



# Thornbury Kinder News

## Term 1, 2019

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### From the President

Welcome to the Term 1 Newsletter. If you're not a fan of thank yous, you may want to skip this section of the newsletter, because so many people have been so helpful over the last few months and there are a lot of them to dispense.

First, an enormous thanks to everyone involved in our Welcome Picnic in February. It was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without the parents who volunteered their services as face-painters, bakers, sellers, raffle spruikers, games setter-uppers, and much more.

The biggest thanks of all goes to the organisational geniuses behind the event – the Committee's Fundraising Team. Thanks especially to Esther who made the Picnic her own.

I'd also like to thank the dozens of parents who came along to the first working bee of the year at the start of March. It was definitely the biggest turnout I've seen since being at the kinder and several parents who've been here longer than me mentioned the impressive numbers. We got almost every task on a very long list completed. And the stuff we didn't complete was mostly down to the fact it was a very hot and quite a windy day (so recoating timber was out of the question, for instance). Thanks to everyone who turned up and sweated for the good of the kinder and especially to Working Bee Organiser Extraordinaire, Lauren for another job well done!

And the thanks don't stop there. Thanks, as well, to all the parents who've been staying around in kinder rooms after drop-off to read a book, sing a song or just lend a helping hand.

The penultimate thanks goes to all the members of the Committee. I won't name everyone, but we've started the year brightly and I'm so grateful for the advice and expertise everyone provides.

And finally, of course, to the staff, who, in addition to their educational duties also have to battle Bush Kinder werewolves, be volcanologists and marriage celebrants. And that's just Blue Group.

Hope to see you at kinder,

Jonathan R.





## From the Director

Hello everyone and welcome to *your* kindergarten community.

It is the inspiration from and contribution of every single child and family that influences our programs and our direction for this year.

As a direct result of your individuality, each kindergarten group is different and so each program will be different in response. We combine this with our early childhood knowledge and expertise along with our understanding of current research to guide our practice. This is very exciting for us as it means that as practitioners we remain fresh and inspired – every year, every child, every group is different.

As professionals, our skills and expertise are important to us and we are constantly on the search for opportunities to build our knowledge. Our daily interactions and monthly staff meetings build collegial support as does sharing our findings with each other. In 2019 we will begin our termly Pedagogical Meetings to continue to focus on our practice. Our learnings are sourced through online reading, webinars, public lectures at libraries as well as the myriad training institutions who offer formalised early childhood training and professional development. You will find this reflected in your child's program so please take some time to read the program books that are on the bench in each room as these reveal the kindergarten program in action.

Should you have any questions please come and talk with us, as we love to talk about what we do and why we do it. We look forward to sharing a year of adventures, growth and loads of fun and happiness with you and your family.

Angela S.

## Dates for your diary

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b><i>Fri 5 April</i></b><br><b>TERM 2 FEES DUE</b>  | <b><i>Fri 5 April</i></b><br><b>END OF TERM</b>   | <b><i>Tues 23 April</i></b><br><b>START OF TERM 2</b>  |
| <b><i>23 April – 3 May</i></b><br><b>PICTURE PLATES</b><br><b>Fundraiser!</b><br>More info on p. 4     | <b><i>Thurs 25 April</i></b><br><b>ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY: KINDER CLOSED</b>  | <b><i>30 April</i></b><br><b>FIRST ROUND REGISTRATION FOR KINDER IN 2020 CLOSES</b>          |
| <b><i>20 May – 24 May</i></b><br><b>CLASS KINDER PHOTOS</b><br><b>Fundraiser!</b><br>More info on p. 4 | <b><i>1 June - 14 June</i></b><br><b>ONLINE AUCTION</b><br><b>Fundraiser! Donations welcome!</b><br>More info on p. 4 | <b><i>Sat 15 June</i></b><br><b>TRIVIA NIGHT!</b><br><b>Fundraiser!</b><br>More info on p. 4 |

## Out & About Update - Green and Orange

Our Out & About groups have had a great start to the year. Relationships with teachers and classmates are still being established so we began with short trips around our local block. Children have the chance to practise walking in a group and following the instructions from their teachers before walking further to the closest local parks, Penders Park and T.A. Cochrane Reserve, and to Pender's Grove Primary School and Wales Street Primary School. The big excursion of the term has been the bus trip to the Traffic School in Kew. The children have had the opportunity to practise many valuable life skills such as road safety and dog safety. As the scale of our outings has increased so too has the children's autonomy, capacity, confidence and stamina. They are an amazing bunch of individuals! These skills and learnings support outcomes outlined in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF).

Our planning for next term has begun and the outings will reflect the interests and abilities of the children in our groups. We look forward to sharing more information shortly.

