

YANDELL NEWSLETTER

Dear Yandell Community

JULY 2023

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter which I hope you will find inspiring and informative on these grey winter days!



We are enjoying taking a deep breath in and trying to find a little time to unwind and rest after a busy and productive term, hopefully many of you might be able to do the same.

This term concluded with our beautiful lantern festivals across both groups which helped us to acknowledge and cherish the significant elements of the winter season and reminded us all to carry our little light within during these darker, colder days.

We also ended our term with a sad farewell to our Fairy Wren teacher Amanda who is departing with plans to spend more time with her family as the years seem faster as her children grow. Amanda was so grateful for all the kind words from our community and also to receive the very generous Air BnB voucher that she wasn't expecting at all, she couldn't think of a better gift as it will allow her family to take some much needed time out to spend some quality time together.

We would also like to say a special thanks to all the families that supported our "Cosy Autumn" event that served as an amazing way to connect and experience the spirit of Yandell, as well as fundraising a small amount to cover our recruitment costs for our new teacher. We hope to see you at more community events that will be released soon, including "crafternoons" for our Advent Fair.

Lastly, if you have anything that you would like to add to the next newsletter then please reach out - craft, recipes, playground reviews, book recommendations...all welcome!

Stay warm and cosy and we hope to see you back next week!

Sylv (President) and Ange (Vice President)

WINTER VERSE: King Winter

From Wynstones Press "Winter" Book 1

*King Winter now is in the land,
he reigns with cold and freezing hand.
He makes Jack Frost touch nose and toes,
and gives our cheeks a shining glow.*



Image Source: Ambrosius

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 3 Start Date: Mon 10 July

Photo Consent Forms Due: Mon 10 July

Fairy Wrens Photo Day: Tue 18 July

Finches Photo Day: Fri 21 July

Working Bee: Sat 26 August, 9am - 12pm

Term 3 Last Day: Fri 15 September



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FAIRY WRENS UPDATE: End of Term 2 Summary



With the winter solstice almost upon us, anticipation has been growing among our Fairy Wrens in preparation for our winter festival. Sweet smells of ginger biscuits cooking and of course lantern making have been keeping us busy on these cold wintery mornings. All the mess and frustrations of pasting and gluing tissue paper has been a lot of sticky fun as well as a big learning experience for many, requiring a lot of persistence and patience (from teachers and children alike!). They have all done such a beautiful job and we are so looking forward to sharing their joy with you when we light each lantern up on our festival day.



Friendships and connections have been deepening in the group helping to foster security and confidence, and for many bringing an ease to the morning transitions. It's such a joy to watch them transform the playroom and outdoor playground into such creative spaces as we witness their growth in



independence and imaginative play. New cubby styles, new tricks and skills on the monkey bars, deep holes dug in the sandpit finding treasure and games of mum's and dad's and big sisters/brothers are all emerging as they explore together at kinder. We

have also been having many adventures on the stormy seas this term, as we build and sail our pirate ships and create maps with X marks the spot (that even double into a telescope!). This play has been very inclusive with some ships growing quite large and having quite the rowdy crew, brimming with stories and ideas. This self-directed play is what we whole heartedly encourage at Yandell and, bringing both its joys and its challenges, it holds many benefits for children. This is their work. It nourishes all elements of the child; physical, emotional, social, and cognitive. It helps them to make sense of their world, encourages them to experiment and helps them to process difficulties which they may be having.



With King Winter peeking out most days now, requiring us to put on our warm coats, hats, and gumboots, it would be great if parents could also please remember to send their children along with all these warm layers and a spare set of clothes too for all that cold, wet sandy play!

Wishing all our families warm solstice blessings and a cosy and restful holiday break xx



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FINCHES SONGS: Term 2

Come Little Leaves

By George Cooper

"Come, little leaves," said the wind one day.
"Come over the meadows with me and play;
Put on your dresses of red and gold,
For summer is gone and the days grow cold

Soon as the leaves heard the wind's loud call,
Down they came fluttering, one and all;
Over the brown fields they danced and flew,
Singing the sweet little song they knew.

"Cricket, good-bye, we've been friends so long,
Little brook, sing us your farewell song;
Say you're sorry to see us go;
Ah! you will miss us, right well we know.

