



# Thornbury Kinder News

## Term 2, 2019

### Inside this issue

- p.1 From the President
- p.2 From the Director
- p.3 Dates for your diary
- p.4 3 Year Old Update
- p.5 Out & About Update
- p.6 Bush Kinder Update
- p.7 Fundraising & social news
- p.8 Noticeboard
- p.10 Kinder merchandise
- p.10 Keeping in touch

### From the President

In news that may startle anyone familiar with the kinder/school newsletter genre, it's been a busy few months for the kinder since our last newsletter.

#### **Farewell Ange. Welcome Andrea.**

In early May we said farewell to our longest-serving teacher, Ange Ditchmen. In April we also welcomed Andrea Mercer, the new Orange Group teacher. A huge thank you to Natasha, our Staff Liaison Officer, who put a massive amount of time and effort into hiring Andrea and the entire recruitment process. Thanks also to our staff members, Angela and Kate, and to other Committee members, Kathryn and Jenna for their important work in this project, as well.

(You can find out a bit more about Andrea in the Noticeboard section of this newsletter.)



#### **The foyers**

If you're reading this but haven't visited our foyers recently, I recommend coming down for a quick squiz if you get a moment. Teresa, our Foyer Rep has been doing a magnificent job with the help of several parent volunteers (a special shout out to Justin). The new handprint murals are particularly striking.

#### **New-look website**

I am also pleased to announce that we launched a new website for the Kinder at the start of June. We hope that the improvements will not only look sharp, but also increase usability and reflect who we are at Thornbury Kinder. We welcome your feedback once you've had a click around.

#### **Don't forget**

Before I finish, a couple of things to keep in mind:

Trivia Night is on the **15th of June**. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and is always heaps of fun. There's still time to get a table together – if you'd like to, get in touch with our Fundraising Coordinator, Pip.

Also, we're already thinking about the 2020 Committee. From experience we know it's best not to leave it all to the last minute (and the AGM in November, when the Committee is nominated and finalised). Best to give our parents plenty of time to consider signing up to a role well before the night. If you have any interest – perhaps in becoming our next Treasurer, Staff Liaison Officer or Enrolments Rep – please don't hesitate to let me know.

See you round the kinder,  
Jonathan

## From the Director



In 2018 Thornbury Kindergarten successfully submitted an expression of interest in the Victorian Department of Education and Training's Learn Languages at Kindergarten Program. In our application, we sought funding for children to learn in the Woiwurrung language, the main Indigenous language spoken by the Wurundjeri people. We hoped this would commence from early 2019.

The Department are continuing their consultation with the local Indigenous community and intend to roll out the program in either Term 3 or 4. In the meantime we have been offered additional funding to teach another language – and with such a multilingual staff the language options are many.

### We're starting straight away!

We approached staff to gauge their interest and Monika put up her hand to teach Spanish for 6 hours per week in our funded 4-year-old programs. Learning began on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. This is very exciting – we're pleased that we now don't have to wait until later in the year to get such an important program started.

The Early Childhood Language Program (which is the broader program covering Learn Languages at Kindergarten) will be introduced into around 160 early childhood services offering state-funded kindergarten for children in the year before school. It will be delivered in accordance with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and children will be encouraged to learn through play, exploration and problem-solving in another language.

Once the Department is ready to deliver the Indigenous language program, we will reassess how we run the program at the kinder.

### Learning 'in' another language

The Early Childhood Language Program centres on children learning *in* another language as opposed to learning *a* language.

Learning in a language integrates the new language into the children's experiences and routines. Exposure to language content and vocabulary occurs in meaningful ways and in context through these rich and complex experiences. It also occurs at the same time as wider learning.

Learning in another language in kindergarten offers unique opportunities for children. The play-based pedagogy of early childhood can be an effective way to support language learning because it can create a space where language is used for genuine two-way communication. The Early Childhood Language Program should actively use play to expose children to the language.

