



News from the Committee

Emma-Kate Clyburn

Wow! It is hard to believe we are at the end of another year. What a wonderful year it has been. It has been great to see the children develop throughout the year, gaining new skills, talents and abilities. This learning will support many of these children moving on to prep next year.

The committee has worked extremely hard this year and has seen a number of initiatives and programs progress. Over the summer break, there will be a major upgrade to the landscaping in the Unit 1 courtyard and main entrance area. This will be a huge visual impact for all the new 2019 parents and children to see in Term 1 next year. These new works will provide exciting new opportunities for play and learning. Feel free to stop on by next year and take a look. Thank you, **Erin Nucifora** and **Chris Nicoll**, for all your work in getting this organised.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of many parents involved in working bees this year. This work has been crucial in caring for the facilities at MPC. In particular to **Michelle Slater** and the parents who attended the recent working bee in November. It was a huge success, with a lot accomplished.

Thank you to **Sarah Shaw** for the catering and the MPC staff for running successful orientation nights held this month for all the new 2018 parents and children. A great start for the new year.

Thank you to our marketing team, coordinated by **Tracy Constable**. What a busy year it has been for this team. The effort Tracy and her team have put in over the year plays a huge role in keeping the enrolment numbers up each year. Word of mouth remains our strongest means of advertising so I would like to thank parents who have talked with others about our mighty centre and encourage you to continue to spread the word.

I would also like to acknowledge **Bec Walsh**, current Personnel Officer on the Committee, this is her 5th year on the committee, which is an amazing achievement. As this is your final year at MPC we will miss you next year and I would to thank you for all the time you have put in over the past 5 years being part of this committee, it has been greatly appreciated. **Kirsty Tinsley** and **Nicole Lipman** are also finishing this year at the centre and we would like to thank them for their 3 years each on the Committee.

Lastly, I would like to thank the teachers of MPC. Thank you for caring and looking after our children. The contribution you have made to our children's learning will last a life time. The children could not have been in better hands. Well done!

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful safe holiday.

The Kindy Native Bees have been very busy this year. While we were busy at play, they were buzzing around us collecting the pollen to keep the hives healthy and happy. The children got to experience the splitting of the hives and then tasting the honey. Whether it is on a stick, on toast or on fresh pop corn it was given the thumbs up to the bees for their delicious honey!



News from the Acting Director (Louise Wood)

Whilst Leanne has been climbing every mountain in South America, the MPC world has kept on spinning too! This time of year is always bitter sweet for us, as we see the children getting ready to branch out in new directions in 2019 and then saying good bye to children and families at end of the year. It is natural for all our minds to already be starting to think ahead and the bodies are battle weary and ready for some down time and Christmas cheer. The Centre has taken on the Christmas excitement with the children busy being little elves throughout their days to add some sparkle and festivity across the Centre. All the children are busy playing to the end, because that is what we do here! When the bells ring to signal a change in the day the sighs are heard from all, 'just please give me more time to finish, to do, to see, to experience....please let me keep on playing!' What a fabulous opportunity they have had to grow, learn and flourish throughout the year and as a staff we have been gifted the opportunity to do this with them.

2019 will be a big year for MPC as we will be celebrating our 70th birthday in September. Please come back and celebrate this amazing milestone with us, you may just see a memory that makes you smile or catch up with the staff and other families from your year.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. On behalf of the staff we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and be rest assured you will all be in our thoughts in 2019 whether you are here with us or beginning your new school journeys.



News from Before and After Kindy Care...

The B&A staff have been enjoying their last sessions together as well. Often this part of our days there has been a cooler breeze to enjoy as the children play in the various playgrounds. The children have enjoyed making plain playdough and then adding sparkles to it for some Christmas bling and the Unit 2 sandpit enjoyed a rainbow colour makeover.

The team would like to thank all the children and parents for the support you have given them this year.

Best wishes from,

Jo, Hayley, Pam, Selvi, Madonna, Kimber, Kim and Kaitlin



Unit One 2 Day Group

The 2 Day children have been enjoying receiving and writing emails to Leanne. They have especially liked hearing about her adventures and seeing her photos, swimming with marine iguanas, turtles and sharks in the Galapagos and the climbing ice covered volcanoes in Chile.

