



Deep Creek Preschool

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November 2020

DEEP CREEK PRESCHOOL DONCARE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A reminder that next Monday 7th December is the last day that you can donate a:

- **New toy (not gift wrapped) or a**
- **Non-perishable food item.**

For our **Doncare Christmas Toy Appeal and Food Donation.**



We would love all our families to take part in this special appeal and help us make a difference in the lives of others in our community.

All donations will be collected on Tuesday 8th December.

This allows time for Doncare to distribute the donations before Christmas.

Enrolments for 2021

If you have returned your enrolment forms for 2021, thank you!

If you haven't done so please return to the office as soon as possible.

Orientation letters and staggered start times for 2021 have been emailed to families this week.

Deep Creek Preschool Recipe Book - Fundraising

We are delighted on the feedback and response from our Deep Creek Preschool Family Recipe Book Fundraiser!! We have sold 40 books giving the kinder a total of approximately \$350 raised from profits! The orders will be distributed to families next week.

Kinder Photos

A reminder that if you would like a soft copy of your child's photos, you can supply a USB to me for download.

Parent helpers!

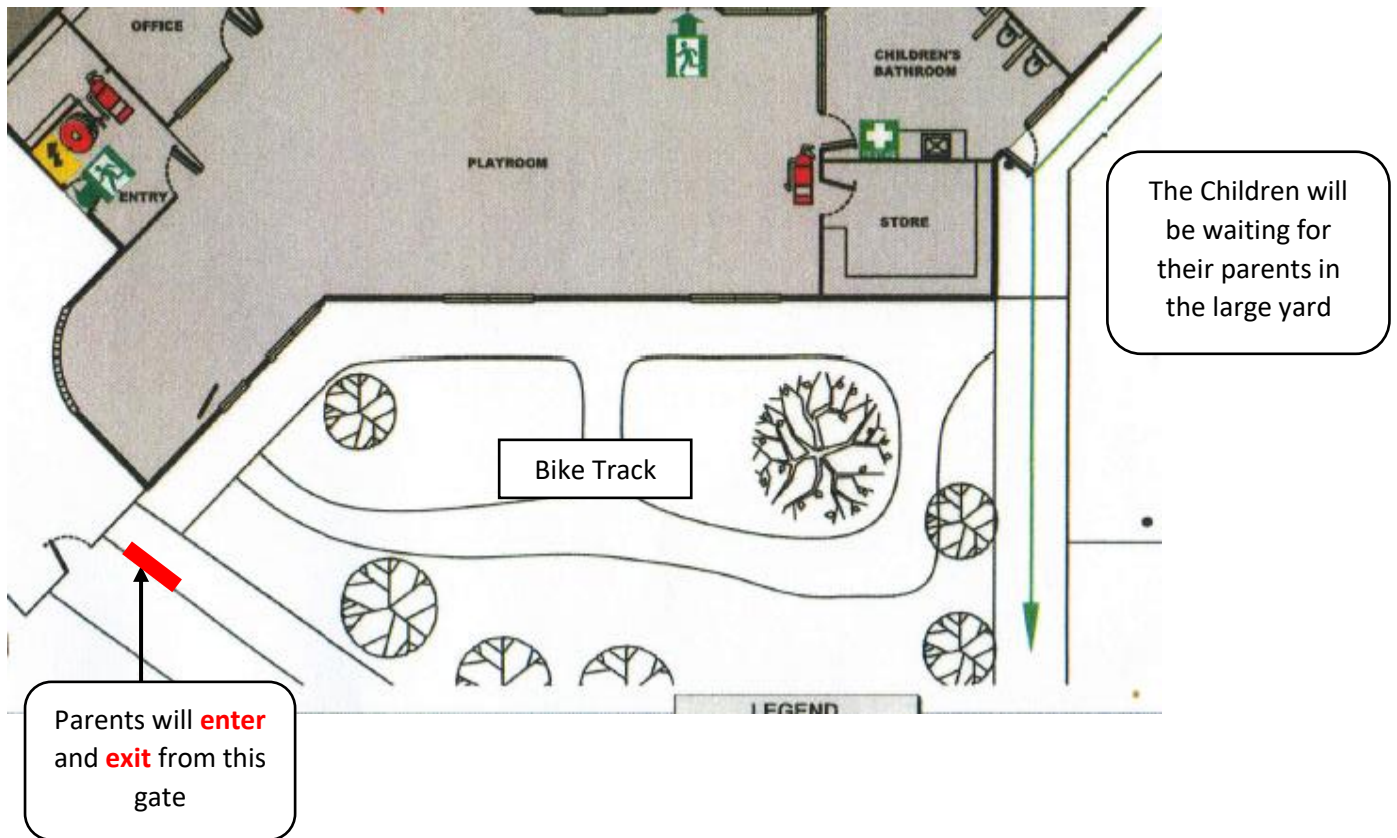
We need your help!

