

YANDELL NEWSLETTER

Please enjoy our very first newsletter of 2023!
(our first newsletter for a few years now - what an achievement!)

MAY 2023

Hi Yandell Kindergarten Community!

Please be introduced to some of our committee for 2023! More members will be introduced in future newsletters. We look forward to continuing to keep Yandell the special place that it is and connecting with our community along the journey.

Sylvia - President

I am the mother of Mia in the Fairy Wrens and Mikey who is in Prep this year and attended Yandell before starting school. I have loved our journey over the last 2 years at Yandell and look forward to the next 2 years on Mia's journey through kindy. In our spare time away from kindy and school we love to venture outdoors, learning new things or just enjoying the simplicity of things. When the kiddies are out, mummy gets to do what she likes best; crocheting. Having started 6-7 years ago, I just love the art of making/ crocheting toys and the kids have been a big part of this journey with me which I absolutely love!

Ange - Vice President

I am the mother of four children, who has been part of the Yandell community since 2018. My youngest child started school this year and all my children currently attend Briar Hill Primary School. My two oldest attended Michael Park Steiner School in Auckland, New Zealand before we moved back to Melbourne and both my daughters were blessed to attend Yandell for 3 years each before starting school. I love the nourishing warmth that radiates from Yandell and the feeling of home that the teaching team creates. I am passionate about community and protecting Steiner education for future generations to enjoy. I love to garden, both edible and non-edible (aka. flowers!) and I have learned to love cooking as I rarely step out of the kitchen these days!

Meagan - Secretary

I am Hugh's mum from the Finches program and I also have an older son who is now in Grade 1. I feel very fortunate that both my boys have been able to fully experience the unique and nurturing introduction



From top left: Ai, Mariia, Andrew, Ange, Sylvia, Meagan

to their education that Yandell has provided. The friendships and connections that started here for us and are continuing years on has been very special too. I am a passionate cook and a learner crafter - I have met some clever people in this community who have patiently taught their amazing crafting talents. I feel very grateful to be a part of the Yandell Committee in 2023, surrounded by such a capable and dedicated group.

YANDELL NEWSLETTER

Andrew - Treasurer

I am the father of Ivy in the Fairy Wrens, and you may have also seen my wife Emma around the kinder who is an ECE teacher. We choose Yandell because we believe it's important for children to be more connected with a natural learning environment. I hope to achieve a budget in surplus this year with the challenges of "free kinder". Outside of work, I enjoy bush walking, watching movies, and painting.

Mariia - Grants

I'm a mother of 2 girls, my youngest, Valentina, is attending the Fairy Wrens group. I had travelled the world with family musical productions before I had children, but motherhood changed me and I turned into a home-schooling Steiner parent with a passion for stories. During the pandemic I learned all sorts of crafts to make my own dolls and to put on small-scale puppet stories. Last year I founded "Fantazor-Ki", a creative hub for the Inner Child, where I run seasonal music immersions for kids, and craft workshops and circles for mothers. I am really honoured to be in the Committee this year as a grants officer, and to help with fundraising. I look forward to getting to know everyone better, so together we can make these kinder years a memorable and profound experience for our kids, as well as ourselves!

Ai - Marketing

I'm a mother of two children, with my eldest Luna attending the Finches class. My daughter has flourished at Yandell thanks to the kind, accepting teachers who create such a warm environment. We're just loving Steiner education and feel that we've finally found our people in this wonderful community. We love all things natural that nourish our body and soul, as well as taking care of Earth and its creatures. I'm so proud of Luna (my eco-warrior) who picks up litter off the ground and tells other children to be kind to the birds! I have a varied background in education, environmental science and graphic design and hoping to be able to assist our beautiful kindergarten as a Marketing Officer.