"Dear little lambs, in your fleecy fold,
Mother will keep you from harm and cold;
Fondly we've watched you in vale and glade,
Say, will you dream of our loving shade?"

Dancing and whirling the little leaves went,
Winter had called them, and they were content,
Soon fast asleep in their earthy beds,
The snow laid a soft mantle over their heads.

Late Autumn Circle

Compiled by Nancy Foster

Words by Konig, Klein, or Diestel
(translated by Joan Almon)

In the dark cold days there shines a light
To make my heart so pure and bright!
(light a candle)

Let's walk through the village on this cold autumn day
And see all the things that we pass on our way!
(begin walking in a circle)

These are the brown leaves tumbling down
(fingers flutter down to touch ground)

And this is the tall tree bare and brown
(reach up high, arms are branches)

This is the squirrel with eyes so bright
(crouch down with hand in front like paws)

Hunting for nuts with all her might
(dig around for nuts)

*This is the hole where day by day
(cup hands to make hole)*

*Nut after nut she stores away
(put nuts into hole and then cover it up)*

*When winter comes with its cold and storm
(hug self and shiver)*

*She'll sleep curled up all snug and warm
(curl up into a ball)*

*Outside the animals prepare all the day
For they know that King Winter is coming this way
(stand up)*

*Whisky, frisky, hippity, hop,
Up he goes to the tree top!
(swing hand back and forth up to the treetop)*

*Whirly, twirly, round and round,
Down he scampers to the ground.
(move hand back down in circular motion)*

*Furly, curly, what a tail!
Tall as a feather, broad as a sail!
(use forearm and hand to make a tall tail)*

*Where's his supper? In the shell.
(cup hands to show nutshell)*

*Snappity, crackity, out it fell!
(use hands to show cracking nutshell and nut
dropping out)*

(nibble nuts like little squirrels!)

(clap hands on lap to the beat of the following verse)

*Intry mintry cutry corn
Apple seed and apple thorn
Wier brier limber lock
Twelve geese in a flock
One flew east, one flew west
(run left, run right!)*

*One flew over the cuckoo's nest
(take a flying leap!)*

{Mother Goose}



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A wise old owl, he lived in an oak,
(use fingers, first two circle eyes, next three stand up like ears, to make an owl face)

The more he saw, the less he spoke,
(finger to lips)

The less he spoke, the more that he heard,
(hand to cup ear as if listening)

Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?
(make owl face again)

{Mother Goose}

(crawl around like bears for this verse)

The loud winds are calling
The ripe nuts are falling
The squirrel now gathers his store
The bears homeward creeping
Will soon all be sleeping
So snugly till winter is o'er

Inside the villagers get ready too
For with winter coming there is much work to do
The carpenter, the blacksmith, the cobbler, and the mothers
They stay warm by the fire and take care of each other

(this one is easy to act out)

*The carpenter's hammer goes tap, tap, tap
Tapping the wood with a tap, tap, tap
A nail goes here with a tap, tap, tap
And a nail goes there, with a rap, rap, rap
And the saw goes see saw see,
And the saw goes see saw see,
As we saw the wood from a big oak tree
We saw and measure and hammer and sand
While we build a chair for me!
{Traditional}

(swing your hammer!)

I am a blacksmith good and true
Best of work I always do
Day after day my hammers go
Clanging clanging clanging so

With a rikker-de-tikker-de tikker-de-tik!
With a rikker-de-tikker-de tikker-de-tik!
I am a blacksmith good and true
Best of work I always do
Can you work with a hammer like me?
Clanging clanging clanging so
With a rikker-de-tikker-de tikker-de-tik!
With a rikker-de-tikker-de tikker-de-tik!
{Traditional}

(practice standing on one foot at a time while wiggling the other toes)

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe!
Have it done by half past two
My little toe is peeking through!
Please dear cobbler, mend my shoe!
{Traditional}

And the mothers rock their babies to sleep as softly they sing....

(rock a baby in your arms)

Autumn goodbye,
Autumn goodbye,
You may no longer stay,
Winter is on its way
Autumn goodbye,
Autumn goodbye
(blow out candle)

FINCHES MENU: Start of Term 3

Wednesday *Yellow Day*

Morning Tea: Hand milled millet and apple cake
Lunch: Tomato, onion, carrot and zucchini pasta, topped with parmesan
Afternoon Tea: Apple cakes and oranges

Friday *Green day*

Morning Tea: Apple crumble
Lunch: Golden pumpkin soup with oat bread
Afternoon Tea: Rice cakes or oat bread with apples



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COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTION: Niall - IT Officer



I am a proud father of three wonderful children, with the oldest two currently attending Yandell. Caoimhe is in the Finches class while Rían is in with the Fairy Wrens.