The kinder needs 4 helpers from the 4-year-old groups and 3 helpers from the 3-year-old groups to assist the staff with some take home jobs.

We have some books to wrap and cutting to be done ready for the end of the week.

If you would like to help please email or come and see Dianna.

End of session pick-up for Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December for 3 & 4 year old groups



On the last 2 days of term, Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December, we will be changing the entry and exit point for pick-up only.

With children and families wanting to say goodbye for the year, we thought we would open the large yard for families to gather (social-distancing of course☺) and say goodbye to the staff and other families. It can be a time to take photos and end the year in a social way in an open space.

As you walk up the front path, the gate next to the water tank will be open for families to enter and exit. The children will be waiting in the large yard.

This is a child safe gate so please ensure it is closed behind you as you enter and exit. Your child will need to be signed out before you leave.

As you exit the kinder via the gate, please only allow you and your child out of the gate. All parents MUST exit with their child only.

Thank you!!!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Committee of Management for the wonderful gift of a Coffee Machine for our kitchen.

The coffee is delicious and we are loving the latte's at lunchtime!



Upcoming Dates & Events

Term 4 – Calendar Dates –

This calendar is updated monthly. Please check for regular additions, amendments and notifications.

Term 3 Holidays 19th September – 4th October 2020

Monday	14th December	Echidna End of year Concerts @ 10:00am via Zoom Wombat End of Year Concert @ 2:00pm via Zoom
Tuesday	15th December	Joey's End of year Concert @ 2:00pm via Zoom Children's end of year party Final session for Echidna Group A Final session for Joeys Group A
Wednesday	16th December	Joey's End of year Concert @ 2:00pm via Zoom Children's end of year party Final session for Echidna Group B, Wombat Group C & D Final session for Joeys Group B & C
Wednesday 16th December 2020 - Last day of Term 4		

Echidna and Wombat News...

Well it is hard to believe we have just over one week left of Kinder for 2020. It has been so nice to have been able to spend time with all our friends at Kinder this term. The children have continued working well in pairs through our Buddy program and it is nice to see different friendships forming among children who will be attending primary school together next year.

What have we been doing at Kinder?

Making Pasta

On the 11th and 12th November the children made some homemade pasta with Dianna. After mixing the ingredients together Dianna kneaded the dough into a ball which we set aside for 30mins.

Once taken out of the fridge Dianna cut the dough into small pieces and then each child had a turn of rolling the dough through the pasta machine. The children watched with anticipation as the dough was flattened with the machine's special rollers.

Once the dough was flat the children put the dough back through the pasta machine and this time the dough was cut into thin strips.

The pasta was then set aside for cooking the following day. The next day we cooked the pasta on the stove and the children enjoyed a bowl at snack time. Some children had the pasta on its own while others had a sprinkle of parmesan cheese on the top. It was delicious!



Making pasta with Dianna



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Our pasta ready for cooking



Our pasta cooked and ready to eat

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

After much discussion about our planets (especially our planet Earth) during our Space topic we continued looking at our planet – 'Earth' and what we can do to protect it. The topic Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, was explored.

Together we looked at the different ways we can recycle and discussed what we can all do at Kinder and at home to be wonderful recyclers. Using a range of environmental pictures, the children all had a turn at placing these pictures under our two columns - 'Happy Earth' and 'Sad Earth'. The children discussed their individual pictures with the group before placing them onto the felt board. The children did a great job with this task. During this topic the children also took part in a recycling sorting game, learnt a new song called 'The Recycle song', participated in a recycle craft activity and read some books on how and why recycling is important for our environment.

