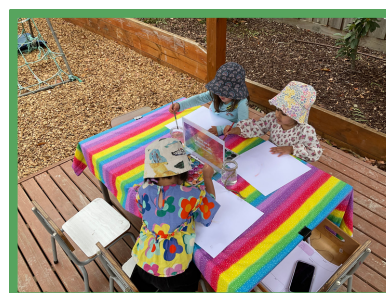
To promote children's communication skills, children have been given the opportunity to share their **'All about me'** form with the group. They children were happy and enthusiastic to share their interests and skills with the kindergarten group.

Water play has been very popular in both the indoor and outdoor environments. Children have been experimenting with everyday objects in the water tub, washing babies and measuring. To further extend children's learning we set up a science experiment asking children to investigate and make predictions on whether an object will float or sink which promoted conversation and discussion amongst themselves and educators.



To extend the children's interest in cooking, we provided real cooking experiences for the children. Children have the opportunity to discuss different foods, textures and smells and what kind of food they like and dislike.

Following individual and group's interests in colours, we set up watercolour painting for the children to experiment with colour mixing and to discuss the shades of different colours.





4YO Report



Throughout Term 1, the Silver Banksia children have been thriving in their learning and development as they make sense of the world and themselves through relationships and play. Through real and imagined cooking experiences, engaging with texts, and sharing our own cultural and family experiences of food we have discovered how food brings people together in celebration, connection, and shared rituals and traditions. This has led us to planning a special 4YO community event where the children will plan and deliver a social event based around the idea of coming together with our parents/carers around 'our table'. So far, the children have designed the table settings and created a menu that includes fruit skewers, sausages, and dip and veggies.



By supporting and encouraging children to plan all aspects of the event and implement it, we are hoping to strengthen their sense of agency and promote a positive sense of self as they see themselves as capable individuals. This event will be taking place at 1:30 pm, March 28th. It will be a wonderful opportunity to come together for connection, community, and celebration. We cannot wait to share this special event with our community of families.

Recently we are also celebrated Harmony Week by inviting the children to wear a touch of orange or traditional cultural dress to recognise and honour our culturally diverse and unique community that makes Highmount Preschool so special. Throughout the day we shared stories, songs, and food from diverse cultures as we celebrated the value and beauty of diversity. Harmony Day also offered us a meaningful context to introduce our new approach Acknowledging Country. Our Acknowledgement of Country will now change each day and children and teachers will be invited to lead the Acknowledgement so that it remains authentic, meaningful, and relevant to our community. To introduce this new approach to the children I used 3 fallen gum leaves, a fallen piece of bark from a manna gum, and a fallen flower from a flowering gum to represent connection to country and represent the beauty of diversity through the offerings of a gum tree. Our amazing continent boasts between 700 and 800 eucalypt species, making the gum tree the perfect symbol of diversity and Country.

Another wonderful outcome of the day came from gold coin donations from our Silver Banksia families. We raised \$26 which will be used to purchase a new anti-bias picture book. The children are currently in the process of selecting the text themselves. This is being achieved through looking at possible books that they think would be best for community and then taking a democratic vote to make the final decision. We will also invite the children to think critically about the resource they have chosen and why they think it will benefit our community. It is here that we can touch on social justice, fairness, equity and social responsibility.

**HARMONY
WEEK**

As they have engaged in this process the children have worked with mathematical concepts and strengthened their emerging numeracy skills and knowledge as they counted the money and worked out what can be purchased with the money raised. This real-life opportunity to learn about money has made learning more meaningful and authentic and supported the children to take on a role of responsibility.

