



Yackandandah Kindergarten

Term 1
January /
February 2020

TERM 1 INFORMATION ISSUE

Welcome to our 2020 Families and Children

It will be wonderful to see some known faces and many new ones walk into our Kinder this first week back. Our kinder community has grown considerably during the last six years, which means that we have adjusted our programs to support all families.

Enquiries about our 3yo and 4yo Programs are most welcome. Contact the Kinder Office 6027 1560 or email yackandandah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

If you have any queries about our kindergarten or would like to have a conversation about your child's settling in or progress, please feel free to contact me or call the office to make an appointment.

Marisel Blefari, Director

4yo Funded Program 2020: **Monday - Tuesday - Thursday** **from 8.30am – 4.00pm** **(children attend 2 of these days)**

Teachers Marisel Blefari, Anna Webb & Jane Chrystie, assisted by Jenny Hyland, Claire Vale, Erin Tinney, Kelly Reynolds & Ali Nunn.

Thursday Program numbers **requires two classrooms and to** **alleviate carpark overload,** **start/finish times are staggered:**

Jane's Group: 8.15am – 3.45pm
Marisel/Anna's Group: 8.30am – 4pm.

NOTE:

If families think that this might be a bit too long a day for their child at the beginning, they may opt to pick up earlier (2.00pm) and work with the Educational Leader towards transitioning their child into the longer day as they settle into the program. Whilst our kindergarten is flexible in working with families, we must ensure that continuity of delivery of program is not impeded by interruptions to class activities.

3yo Program runs Wednesday **from 9.00am to 2:30pm.**

Teacher Anna Webb, assisted by Claire Vale.

Families of the younger children might also opt for an earlier pick-up (1.00pm) and can work together with their child's teacher towards transitioning into the longer day.

Non-Funded Program is a **combined 3/4yo program on** **Friday's, open to all children in** **the region**

Teacher Kelly Reynolds, assisted by Erin Tinney & Ali Nunn.

This is a stand-alone day of educational learning and school readiness. It runs from 8:30am to 4.00pm. Those families who wish their 3yo children to do a shorter day, may opt from 8:30am to 12:30pm also.

Kinder Administration

Our Administration Officer, Jennie McKern, is available each Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday [8.30am – 3.30pm].



Being involved in the Kindergarten Community

Our kinder is a community kindergarten that needs your help to ensure a high quality inclusive and responsive service.

Parents are urged to become involved in the Kindergarten, either as a parent representative on the Kindergarten Sub-Committee or as an active participant of the Parents & Friends groups:

- Maintenance Team (organising working bees),
- Fundraising Team (looking for new opportunities and working as a group)
- Social Team (organising events)

There are many ways families can help the Kinder. Please consult with staff about alternative ways to support and facilitate the management of the Kindergarten.

Term 1, 4yo Program events of interest

Halve Waste Education Workshop [Date TBA]

Each year, the Halve Waste Team visits our 4yo

Program to present a free education program on sustainability and the reduce, reuse, recycle message. They present their interactive Bin Smart Program; focussing on the 3 kerbside bins and the basic rules of sorting waste, including a "sorting game".



Responsible Pet Education Program visit [Date TBA]

Helen Bishop, a pet educator from this program, is coming to kinder with her dog to talk to the children and parents about dog safety. The focus is teaching our children skills and strategies on how to stay safe around dogs.



We invite you to our Welcome to Kindergarten 'Show Night' on Thursday, 27th February at 6pm.

Our 3yo & 4yo children will be performing in a short concert and this will be followed by a BBQ (cost is a gold coin donation). This welcome party is a fantastic opportunity to meet the families and friends involved at Kindergarten.

Please write your name (and number of people attending) and any special dietary requirements on the RSVP list at the sign-in table.
[This will help us with catering arrangements]

EXCURSIONS WITHIN AND EXTERNAL TO OUR KINDER COMMUNITY

Typically, we aim for several excursions a term for our 4yo program children; ie Yamaroo Hostel, Yackandandah Library, Yackandandah Museum, Beechworth Bakery, Beechworth Honey, Wangaratta Traffic School etc. In-house excursions include visits from our local emergency services – Vic Police, the CFA, SES & Ambulance Vic.