AUTUMN CRAFT ACTIVITY: How to Preserve Leaves



What You Need:

- Glycerin
- Water
- Flat pan or disposable plates
- A weight to keep leaves submerged
- Leaves

Method:

1. Mix the glycerin and water so that it is one part glycerin and two parts water. You only need enough to submerge the leaves - about one cup.
2. Pour the solution into a flat pan, place the leaves in the solution, and then put the weight on the leaves to keep them submerged. (Tip: try using two Styrofoam or other disposable plates.) Put leaves and enough glycerin solution to just lightly cover the leaves in the bottom of one plate. Then put the other plate on top of the leaves and solution. Now you can put a weight of your choosing on the top plate without getting the weight in the solution.)
3. Keep the leaves submerged in the solution for 2-6 days.
4. Dry the leaves gently with a paper towel. They should feel soft and pliable.

Source: <https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/how-to-preserve-leaves/>

Glycerin: <https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/productdetails/179964/sanofi-glycerine>

YANDELL NEWSLETTER

FINCHES UPDATE: Term 2 Summary



The days are getting crisp and the golden light provides beautiful dappled sun into our kindergarten to warm us up before we start our day each morning.



Our food program is back, and we're delighted to warm our bones with our golden pumpkin soup (part of our winter menu, served with oat bread on green day). The children's favourite pasta will continue to be served on yellow day. Our food program not only nourishes the Finches, but it provides the children with the opportunity to participate in a creative activity that engages them in maths concepts and emphasises that our kinder is an extension of home. We are happy to welcome the program back and we're looking forward to making jam drops from our leftover festival jam and pancakes in the next few weeks.

Our craft has changed with the season and some of the foliage in our yard have lent themselves to autumnal activities such as leaf threading and colouring. The crispy weather has been a perfect invitation for cosy craft activities, with many children working on their pom poms. We have plans to begin finger knitting soon.



May has been a festive month, with many birthdays. The children have creatively built beautiful lands for our birthday stories and we have all enjoyed sharing Amy's delicious carrot cake for our birthday celebrations. With the end of the birthday festivities for the month, our mid-autumn morning circle has recently been introduced to the children.



YANDELL NEWSLETTER

Our Finches have been finding their rhythm again and have engaged in making wonderful creations with our blocks, imaginary lands with the wooden toys and many children have been creating their own stories, gathering their friends and sharing their very own tales.



Outdoors, the children have been immersed in sensory play and engaging with their natural environment, finding insects, digging deep holes, experimenting with pipes and rainwater and making much use of the mud kitchen.



Hoping all our families stay cosy and enjoy the remainder of this beautiful season.

Warmest wishes,
Ruth and Amy xx

Finches Term 2 Menu

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

AUTUMN VERSE: Squirrel Nutkin



*Squirrel Nutkin has a coat of brown,
quite the loveliest in Woodland Town.
Two bright eyes look round to see,
where the sweetest nuts may be.*

*Squirrel Nutkin in his coat of brown,
scampers up the trees and down.
Dashing here and swinging there,
leaping lightly through the air.*

*All the live long day he plays,
in the leafy woodland ways.
But at night when squirrels rest,
in their cosy treetop nest.*

*Bushy tail curled round his head,
Squirrel Nutkin goes off to bed.*



YANDELL NEWSLETTER

FAIRY WRENS UPDATE: Autumn Days & Harvest Festival Reflection (term 1)



In the kinder days leading up to our Autumn Harvest Festival, which also marks the end of our first term together, we could see the children had come so far in these weeks of transition from home life to play & learning at Yandell. From the early days of gaining confidence and a sense of security in the space, to feeling their

way towards interactions with their peers and a harmonious rhythm together.

As the mornings cooled and we moved our start of play inside, there were many opportunities for the children to turn their attention inwards to more reflective moments, enjoying simple craft activities that support a slowing down of the daily rhythm.

When the special day arrived for us to celebrate together with a most delicious Harvest Morning Tea, the children were so delighted to finally be eating the very tasty little butter cookies they had enjoyed preparing & baking together with Jo.