Recycling with Preschool children is a great way to teach them about taking care of their environment. Talking about recycling provides the opportunity for children to learn about where products come from, how they are made, and how they can be reused.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



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Our Dental Visit

On Tuesday 24th November and Thursday 26th November Carmel and Jack from Carrington Health came to visit us at Kinder to talk about dental practices and to also conduct a dental examination for all children. Carmel started with a story called 'Sophie visits the Dentist'. The story talked about what type of chair you need to sit in when having an examination, what you may have to wear, what equipment the dentist may use and why it is important to have regular check-ups at the dentist.

This then led to a discussion on how to brush your teeth. Jack demonstrated this by using a teeth dental model. Jack explained to the children that you always need an adult to help you to brush your teeth until the age of 10 years. Jack said it was okay to have a practice first, but an adult should then give your teeth a good brush as young children do not have the muscle development to reach all required areas.

After this demonstration Carmel talked to the children about 'Healthy food' and 'Sometimes food'.

Carmel showed the children a variety of different food pictures and the children had to say which was 'healthy' and which was a 'sometimes' food. The children were particularly good at answering these questions.

Carmel and Jack also showed the children a set of test tubes containing sugar. These test tubes demonstrated how much sugar is in certain foods. The children were quite surprised to see just how much sugar is in 'Sometimes' foods.

During the visit Jack gave the children an individual dental check-up (with permission from parents) and the children responded positively to this.

After this dental visit the children talked a lot about 'Healthy foods' and 'Sometimes foods' during snack time and discussed why it is important to eat mainly Healthy foods.

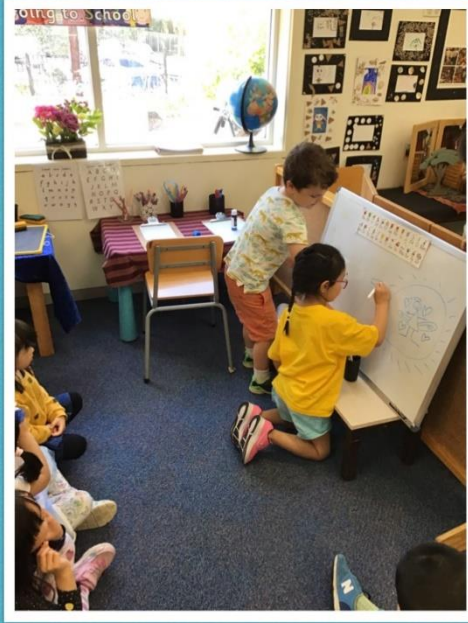


Our Dental Visit



Playing in our School area

This week we introduced a 'school' role play area indoors. This idea came from the children's interests as many will be attending school in the new year. The area is currently set up with a large whiteboard/markers, a variety of flash cards, note books/pencils, blackboards/chalk and alphabet and numeracy posters. The children have taken on various roles during play. We have seen some very obliging students, teachers a plenty and even a Principal who played a game of 'What am I?'. The children have cooperated well in negotiating which roles they will play.



Our school area



Vertical Garden

A big thank you to families for bringing in lots of plastic soft drink bottles for our vertical garden project. The children started planting in them a few weeks ago and they are now attached to the lattice outdoors.

Our vertical garden is starting to look fabulous.

Our vertical garden



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Our potato plants

At the end of June this year the children planted some tiny potatoes in hessian bags. Each time the leaves of the potato plants grew above the soil we needed to add another layer of soil to the bags. Over the past few months, the leaves have continued to grow.

Next week the children will start to empty the soil from the bags, and we hope to discover many potatoes hiding in the soil. These potatoes will be cut up and cooked in the oven on Thursday 10th December and Friday 11th December and served during snack time.

