



Possum Post

WARRANDYTE AND DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.

Term 4 - 2020

Message from the President

2020 what a year!

In many ways we might wish to put this year behind us but this will also mean the end of kinder for many of the Four Year Old group children! So, for me the end of the year will be tinged with sadness. My children love every minute of kinder and can't wait to come and "play". How wonderful for them that they can explore the world through play at kinder. I am so grateful that all sessions have been back this final Term, made possible by the suppression of COVID-19. Well done everybody!

A huge thank you to the teaching and educating staff who have put in such an amazing effort this year. Ronnie, Lyn, Rhonda and Fiona have put the children first, have reinvented teaching methods and programming, and have survived it all ... did I forget to mention sanitising ... oh so much sanitising!

A special mention this pandemic year, to Carolyn Camm, our Administration and Compliance Officer. So many things would not have happened expediently without Carolyn diligently managing so much extra administration this year. Carolyn quietly and efficiently gets on with the job and brings along her wealth of experience. She has kept us up to date by monitoring ELAA and DET updates and consequently there have been emails ... so many emails!

A massive thank you to all on the Committee who have undertaken many, many tasks, some significant some seemingly insignificant, but ALL things have gone into helping our Kinder operate more smoothly and happily this year. We had the best intentions for everything we did for Kinder.

Finally thank you to all our Kinder families who have put up with changes big and small. We have tried to support each other. We have adapted to every reinvention of how kinder has had to operate and done so willingly. So grateful to you all!

Farewell dear Kinder community and goodbye 2020 ... what a year!

Joanna



Important Dates:	
Term 3 Ends	16 December 2020
Clean Up Day	17 December 2020
Term 1 Begins with Interview Days for 4YO	Starting 28 January 2021 continuing 2 February 2021
Interview Day for 3YO	1 February 2021
Extended Care begins	2 February 2021



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Message from the Staff

We can't believe that it is the end of the year already. We would like to thank everyone for all your support and efforts to keep your children connected to kindergarten and engaged in both our face to face and online programs. We were so happy to be able welcome families back into our kinder in the last couple of weeks.

The children have really demonstrated their resilience this year. They have coped with so much change and even with months of separation and the challenge of learning remotely the children have been able to stay connected to us, their friends and the kindergarten environment.

Since returning this term the children's growing confidence has allowed them to take risks to explore. Which has led them to begin to build skills that not only have cognitive benefits but also have built on physical, and social and emotional development, such as independence, resilience and autonomy.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the families who have given up their time to volunteer in the committee. It has been a challenging year for everyone as we worked on repairing our kinder after all the summer storm damage and then all the disruption to the running of the kinder due to the impacts of the Coronavirus. Knowing we were supported by the committee was very important to all the staff. Having active family committee members is important to keeping a strong sense of community within our kindergarten.

Thank you also to our families who participated in kinder duty at the beginning of the year and in the last couple of week, as well as the families who have taken part in working bees, and assisted with the revamp of the imaginary garden and the rock bed. A special mention to executive committee and especially Jo for taking on the role of President, she has supported us through so much this year, we can't thank her enough for everything she has done.

We would like to wish the children all the best, for their learning journey either for their transition to school or their return to kindergarten in 2021.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Ronnie, Lyn, Rhonda and Fiona.



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Welcome to our New Educator

**Warrandyte Kinder would like to extend a warm welcome to Chai!
Chai will be our new 3-Year-Old Educator and Extended Care Educator.**



Chai has a Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Certificate III in Integration Aide/Teaching Support and has previously worked in long day care.

Chai speaks, reads and writes fluently in English, Mandarin, Bahasa and Cantonese.

Chai believes that all children can learn. They learn at different rates and different ways in a positive and respectful environment.

Christmas Craft Ideas





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Salt Dough Recipe

Ingredients:

1. 2 cups all-purpose flour
2. 1 cup salt
3. 1 cup cold water

Step 1

Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. Slowly mix water, a few tablespoons at a time, into flour mixture until dough is smooth and easy to handle. Knead dough for 10 minutes and let rest for 20 minutes.

Step 2

Preheat oven to 120 degrees C.

Step 3

Form dough into desired shapes and arrange on a baking sheet.

Step 4

Bake in the preheated oven until dry and hard, about 2 hours. Allow to cool completely.



Christmas Recipes



Ingredients

- 1 x batch quick chocolate cupcakes
- 1 x batch buttercream icing
- green food colouring
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- Smarties (to decorate)

Buy ingredients online **\$0.34** per serving

Shop at Woolworths 

Add to shopping list

View shopping list [>](#)

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Method

1

Make cupcakes and icing and keep about 3 tbsp of the buttercream separate and colour the remaining icing green. Ice 10 cupcakes with the green buttercream then decorate nine of these with smarties, keeping one green cupcake aside.

2

Mix a little cocoa powder into the remaining buttercream or until desired chocolate colour is achieved then ice the remaining two cupcakes before decorating with brown Smarties.

3

For the star on top; you can either ice a star-shape onto your remaining green cupcake, or top with a star-shaped cookie as we have. Top this with a little green icing and one pretty red Smartie.

4

Arrange the cupcakes into a tree shape then finish with the two brown cupcakes and you're done!



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Ingredients

- large candy canes
- small (12g) Milky Way chocolate bars
- 100g chocolate melts
- Tiny Teddy biscuits, honey flavoured
- Mini M&Ms, red only
- pretzels

Buy ingredients online

Shop at Woolworths 

Add to shopping list

View shopping list >

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Method

1

Place chocolate in a glass bowl and melt in the microwave for 1 minute. Stir until melted. Place a layer of baking paper down to sit your sleighs on. Peel plastic off candy canes. Place on the sheet about 3cm apart.

