

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Highmount Families,

Wow, I cannot believe the end of the year is already upon us! It has been a busy year at Highmount with many achievements.

Following a lengthy process, we have exited Bestchance kindergarten cluster after 13 years. As of October 16th, Highmount is now a stand-alone, community-run kindergarten, just as it was when it first opened in 1965.

With the approval of the Education Department, Highmount is now an independently run kindergarten managed by our Committee and Administration Manager, with all staff remaining employed.

A big focus this year has been raising funds to build the new playground. Through generous donations and fundraising activities, we have secured \$80,000 towards the project. With a further \$40,000 to secure, at this stage the refurbishment will take place at the end of term 1, 2018.

I would like to thank our 2017 Committee for their dedication, hard work and support throughout the year to help manage and improve our kinder. We appreciate the high level of parent support we receive at Highmount and I am so pleased that many of our Committee members are continuing for another year. If anyone is interested in joining the 2018 Committee, please let me know.

On behalf of the Highmount Committee, I would like to wish our four-year-old groups the best of luck for school next year. I hope the kinder years have been fun!

Finally, please come along to our end of year party on December 1st to celebrate a great year!

Lou Skepper

President

highmount.president@gmail.com



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Congratulations to the winners of our Term 3 Raffle...

1st Prize: Angus - 1 term of swimming lessons at Just Swimming Syndal

2nd Prize: Alan - Family Pass for Puffing Billy Railway

3rd Prize: Aaron - 3 Mini Maestros lessons

4th Prize: Jasmine - Holiday Program at Waverley Gymnastics

5th Prize: Josephine - \$50 voucher at Citrus Dance

Thank you to all our families for your support. We raised \$614 towards our new playground!



Our Bunnings and Woolworths BBQ fundraisers were a great success. We made a net profit of \$1957.10 that will go towards our new playground! A big thankyou to families who made donations and to those parents who volunteered their valuable time to help on the day of each BBQ. We could not have done it without your support!

Lastly, our Term 4 Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser is well underway. Please remember to return all money and all remaining chocolates by Friday 17th November.



KINDER DUTY – VISITOR’S BOOK

Don’t forget to put your name down for kinder duty, laundry and minding the budgie over the weekends. Every little bit helps!

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.

LET’S KEEP OUR KINDER NUT FREE



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. Thank you!

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 left 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.



ROAD SAFETY

Please ensure your children always get in and out of the car through the ‘safety door’.

This is the rear kerb side door of the car.

Never allow children to get out of the car on the traffic side.

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.

THE WARMER WEATHER IS HERE!

Reminder regarding Hats and Sunscreen

We are a SunSmart Kindergarten so during 1st September to 30th April we ask that you provide a sun hat. If a child does not bring a suitable sun hat then the Preschool will implement a 'no hat, no outside play' practice. We suggest that you apply sunscreen for your child at home before Kindergarten sessions.



3 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Families,

We have enjoyed a happy and productive year with our three-year-old groups. Some of our program highlights included -

- Teddy bears picnic
- Dress up day
- Multicultural day with our family
- Footy day
- Parent morning teas
- Sports Day
- Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations
- Diwali
- Chinese New Year

Our play based approach to learning and the early years framework, has developed and extended the children in the following areas

- Language and music skills
- Cognitive and problem solving skills
- Emotional and social development
- Fine and gross motor skills

The children are becoming more independent and mature. It is wonderful to be part of their progress and share in their happiness. I wish all the children going on to four year old kinder a happy and successful time. I am sure they will have fun. Also good luck to the children who are going on to other kinder programs, we will miss you!

Thanks to all our lovely parents who supported the program during the year, we appreciate your hard work and involvement in your child's early education.

I have enjoyed my Wednesday and Friday afternoons with the four-year-old groups and I wish them all a happy start to their prep school year. Please come back and visit us!

Thanks to Cathy and Jenny for a great year, we are lucky to have such dedicated and experienced co-educators. Thanks to our volunteers Sue and Hilda who are so patient and enthusiastic and have made strong connections with our children.

Lastly, a big thanks to our caring president Lou and our committee for all the positive changes to our kinder.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday break.

Thank you,

Fiona, Cathy & Jenny

OUR 3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN



4 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe I am writing my last newsletter report for 2017. We have had a wonderful year and with the early years learning and development framework as our guide, we have achieved many goals.

As the children now move towards school, they will have a strong sense of identity- learning to interact with their peers with care, empathy and respect. They have also shown us how independent and confident they have become. The children are now aware of fairness and they have developed a sense of belonging to their kinder group and the community. The children have also developed close friendships with their peers and they have learnt how to co-operate and collaborate effectively with each other. They have shown us how incredibly creative and enthusiastic they are throughout the year. I am sure the schools will further develop the children's wonderful skills in these areas.

