And just like that the term break is over and we’re in to term 3 – Welcome back everyone, hope the children are enjoying being back at pre school! We’ve got a busy term ahead!

At the committee meeting on Thursday 14th July we discussed the results from the recent Parent Survey – thank you so much for taking the time to complete this, your feedback is valued and we aim to address the points brought to our attention. If you would like to further discuss any items, please contact our Secretary, Kristy (Samuel’s mum, Penguins group) via email at info@mentonepreschool.com.au.

Mostly the results were positive however it did highlight that our Sea Star group has not had very much input into our newsletter recently – this is largely due to an unforeseen absence from the lead educator, Jenny (who is also the director of the preschool), due to a health issue with a member of her family. Jenny is now back, we do apologise for the lack of news and we hope to make up for it this term.

Feel free to make a suggestion at any time (we welcome any comments you have), just write your hints and tips on a piece of paper and pop it into our suggestion box which is located in the foyer by the front door. Alternatively you could make an appointment with your lead educator (Jenny – Sea Stars; Josie – Penguins; Michelle – Dolphins) or email us at info@mentonepreschool.com.au.

The ‘Reflections’ page on our website (www.mentonepreschool.com.au) and the Reflections books in the foyer are updated regularly with what the groups have been doing, so please remember to check them out!

Parent Interviews will be happening sometime in Term 3, dates to be confirmed and going forward into 2017 we hope to provide more feedback to parents during term 2.

Opening Night in support of Monash Children's Hospital

With thanks to the City of Kingston, The Great Moscow Circus will host a special opening night preview performance in support of Monash Children’s Hospital on Thursday August 4th at Dingley Village, 285 Centre Dandenong Road.

100% of the ticket price has been donated to Monash Children’s Hospital.
Please remember to invite your friends and family to join us for this wonderful event.

*Child tickets: Children 3-13 yo. Children <3 yo able to sit on parents lap
In term 2 the Sea Stars group made a new friend...Billy the Koala! Every few days he gets to go home with one of our Sea Stars, to experience a little bit of their lives. Check out the pictures and drawings of his adventures in his special book.

Did you and your family get up to anything interesting during the term break, have a guest you don’t usually have or have a special event you’d like to share? Please add some pictures and information in our Sea Star Share Book!!

Have you got a skill or talent you could share with the children? We’re interested in hearing from you if you do! Maybe it’s yoga, martial arts or music – whatever it is, email us at info@mentonepreschool.com.au!
**Penguins**

26th July – Max Amos Photography
10th August – Bunnings Workshop
22nd August – Parkdale Library excursion
24th August – Dress Up Day
1st September – Father’s Day Evening
5th September – Traffic School Excursion
14th September – Footy Day Dress Up

**Dolphins**

28th July – Max Amos Photography
11th August - Olympic Games Day
25th August - Dress Up Day
30th August - Librarian Visit
31st August – Father’s/Special Persons Night
15th September – Footy Day Dress Up

**Sea Stars**

22nd July – Active Goals Trial
27th July – Max Amos Photography
11th August – Bunnings Workshop
25th August – Dress Up Day
26th August – Parkdale Library excursion
27th August – Working Bee – anyone welcome!!
2nd September - Father’s Day Night
9th September – Traffic School Excursion

15th August - Rabbits Arrive

16th August – Committee Meeting

14th September – Committee Meeting

**End of Term 3 - 15th September (and Term 4 fees due!)**
In the final weeks of term 2 the children enjoyed many different activities such as block play, painting with spray bottle, letter hunting, pasting, number games, painting, stamping and many more. What is your child learning when they are playing??

‘Young children’s play allows them to explore, identify, negotiate, take risks and create meaning. The intellectual and cognitive benefits of playing have been well documented. Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development, and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning’ (Bodrova & Leong, 2005).

Albert Einstein is known to have said that ‘play is the highest form of research’, so think of your children as little scientists.

The children said goodbye and thank you to Robyn on our last day of term. It was lovely to have someone familiar to me to work with while Linda was away and I knew the children and families would love her too. The children are all very happy to have Linda back with us too.