Our potato plants



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Outdoor Play

We have been doing lots of fun and active activities outdoors recently. These have included:

- Climbing the rope swing ladder
- Attempting to walk or crawl along the wooden ladder that is attached to 2 frames.
- Engaging in a game of Dodge Ball
- Participating in a game of Duck, duck goose
- Dancing and moving to a game of 'Freeze'



Thank you to Joyce (our student)

Over the past 5 weeks Joyce has been undertaking her university placement here with us at Deep Creek Preschool. Over these weeks Joyce has been involved in documenting the children's learning and then planning several experiences around their interests. One experience the children really enjoyed was listening to Joyce as she played on her roll out keyboard. After listening to a couple of songs the children were then invited out the front to have a turn on Joyce's keyboard. The children made different sounds on the

keyboard. Some made high sounds while others made low sounds. Some children who learn the piano at home also had the opportunity to play a tune for the group.

Thank you for all your help over the past 5 weeks Joyce. It's been a pleasure having you at our Preschool.



Reminders

- Just a reminder that our last library borrowing day was **Monday 30th November**. All books will then need to be returned on **Monday 7th December**.
- With the warmer weather approaching could families please remember to apply sunscreen before arriving at Kinder or on arrival. Any dresses that have skinny straps will need to be worn with a t-shirt underneath. Thanks for your assistance.

And lastly on behalf on Dianna, Trudy and myself we would like to say what a pleasure it has been teaching your children this year. Thank you all for your continued support throughout a year that has been like no other. We hope you all have a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas and if you are going away have a safe and happy trip.

Bron, Diann & Trudy

ECHIDNA & WOMBATS END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

End of Year Celebration Concert Day

On **Monday 14th December**, the children will be performing in a concert for their families where they can show off some of the songs that they have learnt throughout their year at preschool. Under the restrictions and our current covid safe plan, the concerts this year will be held via Zoom.

The concerts can be watched LIVE or a link to the recording will be emailed to families at the end of the day to watch at your own leisure.

Echidna Groups
Monday 14th December 2020
at 10:00am via Zoom

Wombat Groups
Monday 14th December 2020
At 2:00pm via Zoom

Please note: all links for the zoom sessions will be emailed to families before the day.

Children's Last Day & Celebration Party

On the last day of preschool, the children will be having their end of year party (*children only*) during their normal session time 8:30am to 12:30pm. We will be having lots of fun with party food, playing games and saying our goodbyes.

Children in Group B & C will have 2 party days.

The children will just need to bring their drink bottle only

Our last day parties will be held on:

Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December



Joeys News.....

We are so close to the end of school year when it approached to December. Looking back the busy and productive month we have had, I would like to share some highlights as below,

“Naidoc Week” & “Diwali”

During the second week of November, the joeys focused on a range of experiences to celebrate “Naidoc Week” and “Diwali”, which helped them promote a culture understanding and respect towards cultural diversity. **NAIDOC WEEK** celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme “Always Was, Always Will Be” recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

A couple of hands-on and age-appropriate activities invited the children to celebrate the long Aboriginal Australian history, the beautiful culture and the amazing achievements of Indigenous Australians. These included “Learning about Aboriginal Symbols” (observing, matching & making with ropes on a Velcro Board), “Boomerang Design” (threading with coloured fabric strips & ribbons), Dreamtime Storytelling “How the Birds Got Their Colours?” & “Bird” Craft, “Dot Art Creations”, Puzzles of “Aboriginal Flag” & “Torres Strait Islander Flag”, Musical Movement “Wombat Wobble” & “Inanay” with rhythm sticks.

We were also very happy to celebrate the Indian festival, “Diwali” (Festival of lights) with Sudesh. At the group time, Sudesh explained about Diwali and showed us some pictures of people celebrating Diwali in India. Later, the children drew Rangoli (flower patterns) with coloured chalk outside. In Indian culture, it is believed Rangoli brings people good luck. As you could tell from the pictures, the children spent a very busy but enjoyable “Culture Week”!





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“Dental Health”

This month, some practical and playful pre-activities had been offered to the joeys in which they had an opportunity to build on the knowledge of personal dental care before the dental visit. The activity “This is the Way We Brush Our Teeth” with a dental teeth model and real toothbrush invited the children to develop their personal hygiene skill-tooth brushing in a fun way. The sorting game “Happy Tooth& Sad Tooth” challenged the children to have a think about identifying different kinds of foods and drinks, which are good for our teeth and which may hurt our teeth and cause toothache to learn about what should be eaten more or less often. The children also made models of their mouths, where they practised counting twenty “teeth” for their crafts. It was absolutely pleasing to see the children picking up the ideas so quickly and strengthening their understanding in relation to oral health through their individual exploration, group storytelling and discussions.