Whilst the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' may have become a cliché, the idea behind it - that children grow up as a part of a community - remains an important one. Children do grow up in the context of a community. How we acknowledge this and engage with our own local communities will have a significant impact on children and families, as well as on our own ways of working. For children, a sense of community plays an important role in the development of their feelings of belonging and security. Children thrive in an environment of mutually supportive and caring relationships. It is also valuable for children to feel part of a wider community that extends beyond the learning environment.

Strong links with the local community also provides educators with invaluable information and resources. By drawing on community knowledge and expertise, educators are better able to understand the children and families with whom they work, and better able to provide children with learning experiences that are meaningful and relevant to their lives.



Kindergarten Fees

Kindergarten fee statements will be emailed to families by the Yackandandah Primary School in the next few weeks. If you have a child currently attending the Primary School, your kindergarten fees will be added to your school fee statement. Fees are due within the first two weeks of term and are paid directly to the Primary School. Payment plans are also available.

Please don't forget that all families must pay an enrolment fee and maintenance fee. If you haven't done so already, please pay this at the Primary School office.

Fees can be made by direct deposit to Yackandandah PS WAW Credit Union
BSB: 803-070 A/C: 48135

Should you wish to discuss your

fees and/or payment options, please don't hesitate to contact the YPS Business Manager, Sandra McKibbin on 6027 1431.

Signing Your Child In and Out of Kindergarten

Under the guidelines of the Department of Education (DET) we are legally bound to meet all requirements of the National Standards. Could all parents sign their children in and out of the sign in book and use their full name in doing so.

Should we need to conduct an emergency evacuation, the sign in book is picked up and used as a record of attendance to ensure all children are accounted for. The person listed as picking up your child on that day would then be contacted. Writing 'mum or dad' or 'nan or pop' does not meet the standard.



After Kinder Care

If families of 4 year-old children wish to enquire about the Kinder's After Kinder Care service, please contact Jennie McKern

In the Office or speak with AKC staff Erin (Tue & Thur) or Kelly (Mon).

Permanent bookings [on a term by term basis] and casual bookings are taken. Whether you use half an hour or the full 2 hours offered, the cost will be \$13.50 per 2hr session per child and will appear on your fee statement issued by the YPS.

This service operates on the Kinder premises on a Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Absence from Kinder

If your child is going to be away, please inform us. If it is because of illness that requires exclusion from kinder, we are then required, as per our licence, to inform other parents.

Please phone us on 02 6027 1560 or email it through to the Kinder yackandandah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Kinder Website

www.yackandandahkinder.com.au

Kinder Facebook

This is a closed group, however we welcome our families to send a friend request to our site should you wish to join this network.



Code Red Fire Danger Days

Yackandandah Kindergarten is on the DEECD'S Bush Fire At Risk Register. This means that if the CFA declares a Code Red Fire Danger Day, the service will be closed for children and staff. The Department will confirm the closed status at 12 Noon the day prior to the planned closure. Once the closure decision is made, it remains in force for the declared period.

For this reason and other safety procedures, it is very important that we have your current contact details. If these have changed, please inform Jennie in the office to update your details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-fire-danger-ratings/>

Kindyhub Communication Tool

Kindyhub is a digital communication tool, allowing us to easily share your child's early learning experience with you at the end of each day. Our educators capture your child's achievements throughout the day via Kindyhub with photos, notes and stories. Kindyhub saves us time, in-turn allowing us to spend more time with your child. An IT fee of \$15 annually is charged on your fee statement. PLEASE RETURN YOUR PERMISSION FORM ASAP SO YOU CAN ACCESS THIS SYSTEM.

Collecting Children from Kinder

We would encourage parents not to collect their children from Kinder before their program finishes at 4.00pm. We understand that some parents are collecting their children from school at 3.30pm, coming to Kinder early and taking your child out of their program here means that they miss out on their curriculum. Perhaps a short visit to the park with your school-aged children in the time between 3.30pm and 4.00pm might be possible.

Kinder program start times are also most important and we ask that children are here by their session start time please.

Nude Food Lunchboxes

Families are asked to be mindful of the packaging waste that is sent to kinder in their child's lunchbox.

Being 'waste-wise' is a learning area that we will be discussing during session time. Food packaging is left in lunchboxes and returned home. Further information will be made available to families in the near future.

