



Kinder News: Term 1 2020

Dates for your Diary

Friday 27th March - Last day of Term 1

Monday 30th March - Term 2 fees due

Tuesday 14th April - First day of Term 2

Thursday 30th April - Kinder enrolment forms due

COVID-19 Update

As you would know, the situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) is evolving quickly. The Victorian Government announced additional steps to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), including bringing forward the school holidays in Victoria to commence from Tuesday 24 March. However there is no change at this time for early childhood education and care services. This means they are permitted to continue to operate. We will remain open until we are advised otherwise. This is a dynamic and rapidly evolving situation and when information is updated you will be notified as soon as possible.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is without precedent in living memory, and it is taking us into the most challenging of times – as individuals, in our communities and as a society.

What we can do.

If you are unwell:

- Stay at home
- Do not go to public places
- Do not attend work, school, universities or social gatherings during this period
- Do not visit friends and family in health and aged care facilities

To protect yourself from COVID-19 implement physical distancing and continue to regularly wash your hands. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.

We will keep in touch with you, we will give you information when we have it and we will continue to do the best we can in these very uncertain times.

Please be aware of the conversations you are having around your children

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

This [video](#) has some useful tips for talking to young people about scary stuff in the news.



From the President



Hi everyone,

We have had a great start to the year at Thornbury kindergarten. Annabel has come on board as Administration Manager, bringing years of experience and a highly capable and friendly presence to the office.

The programs are looking fantastic and once again the children have access to wonderful and varied educational experiences. Bush Kinder has begun in earnest and the dusty smiling faces at pick up time reflect the fun they are having in such a beneficial learning environment.

I hope to see and chat to everyone over the course of the year as we work together in support of this amazing community.

Brooke Penrose

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. We also have 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 Storer

3 Year Old Update

Belonging and building relationships with families. The 3-year-old children are settling into their new environment and are becoming familiar and comfortable with their educators, peers and their surroundings. We emphasise belonging and building relationships with families to better support the children as they settle into our kinder environment.

Children thrive in their learning and development when they see their educators working in partnership with their families. We understand the importance of family being involved in their child's kinder experience. By welcoming, talking and connecting with each individual family we build a foundation for a strong partnership. We value families feeling welcomed, respected, seeing 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 handprint.

Partnering with parents in early childhood education allows children to see important people in their lives working together. Positive partnerships also benefit parents and educators. Through increased participation, parents become more comfortable with educators and caregivers.

In genuine relationships, families and early childhood educators:

- Value each other's knowledge of each child
- Value each other's contributions to and roles in each child's life
- Trust each other
- Communicate freely and respectfully with each other
- Share insights and perspectives about each child
- Engage in shared decision-making
- 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 leaning journey!

Stay warm.

Fathima and Diana



Out & About Update



The Out and About groups have organised themselves to get around the block and down to Pender's Grove Primary School.

Organising ourselves to get Out and About can take quite a while but as we allow and support the children to organise their own belongings they are developing task sequencing, problem solving and independence skills. All skills essential for life!

The children have done a fabulous job of getting their bags ready, carrying them, listening to instructions, playing inside the boundary and staying together when walking. We have very clear expectations when we go Out and About which we reinforce often, especially while we are still learning! These expectations encompass staying together, walking behind the teacher and playing within the boundary set at any play space. Other expectations are included or become more nuanced over time. These expectations help to keep everyone safe.

Later in the term we are looking forward to building on these skills and going to the park.



Bush Kinder Update



Finding mini-beasts and building them a home

We have had a hot start to our Bush Kinder sessions, with both of our first sessions having to be relocated to a local hall. The children demonstrated much resilience and flexibility in managing the different arrangement. We finally got down to the Darebin Parklands in week 2! The children have spent some time exploring our Bush Kinder site and the wonderful playing and learning opportunities it offers.

Danielle, Shalu, Angela, Heide & Veronica



Using a log and boulder to create a seesaw

Learning about snakes with Ranger Pete



Spanish Language Update

BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE AND BILINGUALISM



Hola familias,

We are excited to be continuing the Spanish Language Program this year. Bienvenido to Maria Jose Garcia to our Spanish team. Maria has been teaching the Spanish Language Program at JJ Mahon in Kew for the last year and brings lots of enthusiasm for teaching her native language. Maria will be teaching on Thursdays in Orange and Blue Groups while Monika will teach Mondays in Red and Green groups. The format has changed to 1-3 hour session every fortnight. Why the change? Children and teachers will have more time to deeply engage in the program, particularly in the children's play, where most of the learning happens. All groups will have access to Spanish every week through common play in the outside yard and visiting the other rooms during the session.

On Monday, February 24th we had a visit from our local MP, Kat Theophanous. She joined us for our mat time, learned some Spanish songs and played some games with the children. On behalf of the Department of Education and Training, Kat presented our Kindergarten with some beautiful Spanish resources. We look forward to incorporating these into our program, que bueno!

Our Spanish family library will commence in the next few weeks. Children will be able to take a Spanish book home for a week and share it with their families. Please ensure you return your book on time as we only have enough books for 1 per child and the next group will be taking books that week and we do not want anyone to miss out.

Monika and Maria

Fundraising and social news

The Fundraising Team would like thank all who came along to the Family Picnic it was a lovely evening and we were able to raise over \$600 for the Kinder.

If you have any raffle prizes to be able to donate, please get in touch:
fundraising@thornburykinder.com



If you have a business that could donate a prize or you have some unwanted gifts or some unwanted wine?? Any that we can use in a raffle is welcome.

