



YACKANDANDAH KINDERGARTEN | FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our second newsletter of the pre-school year. We hope you are looking forward to working alongside us in this exciting developmental stage of your child's learning. On Monday, online invitations to join Kinder's online communication portal STORY PARK were sent to all parents. This is replacing the *KindyHub* app that Kinder previously used. Staff will be sending through stories to parents about their child and we hope you enjoy reading them and being able to communicate with the teachers. Our staff will soon share their classroom program plans with families. Please feel free to discuss any area of these programs with your child's teacher.

Our learning-through-play will continue to progress well throughout our monthly activities. The children will continue to build on new skills daily; please encourage these at home.

The children's learning starts from the moment they come into our service and unlike childcare, our educational programs are planned and delivered by university-qualified teachers making for a more structured learning environment. I ask that you please be respectful and observe your child's designated program drop-off times.

Our routine is that staff greet parents and children at the door and will wait 10 minutes before moving to their classroom. If you arrive late, we ask that you patiently wait a few minutes in the foyer until group time is over and the teacher can come out to welcome your child. We understand that this might be inconvenient, however this is our practice and it acknowledges respect for our staff and all the children. We thank you in anticipation of your understanding.

In the case of Bush Kinder program if you are late, we ask that you ring the front doorbell to gain access and take your child through to program. If you are collecting your child early, please also enter via the foyer door – not through the side gate.

If your late arrival is unavoidable due to an appointment or your little one sleeping in, please phone or email the office to advise beforehand so we can best support your child to transition smoothly when they arrive.

Our 4yo children

Jane's Room are learning about Australian animals and their habitats and reconnecting with friends through games and dramatic play areas. We are concentrating on recognising our name and attempting to write it daily on the classroom sign-in sheet. We are re-visiting expectations of mat time, taking turns and sharing ideas.

In Lisa's Room she is spending these precious first weeks getting to know all of her children and their special interests. Many of the children are reacquainting themselves with each other from 3yo program and getting to



know Lisa as they explore their new classroom layout and establish friendships. The Home Corner is providing fun stimulation with its babies & dress-ups and our coloured ice exploration activity has been really popular too.

Our 3yo children ...

Claudia's room is taking the time to settle into the kinder routine and staff are focussing on their social and emotional wellbeing. The children have been interested in colours and experimenting in free painting with primary colours and playing with play doh; manipulating the dough using fingers, hands, rollers and cutters. We've also been reading *The Snail and the Whale* and talking about rhyme and rhythm.

In Sam's Room, the Home Corner hosts baby dolls, a tea set and a kitchen layout for the children to engage in socio-dramatic play; learning to dress, feed and care for the dolls. After reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, the children have been able to retell the story through felt mat play using props and characters from the story. Play doh cookie and cupcake play has produced many tasty looking treats and lots of smiles.

Bush Kinder is now in its first full week and is at capacity on all three days. The children are thriving on outdoor play & exploration. Great fun has been had making stick & leaf mobiles, singing the *Barramundi* song and reading the book *Walking on Country – What do we see?*. Kathleen, Stacey, Erin and the children went on a bear hunt, built cubbies, talked about our BK safety rules and experienced small risk taking. They will continue using their imagination, exploring conflict resolution and developing their gross & fine motor skills. Everyone seems happy to swap iPads, computers and toys for trees, bugs, water and dirt!

Whilst kindergarten marks an important transition, it is important that children still get to be children. Kindergarten life is sweet, with all the fun and exciting activities. Let's gear up for a successful year!

The children are all preparing group songs for our WELCOME CONCERT on Thursday, 6th March and are very much looking forward to showing their families their kinder, their beautiful artwork and picnicking with their friends. We hope to see all our families on this night.