We all nourished our bodies and with the feast of food to share, including super juicy sweet corn, apple & cinnamon tea cake and plum jam on our warm



bread rolls. The rosy tea was the perfect blend of subtle flavour and fun peachy-pink colour!

Before long it was time to invite our beloved families in to join us for some play time, crafting with beautiful felt Autumn leaves to be strung as garlands, and planting daffodil bulbs to be enjoyed in the seasons to come. The children were so excited to



YANDELL NEWSLETTER



share their kinder experience with you all, thank you for being so present in their world during this time.



And at the end of a happy afternoon for us all, we were gifted the chance to come together for Storytime and listen to the sweet tale of "The Story Of The Apple Star". Which in its essence is a story about discovering the magic and beauty each of us hold inside, just waiting to be waiting to be nurtured, realised, illuminated, and ultimately shared for the greater good.

RECIPE:

Rainbow Veg pizza



Ricotta base for pizza:

- 4 tbsp Flour
- 200g Ricotta
- 1 egg
- 4 tbsp oil
- Salt

Mix ricotta with the egg, oil and flour (depending on your flour, you may need between 3 and 6 tablespoons of flour, to reach the consistency of a regular pizza dough). Mix it in a bowl, then transfer onto a clean table surface and knead, adding t flour as needed till the dough no longer sticks to the hands.

Or use any pizza base of your choice.

Topping:

- Tomato sauce or quark (we used Shultz quark)
- Seasonal veggies that match the colour!

Some options

Red: tomatoes, red capsicums

Orange: orange capsicums, carrots

Yellow: yellow capsicums, corn

Green: capsicums, broccoli, spinach, peas, zucchini

Purple: red onion, beets

You can add cheese on top if you'd like, we went without it.



YANDELL NEWSLETTER

FAIRY WRENS UPDATE:

The more we are together, the happier we'll be! (Term 2)

Warm connections & friendships have blossomed within the group, as the children are forming their special Yandell community of learning. This unique kinder environment is a peaceful haven and hive of activity all at once, where this magical time spent together is all in a world of their very own.



These past few weeks of Term 2, our Fairy Wrens have been engaging more freely and confidently in small group play, which is typically a natural developmental flow on from more independent play. As the children begin to seek out these social interactions with each other, the emphasis is strong on just how much they do enjoy being together at Kinder.

The children have really grown in their abilities to share their imaginative ideas and welcome each other into their play, which occurs in a variety of ways. An invitation to join in may be communicated verbally if that is a child's strength, however it is more so observed by children offering welcoming



body language, kind expressions, along with actions (showing, doing) that demonstrate easily to other children how they can engage harmoniously.

As with any group of humans, amongst our littlest of learners there will also be those that prefer to observe group activity from a comfortable distance, taking in the dynamics and processing how they may go about approaching and involving themselves in



play scenarios, when and if this feels like the right choice for them. These interactions, whilst more passive in their approach, are equally as valuable in terms of a child's social development in the kinder setting.

And whilst we often see familiar groups gathering, there are always opportunities popping up to spend time with different friends and create new connections through a common joy or something excitingly appealing that grabs attention! Whether it



YANDELL NEWSLETTER



be a train ride to the shops with a very chatty driver that stops to let everyone on board (byo seat!) or digging a pathway for a flowing river and lake for planting a tree, with lots of busy hands and hardworking friends to help. Setting up a tunnel fence and filling it up with stones, sometimes you're the one holding things steady, sometimes you're the one dropping in the stones. Sometimes you're swinging and sometimes you're pushing..... Whatever the day, whichever the role, there's a welcome place for everyone at kinder.