The children are enjoying their last couple of weeks at Kindy. We have also had a sausage sizzle lunch on the campfire and walked to the Bush Park for the last time, enjoying chocolate slice as a morning tea treat.

Watching Melissa split some of our native bee hives was fascinating, particularly seeing the spiral brood inside the hive and spotting the Queen bee and babies. Tasting the delicious honey our little bees make was even better.



ELKE.....THANK YOU, FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

On Tuesday, 11th December we will be saying goodbye to Elke...

Elke started her MPC journey as a parent and in 2006 accepted a position as Assistant teacher working with myself in Unit 3. Elke and I have worked together for 10 of the past 12 years. During this time Elke embarked on a journey studying towards her Bachelor of Early Childhood and then for her Bachelor of Teaching. This has been a joy and privilege to watch her commitment to study whilst maintaining her assistant teacher role here at MPC. Elke's enthusiasm and dedication to PLAY at MPC has been fabulous.

Our loss is the teaching worlds gain. Leanne



Most importantly, the children in both groups have been enjoying planning their last weeks of Kindy. We have a calendar with important daily events mapped out. We have also talked about what Christmas means, and not just about the presents-but about being kind and considerate to everyone whenever you can; about sharing what you have with others, and about thinking about and helping others who really need our help.

Some of the children's plans for the coming weeks are to...

Play!

decorate and sparkle our room all over

eat lots of ice-blocks

wrap and keep secret the Christmas gift to our families

learn new Christmas songs and share Christmas stories

also sing all our favourite songs

play Christmas games and build a 'Santa House' to play in

have the greatest fun (according to the children)

enjoy 'wet play' days

decorate our own Christmas tree

have a party lunch and share a sing-a-long with our families on the last days

From Jo, Vanessa, Elke, Pam and I, and on behalf of Leanne, we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all our Unit One families and your children, and appreciate the support and friendship you have shown us over the year. We wish you all a happy and restful Christmas and all the best for 2019.



At the end of this year we say farewell to Sheree and Elke.

Sheree has worked at Kindy for 18 years and Elke for 12 years.

Together they have given so much to the Centre, families, children and fellow staff. WE shall miss them both dearly....

Sheree is heading to the land of retirement. A wondrous place of no deadlines, feet up with a book, pottering around her garden or off on a camping adventure.

Elke is heading to Stafford Heights Kindergarten as a teacher. They are so lucky to have her joining their team. We wish her

well on her teaching journey. The children that will be in her care are very lucky.

News from Unit 2/3... Louise, Sheree and Janette

We have had a fabulous year with so many highlights...I know that we have to say the end is here but if I could click my finger and relive some things I would dearly love too. The children in our group have blossomed and have given us so many cherished moments that will give the three of us a good giggle as we rock away in those chairs in the years to come.

Our recent walk to the Post Office was such a happy little walk. The chatter on the walk and then giving all the café patrons a wave as we walked by brought Blackwood Street to life from a whole new perspective. 23 children walking across the pedestrian crossing looked like a modern day version from the Beatles Abbey Lane photo! The staff at the Post Office carefully took the money and handed each of the children a stamp to post their letters home. The job of popping those letters in the red box was mastered by all with a smile. The joy on the children's faces when we talked about whether the letters had arrived at their homes was so much fun.



The person I would love to write about now is the oh so fabulous Sheree! I have worked alongside Sheree now for 7 years and together we have called ourselves B1 and B2. Sheree being my B1, as she is my thinker, doer and co worker extraordinaire! Sheree has been a cheery face welcoming families and children for 18 years in the Centre. Sheree is a player, a dancer, a good person to snuggle with, have a chat with and most importantly be able to ask for help. Sheree has kept the children's ideas alive. Every child that has been in her care has been so lucky to have been touched by her magic. We wish Sheree all the best on her retirement with David. Together they will pack up the camper trailer and venture to tick the many places on their bucket lists. We will still keep her on our relief speed dial lists and I know she will keep thinking Kindy thoughts even when she isn't within the gates of MPC!



Unit One 3 Day Group

The children have had such a happy, busy term so far. We have learnt about making camp fires and fire safety. The fire pit has been such a great investment for this purpose, and has been well used by different groups.