Marisel Blefari & Staff



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR JAN/FEB

Finn, Summer, Theodora, Matthew, Penny S,
Heidi, Elle, Tristan, Billie, Arthur, Molly, Otis & Walker

2025 TERM 1 CALENDAR

- 11 Feb 5.30pm Committee of Management Meeting
 - 06 Feb 4yo Oral Health Incursion with Smiles 4 Miles
 - 12 Feb 4yo Free dental screenings in M&CH Room adjacent to kinder
 - 11 March 5.30pm Committee of Management Meeting
 - 06 March 6pm Welcome to Kinder Concert
 - 10 March LABOR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY [KINDER CLOSED]
 - 21 March Kinder BBQ fundraiser for YFF parade [we are seeking volunteers]
 - 21 March 6pm Children marching in YFF parade / Kinder's Sausage Sizzle Stall 4.30-8.30pm
 - 04 April FINAL DAY OF TERM 1 | NORMAL PROGRAM FINISH TIMES | AKC RUNNING
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CHECKING YOUR CHILD'S LOCKER

Every child has a locker at kinder. We pop notices, precious artwork, receipts, correspondence and other things that need to go home for parents/guardians. Please check your child's locker at pick-up each day and ask their teacher if you are not sure where their locker is.

HOLIDAY HELPER THANK YOU to our 3yo teacher, Claudia for having our chickens for a luxury holiday sleep-over at their chook resort – thank you Claudia and family.



SMILES 4 MILES ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Every year we organise Albury Wodonga Health's Dental Service to conduct **FREE DENTAL SCREENING** for our 4yo children. This free screening is scheduled for Wednesday, 12th February in the Maternal & Child Health Room at the front of the kinder building.

Prior to the screening appointment date, kinder has organised for a member of the Smiles 4 Miles team to visit both 4yo rooms for a dental incursion on Thursday 6th February, to interact with the children and provide each one with their own dental pack.

STAFFING THIS TERM

3yo Funded Program:

3yo Monday & Wednesday Program Group 1 in Room 1 | 8.15am – 3.45pm

Teacher: Claudia Keenan Educator: Erin

3yo Monday & Wednesday Program Group 2MA in Room 2 | 8.30am – 4.00pm

Teacher: Sam Rampling Educators: Meg & Stacey

4yo Funded Programs:

Tuesday & Thursday Program Group 1 in Room 1 | 8.15am – 3.45pm

Teacher: Lisa Hutchinson Educator: Claire

Tuesday & Thursday Program Group 2 in Room 2 | 8.30am – 4.00pm

Teacher: Jane Murray Educators: Stacey & Meg

Non-Funded Bush Kinder Programs:

Mondays | 8.15am – 3.45pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 8.15am – 3.45pm

Teachers: Kathleen Withers / Stacey O'Sullivan / Erin Tinney

Non-Funded 4yo School Readiness Program Days:

Mondays & Wednesdays | 8.30am – 4.00pm in Room 2

Teacher: Sam Rampling Educators: Meg & Stacey

You can find a photo and information about each teacher on our website or from start of Term 1 on the noticeboard at the kinder verandah entrance. Looking at this with your child will support them as they settle into the kinder.

Additional Assistant: Maryori Jimenez supports programs as needed on Monday & Thursdays.



The children are creating beautiful artwork & learning songs. We invite you to meet our staff, other parents and your child's friends!

Bring along a picnic, chairs/rug & join the fun.

RSVP on Attendance List at the verandah sign-in tables

SHOW NIGHT Thursday, 6th March at 6pm

Claudia's 3yo Room



Sam's 3yo Room



Lisa's 4yo Room



Jane's 4yo Room



Mon 3yo Bush Kinder



Thurs 3yo Bush Kinder





Tues 4yo Bush Kinder



BOOKING INTO AFTER KINDER CARE IN 2025

Contact the Yack Primary AKC Co-Ordinator Kerry Wright at yack.ps.oshc@outlook.com or [phone the school on 02 6027 1431](tel:0260271431) to [register your interest](#).

All bookings and cancellations are managed by the Yackandandah Primary School. The care is provided on site at kinder between 3.45pm – 6.00pm with Kerry Smith.