Well what a cold and blustery start we have had to the term, but please be assured we are all snug and cosy indoors at kinder. We still really like to get outside and run around if we can so please dress your children for arctic conditions if we do happen to venture outdoors. Some of the children really enjoy the run around in the fresh, brisk air which is lots of fun. We will give the children a choice of indoors or outdoors on the days where it is truly miserable outside. Luckily we have a fantastic under cover area where the children can still have some fun.

We have a busy term 3 coming up with lots of fun things happening. This term our programme is looking at identity, children becoming aware that they are a part of a group, family and community. We will look at the people they live with and who is at kinder and who and what we see in our community. We will discuss where in the world we come from and then have a focus on the Rio Olympics.

We have 3 students with us every second Thursday for four weeks, Breanna, Keely and Patsy are here from Kilbreda to do community service, a programme that most secondary schools run in year 9. The children loved having them around kinder today, especially as they can run around better than me (Michelle) with a sore knee.

We will be having parent/teacher interview for those that are interested, dates are yet to be confirmed.

We have welcomed 2 new families to kinder, Amy and Christian, please make them feel welcome. We have also sadly said goodbye to Timmy and his family. We hope Timmy has lots of fun at his new centre.

Linda and I are looking forward to a fun and busy term ahead. Please remember that if you have any concerns or would like to contribute to the programme in any way (such as craft, music, story reading – especially if you can read in another language) we would love to have you at kinder anytime!

Michelle S and Linda – dolphins@mentonepreschool.com.au
Hello penguin families,

We hope you are all well and staying warm! The Penguins have had a lovely start to the term and have really enjoyed the new room set up and play spaces. Staff had a visit to Reverse Garbage on the holidays to gather some creative materials for the children to explore and the children have been creating some amazing constructions and have been hammering away on our woodwork table. These activities develop really important skills as they are developing fine motor strength and control required for writing skills, cognitive problem solving using creative thought processes and co-operative skills as they work together to create and have fun. Our new routines of writing our names on arrival and counting how many friends are at kinder today and recognising numbers on our chart are ensuring that literacy and numeracy are a part of the everyday.

Looking back on experiences the children have enjoyed at kindergarten last term, our visit from the dentist was a great way of ensuring that the children learnt about the importance of cleaning our teeth properly and a healthy diet to ensure we are caring for our teeth.

We also enjoyed our visit from Cindy the Chinese dancer who allowed the children to enjoy lots of different aspects of Chinese culture. We learnt about the importance of the colour red, Dragons and warriors in Chinese culture. We were able to have fun and explore dance moves with fans, umbrellas and swords. It was lovely to also hear Helen share her first language as Cindy and Helen sang Twinkle Twinkle in Mandarin with us. We have continued to explore different cultures as we are still practising songs in Tamil, Mandarin, Japanese, Polish, an Aboriginal language and Italian!!

We also enjoyed our Excursion to Mentone Primary for "Putting on the Hits". The children really enjoyed this and were excited by the music and costumes. Some of the children have siblings at the school and others will be attending the school next year so it was a great way to encourage all the children to see the school environment as a fun place to be. We look forward to visiting St Pats next term to enjoy their wonderful playground.
Looking ahead to term three it is going to be an action packed couple of months!!

- 18th July  Sports program (Run jump and throw program - www.activegoals.com.au) 11 am.
- 26th July  Photo day.
- 10th August  Bunnings workshop
- 15th August  Mother rabbit and 5 baby rabbits arrive for us to enjoy and care for, for 1 month.
- 22nd August  Library visit for book week.
- 24th August  Celebrating Book Week with a possum magic party.
  (Dress as your favourite Australian animal)
- 1st September  Dads or special friends night.  6-7:30pm.
- 5th September  Traffic school Excursion.
- 14th September  Footy day to celebrate the last day of term!

We are all looking forward to a fun and exciting term ahead!