We have enjoyed tasting hot toast, butter and honey or vegemite, a sausage sizzle and toasted marshmallows.

We had our final walk to the Bush Park for the year. The creek was clean and flowing and we saw fish, eels, water dragons, water fowl and tadpoles. We brought back a water sample for testing and were surprised by the results. The filtration experiment showed us that the creek water is very clean! The children also took jam drops as a treat for morning tea, made at Kindy the day before. Thanks to the parents who have joined us on our walks this year.

Our pizza restaurant last week was fun. We made placemats and had candles and flowers like a real restaurant.

Wet play has been a staple for the last few weeks and will continue through till the last week.





**All the 'little' things
we do, make a
'BIG' difference!**

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
REPEAT**

During the Kindy year the children have had many occasions to learn about how we can take care of our world. At the Centre we take looking after our planet and educating the children to make less of a footprint very seriously. Our Grants Officer is in the process of writing an application for the QECSN (Qld Early Childhood Sustainability Network) Sustainability In Action Award and we listed for her 'all the little things' that we have happening in the Centre for the nomination. If everyone at home just took one or two of these things on board then together we can help to preserve our amazing world!

- native bee hives
- possum boxes
- bat boxes
- worm farms
- vegetable patches
- container fruit trees
- composting (teaching of composting through observing the decomposition of objects in clear containers)
- promotion of nude lunches
- recycling and reusing products (second hand printed paper from offices for artworks; clean recyclables for construction materials in making area, threading with cleaned aluminium coffee pods, just to name a few)
- accessing external services for recycling soft plastics, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes
- rubbish audits
- designing playground spaces around the big tree and existing native gardens.
- annual health inspections of large gum tree
- bush park visits - environmental awareness transference of learning between off site spaces and kindy. Aligning and collaborating with Nature Play Qld
- teaching children about conserving water during daily activities e.g. not letting water run when brushing teeth or soaping hands
- using fans instead of air-conditioning on less hot days
- turning off lights when not in classrooms
- food scraps and drop them into the Mitchelton community garden compost bins every week.
- solar panels
- rain water tanks for watering plants



If Trees could speak

Over the past few Weeks, our big Tipuana tree has been flowering and the playground has been transformed into a yellow carpet wonderland. We've explored the fallen flowers, collected them with tweezers, made collages and painted them. We've stopped in silence to watch busy bees collecting the pollen. We've been accommodating to the various new Insects which have been observed around the flowers, remembering to walk on the swept path so they aren't squashed as we play.

We have been excited to notice new insects to the garden one of them being the "cowboy beetle"(which we thought was a Christmas beetle but it was flying during the daylight)
On later investigation, we found this beetle eats pollen hence their increased activity around the fallen Tipuana flowers.

We are grateful for this tree. It has provided us with many learning opportunities throughout the year. A lovely canopy of shade, sticks for our games, bark to rub, a home for the possum, leaves to print, kindling for the fire and seed pods. (Or fondly known as helicopter leaves.)

During a group discussion about the Tipuana tree, a child said "Maybe the tree is dehydrated. It's been so busy".
This discussion got me thinking "What if the Tipuana tree could talk?"

Would it tell us how it's noticed the children grow and learn from their first nervous days, to their comfortable exploring at the end of the year?

Perhaps, we could view the fallen Tipuana flowers as a Celebration. A time to celebrate, the individual growth and achievements every child has made throughout this year.

We hope you have time to celebrate and enjoy these last few days of Kindy 2018.



News from Unit 3/3 group... Kim, Hannah and Madonna

The move from our comfortable, close kindy group to new kindy or prep groups can be both an exciting and daunting prospect for children and parents. For some children they feel the excitement of starting at school where their older siblings go or the idea of being 'big' because they are at school now. For some, the idea of things ending or changing (kindy, relationships, environment) can be a worry. It is also a busy time of year and can be tiring for both children and parents. Acknowledge how your child is feeling and talk positively about the changes that are going to happen. Thinking about what is the same at school and kindy as well as what will be different, can be a good starting point to discuss how they are feeling about different things and what to expect. Also remembering and reminding them about when they first started here at MPC - They had a whole group of children and teachers to get to know, routines to follow, learning about being part of a group and what was expected of them while they were at kindy. Look at how far they have come!