We have had a busy year at Highmount with incursions and excursions- the highlight being a bus trip to the Arts Centre in the city to hear the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. This year the jazz musician, James Morrison, accompanied the orchestra. We also enjoyed the Kew traffic school, Responsible Pet Education, Wiggerly Worm Dance lady, Cindy Pan the fan dancer and chicken hatching.

Our Multicultural morning tea, Fathers, and Special friend's day was lots of fun! It was great for all our visitors to see our kinder and join in with the activities.

Thank-you to all the parents who have been involved with our kinder throughout the year. We really appreciate all your involvement and friendship. Parental involvement is vital to the running of the kinder.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee, with Lou Skepper as the president for all the wonderful work she has been involved with at the kinder this year.

Thank-you to Cathy Hill and Jenny Galanos who both play a vital role in the running of our kinder. Thank-you to Fiona Williams, for her dedication in running the three year old group, and working with the four year olds on Wednesday and Friday.

Thank-you also to our volunteers, Sue McIntyre and Surila Chandra. They do a fantastic job! Finally, to the children, we will miss them, as we have grown so close over the year. I am sure they will be confident, competent and caring little people, prepared for whatever lays ahead of them during their first year at school.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas and festive season.

We wish you all the best.

Best Wishes,

Rachel, Cathy, Jenny & Fiona

P.S- We are all looking forward to Scott Ryan and Chester the Bear and our kinder concert.
P.P.S- Don't forget to come back and visit us.



OUR 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN







RECIPE CORNER

Apple Christmas Tree

Ingredients

- 2 medium – apple, Granny Smith
- 1 cup – grapes
- 114g – cheddar cheese
- 60g – pretzel sticks or twists



Directions

1. Slice apples into thin wedges, removing the core. Slice grapes into halves. Cut cheese into thin slices and then into stars.
2. Place ingredients out for the kiddos to assemble trees: use pretzel sticks as the trunk, apple wedges as the branches, grapes as the ornaments, and a cheese star as the topper.
3. Serve with any remaining ingredients on the side.

Recipe accessed: <https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipe/apple-holiday-tree/>

SANTA BROWNIE HATS

INGREDIENTS

- 150 g dark chocolate
- 125 g unsalted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cup plain flour
- 3/4 cup milk chocolate chips
- 16 fresh strawberries
- 300 ml thickened cream
- 3 tbs caster sugar



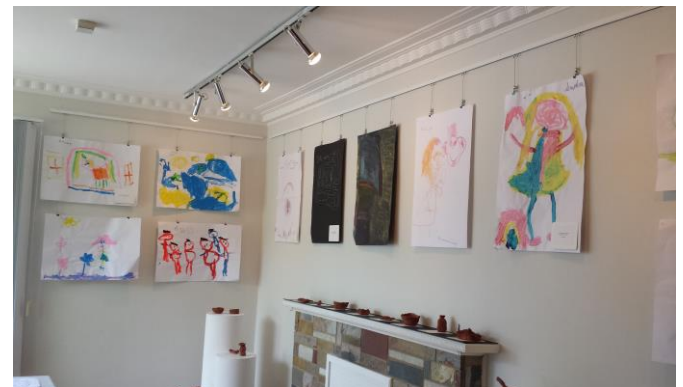
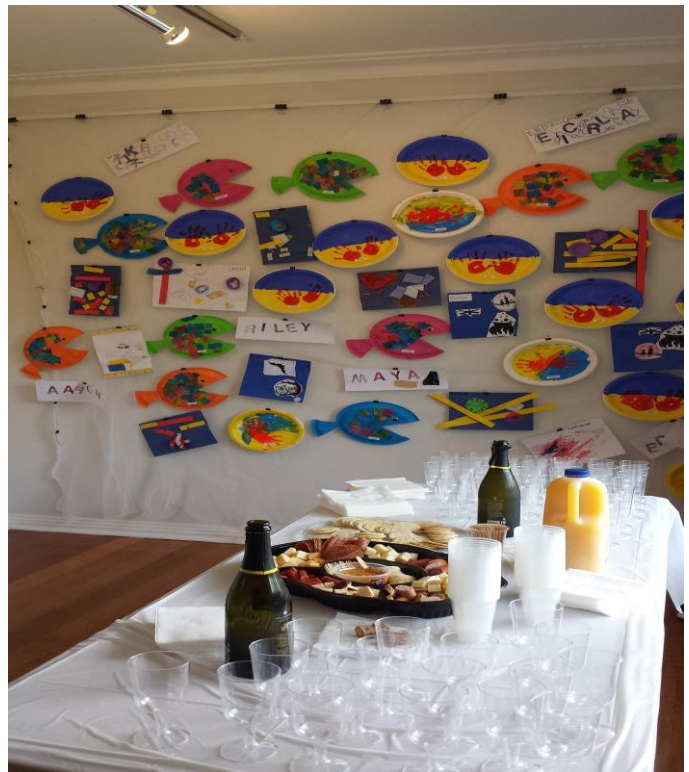
METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Grease and line a 18cm x 28cm slice tray with baking paper. Place the butter and chocolate into a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in 30 second bursts for 3-4 minutes (until melted), stirring with a dry metal spoon between each burst. Add the brown sugar and mix until combined. Allow the chocolate mixture to cool slightly.
2. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl until light and fluffy. Add the eggs and vanilla extract to the chocolate mixture and whisk together well. Add the plain flour and the milk chocolate chips and fold through gently. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 25 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Set the brownie aside to cool and then place into the fridge for at least 3 hours (preferably overnight).
3. Remove the brownie from the fridge and use a round shaped cutter to cut out circles
4. Wash, dry and hull the strawberries and add one to the top of each brownie circle.
5. Whip the thickened cream and caster sugar with beaters on high until stiff peaks form. Place the whipped cream into a piping bag (or a Ziploc bag with the end snipped off), and pipe around the edges. Then pipe a small dot on top of each strawberry.
6. Place the Santa brownie hats into an airtight container in the fridge until required.