Josie, Michelle, Halina and Tina
penguins@mentonepreschool.com.au
Thank you to Michelle Glover (Miss Michelle) who kept the program working so well while I was away at the end of Term 2. Thank you also to Josie Milner, Michelle Sundstrom and Ronnie Russell, all of whom took sessions for Sea Stars as the teacher. This was so good for the children in that each of these teachers is familiar to some or all of the children so making it easier to adjust to each teacher. It also meant we were not paying additional cost for agency staff.

**Health:** A good health report for us all, with the children being robust and well throughout this time.

**Enrolments:** One of our families has moved away, so has surrendered their child’s position. Currently we have 17 children enrolled in Sea Stars;

**Program:** there were many interesting learning opportunities during the last few weeks of the term.

On Thursday 9 June, Cindy, a Chinese dancer, used story, music, umbrellas, hats, and dance moves to bring the Chinese culture to life. The children enjoyed listening to her explain the importance of the dragon, and the colour red to Chinese culture. They enjoyed following her graceful, as well as forceful, actions. Using brightly coloured fans to communicate emotions, and umbrellas to twirl and hold, as well as hats with cues to wear all added to the richness of the experience. On Friday 10 the group cooked a traditional Chinese noodle dish using traditional vegetables such as bok choy. Yum!

A dentist from the Bayside Community Health Centre came to check the teeth of children whose parents had signed a permission form for this to happen. Many children had no issues, but a few had dental issues which the parents were informed about. The children lay on our couch while the dentist checked their teeth.

Subsequent to this Miss Michelle extended the children’s knowledge with a variety of activities - including making ‘elephant toothpaste’ (!!); adding healthy food to pictures of happy teeth, and unhealthy foods to a sad tooth; using a tooth brush to clean a large "tooth"; looking at an X Ray of teeth and seeing an extracted tooth. That week the children made yummy fruit kebabs and dipped them into yoghurt! Yum again!
The last week of term focused on fun - the children helped to create a beautiful bird piñata. They began with a balloon, covered it in paper then decorated it with ribbons of coloured crepe paper. Miss Michele had filled the inside with confetti and a chocolate gold coin for each child. Then on Friday we played party games - including statues, Snakes and Ladders, pin the Tail on the Donkey and of course having a go at smashing open the piñata! We also made fairy Cupcakes! It was great day!

Thank you to the Mums and Dads who worked so hard to help move all the furniture off the carpet onto the lino areas in preparation for the carpet cleaning later that afternoon.

Please be aware that we will go outside to play regardless of how cold the day may be! Children will need a warm coat to help them transition to the outside temperature - some children will strip off their jacket pretty soon after playing outside - others will keep their warm layer on. Please also add some spare, labelled clothes in case of water spills or mud cakes!

Jim Poussard from Active Goals Australia is coming to conduct a free sports activity with us on Friday 22nd July from 11am - 11:30am - he will lead the children through some warm-ups, practice ball skills, running techniques and team skills (or as many of those as he can achieve in about half an hour!)

Max Amos is visiting to photograph the children (and siblings too if you wish) on Wednesday 27th July.

Tania Clark will be with us on Thursday 11th August from Bunnings Mentone. She will bring along a truck making kit for each child to make, decorate and take home!

We have Science Week coming up - 13th - 21st August - with a theme of Drones, Droids and Robots which will be challenging (for staff) and interesting - for us all.

Book Week is also on the horizon - 20th - 26th August, with a theme of Australia! Story Country. We will visit Parkdale Library on Friday 26th August, travelling there by train, with pick up from the library (we will need lots of helpers to travel with us that day). Our Book Week Dress Up Day will be on Thursday 25th August, with our theme being Mem Foxs Possum Magic - so lots of Australian animal and food creations.

We also have a mother rabbit and her kittens arriving in September, AND a Fathers' Day Night to enjoy on September 2nd, 6-7:30pm.

We are looking forward to a busy Term 3!

Jenny and Michelle – seastars@mentonepreschool.com.au

Mentone Pre School Acknowledges the Support of the Victorian Government