There are many reusable containers and wraps available at retail outlets that allow people to make sandwiches without the use of wrap. They are a cheap alternative and save time in the kitchen each morning! *Thank you for your support.*



Making Appointments

We always make ourselves available to meet with families who have any questions or concerns. In order to limit interruptions to our programs, please make sure you make appointments to speak to your child's teacher by calling the Kinder office and arranging a time.

Parent Helper Roster

We invite all families to join in the fun of kinder as a Parent Helper. There is a copy of the Term 1 roster on the sign in table for your convenience. Please write your name and available time you can give, next to the date you can help and we will look forward to having you with us!

Maternal & Child Health Nurse, Wendy McNabb works from this building Friday's by appointment 0400 577 949.

Indigo Immunisation visits this building on the third Thursday each month. Appointments: 1800 655 360.

CLOTHING



What to wear

When getting your child ready for kindergarten, please remember the following:

- Children should wear comfortable play clothes **which cover the shoulders** (no singlets)
- For safety, **solid shoes** are recommended. Thongs, flip flops and open backed shoes (slip-ons) are not safe for outside activities.

In winter, children are most welcome to bring boots, but please pack a pair of shoes in their bag as well to change into during the day.

For Bush Kinder we will be asking for a pair of gumboots to stay at Kinder. We have *all-weather suits to protect the children's clothing.*

KINDER MERCHANDISE



Kinder logo T-shirts and Hats

Kinder T-shirts, hats and windcheaters can be ordered directly from the Kinder Office.

- **T-shirts: \$18 each**
[Colours: Royal blue, purple, red, hot pink, Kelly green]
- **Hats: \$18 each**
[Colours: royal blue, navy, purple, pink, red, lime, orange, green]
- **Windcheaters: \$25 each**
[Colours: Royal blue, Kelly green, red, hot pink]

Order forms are available from the Kinder Office and a display of uniform is available for sizing.

Kindergarten Policies

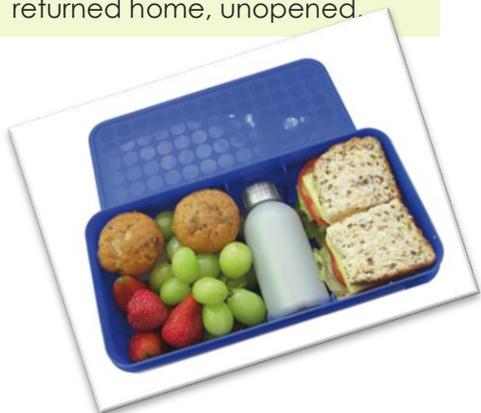
Healthy Eating Policy

The Kindergarten's 'Nutrition and Healthy Eating and Active Play' Policy clearly states that the early childhood years are a critical period for the development of healthy food and physical habits which will encourage a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives.

The staff ensure this by:

- Encouraging children to taste/try all foods, not forcing children to eat.
- Discussing nutrition and food in a positive way.
- Planning meal times for children so they are relaxed.
- Encouraging conversation between children.
- Positive role modelling from staff, Parents and volunteers by eating with children.
- Respecting individual children's likes & dislikes.
- Not using food as a reward or punishment or to provide comfort.

As part of our Policy, we ask that **NO treats** (eg. muesli bars that contain nuts, fruit roll ups or chocolate bars), **cordial, juice or other drinks** (water bottle only) be brought to kinder. These types of food will be returned home, unopened.



Anaphylaxis & Asthma Management

Anaphylaxis is life threatening.

The Kinder strongly encourages families not to send nuts or nut products with your child. We are **NUT FREE**. Parents with children with allergies must complete a Medication Plan before any medications can be administered. Parents with children with anaphylaxis must complete a Risk Minimisation Plan (template provided by the Kinder)

Asthma Management Plans must also be completed to ensure children can be properly treated if the need arises.

Head Lice Policy

Pediculosis (head lice) infestation is more of a social problem than a public health problem. Head lice are transmitted by having head-to-head contact with someone who has head lice; they are not responsible for the spread of any infectious diseases. Lice may infest anyone: they are not limited to gender, age or socio-economic position and outbreaks are common in schools and childcare facilities.

We seek your co-operation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

Health regulations require that when a child has head lice, that child should be picked up and not return to the Centre until after appropriate treatment has started. This refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs ie: once treatment has started and live head lice have been removed, only head lice eggs should remain.

