



Kinder News: Term 2, 2020

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Dates for your Diary

<i>Tuesday 14th April</i>	<i>Friday 26th June</i>	<i>Friday 26th June</i>
<i>First day of Term 2</i>	<i>Last day of Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3 Kinder fees due</i>
<i>Monday 13th July</i>	<i>Friday 18th September</i>	
<i>First day of Term 3</i>	<i>Last day of Term 3</i>	



From the President

Hello Everyone!

What a term! I don't think I'm overstating it to say that this has been one of the more unusual times the Kinder has experienced. I'm more surprised than anyone to find myself stepping in as President, but as Brooke has now stepped down, a replacement was needed.

I am mightily impressed by the way the management and staff have so thoughtfully responded to the various challenges faced, on many fronts, since the pandemic measures were put in place. The decision making has focused not just on keeping the children safe, but also how to mitigate the effect of safety measures on the children's experience and learning. This really illustrated to me that the bedrock of Thornbury Kinder is its guiding philosophies. These are considered and followed not just when things are humming along, but also under pressure and external strains.

To the teachers, educators and staff who continued to provide a space for those children who were unable to stay at home during the isolation period, I offer my most heartfelt thanks. You provided an essential service for our broader community, putting yourself and your own families at risk, even in circumstances where you were also required to manage the difficulties the isolation created, such as remote learning for school aged children.

Term 2 also saw Reconciliation Week, and whilst it is evident that there is a long way to go before we can consider that fairness, equality and justice are shared equally among all of us in our nation, the Thornbury Kindergarten is focused on inclusion and tolerance and its education around Indigenous culture is dynamic and considered. Feedback from parents and carers about how the kinder is doing on this front, will always be gratefully received.

For the past few weeks, it's been wonderful to see all the children back at the kinder and things returning to normal. I hope, like me, you are all looking forward to making happy memories for our children to look back on, and when the restrictions lift, coming together even stronger as a community.

Bonnie



From the Director

Dear Families,

Looking back over this term and all that has happened it's time to stop and draw breath. Phew! Wow! Goodness me!

Thank you to every single person who is connected to our kindergarten community for your support, your understanding, your patience and your kindness as we have travelled the unknown together. As staff we have achieved an enormous amount, learnt so many new ways of sharing our teaching with you and in ways we didn't know were possible at the beginning of 2020. Kate, Nu, Danielle, Shalu, Fathima, Diana, Heidi, Veronica, Monika and Sara have shown their professionalism, their collegiality and their strengths as a team and I am proud of all that we have achieved and provided for children and families. I see a strong, connected community.

Now it feels like we can all turn our attention more fully forward ... while continuing to maintain 1.5 distance from each other! We will

- build predictable routines (this provides comfort)
- build secure attachments and connections with children
- be respectful of individual coping mechanisms and provide support to manage and express emotions
- focus on the wellbeing of children, families and staff
- ensure that kinder is a safe place
- ensure kinder is a fun place, filled with many learning opportunities
- rebuild independence
- provide open, shared communication and conversations
- listen when you tell us what you need
- provide space and time for children to be alone and to relax
- trust families to do the right thing

So let's keep our connection strong and let's manage this next stage together.

With thanks

Angela



3 Year Old Update

Music and Movement for Early childhood

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music during early development helps them learn the sounds and meanings of words and strengthen memory skills.

At Thornbury kinder, music and singing is embedded into the pre kinder curriculum with the help of our music teacher, Katie Hull-Brown. We have Katie for singing fortnightly from term two but during these unprecedented times Katie still found a way to connect with our families via her music. Please click on the link and have a sing along with your child.

https://youtu.be/5f3tW8F7_Wc

Welcome back to Kinder and Stay Safe.

Fathima and Diana.



Bush Kinder & Out and About Update

A different update for Bush Kinder and Out & About this term with most of us remaining at home and spending time with family. We hope our kinder families have made time to still get outside and enjoy time in nature locally. There have been some terrific rainy days to get out and enjoy over the last few weeks. As adults the rainy weather can be uncomfortable however it doesn't mean our children need to feel the same way. Children are drawn to muddy puddles – they love to jump in them, roll through them on bikes, float things in them and much more.

Here are 4 ways to enjoy a muddy puddle:

1. Puddle jumping – With the proper clothing (or quick access to change of clothes) there is no greater fun for a kindergarten child to jump in puddles while it is raining! It is a fun way to develop the gross motor skills of jumping and stomping! Children also experience cause and effect and properties of water through this simple activity.
2. Floating and Sinking – Use a puddle as a natural water table. Let your child explore properties of floating and sinking by experimenting with different items found outside. Does a leaf float in the puddle? What about a stick? Or a rock? This can lead to other experimentation and questioning. Why do ripples form when you drop a rock into a puddle? Children learn to make predictions and explore strategies for answering their questions through this type of play.
3. Puddle Music – Rain has many sounds. Listening to rain on the roof and rain falling into a puddle are different experiences. A soft rain also sounds different from a hard rain. Try to replicate the sounds of rain using a pot or a wood block, a drum or a shaker. Here are some songs to sing on muddy puddle days.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat It's Raining, It's Pouring There's a Hole in the Bucket Singing in the Rain

Developing a sense of rhythm and rhyme are essential phonemic awareness skills – understanding and playing with the sounds of language. Music also plays with patterning, an early mathematical skill.