On November 24th and 26th, we welcomed Carmel and Jack from Carrington Health to our kinder to offer us an interactive and educational dental health session involved storytelling, group discussions and dental check-ups. Everyone enjoyed the fun learning and shared achievements as capable and involved participants, such as, investigating what to expect from a visit to the dentist (eg, figuring out what dentists wear in the clinic and the tools they use, sitting in a special chair that can go up and down, wearing sunglasses to protect eyes from bright light), watching a demonstration of how to brush teeth in a proper way as well as sorting out everyday foods and sometimes foods to learn how to make healthy choices. The session ended with happy dental check-ups, and the children were rewarded with stickers for their job well done!





"Nature Exploration"

In response to a group of children's interests in what they noticed and shared about the birds and compost worms from our last month's "Spring Scavenger Hunt", a few related fun-filled experiences were offered to meet their curiosity and scaffold their learning.

The children explored why, how and where the birds build nests and what the birds normally use to build their nests while listening to the story "Nest", engaging in group discussions and participating in the activities that combined natural materials with sensory, maths and imaginative play. "Eggs for Nests" with playdough, rocks and twigs allowed children to work on number recognition and one-one correspondence while undertaking the task. "Nest Building" invited children to use some natural materials and loose parts to help build a nest/nests with their creativity and imagination.

At snack time, the children love saving snack scraps and have learned that the worms will eat them, and in return, they will give good things for the soil to help plants grow. However, sometimes, the children are still unsure about what kinds of food/fruit scraps should go into

the recycling bin for the compost worms. So, the sorting game “What can/can’t we feed the worms?” helped them learn what worms eat. After learning about some basic facts about the worms from the storytelling and group discussions, the children took a close look at and touched the worms to further discover where they live, how they move in the soil, what they look like and feel like. Creating a “worm” by threading with brown wooden beads and alphabet letter beads was another fun activity to continue supporting the children’s fine motor practice and language cognitive growth.





“Engaging Sensory Plays”

The science experiment “Floating or Sinking” was set up as an extension activity to engage the water-loving children to make predictions, observe, explore and test their ideas as they placed assorted objects in the water to figure out what would stay at the top or go down to the bottom. We saw the children keeping their hands and brain busy experimenting with various items and sorting them out into the groups of “FLOAT” and “SINK” based on their observations. Some children enjoyed predicting the answers to the questions raised by the educator before their experimentation, such as, “Do you think that item will sink when you put it in?” “What will happen if you put this in?” They looked extremely thrilled as their guesses were proved correct.

Since the weather warms up, the “Digging Patch” has remained the most popular spot filled with lots of fascinating possibilities for the joeys to discover. This month, the children creatively turned it into a “Construction Site” and “Mud Kitchen” with their amazing imagination, where much concentration, experimentation, cooperation, hand-eye coordination, turn-taking, leading, sharing as well as fine & gross motor skill development occurred through their project based exploration.





"Road Safety"

As a group of joeys have been interested in incorporating traffic signs into their biking play lately, a few related experiences then involved the children in better understanding of basic road safety and enhancing their knowledge of how to be safe outdoors, which aimed to guide their learning in being and becoming safe road participants, now and into the future. These included a small pretend traffic play corner with different road signs, toy vehicles and wooden people, puzzles, storytelling and group discussions. Throughout the exploration, we shared some road safety messages together, such as,

- basic road signs they see more often in their everyday environment
- safety rules in the cars, eg, always buckle up safely and stay buckled up-awake or asleep
- safe play whilst riding bikes/scooters, eg, wear a helmet, always ask grown-ups where it is safe to play
- pedestrian safety, eg, always hold a grown-up's hand at the carpark outside the kinder, cross a road properly by always holding an adult's hand, when a grown-up's hand is not available, hold a pram, bag or clothes

It was amazing to see the children putting their new knowledge into practice to develop their real-life skills in the play.



“Adventures with Hop/Bounce”

This month, Carwyn, Alex, Luca, Louisa, Daniel, Wallace and Edward talked about their wonderful adventures with Hop/Bounce. Everyone in the kinder was able to share their special time together. Thanks so much to their parents for their assistance!