It has also been a busy term here in unit 3. With lots of practicing to walk with a partner, keeping hands held, following behind the person in front, listening and looking to directions of Stop and Catch Up, and following instructions to keep safe we were finally ready to walk outside the kindy gate and venture to the bush park. The children enjoy using this space, often in different ways to how they use the kindy outdoor space. Some like to challenge themselves by climbing the tree.

Others have been collecting sticks, flowers and creating with these. Some children love the big space to just run and play chasing games and others like to see what wildlife they can spot. Each time when we have returned from the bush park the children have then just wanted to play inside and continue with their games, sit in the cool and read books or play quietly at a table activity or small game.

Preparations for our last day are under way! The children are very excited to have parents join us for singing and dancing before having a shared party lunch together. Invitations have been sent home and the food list is out with the sign-in folder. Please let Hannah or myself know if you are able to join us, or not, for our last day. Also please let us know if your child will be finishing before next Wednesday 12th December. Thank you for a great year. Enjoy the holiday time with your family and friends.



Surveys

Parent surveys...keep them coming!

www.mpc.net.au/parent-survey-2018

We will collate these and the information that you give us will help to inform decisions to improve or make changes to our service in the new year.

Children's surveys ... It is always lovely to see the responses from the children. We have been encouraging the children all year to have a voice and let everyone know what is important to them. It is only fitting that they should give us feedback about their time at MPC too!

News from MPC3's group... Hayley and Hannah

Wow, where has the year gone!

We began the year with tears, trepidation and hesitation about the unknown of MPC 3's (children AND parents). Look how far you've all come. I would like you to think back to those very early days where you were guiding your children through their unpacking, settling them in play then leaving, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. Now they are all confidently walking in, doing those jobs themselves and giving you all a kiss and hug as they happily watch you walk out. Hannah and I have been taking a step back and simply watching while the children manage themselves, their belongings and the kindy routine with minimal adult intervention and support.

Already we have been having many conversations about 'next year' which can be very difficult for children to understand. They are spending time in play dates with their new groups and teachers and eating lunch with children they will be with next year as well as sharing morning tea with the children from other units. These experiences will all help them to cope with changes and meeting new faces at kindy in MPC.

As I have shared with you already please don't expect your child to walk into day 1 next year in the same place they are finishing this year. There will be some settling in and adjustments to make but this time you know that they (and you) can do it. Simply provide them with some assistance and reassurance that everything will be ok.

With only a few days left Hannah and I are looking forward to sharing them with your children. We feel very privileged to have been a part of the lives of these 22 precious little people and their families. It has been an absolute joy to share the journey of MPC 3's with you all. We are beginning to plan our end of year party and would love for you to join us on Friday 14 December. This will be a time for the children to share some favourite songs and games with you before handing out Christmas surprises. We hope you can join us.



Coffee and Calm—Madonna

Dear Families and Carers,

My name is Madonna Corboy. I am a qualified Counsellor with a background in Early Childhood Education. As an employee of Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre (MPC), I have worked in a variety of roles from 2008-2013, then from 2017 until now. My experience extends to working with children aged (2-17 years) and families from diverse backgrounds, cultures and contexts in other Early Years programs, Primary and Secondary Schools and a Community Centre.



As a Counsellor, I have worked with clients to assist them in finding strategies for living with anxiety; coping with depression; understanding grief and loss; or to clarify their short and long term life goals.

My style of counselling is integrated, to suit the individual needs of the client with a focus on being strength based. This therapy approach, can be adapted to suit all ages of people from the very young to much older. Counselling can enhance self-awareness and improve relationships.

Coffee and Calm

For the first two weeks of the new Kindy year, 2019, MPC will offer an opportunity for parents to gather in the front courtyard from 8.30am-10.00am for a conversation with each other and/or myself.

The aim is to provide levels of support for the transition between children leaving home and adjusting to being at Kindergarten. Parents may also like to share ideas about what they find helpful.

Times of separation are a natural part of life; a child's and parent's response to saying goodbye can vary and it is normal to have mixed feelings about this.