Originally from Ireland, my wife Úna and I have called Melbourne our home for over 13 years. This is our first year at Yandell, and we're loving all aspects of it.

With a background in IT, I seek to bring my knowledge to the Yandell Committee, with the goal of adding efficiency and best practice into our endeavours.

Outside of work I have a big interest in sport and the outdoors in general, although I have been known to get hooked on a good TV show.

Gardening Ideas

by Ange (ex-parent and committee vice president)



If you are looking for something easy to plant these school holidays then potatoes are perfect for this time of year. They will be ready to harvest for Christmas! You can plant them direct in to the soil or into bags and it is the best feeling to dig up the golden treasure, the kids absolutely love it (as do I!)

I brought this bag of Dutch Cream potatoes at Nillumbik Nursery last week for \$14. They had plenty of stock and other varieties too.

Another idea is to use up old sticks and string to make pea trellis. It is also a suitable time to plant broad beans and peas. I love the Eden Seed packets and they also sell these at Nillumbik Nursery.



WINTER VERSE: Candle

*A candle's but a simple thing,
it starts with just a bit of string,
But dipped or rolled with patient hand,
it gathers wax upon the strand.*

*Until complete and snowy white,
it gives at last a lovely light.
Life seems so like that bit of string,
each deed we do a simple thing.*

*Yet day by day on life's strand,
we work with patient heart and hand.
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,
and gives at last a lovely light.*



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MARIA'S COSY AUTUMN REFLECTION



Thank you everyone who participated in our Cosy Autumn family event! It was a wonderful morning filled with smiles, gentle movement, music and yummy homemade treats.

To tell you the truth, I was really nervous how it would go, being a first time kinder parent. Will I fit in with my vision of this event, my accent, my still recovering voice? But just as it goes in the saying "it takes a village to raise the child", it is all about the community and people beside you in any venture. And my warm gratitude goes firstly to the amazing Angela, Meagan, and Ai from our committee for all the loving effort they've put in to organise this event! To Tilly from Well Kids Yoga, for her calm and nurturing manner, transporting us closer to ourselves. And to our wonderful Yandell community, for bringing in their beautiful rich vibes to our gathering!

So what was it, for those who have missed it this time?

In the true traditions of our Steiner kinder we started off with verses, to mindfully commemorate the change of seasons. Seasonal circle games that followed, knee bounce, and gentle music games - they all served to nourish parents and their children with the sense of togetherness and joy.

Gentle yoga poses were weaved into a seasonal story by a wonderful Tilly from WellKids Yoga, and helped all participants to settle into their bodies fully, be present in this moment.

Then there was a musical story about a little girl named Lucy, who was looking for her lost kitten, and received gifts along the way. The apple from the Apple Fairy, and the pumpkin from the Pumpkin Fairy.

And my personal favourite bit was the magic of connecting the story with the yummy meal that followed: we had pumpkin soup (from Lucy's pumpkin), and baked apples, also from the story. The warm atmosphere, delicious vegan food, a chance for children to play, and for parents to chat - watching all this in the moment warmed my heart. What a beautiful community Yandell is!

With this event we raised \$310, which went towards recruitment fees for a new educator in Fairy Wrens group. And as unsettled I initially was about the new educator coming in and new bonds needing to be formed, I am much more relaxed now. I can see that it's not all about the educator. As long as we as a community remain such warm and nurturing environment for our kids, their kinder years will be a bliss despite any shortcomings!



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Dani's Indigenous Dolls



A BIG thank you to our very talented Fair Team Lead Dani who crafted these amazing indigenous dolls for us! You may have seen these featured in the Finches Winter Solstice Festival storytime.

Below, Dani describes where her inspiration came from:

"I think for me, the inspiration for the dolls stems from a deep appreciation and connection with Mama Earth. It is a belief and love of all the wild things. Honouring and highlighting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with such deep respect and reverence. Stretching from my heart to share with the Yandell Community."