Recipe accessed: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/santa-brownie-hats-4069>

HIGHMOUNT PRESCHOOL ART SHOW

A big thank you to Akiko for her wonderful vision and artistic flair in organising this year's art show at the Highway Gallery. I am sure you will agree that the gallery looked amazing with all the children's artwork on display. A thank you too, to all the parents who assisted the children with their artwork and who volunteered their time to help set up, pack up and man the gallery during the opening hours of the exhibition.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MONASH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



The annual Monash Carols by Candlelight is just around the corner. Pack a picnic rug and head down to Jells Park on Sunday 10 December to celebrate the festive season!

Sunday 10 December 2017

4pm-10pm

Jells Park

Wheelers Hill

The magic of Christmas is captured under the stars each December at Jells Park, where the community comes together to enjoy the Monash Carols by Candlelight Concert. Now in its 30th year, this celebration has become the City's most prestigious event, which has a strong sense of community and involves the invaluable work of volunteers.

Two community bands come together on stage to provide the music, with a variety of talented performers leading the audience through all their favourite carols.

Hosted by well-known TV and radio personality Pete Smith, the Monash Carols by Candlelight is one of the largest events of its kind in Victoria and ends with an impressive fireworks finale.

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Leisure/Upcoming-Events/Monash-Carols-by-Candlelight-2017>

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AROUND MELBOURNE



Spectacular light shows in people's front gardens.

Nearby 10 Joyce Ave, Glen Waverley has been voted one of the top displays in Melbourne.

Search by suburb or postcode to find the best Christmas lights near you.

<http://www.christmaslightsearch.com.au/Melbourne/>

SANTA'S MAGICAL KINGDOM



NOV 17th – 23rd DEC 2017

Melbourne get ready to see a truly magical experience. Santa's Magical Kingdom returns this November and December 2017! The magic of Christmas will come alive at Santa's Magical Kingdom with an interactive walk-through adventure land including everything that you love about Christmas, plus an International Spectacular Christmas Show that will amaze everyone at Caulfield Racecourse. Lasting memories of fun, laughter and special 'family time' will be remembered by guests long after the event has come to a close. Santa's Magical Kingdom is for every child and the 'inner-child' in all of us. You can purchase tickets to Santa's Magical Kingdom through the website or call Ticketmaster directly on 1300 307 740.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

**If you wish to advertise your Local Business in our
next Preschool Newsletter, please contact
Effie Poniger - Newsletter Editor at highmount.newsletter@gmail.com**



MCH FREE Drop-in Centre

Sessions are run in conjunction with our Immunisation sessions.

Available to all Monash City families.
No appointments required.

Drop in and see the Maternal and Child Health Nurse and receive support regarding:

- Growth ● Breastfeeding
- Nutrition ● Oral health
- Safety ● Behaviour
- Toilet Training

The next drop in session will be held from 10am-11.30am

Mon 23 Oct	293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
Fri 27 Oct	1A Atherton Rd, Oakleigh
Fri 10 Nov	1A Atherton Rd, Oakleigh
Mon 13 Nov	293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
Fri 17 Nov	355 Wellington Rd, Mulgrave
Fri 24 Nov	1A Atherton Rd, Oakleigh
Mon 27 Nov	293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
Fri 8 Dec	1A Atherton Rd, Oakleigh
Mon 11 Dec	293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
Fri 15 Dec	355 Wellington Rd, Mulgrave
Mon 18 Dec	293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley



For all enquires please
call 9518 3662.





KIDS CORNER - MAZE

Christmas Tree Maze