2

Spoon a little melted chocolate on the back of a Milky Way and sit the Milky Way on the candy canes. Adjust the canes so the hooks are standing straight up.

3

Using a sharp knife, cut legs off a Tiny Teddy biscuit. Dab a little melted chocolate on the cut edge.

4

Sit the Tiny Teddy on top of the Milky Way and hold until firmly attached.

5

Dot a little chocolate on a red Mini M&M and stick it on the face of the Tiny Teddy biscuit.

6

5cm sticks and dab a little chocolate on the bottom of each stick and place on Tiny Teddy head as antlers.



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Important Information

Wellbeing

We recognise and understand that times like this can cause anxiety and distress so we urge you to also look after your mental health.

Please see below resources for anyone who is feeling any stress, anxiety, depression, or concern during this time.

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Raising Children Network (For parents and families experiencing anxiety during COVID):

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Lifeline: www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat

Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au

Phoenix Australia, the Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health: www.phoenixaustralia.org

Black Dog Institute: www.blackdoginstitute.org.au

Kids Help Line: www.kidshelpline.com.au or (p)1800 55 1800



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Important Information

Working with Children Checks

Warrandyte Kindergarten is very fortunate to have a large number of friends and family volunteer to help us with our activities at the kindergarten, including help during our kindergarten sessions. This involvement is something that we very much value as part of our kindergarten. However, more helpers are always greatly appreciated!

All of our helpers require a Working with Children Check card. If you do not have a card, it is a very easy process that is confidential and free.

Step 1: Complete an online application form at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au.

Step 2: Finalise your application at an Australia Post outlet. This will include presenting one acceptable proof of identity document such as a driver's licence or passport. Australia Post will take your photo for the card free of charge.

If you need any further information or assistance in applying for a card, please speak to our Administration Officer, Carolyn Camm at admin.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au.

Please ensure you have listed Warrandyte Kindergarten as a nominated location for your WWCC. People with existing WWCC can visit <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> to update their details and add Warrandyte Kindergarten as an organisation.

Resources for Parents

- **Australian Parenting Network Raising Children**
 - raisingchildren.net.au
- **Poisonous Plants and Children**
 - <https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/safety/poisons/dangerous-plants>
- **Value of Reading with Preschoolers**
 - <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/at-home/reading-with-preschoolers/>
- **Sue Larkey**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/SueLarkeyTeacher/>
- **Spectrum journeys**
https://www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumjourneysinc/posts/?ref=page_internal



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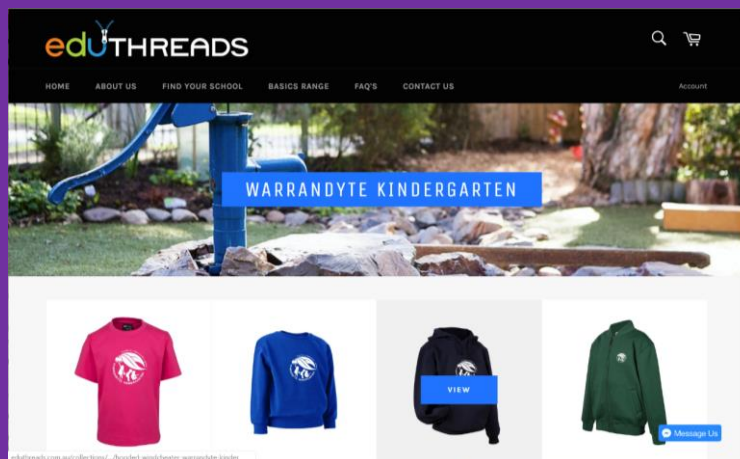


OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Do you shop at IGA?
Choose Warrandyte Kindergarten and scan your Quinton's Rewards card everytime you shop to donate points to our kinder!

New Kinder Uniform Supplier

Don't forget to visit www.eduthreads.com.au to check out the range of uniform items and available and purchase some at any time!



Do you have something you think should be included in the next possum post?

Email wkpossumpost@gmail.com



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2021 Committee

Our 2020 President would like to warmly welcome the new 2021 committee.

These wonderful volunteers are giving themselves in service to the Kinder Community to ultimately provide the best possible experience for all our wonderful children.

Thank you all very much, good luck for 2021!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
President	Natalie Mander
Vice President	Andy Wilgose
Secretary	Merryn Platt
Treasurer	Kylie Smith
GENERAL COMMITTEE	
Marketing Coordinator	Kimberley Hall
Assistant Secretary	Bec Asquith
Assistant Treasurer	Kelly Maguire
Social Media Coordinator	Katie Pelosi
Kitchen Garden	Kate Misra
Fundraising Coordinator – Warrandyte Festival	Georgina Hannan
Warrandyte Festival Float	Bec Asquith
	Julia Slussareff
Fundraising Officers	Rachel Gittus
	Tricia Canny
	Cat Duncan
	Naomi Greenwood
Market Parking	tba
IT Support	Kimberley Hall Jim Sill
Maintenance	Lauren Wilgose
4YO Group Parent Rep	Cat Duncan
3YO Group Parent Rep	Nikki Teggelove
Extended Care Parent Rep	tba

To contact committee members, please email president.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au and the President will direct your enquiry.



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Kinder Staff Contacts		
Ronnie Pedersen (4YO)	ronnie.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	9844 3363
Lynette De Giorgio (3YO)	lyn.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	9844 3363
Carolyn Camm (admin)	Admin.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	9844 3363

Our Kinder staff are always more than happy to talk to you about questions or concerns about your child.

Please ensure this communication is in person at the beginning or end of a session or using the official contact details listed above only.