4. Puddle Stew – Children are able to use their environment to create play experiences with very little help from adults. We need to give them the opportunities to explore and the freedom to live out their ideas. Provide some buckets and scoops or spoons to use in puddle play to create an ooey, gooey, munchy, crunchy Wombat Stew! As children stir, pour, scoop, measure and serves their Stew, they also use rich language to describe the process. Children practice and build vocabulary and build confidence and self-regulation through imaginative play. Puddle stew also can incorporate measuring and fine motor development using measuring scoops and cups.

Puddles can provide endless fun and exploration. Put on your raincoat and head outside with your child on the next rainy day, and when the sun comes out, keep track of how long it takes for a puddle to evaporate! There is always something new to learn when we play in nature.

From Bush Kinder and Out & About teachers & Educators



Spanish Language Update

BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE AND BILINGUALISM

Hola familias.

What a Spanish term it has been. Online, children engaged with different materials to extend their learning of colours. From “Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo” (Brown Bear, Brown Bear) to Pocoyo’s colour hunt video children continued to hear and practice the Spanish colour vocabulary. In learning languages children learn what they hear most, repetition is key. Colours will continue to be reinforced and moving forward we will introduce numbers and other themes. We look forward to reengaging with the children in their play and their routines because we know that language learning is the most meaningful when it involves what is important and what interests the children.

We want to give a big thank you to the Victorian State Government for donating more Spanish Language resources to use in our program. We have received some beautiful themed books, posters and activities that we hope to display in the upcoming weeks, so keep an eye out for them in each room. These resources will allow us to link into many interests and keep the program engaging and interactive for the children to develop their Spanish learning.

Monika & Maria



Fundraising and social news

This is a difficult time for many of the Kinder families as well as many local businesses that usually support the Kinder, therefore we have not undertaken any fundraising events over the past months. We have however received donations of equipment for the Garden from Bunnings, Fairfield and Costco, Epping have donated vouchers for the Kinder to use to purchase extra cleaning products.



Items above purchased with the Bunnings vouchers which were donated.

We have provisionally booked the 30th of October to host a Halloween extravaganza for all the Kinder families and friends - restrictions allowing. We hope to make this into a large event where we can all help support the Kinder as well as have a jolly spooky time!

If anyone has anything - goods or services - to donate to Kinder please get in touch with Fiona Stevens fundraising@thornburykinder.com. Also if you have any fundraising suggestions please get in touch.

DATES

18th October - Family Photos @ Kinder

30th October - Halloween Extravaganza

13th - 19th November - In-Kinder Photos

Grants Update

We were successful in our application for the Inner North Community Foundation **COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant** to undertake 'Connection to Community' project and received \$1500. The grant was used to purchase 2x mobile phones that enabled us to provide online learning and keep connected to families. Our thanks to the Inner North Community Foundation for providing this opportunity.



INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Child Safety

Belonging and Connectedness at Kinder. All children need to feel that their world is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out any problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging. As we welcome children and families back to kinder, staff are concentrating on reconnecting with you all.

We place a great emphasis on your children's sense of belonging at Thornbury Kinder. We know that children who feel that they belong are happier, more relaxed and are more successful learners. It is our intention to work together with families to create a bridge between home and kindergarten. Family involvement at kinder demonstrates to your child that kindergarten is highly valued, a safe place to be and promotes feelings of belonging and connectedness. Unfortunately we are unable to have parent helpers at kinder currently, however there are many ways to be involved.



Growing Healthy Minds



Some suggested ways to enhance your child and family's belonging and connectedness at kinder are:

- Share information about your child's likes, interests and preferences with your child's teacher and educator.
- Talk to your child about their day. Try to pick a time in the day when your child is feeling calm and relaxed – the car ride home may not be when your child when feels particularly talkative. Asking a specific question such as "Tell me about one fun thing you did at kinder" may get a better response than "What did you do at kinder today?".
- Keep in touch with your child's teacher and educator via phone.
- Stay connected with kinder families via your WhatsApp social group.
- Let us know if your child is having difficulties and discuss what kinds of things can be done both at home and at kinder to help.

Danielle Logan
Child Safety Officer
childsafety@thornburykinder.com

Kinder merchandise

Dressing for kinder is easy with kinder merchandise! Check out our new design T-Shirts (currently only available in red) \$15 and Hats (now with adjustable toggle) \$12.

Old stock now on sale! Bucket hats now \$5 (Red or Blue) T-shirts now only \$10 available in red, blue, yellow, orange, purple, apple (light) green and olive (dark) green. Polar fleece jumpers (size 4 only, \$20) and windcheaters (size 6 only, \$15) are available in red or blue. They look great in kinder photos!

Merchandise samples and order forms are located in each foyer. Completed forms and should be placed in the fees box in each foyer.

New t-shirt design (red only)



Old stock, now discounted



Keeping in touch

Facebook



Please join the Thornbury Kindergarten Facebook page for information and updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thornburykindergarten/>