A high-quality language program exposes children to the many benefits of learning additional languages at a young age. These include:

- Increased reading and writing skills;
- Cognitive flexibility;
- Strengthened brain development;
- Improved problem-solving skills.

A high-quality language program should also reflect children's views and actively seek their feedback on learning experiences in the kindergarten. It should be based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child and take into account their individual differences.

(Sourced from the Early Language Program Guide – DET)

*"Encouraging other staff in the kindergarten to learn the new language can help to embed the language across the program."* This is my favourite line in the Guide because it supports our philosophy of being lifelong learners.

With that in mind,

Muchas gracias y hasta luego!

Angela S.



## Dates for the Diary

<b><i>Fri 28 June</i></b> <b>TERM 3 FEES DUE</b>	<b><i>Fri 28 June</i></b> <b>END OF TERM 2</b>	<b><i>Mon 15 July</i></b> <b>START OF TERM 3</b>
<b><i>Mon 10 June</i></b> <b>QUEEN'S BDAY LONG WEEKEND</b>	<b><i>Sat 26 Oct</i></b> <b>HALLOWEEN DISCO</b>	
<b><i>1 June - 14 June</i></b> <b>ONLINE AUCTION</b> <b>Fundraiser! Donations welcome!</b> More info on p. 7	<b><i>Sat 15 June</i></b> <b>AUSTRALIAN ICONS: TRIVIA NIGHT!</b> <b>Fundraiser!</b> Special guest: Kate McLennan More info on p. 7	



### 3 Year Old Update

#### Belonging and building relationships with families

Most of the 3-year-old children have settled into their new environment and are becoming more familiar and comfortable with their educators, peers and their surroundings. We emphasise belonging and building relationships with families in order to better support the children as they settle into our kinder environment.

Our kinder children thrive in their learning and development when they see their educators working in partnership with their families. At Thornbury Kindergarten, we believe in the importance of family being involved in their child's kinder experience. By welcoming, talking and demonstrating with each individual family we build a foundation for a strong partnership. At Thornbury Kindergarten, we value that families feel welcomed, respected, see themselves as members of a learning community and are empowered in their child's experiences. We have encouraged this by hosting a welcome coffee morning, special person's day, parent/carer participation, individual interviews/phone calls/emails, family picture wall and children and staff handprints. Some suggestions to enhance partnership and belonging at kinder are:

- Share information about your child's interests, strengths and preferences.
- Let the educator know if your child is having difficulties and discuss what can be done both at home and at kinder to assist.

One of the challenging and complex parts of our work is establishing and maintaining partnership with families. Thank you for including us in your child's learning journey! Stay warm.

Fathima and Diana





## Out & About Update

This term our Out & About groups have continued to visit local parks such as Hayes Park, TA Cochrane Reserve and Pender's Park. Visiting the known places multiple times gives children a chance to think less about the rules of where they are allowed to go and provides more time and space to develop their play, language and social skills. Children have enjoyed the independence of taking the public bus from Hayes Park to return to kinder and this short journey highlights the wonderful active community participants that they are!

Hayes Park provides children with access to and opportunities to engage in nature play. The benefits of nature play are well documented, for example:

- Children who play regularly in natural settings are sick less often. Mud, sand, water, leaves, sticks, pine cones and gum nuts can help to stimulate children's immune system as well as their imagination.
- Children who play in natural settings are more resistant to stress; have lower incidence of behavioural disorders, anxiety and depression; and have a higher measure of self-worth.
- A strong connection with natural spaces, be it the local park, or the green bit outside your house, helps children to learn to love nature and thus to take care of it.

For a complete list of the benefits of nature play please visit <https://www.natureplaywa.org.au/programs/nature-playgrounds/benefits>

Other outings have included visits to our local primary schools. These opportunities have given children exposure to school, classroom and playground environments. This continues to build community connection and familiarity with school settings.