New enrolments can also be created through Xplor. Copy the link below to complete the enrolment form.

https://prodadmin.myxplor.com/enrollment_v2/centre/W/WJsbWTyMn1RnUchHW/zhZw

KINDER CCTV CAMERA & CODED DOOR ACCESS INFORMATION

You will have noticed that kinder has CCTV cameras installed - this system strengthens our security by providing an appropriate level of surveillance on our grounds and assists us to take all reasonable steps to prevent reasonably foreseeable harm on kinder premises. Please know that the CCTV is not used to monitor non-kinder facilities or public places, staff performance nor used with the intent of covert surveillance. The building alarm and coded door access strengthens the security of children, staff and visitors within the premises and classrooms. These measures compliment the existing family entry and exit security measures already being practiced. Our CCTV Policy available for viewing upon request.



UNTIL MARCH, REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT OF KINDER VIA THE ATTENDANCE BOOKS ON THE VERANDAH TABLES. The Dept Education will then implement *ARRIVAL* – a new purpose-built sign-in online platform. We'll keep you informed as we receive more information.

YACKANDANDAH FOLK FESTIVAL : 21 – 23 March

📍 Marching in the street parade

The YFF is kicking off its 2025 weekend festival with the ever popular street parade on the Friday night. The theme for the 2025 Street Parade will be all things BLUE and BLUES MUSIC related!!

Staff will start planning costume ideas in the coming weeks, with the criteria of blue as the primary visual. We will keep parents in the loop via email and a note in their child's locker. We would be very grateful if we had a few parent helpers to support our staff whilst preparing costumes.



📍 Help needed on our BBQ Stall Fundraiser on the Friday evening



This is our major fundraiser in 2025 and we are looking for **volunteers to help with set up / cooking/serving and packing up**. Our bbq runs from 4.30pm to 8.30pm and we will be serving sausages & with onions in bread and drinks.

If you can help for a 1 hour shift or even a ½ hour shift, it would be of enormous help. You can write your name on the helper sheet on the sign-in desk on the main verandah and at the Bush Kinder desk. PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE

KINDER IS NOW USING *STORYPARK FOR FAMILIES*

Welcome!

Yackandandah Kindergarten is now using Storypark to share updates about your child's learning.

FAMILIES WERE SENT AN INVITATION TO ACCESS THE ONLINE COMMUNICATION PORTAL ON MONDAY, together with a link to watch a short introduction video to Storypark: <https://vimeo.com/100078798>

You can receive and respond to stories from educators working with your child, share precious moments, interests and milestones from home, and stay in the loop with important notices and updates. Your involvement helps educators understand and provide the best experience for your child.

As a parent or guardian you can manage your child's private digital profile, and decide who else has access – you can even invite your wider family, wherever they are, to share your child's development with loved ones.

PLEASE SEE YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES OR ARE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION.

Download Storypark's free, easy to use app for families:

Get the iOS app from the App Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/storypark-for-families/id1133029596>

Get the Android app from Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.storypark.families.android>

Learn about inviting your family:

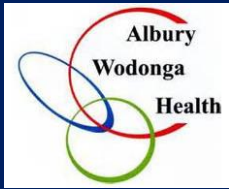
<https://help.storypark.com/en/articles/2067469-inviting-family>

**Storypark
for Families**

The easiest way to connect
with your child's learning

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store



I want to be a **clean well** kid!

FREE DENTAL SCREENING

for our 4yo program children

WEDNESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY | Between 9:30 am – 4:00pm

PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE SCREENING WITH THEIR CHILD.

As part of Yack Kinder's Oral Health Program, we are offering our 4YO KINDER FAMILIES the opportunity to book a 10-minute FREE dental screening for your child with AWH Dental staff.

LOCATION:

In the Maternal & Child Health Room at the front of the Yack Kinder building [30 Isaacs Ave, Yackandandah]

ON THE APPOINTMENT SHEET AT THE MAIN SIGN-IN DESK, you can choose a time that suits. Record your name, your child's name and a contact phone number.

There is a AWH Dental Service screening consent form in your child's kinder locker for you to complete and return to kinder by 11 FEB, if you are interested,