



*A Steiner Kindergarten
Nurturing wonder and imagination in every child*

Yandell Kindergarten Newsletter, July/August 2015

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Welcome to the fourth Yandell newsletter for 2015!

It has been a chilly winter, but
it's nearly time to put those
winter woollies away!



Save the date

Committee Meetings

- Monday 10th August 7-9pm
- Thursday 10th September 7-9pm

All welcome to attend

Please note these are the last two opportunities to fulfill your requirements to receive the maintenance levy refund.

4-year-old Group Update

Hello families and welcome back to term 3; it's difficult to believe that we are already half way through the year. I hope that you all had a wonderful term break. It was lovely to see all the children enthusiastically settle back into kinder at the beginning of term and friendships blossom once more. I would like to welcome Arlyn and her family to the kindergarten and am pleased to

say that she has already settled in happily as the children have lovingly welcomed her into our Yandell family.



I hope that you all enjoyed the Winter Festival. It was lovely to see the children so excited and to see our community

come together and families sharing supper together. I encourage you all to provide some feedback about the Festival or any other matters in our communication book. I appreciate all your comments and I am able to use your thoughts to support the program for the future.

Our first morning circle for the term is a collection of winter songs including 'Here We Go Around the Mulberry Bush' and 'Early in the Morning the Farmer Does his Rounds'. We have also begun playing some games at the end of morning circle such as 'Jack Frost' and 'Jack be Nibble Jack be Quick', which encourage both turn taking and gross motor coordination. We started the term with the Grimms Fairytale of Little Red Cap and our next story will be Mother Holle also from the Grimms Fairytale collections.

Our new slipper cubbies are ready ☺ and by the time you read this the children will have begun using them. The current bag room will become a storage space for all our painting and craft equipment, eliminating the need for educators to have to leave the room to go down the back storeroom. It is possible that we may also be able to bring out the children's sleeping bags, so that at rest time they are more readily accessible.

I would like to remind parents that every effort is made to arrive at kinder by 9am, as half way through last term and for the beginning of this term, more and more families are arriving well after 9am and this then has a flow on effect for the rest of our day.

A reminder that it is not too late to order your kinder photos if you haven't already. Rebecca is finalising the photo packs so if you haven't been in touch with her about your order then please do so now. Her number is 0408884248.

- Sharon



Our deepest sympathy goes out to a treasured family in our Yandell community, Rose, her mum Leah and her little sister Macy who have recently experienced the sudden and tragic loss of their father Mat. Our thoughts are with you at this time and we embrace you with a warm community hug.

Mother Nature is all around us at Yandell. The trees. The earth. The sand. And being a part of our garden is something our children are naturally drawn to.

When we returned to kinder in Term 2 waiting for us was a marvellous bounty of greenery and even though it took a number of weeks to plant these beautiful plants in the ground, we did eventually return them all to their soil home.

As soon as I bring out the gardening gloves and trowels I have a trail of gardeners ready to dig, place, pat and water. But don't forget the dams! We build a little wall around our plants to help capture as many precious drops of water as possible.



We also had a tray of vivid blue cinerarias arrive. . .well, they started off completely green with just a tiny promise of what was to come. There has never been, I am sure, a bed of plants so carefully observed for any bloom so blue. Although our poor daisy bush may take second place! Runaround Boc Boc and Flappy Wings Sparkle continually eat our daisy buds the moment they poke their heads out. They must keep a very keen watch.



We are looking forward to spring arriving and as our first daffodil bloomed this week it can't be too far away . . .

...From Jo, Yandell 4-year-old Group Assistant

Advertisement...

Gabriel Talks 2015- the last three talks for the year!

Monday 3rd August, 7.30 p.m. Presented by John Allison: "Parenting from the Centre." So much in life displaces us from a real sense of Self. Our children need us to be true to our Self.

Finding the Centre - from anger and despair to positive action. John Allison has been a parent for as many years - 38 - as he's been a teacher in Steiner schools. He recognises that parenting is the harder vocation, and so approaches parents with compassionate understanding in re-minding them of their tasks and challenges and how they might make their way...

Monday 24th August, 7.30 p.m. Presented by Carol Liknaitzky: "Key ways of creatively reducing stress in your life and your children's lives." Carol Liknaitzky is an educator and social artist who provides teacher training sessions at the School of Education, Victoria University on Play and Development, Inclusive Practice and Music and Movement. She also runs the year-long, part time **Nourishing Early Childhood Course** at the Steiner Seminar. She offers teachers and parents highly participative and creative experiences that enable them to understand key Steiner concepts and gain confidence in the areas of child and personal development.

Monday 31st August, 7.30 p.m. Presented by Lisa Devine: "The pressures on family life and how we can seek resources to help our children." Lisa is a psychologist, counsellor and has worked with young people at risk. She continues to provide chaplaincy and counselling support to young people in Steiner schools in Victoria and New South Wales.

Kew Library, Phyllis Hore Room, 7.30 p.m. No charge, plenty of parking, bring a friend!

For information on any of the Gabriel Talks please contact Tiffany on 9876 1092 or 0413 120 345



Ring-a-Rosie Update

Welcome back to term 3. At our first morning tea after the break there was so much noisy chatter and laughter. It was lovely to see how happy they were to be back together again.

They thoroughly enjoyed their first painting session, which we will be doing each Thursday this term.

We can expect a lot of blustery, wet weather for a while yet, so beanies are a must for this term as well as hats and a complete set of clean clothes. Gumboots are so great because not only do they keep feet dry for mud and water play, (which the children are loving) but they are also quick and easy to put on. It can take a long time to help so many children with shoes and it can be frustrating for them to wait. The more they can be independent the better!