FINGER GAME: Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin?
(both thumbs are hidden)

Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am
(right thumb appears)

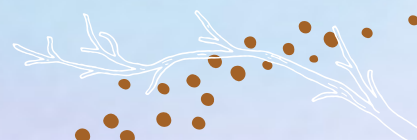
Here I am
(left thumb appears)

How are you this morning?
(right thumb bows and gestures towards left)

Very well I thank you
(left thumb responds in kind)

Run and play
(right thumb disappears behind back)

Run and play
(left thumb disappears behind back)



YANDELL NEWSLETTER

FAIRY WRENS MORNING CIRCLE SONGS **Term 2, Weeks 2 - 5**

Call to gather to circle

"Let's all form a circle round like the sun, let's all form a circle, that includes everyone".

Good Morning

*Good morning, good morning, good morning to you,
Good morning, good morning, and how do you do.
Good morning to the sun up in the sky, good morning
to the birds as they fly on by.*

*Good morning to the trees so straight and tall, good
morning to the nest where the magpies rest,
Good morning one and all.*

Sunrise - Welcome to Country

*Goodbye Night, Hello Day, Rise and Shine it's
time to play.*

*Goodbye Night, Hello Day, Rise and Shine it's a
brand new day.*

*Sunrise over Country, Sunrise over Sea, Sunrise
every Morning,
Sunrise for you, Sunrise for me,
Sunrise for you and for me.*

Come my Friends and Dance with me

*Come my friends and dance with me, Both my hands
I give to thee,*

One foot here, and one foot there,

Round and round as light as air.

With my hands I clap, clap, clap

With my feet I tap, tap, tap

One foot here and one foot there,

Round and round as light as air.

If I were a Farmer...

Oh, if I were a farmer, a farmer, a farmer,

Oh, if I were a farmer what would I do?

*I'd gather eggs for breakfast, for breakfast, for
breakfast,*

I'd gather eggs for breakfast, that's what I'd do!

Oh, if I were a farmer, a farmer, a farmer,

Oh, if I were a farmer what would I do?

I'd pull up all the turnips, the turnips, the turnips,

I'd pull up all the turnips that's what I'd do!

Oh, if I were a farmer, a farmer, a farmer,

Oh, if I were a farmer what would I do?

I'd pick all the juicy apples, the apples, the apples

I'd pick all the juicy apples, that's what I'd do!

Yellow the Bracken

Yellow the bracken, Golden the sheaves

Rosy the apples, crimson the leaves,

Mist on the hillside, clouds grey and white

Autumn, Good Morning, Summer Good Night!

A Little Autumn Fairy

A little Autumn Fairy, sitting in a tree

Painting all the leaves, and throwing them at me!

Sunny leaves of yellow,

Ruby leaves of Red,

Come fluttering on down now, all around my head.

*Soon the branches will be bare, the leaves will all be
shed.*

*And the possums and echidnas, will all go down to
bed.*

*Soon the branches will be bare, the leaves will all be
shed.*

*And the possums and echidnas, will all go down to
bed.*

The Ship Goes Sailing On The Sea (in Stormy weather)

*The ship goes sailing on the sea, it sails for you, it
sails for me*

The waves goes up, the waves go down

The waves go rolling all around

And the lightening flash, and the thunder crash

And the shiiiiip, the shiiiiip..... she sinks!

Blub blub blub blub blub blub (holding nose and

*blowing gurgling sound through lips, while shimmy
down to floor)*

Little Mousey Brown – Up the Tall White Candlestick

*Up the tall white candlestick, went little Mousey
Brown*

*But when they got up to the top, they could'nt get
back down*

*So they called out Mumma, Dadda, Grandma (Nanna,
Grampa etc.),*

*But the grown-ups were all in town! (Hands together
as pointed Town roof above head)*



YANDELL NEWSLETTER

So they curled themselves into a ball and rolled themselves back down! (arms curled into chest, rolling hands over down to floor)

Like a Leaf or Feather

*Like a leaf or feather
In the windy, windy weather
We can twirl around and swirl around
And all fall down together.*

