

Committee News – June 2014

Dear Yandell families,

Winter is upon us. We regularly wake up to misty mornings, and the chilly air holds the scent of wood smoke and damp earth. Deciduous trees have lost their leaves, now slippery underfoot. Bright colours have left the landscape, and nature's palette is now muted and earthy – all dim greens, greys, and browns. The slow cooker is in frequent use to make comforting stews, so welcome when we come home in the darkening evenings. A hot water bottle is a cosy comfort at bedtime. There is much to enjoy even in the coldest, darkest season.



Image: <http://strangersandpilarimstonearth.blogspot.com.au/>

We are travelling towards the Winter Solstice. Our 4YO Teacher Sharon Peck has written an article about celebrating this turning point in the year.

Yandell children have dyed wool using natural materials such as onion skins, purple carrots, and turmeric. They are now using the wool to make pompoms – a task requiring perseverance, patience and dexterity. Week by week they are completing the paper lanterns they will carry at the Winter Festival on 20 June – more information on that inside.

The Committee is developing Yandell's organisational structure to see Yandell secure and thriving into the future. Please check your emails for our advertisement for a part-time fixed-term Administrator Manager – applications close 30 June.

We are delighted to present a new offering for Yandell Kindergarten – a Lending Library. See the inside for details and a Title Catalogue.

The Federal Government has handed down the Budget, which unfortunately does not confirm whether the Government will continue to fund 15 hours of kindergarten per 4-year-old child per week from 2015. If funding is reduced to 10 hours per week, Yandell would have to increase its fees to continue providing a 15-hour/week service. We encourage you to sign this petition to maintain 15 hours per week funding: <https://keep15hours.org.au/>, and to write to your Federal Member.

Best wishes,

Yandell Committee 2014

Winter dates for your diary

Friday 20 June	No 4YO Kindergarten today Yandell Winter Festival, 6.00 – 7.30pm Briar Hill Primary School Twilight Market, 3.30 – 7.00pm
Saturday 21 June	Winter Solstice, 8.51pm
Friday 27 June	Last day of Term 2
Monday 14 July	First day of Term 3 Committee Meeting, 7.00pm
Saturday 19 July	Working Bee at Yandell Kindergarten
Monday 11 August	Committee Meeting, 7.00pm Gabriel Talks: 'Communicating with children and teenagers', Rob Gordon. 7.30pm, Kew Library
Monday 25 August	Gabriel Talks: 'Happy Child, Happy Home: Conscious Parenting and Creative Discipline', Lou Harvey-Zahra. 7.30pm, Kew Library

Winter Festival

Yandell Kindergarten - Friday 20 June, 6.00-7.30pm

The children and families of Yandell Kindergarten will meet outside the kindergarten, where we will collect our lanterns and go for a short walk (down the carpark, up Willis Street, and back through the reserve to the kindergarten). We will have a Storytelling, then a feast – bring your own mugs and spoons.

There will be no 4YO kindergarten session on this day, as the kindergarten prepares for the Festival.

An information notice is in your pockets.

Change of Bank Details

Yandell now has a new bank account with Bendigo Bank, so please update your payment details for Yandell Kindergarten, especially if you use internet banking to pay. Here are the details:

Bank: Bendigo Bank
Account: Yandell Kindergarten Inc.
BSB: 633000
Account: 151703279

A number of families still have fees outstanding from Term 1. Please pay these as soon as you can.

As always, if you are experiencing trouble paying your fees, please contact Paula Money, our book-keeper at:

pandpmoney@bigpond.com to create a payment plan.

Winter Solstice – The Winter in-breath, Saturday 21 June

By Sharon Peck, 4YO Teacher

The Winter solstice is almost upon us; the shortest day of the year. It's when the sun is at its furthest point from us in the southern hemisphere. It is an important turning point in the year as it challenges us to find the light in the darkness and the warmth in the cold.

The celebration of the winter solstice helps us to become aware of the inner reality of the seasons, as is with all seasonal festivals. The winter festival offers us an opportunity to declare, through symbolism and gesture, our wish for our own inner light to shine through the darkness.

The kindergarten winter festival has a wonderful magical quality, which is the children's gift to the adults who love them and nurture them.

It is important that essential elements are repeated each time the festival is celebrated so that anticipation is satisfied. It is reassuring to remember that memory highlights the attitude around the activity rather than the activity itself. Simplicity and peacefulness are key thoughts.

To walk out early into the starry night with glowing lanterns lighting the way, can be seen as representative of each of us taking our inner light out into the world... simply we want to join with our children in a celebration of human warmth, at the coldest time in the year. In this way, thanksgiving and gratitude are important elements.

Reach out to those you love in your community and invite them in for a candlelit dinner or go for a walk with lanterns in the starry night ... sing together ... share stories together ... bake together; all of these will help provide the magical stepping stone towards the renewal of individual, family and community traditions.

It's a time to surround and support one another (in the darkness or in time of need) so that the winter experience is not cold, fearful, and gloomy; but rather warming, life-confirming, and wonderful.

Visiting Yandell

Yandell is required to maintain a register of visitors to the Kindergarten. We have a Visitors Log folder in the foyer area, where you sign your children in each day. If you are staying at Yandell for an extended period, for example, to help out in the kitchen, please make sure you enter your details when you arrive, and sign out when you leave.