Love Mandy

Ring-a-rosie parents...have you thought about getting involved in helping our kinder to continue to flourish? Now is the time...

The Yandell committee is in full swing, with lots of interesting projects on the go. Thanks to successful fundraising, plans for an outdoor gazebo are underway. A master plan for the kinder's entire outdoor space is on the cards. Preparation is underway to make sure Yandell implements new, improved teacher-to-child ratios next year. A policy review has just kicked off to make sure the kinder has policies and practices that are in keeping with our Steiner ethos while also meeting legislative obligations.

Now is the perfect time for 3-year-old parents to get a taste of what is going on at the committee... before picking up the reins next year! Like the children, parents have also become accustomed to the beautiful Yandell world that Mandy, Melinda and others at the kinder create for our children to thrive in. We've experienced the fair and plant sale and our two magical festivals.

Term 3 is also the last chance to contribute by attending a working bee or committee meeting to ensure your maintenance levy is refunded against your term 4 fees.

Committee member profile: Maria Cameron (parent of Ruth Wise, Ring-a-Rosie Group)

I joined the committee at the AGM last year as a general member, excited to get involved in our daughter's kinder.

Coming along to meetings has been fascinating and humbling. I had no idea how much goes on behind the scenes - the existence of our beautiful kinder depends upon a backbone of capable, committed parents getting involved. There is a need for a diversity of talents, so there is something to match everyone's

interests. I'm loving getting involved in the policy subcommittee (yes, I'm a self-proclaimed policy nerd!). It's also been a great opportunity to meet more of the Yandell community. Even baby Winter has enjoyed coming to the meetings (which, pleasantly, finish on time or early).

Almost all current committee members are parents from the 4 year old group, but in previous years there has been contribution from both 3 and 4 year old families. Having 3 year old families on the committee helps with a smooth transition into the following year.

So, a call out to fellow 3 year old parents - come and join me on the committee. Try to attend a meeting or two before the year is up, before we pick up the baton next year.

It would be especially valuable for people who are considering taking on one of the Executive roles (President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary), all of which are essential for the kinder to operate. The current Executive Committee are friendly and match passion with capability. They are great people to learn from before they finish up at the end of the year. Their knowledge is a valuable asset to ensuring our kinder continues to be the wonderful place it is.

Also, it'd be wonderful if a couple of people want to get involved in the outdoor space master plan project now, to see it to fruition into next year.

I must admit, I have a vested interest in inviting you to join me - I don't want to be the only member of next year's committee with any experience of it :)



Committee & Community Notices

Yandell Policy Review *(From Sharyn)*

Dear Families,

As part of continuing to grow we are currently revising our fees policy in relation to the late collection of children. We welcome your comments on the proposed changes. The policy and a summary of changes will be emailed out soon or you can view the proposed changes in the foyer area. Comments may be left on paper provided and placed in the purple communication box, or you can email adminmanager@yandellkinder.com.au

CCB Receipts *(From Sharyn)*

Child Care Benefit (CCB) receipts to claim registered care use for term 1 and 2 have been placed in the foyer pockets for those who made a request. If you did not receive yours please email Paula Money at pandpmoney@bigpond.com or call 0408 831 474. Receipts for term 3 and 4 are posted out at the end of the year.

A big warm thank you to all those families who helped at the recent working bee: shovelling and burrowing sand, mending, polishing and tending the garden. Thank you also to Zanthé for baking delicious cookies and cakes to add sweetness to lunch and replenish energy, shared by families on the day.

A reminder to regularly check children's hair for lice before they come to kinder.

Magazine Swap box *(From Petah.)* ... Located in the kinder foyer for magazines about nature, nurture, wellbeing, health, craft, sustainable living, etc. Please contribute quality magazines please and please maintain a 1:1 swap ratio please, so the basket is kept neat.

Recipe Corner: Red Velvet Cupcakes

From Karen, Yandell Vice President and Mum of Zoe, 4-year-old group

260 g (about 2 large/ 9 oz) beetroot, grated raw with skin
 2 organic eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract or paste
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 Pinch of sea salt
 150 g (1 1/2 cups/ 5 1/4 oz) ground almonds
 1/4 cup or 3 tablespoons cocoa powder
 3 tablespoons your choice (macadamia oil, olive oil, coconut oil, avocado oil) or melted butter
 1/4 cup (60 ml) honey or pure maple syrup
 1/2 cup (75 g / 2.5 oz) frozen raspberries
 1 teaspoon gluten free baking powder or 1/4 teaspoon bicarb soda or baking soda

Preheat your oven to 160 C. (320 F) fan forced or 180 C (356 F) no fan.

Combine raw beetroot, eggs, vanilla, cinnamon, ground almonds, cocoa, honey, oil and baking powder into a large bowl. Mix well with your hands - hmmm or spoon- until combined then add the raspberries if using.

Spoon into paper lined cupcake or small muffin tins.

Bake for 45 minutes or until cooked through.

Remove from the oven and cool completely in the tin.

Yummy served with yogurt. Makes 12. (Recipe from: <https://www.thehealthychef.com/2012/08/red-velvet-cupcakes/>)

Newsletter contributions welcome!

We'd love the next edition of the newsletter to include as many recipes, poems, artwork and photos (with permission) as possible.

Please send contributions to me at yandellnewsletter@gmail.com

Or, feel free to place them in the newsletter envelope in the foyer at kinder.



Kylie

Newsletter Coordinator & mum of William (4yo group) & Lucy (Yandell 2013)