Pitter Patter

*Pitter patter, pitter patter
See the raindrops fall, falling one by one.
How many raindrops make a storm?
One little raindrop? No, no, no
Two little raindrops? No, no, no
Three little raindrops? No, no, no
Millions of raindrops make a storm
Billions of raindrops make a storm
Pitter, patter, pitter, patter
See the raindrops fall, falling one by one.*

Naya Naba- (Lunch Time Transition song – with Rhythm / tapping sticks)

*Naya Naba, Naya Naba
Naya Berong , together we are much more strong.
Come let us play together,
Come let us sing together,
Come let us be together, who knows when next we'll meet again.*

Cosy Autumn

MUSIC • YOGA • STORYTIME

SAT 10 JUNE
10-11.30AM*

\$22 - 1 CHILD + 1 PARENT
\$10 - ADDITIONAL CHILD

PROGRAM
MUSIC CIRCLE
FAMILY YOGA
STORYTIME
SEASONAL MORNING TEA

TO BOOK EMAIL:
CRANTS@YANDELLKINDER.COM.AU

A Message From Our Yandell Fair Leader



Hi Yandell Families,

I am Dani, Mama to Tawny and Fiadh. Tawny went to Yandell last year and is now at the Hurstbridge Learning Co-Op. Fiadh has recently turned one and is looking forward to spending more time at Yandell in the future years to come! Last year I was part of the small but dedicated fair team for

Yandell and I have a passion for craft and community.

The Yandell fair is our most important fundraiser on our calendar, this year is even more important as community kindergartens are facing financial challenges with funding arrangements for “free kinder”. Our beautiful Steiner kindergarten with our food program, quality toys and craft requires a little more care and spending to ensure the full Steiner experience for our children and generations to come. We are also looking to add a permaculture garden along with some new play structures which we will look to grants to fund but first we need to fundraise to get our plans professionally drawn up so we can be successful in upcoming grant opportunities.

So in saying that...let's get the ball rolling on making our fair a great success!! (Last year we raised close to \$5k!!)

- A call out for creative people who would like to be part of the **craftersessions**? Times to be advised but likely Term 3 and/or School Holidays.
- Does anyone have any **donations** for the silent auction? It could be from their workplace such as gift vouchers for massages or handmade treasures that are usually more expensive to buy.
- Does anyone have a connection to larger businesses that are looking for **sponsorship opportunities**? That would be wonderful too.

The fair will be held on **Saturday 25 November** so please mark it in your calendars now and spread the word!

Please direct any queries, interest, or anything fair related at all to yandellfair@yandellkinder.com.au

YANDELL NEWSLETTER

BOOK REVIEW: by Angela Sutherland

The Apple Cake - Story by Nienke van Hichtum, Illustrated by Marjan van Zeyl

A favourite Autumn book in our home for many years is the delightful tale of an old woman on a journey to find apples for her apple cake. As she looks for a trade of apples for her original basketful of plums, she encounters many other characters along her journey who all have their own often more pressing needs which she ends up helping with. It is a story of selflessness, generosity and community with beautiful illustrations and a yummy recipe to try at the end of the story. I highly recommend this book.



(ex-Yandell students Delilah and Aurora)



Mother's Day Hamper Fundraiser Raffle

Our committee put together a Mother's Day hamper of beautiful treasures. Thank you to all the families who supported our fundraiser and purchased raffle tickets! Our community raised over \$400 for Yandell which will help contribute to our permaculture garden plans.

COMMUNITY CALL OUT Kinder Camera Needed



Does anyone have an unwanted little digital camera that can replace our existing kinder camera that

unfortunately does not deal with low light conditions well?

Please email:

vicepresident@yandellkinder.com.au

IMPORTANT DATES

Cosy Autumn Event: Sat 10 June

Winter Solstice: Thu 22 June

Fairy Wrens Winter Festival: Thu 22 June

Finches Winter Festival: Thu 23 June

Term 2 Last Day: Friday 23 June

Term 3 Start Date: Mon 10 July

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



FOLLOW US! Our social media pages are live and active