Grants Update

Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant - Buzz and Dig

We're excited to announce that Thornbury Kindergarten is one of 128 schools and youth organisations to receive a 2019 Victorian Junior Landcare & Biodiversity Grant. We're using our \$1648.90 grant for our Bee Project, a series of educational visits from Katrina Forstner from Buzz and Dig.

Katrina founded Buzz and Dig in 2016 and has held numerous workshops to engage and encourage younger audiences to look close up at their natural world.

As part of the Landcare Bee Project grant, each kinder group will have a visit from Katrina to learn about native bees, pollination, and the important role native bees have to enable us to grow healthy food. Children may take home a bee hotel, local native plant or some seeds bombs to promote and encourage biodiversity in our neighbourhood.

You can find out more about Buzz and Dig on social media or visit the website www.buzzanddig.com.au for upcoming sustainability workshops or to find out more.

The Victorian Government is funding these grants to provide young Victorians at schools, groups and communities an opportunity to participate in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, as well as health and social benefits.



buzz & dig Urban Backyard Education

Child Safety Update

Hi my name is Danielle Logan.

I am the Red Group Kindergarten Teacher and also the Child Safety Officer. The Child Safety Officer's role is to support our Kindergarten in making sure we create and maintain a child safe environment.



Thornbury Kindergarten has zero tolerance towards child abuse and is dedicated to acting in the best interests of children and keeping them safe at all times. The Committee of Management is committed to implementing the Child Safe Standards and creating a child safe organisation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory standards for all organisations that provide services to children to adhere to.

The Child Safe Standards aim to:

- promote the safety of children
- prevent child abuse
- ensure organisations and businesses have effective processes in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse.

At Thornbury Kindergarten one of the ways we are embedding a Child Safe culture is through our Code of Conduct which outlines the Kindergarten's expectations for the behaviour of all adults involved at Thornbury Kindergarten. Thank you to all families who have acknowledged the Code of Conduct via the online enrolment process. The Code is an important tool in keeping children safe and we ask that all families please take the time to become familiar with the Code.

Thornbury Kindergarten Code of Conduct for Involved Adults:

Thornbury Kindergarten is a Child Safe Organisation. The protection of children is the responsibility of everyone involved at the Kindergarten, including staff, parents and volunteers. We all share the responsibility for promoting the wellbeing and safety of children.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, 'Involved Adults' is a collective term which includes the Committee of Management of Thornbury Kindergarten (the Committee), the Nominated Supervisor, teachers, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians and all adults involved in the programs and activities of the Kindergarten.

In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Kindergarten endorses the rights of all children to participate, have purpose, be protected and ensure that prevention from risk and harm is paramount in all we do. The Kindergarten has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to acting in the best interests of children and keeping them safe at all times.

The Kindergarten and the Committee are committed to implementing the seven Child Safe Standards and creating and maintaining a Child Safe Organisation.

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the Kindergarten policies and procedures in addition to professional standards and codes or ethics as these apply to staff

All Involved Adults at the Kindergarten are required to acknowledge and comply with the Code of Conduct, including our Child Safe Principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, noted below.

All Involved Adults must:

- Read and adhere by the Code of Conduct and comply with all policies of the Kindergarten



- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse.

Contribute to an organisational culture of child safety, by:

- Upholding the rights of all children to feel safe, and be safe, at all times
- Being a positive role model at all times, including speaking to children and others in an encouraging and positive manner
- Maintaining a physically safe and secure environment for children
- Treating the Kindergarten environment with respect
- Allowing children to undertake experiences that develop their self-esteem, agency and independence
- Providing an open, welcoming environment in which everyone's contribution is valued and respected
- Supporting a culture of inclusion for all children, including Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children at-risk, and children of all abilities
- Ensuring all interactions with children are undertaken in full view of other adults
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the Director, Child Safety Support Officer or the Committee.

Additionally, staff will:

- Maintain a duty of care towards all children whilst at the Kindergarten
- Work in partnership with families in a courteous, respectful and encouraging manner
- Respect the cultural context of each child and their family
- Have regard for the privacy of children and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know as required under the Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- Commit to continually learning how to be inclusive and respectful.

Involved Adults must not:

- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse that they become aware of
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism or amount to grooming – for example, offering gifts or special treatment to specific children
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessary physical contact
- Put children at risk of abuse or harm – for example, leaving external doors open or allowing an unknown person to gain access to the Kindergarten
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children – this includes unfavourable discussions about a child and/or their family
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- Treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity
- Remove a child from the service without appropriate authorisation



- Photograph or video a child in the Kindergarten environment except in accordance with Kindergarten policy or with consent from the child's parent / guardian and the child.

Additionally, staff must not:

- Have contact with a child or their family outside of the Kindergarten without the Committee's knowledge or consent (for example babysitting). Inadvertent contact, such as at local shops, participation in community, school or sporting events is appropriate
- Have any online contact with a child or their family outside of the requirements of their role (unless necessary for Kindergarten purposes – for example, providing newsletters or updates on a child's progress).

NON-COMPLIANCE

The Kindergarten will enforce the Child Safety Policy and the Code of Conduct. Following any identified non-compliance we will undertake an investigation in line with the Reportable Conduct Scheme. The Kindergarten will take appropriate disciplinary, legal or other action where required.

I hope to provide our community with lots more information, tips, training and events in coming newsletters. If there is something specific you would like information on please don't hesitate to contact me via email childsafety@thornburykinder.com

Danielle



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



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