Throughout the Term, construction play has provided a meaningful context in which to develop key dispositions and skills for learning such as cooperation, creativity, curiosity, experimentation, and persistence. Recently, the children have engaged in a diverse range of construction experiences from loose parts play to Duplo construction and big block play. Loose parts play invited the children to imagine, experiment and create with a wide variety of resources. String has provided a valuable complication to the construction process, and invited the children to think creatively and dynamically, while also challenging their fine motor skills. Looking ahead to next Term, we have asked our parent/carer group to support us with a possible carpentry or construction for a woodworking project. We believe it would provide a valuable and meaningful learning experience to have them collaborate on a project using real tools and materials.

Art mediums and mark making experiences continue to inspire the children to express themselves and communicate their ideas, understandings, and narratives. Whether they are creating an information text about volcanoes or experimenting with rollers and sponges, multimodal communication continues to occur, and skills and dispositions are being cultivated and strengthened. Perhaps the most important thing that we are seeing is the children grow in confidence and efficacy as communicators and strengthening their sense of identity as they explore and expand their self-concept through art mediums and storytelling.

With deepest gratitude,
Bec, Hilda, Stephanie and Maddi

We have continued to explore and investigate the natural world! From the discovery of a possum sitting outside our possum box and a bird's nest in one of our tall trees, to caring for our two snails (Skye and Chase), our praying mantis (Cupcake), and our spiny leaf insect (Rosie). These experiences helped us to learn about the world around us, explore local biodiversity, and develop our sense of kinship for the natural world. To continue to support the children to learn in, with, for, about and from nature, we are purchasing a butterfly hatching kit with two chrysalises and also a hooded katydid and a male spiny leaf insect. These will help the children to learn about biodiversity and lifecycles and develop a sense of responsibility as we learn to care for these insects.

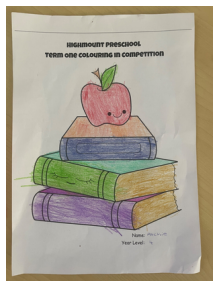
It has been a fruitful and fun first Term spent learning alongside one another and we cannot wait to see what wonderful happenings and opportunities that Term 2 has in store for us.



Colouring Competition

Congratulations to the winners of our colouring in competition:

- 1st - Archie Jayawardane
- 2nd - Alexa Chung
- 3rd - Dennis Gao



We had so many fantastic entries, the walls of kinder looked so colourful and bright and the children gained much delight and pride in seeing their works of art displayed across the classroom walls.

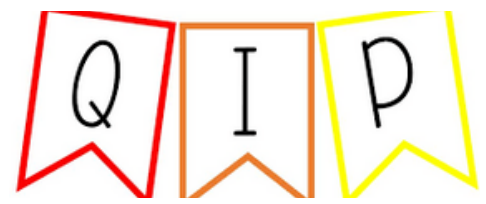
Thank you to Miss Bec, our competition judge, she had a very hard task on her hands.

And thank you to all who entered, what a successful start to our first fundraiser for the year.

"We wanted to express our gratitude for organizing the coloring competition, which has been a wonderful opportunity for our son, Archie, to express his creativity. While we're thrilled he won first place, we believe that participation is more important than winning. We want to congratulate all the participants, including Alexa and Dennis, for their fantastic efforts. Each child's unique artwork deserves recognition, and we hope they continue to explore their artistic talents with enthusiasm. Thank you for fostering an environment where every child's creativity is celebrated." {Archie's Dad}

ADVERTISEMENTS

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Family Voice

What is the Highmount Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)?

The National Regulations require approved services such as Highmount Preschool to have a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The aim of the QIP is to help the staff and educators self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care and to plan future improvements. The QIP also helps the regulatory authorities with their assessment of the service. This document helps the educators and staff at the service to highlight their strengths and recognise the areas at their service which need improvement.

Have a read if you like...

The QIP is always available to our community, please contact the office if you would like a copy. As part of sharing our plan for improvement we will be updating our community on our goals and progress via our Newsletter each term.

What do you think we do well and how can we improve?

We are always looking to improve our service. We welcome feedback from parents and the school community as we endeavour to be a program that is flexible and responds to the needs of the children and families at the service.