Moving ahead into the rest of Term 4 will see us all busy creating Christmas gifts and decorations and rehearsing for the end of year concert. To the families who donated the toys and food items for “Doncare Christmas Appeal”, your support and generosity are much appreciated!

Lastly, a big thank you to all the Joey Group families for your efforts to support us in whatever ways you did in 2020 and it has been such a pleasure teaching your children! Have a beautiful family time over the festive season and holiday time and a big wish for an amazing year in 2021 and beyond!

Sonia & Sudesh

JOEYS END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

End of Year Celebration Concert Day

On **Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December**, the children will be performing in a concert for their families where they can show off some of the songs that they have learnt throughout their year at preschool. Under the current restrictions and our covid safe plan, the concerts this year will be held via Zoom.

Joeys A & B Group
Tuesday 15th December 2020
at 2:00pm via Zoom

Joeys B & C Group
Wednesday 16th December 2020
At 2:00pm via Zoom

Please note: all links for the zoom sessions will be emailed to families before the day.

Children's Last Day & Celebration Parties

On the last day of preschool, the children will be having their end of year party (*children only*) during their normal session time 1:30pm to 4pm. We will be having lots of fun with party food, playing games and saying our goodbyes.

Children in Group B will have 2 party days.

The children will just need to bring their drink bottle only

Our last day parties will be held on:

Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December



[Committee News.....](#)

Hi Families, what a busy couple of months it has been for the Committee of Management!

Fees for 2021

The State Govt has recently announced free kinder for all four-year-old funded programs and partly free for three-year-old unfunded programs. A letter will be emailed to all families attending Deep Creek in 2021, in the next week and what that means for your families.

In the meantime if you have any questions please direct them to Richard Wong, Fees Officer @ fees.deep.creek.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au.

Fundraising in 2020

A huge thank you to all the families who contributed to our fundraising efforts via the **Tea Towels**. Families purchased a total of 60 tea towels and that raised \$240 for the preschool.

Considering we could not execute the scheduled Social / Fundraising activities this calendar year, the COM/Staff still managed **to raise in excess of \$1,700**. This was through Bunnings/supermarket vouchers, community monster raffle, uniforms, the inaugural recipe book & tea towels.

The COM will come together to decide how the funds will be allocated in 2021, however in the meantime if you have any ideas/wishes please let me know.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held face to face on **Tuesday 24th November**. It was very successful, and we managed to fill many vacancies on the night. We still have the following vacancies for our COM in 2021: **SECRETARY * OH&S OFFICER * MARKETING OFFICER * GENERAL MEMBERS**

Please consider joining and assisting the committee with these roles. We are happy to note that a dual Secretary Role is possible whereby members could share in minute taking/ preparation of the meeting agenda etc. As the saying goes, many hands = light work!

Please email Jeanette Tso @ secretary.deep.creek.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au for a copy of role descriptions or a nomination form.

Also, the meeting presentation and a Zoom recording will be sent out shortly for those that wish to view it and couldn't make it on the night.

Yesterday, we finally received our long-awaited Outdoor Café Style Blinds installed around the entire perimeter of the veranda.

Don't they look amazing!!

We are so happy that the children and teachers have a chance to enjoy them for the remaining of 2020.



PIC•COLLAGE

On Tuesday, we had our final Committee Meeting for 2020 followed by our Christmas Staff/COM Dinner at Carlucci's.

It was a wonderful night had by all and we finally got a chance to let our hair down after such a tough year!

I would like to take this opportunity, to say a HUGE thank you to the entire COM for 2020.

Also, the best of luck to our outgoing members & their families, Karen Wu, Joyce Wong, Jacqueline Chia, Mindy Huang, Ansuman Gupta, Simon Chen & Richard Wong.

To Natasha Dineen, Jeanette Tso, Christy Zhong, Emma White & Dianna, Bronwyn, Sonia, Trudy & Sudesh: Thank you, Thank you, Thank you and I can't wait for us to do it all again next year!



Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and enjoy the holiday break with your families. 😊

Till next time warm regards,
Aglaia Papageorgiou - President
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