*Children strive for connection and seek belonging - to people, country, place and communities that help them to learn about local ways of being. They learn about sharing common values, traditions and practices. As children experience settings beyond the home and kinship groups in which they live, their experiences, relationships and connections broaden. Across the period from birth to eight years, through the support of family and others, children learn more ways to connect and contribute. Contributing in social settings strengthens children's sense of identity, wellbeing and belonging. (VEYLDF, 2016, p. 19).*

Kate, Ange, Nu, Sara, Fathima and Monika

## Snakes Alive!

The head ranger at the Darebin Parklands, Ranger Pete, kindly invited kinder staff to attend snake and spider awareness training. Heidi and Danielle went along to learn about Australian snakes and spiders, their habitats and behaviours. Learning was also around specific first aid training for snake and spider bites and was more detailed than a regular first aid course. As you can see it was a "hands on" session!



## Fundraising and social news

Thank you to everyone that bought hot cross buns. We raised \$260.50. What a yummy way to help the kinder.

At the beginning of Term 2 we will be selling picture plates. These plates are printed with each child's own original drawing. They are a useful, durable and memorable keepsake of your child's kinder years. These plates have been quite popular in the past so get your order in early. A display plate will be in the Amethyst foyer.

Kinder photos will be taken over the week of Monday 20th May to Friday 24th May.

We have a date for our biggest event of the year, Trivia Night! This year it will be on the evening of Saturday 15th June at Thornbury Bowls Club so please put this date in your calendar and book babysitters.

Also in June we will be holding our Online Auction, this starts 2 weeks before Trivia Night and will be close Friday 14th of June so that you can pick up your items at the Trivia night. This is a great opportunity for people who have their own businesses to promote them by donating prizes. Businesses that donate will be given a certificate of appreciation from the kinder and appear in the Term 4 Newsletter.

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

### The Welcome Picnic raised \$1184.15!

Thanks to everyone who came to our Welcome Picnic in February. The event is always a great opportunity for families to get together outside kinder hours and it was wonderful to see so many children and parents having fun on what turned out to be a lovely day in the park.

The Welcome Picnic is also our first major fundraiser for the year and we raised \$1184.15 on the day. (To give you some point of comparison, at last year's Welcome Picnic we raised \$858.00.)

We're enormously grateful to the Committee Fundraising team for organising the event, particularly Esther Hissel, who made the Picnic her baby. Thanks also to Pip, Clare, Anthea and to all those who made something to sell on the day or who volunteered.





## Noticeboard

### Congratulations Monika & Claire!

Monika and Claire completed their Graduate Diplomas in Education (early Childhood) with Distinctions late last year and the Kinder community would like to extend congratulations to them both for this huge achievement!



### Kinder Committee of Management: your kinder needs YOU!

Every December, often after many years of fun and involvement, families end their time at Thornbury Kinder. Their youngest child comes to the end of four-year-old kinder and we sadly say goodbye.

This year will be no different and, as many of our parent Committee members move on from Thornbury Kinder next year, we will be on the search for new reps in 2020.

In this newsletter, and in upcoming issues, we'll be sharing more about our Committee of Management (COM), what being part of the Committee offers and opportunities to contribute in 2020.

In November each year, our Annual General Meeting is held at the kindergarten where a parent Committee is nominated and elected. The Committee's job is to manage the kindergarten for the following year. The Committee consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Staff Liaison Representative, which makes up the Executive, as well as 11 other roles responsible for a variety of important kinder areas and duties.

Our Committee plays a vital and influential role in our kindergarten. It's solely responsible for the management and maintenance of the kindergarten. It is also the responsibility of the Committee to ensure that we are providing a high-quality service and that the kindergarten meets the regulations and requirements as set out by government bodies such as the Department of Education and Training.

Committee meetings are held once a month at the kindergarten.

One of the positions that will become vacant in 2020 is Staff Liaison Representative and we thought we'd give you an overview of what's involved in the role.

**Staff Liaison Representative**

The position is responsible for the overall human resources (HR) management of the staff – which includes the teachers, the educators and our Director – and is the communication point between staff and their employer, the Committee of Management.

While the Director of the kinder manages general day-to-day staff issues, the Staff Liaison role works in support of HR management. This includes recruitment, oversight of employment contracts and application of industrial frameworks, bi-annual performance reviews, keeping key HR resources up to date (for example, induction resources) and other requirements such as leave. The position also attends staff meetings in support of things such as training and development. The position works closely with the Treasurer and liaises with the OH&S Representative on health and safety.

The role requires 4 to 5 hours of voluntary work per week and while the person fulfilling the role would find it easier with a background in HR, the foundations are well established for someone to step in and engage in the role as a learning opportunity.

If you have ever considered a role in HR or this might appeal to you as you consider return to work plans, why not look at the Staff Liaison Representative position for 2020? It's a rewarding role working with both the Committee and our kindergarten's wonderful staff. You have the opportunity to both learn and contribute meaningfully to the kinder.

You will be set up for success from the beginning with a handover from our current Staff Liaison Representative who would have held the role for two years and has a background in HR management.

We will be holding information sessions on all our Committee opportunities for 2020 in the second half of the year.

## Registering for kinder in 2020



Online registrations for round one offers are now open and need to be in by 30 April 2019.

**Even if you are enrolled in a kinder in 2019, you must register for kinder in 2020.**

The online registration system is now open. To access the new online portal go to [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten).

## 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/>