Treatment should be repeated within 7 days to ensure that new live head lice are also removed.



Birthday Celebrations

We will be celebrating birthdays within days of starting Term 1!

Families are more than welcome to provide a cake or cupcakes to celebrate their child's birthday. As there can be children in our centre with anaphylaxis, we ask that you use the recipe below in order to minimise risk of exposure to allergens. Other celebratory options are also welcomed ie: icy poles, bubbles, games etc.

If **your child** is at risk of **anaphylaxis** or suffers from **food allergies**, we ask that you provide a small batch of cupcakes suitable for your child's sole consumption. They need to be in a sealed container, well labelled with your child's name and kinder group. This is a further measure to ensure your child is not exposed to food they are at risk of. We will not be able to give your child cake unless it has been provided by you, so please take the time to bring these in so your child can also participate fully in birthday celebrations!

RECIPE (Used with permission from Edan's Kitchen)

- 1 ½ cups self-raising flour
- 1/3 cup dairy and egg free custard powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 cold water
- Preheat oven to 180 degrees C
- Combine flour, custard powder and sugar
- Add oil, water, vanilla. Mix well
- Pour batter into prepared patty cases until almost full
- Cook for about 20 minutes or until skewer is inserted and comes out clean
- Decorate with icing and/or lollies



Planned events for Term 1



It's going to be a very busy Term, with plans already afoot for the Welcome Concert, Folk Festival BBQ and a number of excursions planned for our 4yo children.

Just so that you don't miss out on anything, here is a list of what's coming up:

- **29 January: First Day of Term 1**
- **11 February:** Kinder Sub-Committee of Management meeting at Kinder 5.30pm
- **27 February:** Kinder Welcome Concert & BBQ at 6.00pm
- **11 March:** LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – KINDER CLOSED
- **15 March:** Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Wodonga
- **17 March:** Kinder Sub-Committee of Management meeting at Kinder 5.30pm
- **20 – 22 March:** Yackandandah Folk Festival [Kinder BBQ on the evening of Friday, 20 March]
- **20 March:** Children participating in the YFF Parade down the main street
- **27 March:** Final day of Term 1 [4.00pm finish]
- **14 April: First Day of Term 2**



Thank you to our holiday helpers

Over the December/January school holidays, Kelly Reynolds' mum kindly looked after our chickens and chicks at her house – thank you.

KINDYHUB Consent Forms

This digital communication tool allows us to easily share your child's early learning experience with you at the end of each day. Please return the consent form on the first day of term, if you have not already done so.

Kindergarten Committee

Our Kindergarten Committee operates as a sub-committee of the Yackandandah Primary School Council; meeting termly on the second Tuesday of each month.

We are very fortunate to start the year with a full Committee. The February meeting will be held on the evening of 12 February 2019, from 5.30pm until 6.30pm at the Kindergarten, for those who are interested. Please RSVP to Jennie in the office.

Parents on the Committee represent the parents, families and children of our local community and can be the voice of the community in expressing thoughts and opinions. They will have regular face to face contact with the kinder staff, children & families and be a positive force in actively and optimistically communicating with our local people.

We are still seeking team members for our Parents & Friends Group. This group can meet informally to cover the social, maintenance and fundraising needs of the Kinder. Please see Marisel or Jennie in

the office if you are interested or would like more information.

Committee Meeting Dates:

11 Feb / 17 March / NO APRIL MTG / 12 May / 9 June / 14 July / 11 Aug / 8 Sept / 13 Oct / 10 Nov / Dec TBA.

Yack Kinder's Bush Garden Experience

In 2017, the kindergarten staff and a committee of parents, collaborated with the owners of the land directly behind the Kinder to create a safe bush garden learning experience.

In 2018 we removed all the rubbish, slash the grass, clear wild blackberry bushes, made a pathway to the creek, cleared vegetation on the side of creek and created log paths and a sitting area with a fire pit and stump seating area.

In 2019 we continued making improvements to complete our vision. Of particular note was the construction of a boardwalk.

We aim, through this concept, to provide a natural and diverse habitat for the kinder children to explore, through supervised discovery walks or shared group times. [not to mention enjoy picnics!]

In this setting, they can learn and identify plant communities & ecosystems local to the area and witness the life of the local birds & insects that use this garden as a corridor between the creek and the township.



We welcome your involvement