



GUMNUTS

Early Learning Centre

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

News from the Director Hi All, can you believe the end of the year is upon us.

We have had such a productive year and achieved so much, being the introduction of Nature Kinder, extending our Kindergarten program to 5 days and the invitation to operate a before and after school service from the Maffra Primary school. We have had great involvement and support from all of our families through the participation of our whole service events; that being Easter, Community fun day and our end of year celebrations in each of our rooms.

We have seen our Kinder children become school ready and celebrated their Graduation on Tuesday afternoon with roughly 80 people being in attendance. We are all going to miss their cheeky personalities after getting to know a lot of them from babies when they started with us, we look forward to continuing our relationship together at our OSHC program at the Sale Primary school.

We also have seen our group of Grade 6 children begin their transition to secondary school and have farewelled 1 child who has been attending Gumnuts for over 10 years.

I would personally like to thank all of our dedicated staff, committee members, children and families for their continued hard work and contributions to help make Gumnuts such a great environment to be involved in.

On behalf of all staff and committee I would like to also wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to working together again in 2018.

Brendon

News from EDUCATIONAL LEADER.

"We can get so caught up in trying to prepare children for the next step, that we forget to just slow down and appreciate what they can do, what they know and who they are right now.. Embrace the now"

Merry Christmas to all the Gumnut families and a safe relaxing break see you in 2018.

Michelle Hallett

News From The WOMBATS ROOM

Hello families,

Wow, hasn't this year just flown by? It's hard to believe that we're nearly in December already. Therefore we have a few timely reminders for each family as we head into the warmer time of the year.

Sunscreen:

As the parent/ guardian, it is your responsibility to put sunscreen on your child upon arrival. Staff will assume this has been done and we will reapply sunscreen later in the day.

Clothing:

Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for this spring/ summer. Within our policy, we ask that children have adequate and appropriate clothing for warm weather. In particular, making sure that children aren't wearing singlet tops as we ask that children's shoulders are covered.

Please ensure that you label each item of clothing.

Sun hats:

Please ensure that you bring an appropriate sun hat for your child to wear throughout their time at Gumnuts. This will minimise the risk of sunburn.

Water play:

Since we have been experiencing such beautiful weather, we have been making the most of this opportunity and enjoying water play with the Wombats. Please keep this in mind when packing your child's bag as we will need extra clothing.

Bedding:

Given the warm temperature, please be mindful of the bedding you bring in for your child. Please pack light weight sheets.



News from the POSSUMS ROOM

Well what can we say 2017 has been and is almost gone. We have enjoyed watching all our children grow in to very socially independent human beings. We have watched children move up in to the Wallabies room and we have welcomed children from the Wombats room. We have enjoyed being with our Possums children and families this year. This term we have been very busy in the possums room in the lead up to the Christmas holidays. The possum children have participated in various cooking and craft experiences to contribute to their special take home bags, reflecting their individual learning in 2017. We have begun sending these bags home.

To celebrate the achievements of the children and a successful year, we hosted a Christmas afternoon tea for families on December 13th which children were able to help prepare some yummy Christmas balls, chocolate spiders and platters to share. We would like to warmly wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas break and a fabulous New Year. We also wish the children transitioning in 2018 all the best and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Until next year, Kelly, Emily, Amanda, Sarah, Rachel and Nadine

Families input and contributions to their children's development and education is valued at Gumnuts. Anyway (time) or anything (items) , your contribution is so appreciated.

News from the WALLABIES ROOM

Dear families,

This year has flown by, we can't believe it is the end of the year already. The educators have loved teaching your children this year and have enjoyed watching them grow and develop throughout the year.

We would love to celebrate this year with all the Wallaby families at our Christmas Afternoon Tea Party on Friday the 15th of December from 3.30–4.30 in the Wallabies room. During the day the children will make some treats to have at the party but we are also asking families to bring a small plate of nut free food to share.

We had our Christmas Fun Day on the 24th it was great to see families come along to this and we had new families attend which was great.

Please remember to keep bringing sun hats for your child to wear outside, they either need to have a wide brim all the way around or be a legionaries hat and not a baseball cap. Also please apply sunscreen on your child when you arrive.

From the Wallabies Room

Important Reminders:

Committee News

Gumnuts has had a fantastic 12 months and the Committee of Management would like to thank all staff and parents for their support over the year. The transition to our present committee has been tremendously successful with the centre finishing 2017 at full occupancy. Due to increased demand, we will also be running Kindergarten over 5 days in 2018 and have seen Nature Kinder (which will be incorporated into the 2018 Kindergarten program) set-up, enjoyed and loved by all those who have participated in it! 2018 will undoubtedly bring more exciting activities and events to the centre and we thank all of our educators for their passion and expertise in helping our little gumnuts grow. We wish all of the centre's families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year!

With Best Wishes,

Annie, Courtney, Mel, Jessica, Hannejie, Pauline & Tammy

Fundraising

Thank you to all that have supported the fundraisers.

Cake Drive raised \$320

Gumnuts 2018

Gumnuts last day for 2017 is Friday 22nd Dec 2017

Gumnuts first day back for 2018 will be Monday 15th January 2018.

Gumnuts & 545 Vacation Care 2018

First day back Monday 15th January 2018

Kinder begins Tues 30th Jan

Before & After Care

Returns with school terms

Nature Kinder Program

The program has been a huge success for children, families and educators. We have also involved community inclusions into the program with 'Bug Blitz' and the local Koorie Education Support Officer. The program will finish on Wednesday 13th Dec 2017 and

From all of the educators at Gumnuts we wish all our families a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

& safe holiday.