Image: <http://www.greenwichacorns.org.uk/news/lantern-festival-saturday-16th-november>

Warming Winter Recipe – 'Gateaux Piments'

By Natalie Simpson

This is a recipe for tasty little chilli cakes from Mauritius (my father's native land). Mauritius enjoys a diverse Creole cuisine, drawing on African, Indian, French and Asian flavour traditions.

Our family enjoys snacking on these chilli cakes on brisk winter days. This recipe is basic, so you can customise it to suit your preferences for spice! I have also made these with chickpeas.

Ingredients

- 250gm split peas (dhal)
- 2 or 3 green or red chillies
- 2 tbs chopped coriander leaves
- 2 tbs finely chopped spring onions
- ½ tsp cumin seeds or powder
- Salt to taste
- Oil for frying (I use grapeseed or coconut)

Method

1. Wash split peas well in running water. Soak in water for at least 3-4 hours/overnight.
2. Drain split peas thoroughly, then pulse in blender until somewhat mushy and chunky – it needs to be have texture and be able to stick together.
3. Add the rest of the ingredients and stir well. You may add a little water to help the consistency if necessary.
5. Shape mixture into small balls with the palms of your hands – children can help with this part.
4. Heat up the oil over medium heat.

6. Fry the balls in batches until golden brown and cooked through.

7. Drain on paper towels.

8. Eat hot, with a dipping sauce of your choice. We like to make raita and tomato chutney for our gateaux piments, or serve over salad for a meal.

Enjoy!

Briar Hill Primary School

If your family has enjoyed Steiner education at Yandell kindergarten, you may consider enrolling your child at Briar Hill Primary School, a local state government school with a strong Steiner influence. We are pleased to learn that BHPS will have two Prep classes in 2015. Enrolments are now open.

You can stay informed about happenings at BHPS by viewing or subscribing to the regular newsletters here: <http://www.briar-hill-ps.vic.edu.au/page/89>.

A Winter poem

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

[Chorus]

*Here we go round the mulberry bush
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush
Here we go round the mulberry bush
On a cold and frosty morning.*

*This is the way we clap our hands
Clap our hands, clap our hands
This is the way we clap our hands
On a cold and frosty morning.*

*This is the way we get out of bed
Get out of bed, get out of bed
This is the way we get out of bed
On a cold and frosty morning.*

Yandell Library

We are very pleased to offer a new facility to Yandell families – a small lending library offering titles on education, parenting and craft. Sharon Peck has chosen these titles as complementary to Steiner philosophy and Yandell’s program. This is an initiative following feedback from parents – so do remember your feedback counts!

Yandell families can join the library for a membership fee of \$10 per year. The cost will go towards keeping the library stocked. Please email yandellkindergarten@gmail.com to arrange to set this up.

Soon the library will be located in the foyer; but for now you can request to borrow books directly from Sharon or Mandy.

[A detailed catalogue is attached to the email version of this newsletter.]

Subject	Title
Parenting	Easter in Autumn
	Festivals, Family and Food
	The Genius of Play: Celebrating the Spirit of Childhood
	Helping Children to Overcome Fear: the healing power of play
	Mothering with Soul: Raising children as special work
	Natural Childhood: A practical guide to the first seven years
	Set Free Childhood: Parents survival guide to coping with computers and TV
	Turning Tears into Laughter: Creative Discipline for the Toddler to Preschool Years
Education	Free to Learn: Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Care and Education
	Kindergarten Education: Freeing children’s creative potential
	The Kingdom of Childhood: Introductory Talks on Waldorf Education
	Rudolf Steiner: his Life and Work
	Steiner Education in Theory and Practice
	Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching from the Inside Out
	Waldorf Education: A Family Guide

Craft	Beginner's Guide to Needle Felting
	The Knitted Farmyard
	Kyuuto! Japanese Crafts: Fuzzy Felted Friends
	Making Waldorf Dolls: Creative Doll-Making with Children
	The Nature Corner: Celebrating the year's cycle with seasonal tableaux
	Softies: 22 friends for you to sew, knit and crochet

Healthy Etheric and Inner Development - Lectures

A series of lectures by Dr Michaela Glöckler and Dr Simon Bednarek.

These key note speakers at the International Postgraduate Medical Training will give a series of lectures which are open to the community

Dr Simon Bendarek will speak on the "Healthy Etheric: the etheric in relationship to the four-fold human constitution, when it is born, and the relationship to the twelve senses. We will then discuss the etheric heart: the task of our times and the courage to do what is right in the world." (1 lecture)

Dr Michael Glöckler will speak on "Inner Development as a Fundament of Health, Self Knowledge and Social Competence" (6 lectures).

When: Saturday 5th July to Friday 11th July, 7.00p.m.

Where: The Michael Centre, 37A Wellington Park Drive, Warranwood

Cost: \$20.00 per lecture

Lectures will start on time so please allow enough time to park etc.

Dr Michaela Glöckler MD is the leader of the Medical Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach in Switzerland. Along with her practice in paediatrics she consulted at the Herdecke Community Hospital and served as a school doctor in Witten. Michaela directs the International Postgraduate Medical Training.

Dr Simon Bednarek is an anthroposophical General Practitioner working and living in Perth. Previously he worked as a GP in New Zealand where he founded and managed a franchise of general practices. He integrated anthroposophic medicine into his practice and anthroposophic concepts into his business.

Information: Irmhild Kleinhenz: 0409 520 332 or e: Irmhild@live.com