There are many elements of my heritage and experience in the dolls. The strength of the grandparent figures, the nurturing of the parent figures and the joy and playfulness of the child figures."

They are absolutely beautiful and we're sure they will be treasured at Yandell for many years to come.



RECIPE:

Coconut and Almond Cookies

By Meagan

(Hugh's mum in Finches class)



These cookies are Gluten free, vegan and super easy to make!

1 cup of shredded coconut

1 cup of almond meal

1/4 - 1/3 cup of Maple Syrup (to taste)

Add the coconut and almond meal to a blender or food processor. Blitz only for a short time (10 seconds) as you pour the maple syrup in. Ensure mixture is incorporated without over blitzing. Over blitzing will result in dry cookies.

Shape mixture into balls and place on a baking sheet.

Bake in a 160 degree oven for approximately 15 minutes or until golden brown.

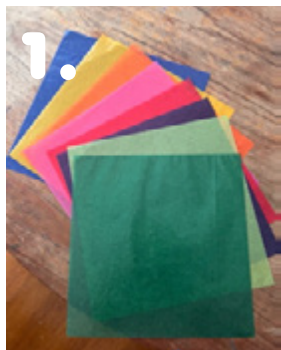
Optional: Top with chocolate drizzle. We like to use the Pana baking chocolate.



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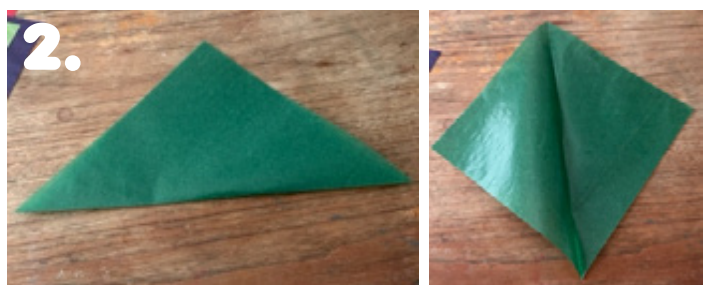
CRAFTS:

8-Pointed Window Star



1. Select 8 sheets of kite paper. I used 16cm by 16cm but these can be cut down to smaller squares if you want to make smaller stars (or you can purchase smaller sized kite paper).

Kite paper can be purchased from Winterwood or Honeybee toys. I paid \$17 for a 250 sheet pad of 16cm by 16cm kite paper.



2. Take one piece of kite paper and fold corner to corner so it makes a triangle shape. Now unfold.



3. Fold each of the points inwards as per the picture to make a kite shape. Repeat steps two and three for all eight sheets of kite paper.



4. Using a glue stick, layer the kites into a star shape as per the picture. You need to line up the kite with the middle fold of the one you are sticking it to. Stick down any flaps that are needing to be secured.



5. When you get to the final kite then you will need to stick it right in the middle of two points as per the picture. Now your star is complete!



6. Use the glue stick to adhere straight to the glass of your window. Enjoy the brightness it brings to your days!



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CRAFTS: Snowflake



Trace a circle onto a sheet of white paper. I used standard A4 printer paper. You could also use kite paper or anything that takes your fancy.



Cut out the circle.



Fold in half. Fold again. Then fold again. A total of 3 folds.



Chop little patterns along every edge. I did a combination of triangles and circular shapes. Anything goes. The more patterns that are chopped then the more detail the snowflake will have.



Unfold to see your pretty snowflake surprise!



Use the glue stick to adhere straight to the glass of your window. Make a number of snowflakes for a stronger effect.

BOOK REVIEW:

The Kiss - by Linda Sunderland and Jessica Courtney-Tickle

by Mariia (Valentina's mother in Fairy Wrens)



Jessica Courtney-Tickle has illustrated our favourite series "The Story Orchestra", where you can discover music from well-known classical composers. Her illustration style is enchanting, and we got really excited when we saw this book at the Diamond Valley Library.

Although it doesn't have musical accompaniment, the story by Linda Sutherland and the illustrations by Jessica Courtney-Tickle are really heart-warming, just what we needed this cold winter evening!



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

Do you have a favourite recipe, poem or craft idea? We'd love to add it into our next newsletter!

Please send your ideas and photo (if available) to: vicepresident@yandellkinder.com.au



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