OSCH

We have had a busy couple of months down here at After School Care. We kicked off November by finishing our Halloween celebration and its spooky history through a number of games and arts and craft activities. We then took a look at the Melbourne cup and explored the history of the 'race that stops a nation'; the students enjoyed taking each other's picture in our Melbourne cup themed photo booth. After the Melbourne cup we quickly moved on to our Christmas and end of year celebrations, everyone has been very excited to decorate the room and set up the Christmas tree. We are currently finishing off our Christmas cards and decorating our very own baubles to take home.

Just a reminder we will be running full day care from Wednesday the 20th till Friday the 22nd for those that require it. We are also currently taking bookings for the January Vacation Care program which is running from Monday the 15th to Thursday the 25th, some of the fun and exciting activities we have planned are; Jump & Climb, movie days, a wet and wild day, Lego incursion and much more, We hope to see everyone there.

From the team down at OSCH we wish everybody happy holidays and hope to see everyone in the New Year. Lastly best of luck to Hamish who after around 10 years at Gumnuts is leaving us to start their secondary education, you all will be missed and best of luck in the future.

James, Kristy, Calliope & Kaye

News from the KOALAS ROOM

Hello everyone,

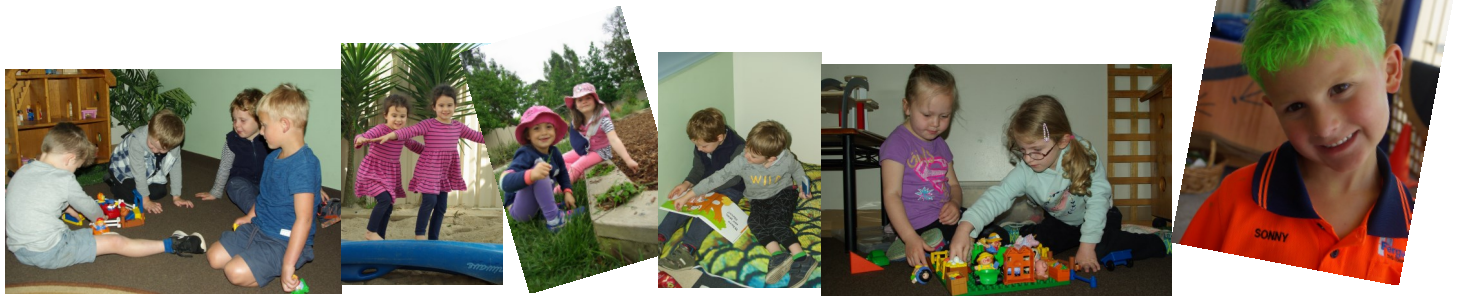
WOW!!! I can't believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of what has been an amazing, fantastic and rewarding 2017. In the Koalas room we have witnessed the children grow, develop and are becoming confident, independent learners and have established many close friendships along the way. Over the past couple of months the children have enjoyed:

- Working collaboratively doing team/group projects in the construction areas as well as in the sand pit and in the yard. Creating cubbies, large farms, restaurants, hair and beauty salons, obstacle courses and "ghost traps"....
- Crazy hair week, which was a huge success with all children participating with much enthusiasm, painting their nails, designing their own crazy, wild hair styles as well as face painting, sharing their ideas and assisting educators and their peers.
- Bring your own book. This has been an extremely rewarding and inclusive part of our curriculum throughout the year and has involved all of the children. Thank you to our regular book contributors, all the children enjoy reading time immensely and are learning to reflect and contribute to group discussions about the books we read. Pig the pug, Hairy Maclary, The Three Bears and other classics, Mem Fox books, Pamela Allen books, Dr Seuss and Little Miss and Mr books have been favourite contenders throughout the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG welcome back to Paige who has returned from her trip away to the US, it is fantastic to have her back. I'd like to say a BIG thank you to Nicola for filling Paige's big shoes fantastically and with much enthusiasm.

For the remainder of the year the children will be enjoying lots of fun Christmas activities as well as sing Christmas songs.

The Koalas team wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing all of the children and their families next year which ever room your child returns to. *Merry Christmas.*



News From The EMU'S ROOM

Our journey is nearly over..... The Emu's have really excelled in their own growth mindset this term, challenging themselves to do things that they are not very good at, then practice, practice, practice!!!!!! We have had the opportunity to spend time with Raquel from the wellington shire to teach us about sustainability, planting seedlings in our veggie garden then making recyclable pots using newspaper to plant and take home. Natalie from Gippsland Water has educated the children about drinking water and the effects of dehydration and too many sugary drinks, involving them in a hands on, interactive game which the children really engaged in, working in small teams.

Throughout the day we have many opportunities for literacy and numeracy investigations with the children going on to extend their own learning by investigating further and asking many questions.

School transition has been successful for many children, they have been excited to share with everyone their experiences through group sharing, discussing what we like about school and what we don't like. The biggest fear for many of them was the 'bigger kids'. We are happy to say that at the completion of transitions, the children are ready for the next chapter in their educational journey.

Our Christmas concert had a great turn out, all the children really enjoyed our music and movement throughout the year and being able to share this with you was fantastic. The graduation ceremony is always special, especially when each child receives their t-shirt and certificate, a proud moment for everyone involved in learning journey.

We farewelled Tahlia and Ivy and welcomed Hayley, Kaide and Tyler to our Emu's. For some families their Gumnuts journey has come to an end and we recognised the families who will not return by inviting all past educators to gather in our room to say 'thank you and perform a song and dance.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to all our kiddies and their families and we wish you all the very best in 2018.

Best wishes from:
Karen, Megan, Amy & James.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fun, safe new year.