Kate, Nu, Fathima, Andrea, Sara and Monika



## Bush Kinder Update

We have had a fantastic start to term 2 at Bush Kinder in the parklands. The cooler weather has brought out the mini-beasts! Many of the children are enjoying finding millipedes and slaters and building little houses for them. This term has also brought some rain and of course muddy puddles! The children have delighted in the change to our Bush Kinder site and the new ways to play in and engage with Bush Kinder. There has been much jumping and splashing in the puddles and, of course, the preparation of many mud pies.

Danielle, Heidi, Monika, Diana and Claire



### Wet Weather Wear: reminder

As we head into winter it is a timely opportunity to remind families that children are required to arrive at their Bush Kinder or Out & About sessions dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

All children should have a set of waterproofs, i.e. rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants or overalls which zip up over clothing. We also require that all children have a full set of spare clothes in their bags to change into, if required. These measures will help to ensure that all of the children can enjoy and fully participate in their session.

In accordance with the kindergarten policies, if children are dressed inappropriately for the session and there is no suitable alternative clothing, staff will refuse the child's entry to the session. These policies are available for families to read on the kindergarten website under the policy section.

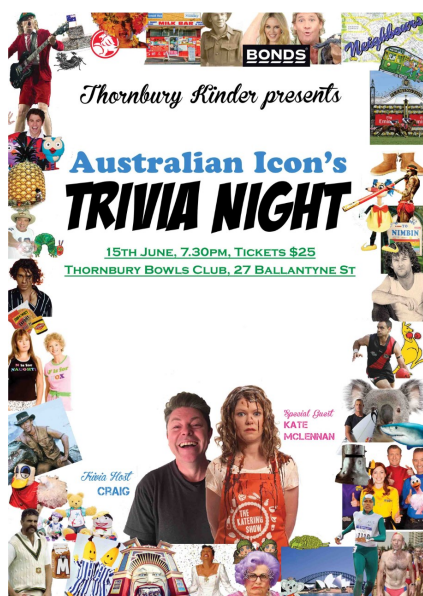


## Fundraising and social news

Term 2 = FUNDRAISING! Trivia Night is fast approaching and we are very excited that comedy ICON and Thornbury Kinder parent, Kate McLennan has agreed to be the special guest for the evening!

For those who didn't come last year, it certainly is the night of nights, with dancing, socialising and the chance to prove your mental prowess by answering the trivia questions. There are also lots of games in-between with fantastic prizes.

It's a great way to support the kinder and have a great time.



**When:** Saturday 15 June

**What time:** 7.30pm

**Where:** Thornbury Bowls Club, 27 Ballantyne St, Thornbury

**Theme:** Australian Icons

**Cost:** \$25 per ticket

**What to bring:** a plate of food that's easy to share (grazing plates, lollies, nuts, cheese, etc)

**How many to a table:** About 8 – but if you can't get a team together, we can help you find a table

**Should I book:** bookings are essential - tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/BCWHI>

We also run an Online Auction that's now live. It closes at 9pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. Items purchased will be available for collection at the Trivia Night.

You visit our Online Auction and bid here: <https://www.32auctions.com/TK2019>

### Can you donate prizes for Trivia Night?

We are taking donations for hampers and prizes for Trivia Night. Ideas are tea, toiletries, food, wine, toys, books or just a small present you want to re-gift. There are boxes for these items in the Opal and Amethyst rooms from this week.

If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact Phillipa, by emailing [fundraising@thornburykinder.com](mailto:fundraising@thornburykinder.com) or calling 0435 820 471.

Thanks from the Fundraising Team  
Phillipa, Esther, Anthea, Clare and Andrea



## Noticeboard



### Welcome Andrea Mercer: Kindergarten Teacher

Staff, Committee of Management and parents of Thornbury Kinder welcome Andrea Mercer to our Kinder Community. Andrea has a Master of Teaching (Early Years) from the University of Melbourne and has been teaching for the past six years. She is a passionate advocate for early childhood education and nature-based teaching.

Andrea has completed courses in forest school education, Steiner teaching and the Green School educator course, focusing on education for sustainability. Andrea finds great joy working with children and families during such an important and formative stage of children's learning and development.

In her spare time, Andrea enjoys bush walking, gardening, camping, visiting Ceres and exploring the Merri Creek on her bike.

Welcome Andrea!

### New website

We are pleased to announce that we have launched a new website at Thornbury Kinder! We are hoping that the new site will closely reflect who we are; be easier to navigate and provide useful and essential information to prospective and current parents and carers.

We would love your feedback; please contact our Communications and Website Rep, Rachel at [online@thornburykinder.com](mailto:online@thornburykinder.com)

NB As part of the new website roll-out, we have decided to stop using Skoolbag as a method of communication. Going forward, communication will come via email from either Angela (Director) or Jonathan (President); via our Facebook page and we have a calendar feature on our new website.



### Winter Sniffles

Colds, or upper respiratory tract infections, are the most common cause of illness in children and adults. Most colds are caused by a virus. There are over 200 types of viruses that can cause the common cold, which is why it's not possible to be immunised against a cold.

Colds are more common in the winter months. Cold weather by itself does not increase the chance of getting a cold. People are in closer contact with each other at this time of year, because they stay indoors, and so are more likely to infect each other. The viruses that cause colds are spread by sneezing, coughing and hand contact.

At Thornbury Kinder, we have many vulnerable people passing through our Kinder – infants, pregnant women and grandparents – so we ask that you please take a moment to remember the following good cough and sneeze etiquette:



- Cover your mouth and nose every time you cough or sneeze. Use a disposable tissue to cover your mouth or nose if possible.
- If a cough or sneeze sneaks up on you and no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve. This prevents your hands becoming contaminated with cold or flu viruses.
- Dispose of single-use tissues immediately after you cough or sneeze.
- If you cough or sneeze onto a hard surface like a desk or telephone, clean it immediately with a disposable disinfectant wipe to remove the cold and flu germs.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15–20 seconds every time you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands every time you touch a contaminated object like a tissue.
- If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitising products containing 60% or more alcohol. These products are also effective in removing cold and flu germs from contaminated hands.
- Avoid touching your face with your hands (especially if you know they're contaminated, for example if you've just wiped your sick child's nose). Touching the face allows cold and flu viruses to enter the mucous membranes of the nose and eyes and cause infection.
- Stay away from work, school and other busy places as much as possible when you have an illness like cold or flu which causes coughing and sneezing.
- If you need to go to work or other busy places, avoid close contact with others, for example by not shaking hands and standing at least one metre away.

## **You never forget the flu – so don't forget your flu shot**

### **Who should get the flu vaccine?**

Current recommendations suggest that anyone aged six months or older is encouraged to get an annual flu shot.

For vulnerable people, like young children, the elderly and people with a weakened immune system, the flu can have serious and devastating outcomes.

That's why the flu vaccination is free for:

- children aged 6 months to under five years of age (Victorian Government funded program)
- pregnant women
- people aged over 65
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (6 months and over)
- people with chronic medical conditions.

By getting your flu shot, you're not just protecting yourself, you're also protecting vulnerable people who cannot receive the vaccine themselves such as young babies less than six months old and those who have low immunity.

## **No Jab No Play policy**

Thornbury Kinder reminds all parents that under the No Jab No Play legislation, parents are required to provide our service with an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement showing that their child's immunisations are up to date. If your child has been immunised since enrolment, please ensure that you provide your kinder teacher with the updated immunisation history statement as soon as possible.





## Kinder merchandise

Dressing for kinder is easy with kinder merchandise! T-shirts are \$15 each and come in red, blue, yellow, orange, purple, apple (light) green and olive (dark) green. They look great in kinder photos! Polar fleece jumpers (size 4 only, \$25) and windcheaters (size 6 only, \$20) are available in red or blue. Bucket hats are available in red or blue (\$10). Merchandise samples and order forms are located in each foyer. Completed forms and correct money should be placed in the fees box in each foyer.



## Keeping in touch

### Facebook



Please join the Thornbury Kindergarten Facebook page for information and updates. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thornburykindergarten/>

