



POSSUM POST

Term 3 2021

Warrandyte District Kindergarten

President's Report by Nat Mander

Just like that another term has finished! Term 3 had not been ideal for any of us and I hope you are all coping OK with the juggles of lockdown.

Fingers crossed we are back face to face in Term 4, the kinder will provide an update on this prior to the end of the holidays.

Congratulations to Lyn on the birth of her grandson Archie! The support shown from the community to her and her family has been heart-warming!

We have started preparing for our Annual General Meeting on Monday 8th November, and will send out more details at the start of next term.

An important part of the AGM is to appoint new committee roles for next year, the kinder can't operate without it! So if you have any questions on any of the roles please reach out to myself or Carolyn in the meantime.

A big thank you to the fundraising team, in particular Rachael Gittus for organising the Rob Dolan wine drive, we have raised approximately \$3,000 for the kinder which is a phenomenal effort. Cheers!

I hope you all have a great school holiday break and enjoy the Spring sunshine.

Important Dates:

Term 4 Begins	4 th Oct 2021
AGM Meeting	8 th November 2021
Term 4 Ends	17 th Dec 2021



Working Bee Catch Up Dates

Do your children miss going to kinder over the weekends and seeing their friends and teachers? Working Bee's don't have to be a chore it can be a fun catch up for the whole family. If it's wet then dress the children in gumboots and raincoats and watch them jump in puddles and if the sun is shining let them loose in the garden to pull out weeds, find snails and bugs. Having children involved in a working bee gives them ownership and responsibility for their learning environment.

Working Bee Dates:

Term 3	Sunday 3 rd October 2021
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3 YEAR OLD REPORT By Lyn De Giorgio: Teacher

Our open-ended experiences allow the children to bring their own interests to each area. Discussions about the snow led to a snowfield being set up. The children added vehicles to this area. Their play provided an opportunity for them to experiment with angles, speed, and control of their cars when they pushed them down the smooth surface.



Exploring angles and movement has been a constant interest amongst some children. In the last few weeks, we have extended this learning by adding cardboard packaging which has been used as ramps to the children's resources. Providing a large box they could cut holes in to support the ramps assisted the children to experiment with different heights and the effects of the angle of the ramps at that height. Through their play, the children have been using collaboration to share problem-solving ideas, hypothesise about outcomes, and then reflect on results. They have used trial and error to try to reach their goals.



Meeting times have been a time when the children share some of the experiences they have had at home. The creation of a cardboard robot, Walle, made by one of the children with his dad, has led to talk about sustainable practices and upcycling. The children have been recycling boxes, packaging, scrap fabric, and natural materials found on the ground outside to make and decorate their creations. Using floor space to work, created a situation for the children to practice social skills and understanding of spatial awareness as they negotiated the area they played in. Working close to their friends created discussions about their creations and led to collaborative problems solving.

Discussion about Walle, the robot provided an understanding of three-dimensional shapes. Placing Davinci blocks on the light table provided an opportunity for the children to explore these shapes in their play. The children have been very engaged in this area, using their imagination to create things they are familiar with such as a fish tank. Discussions about their creations have opened up opportunities to build on the children's language.



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We have combined the suggestion of a couple of children and the current interest in upcycling to come up with a present idea for the children to make for Father's Day. The children are creating books about their dads. The cover of the books and the gift tags which can also be used as a bookmark will be made from recycled paper.

Discussions about going to the snow and what conditions are needed to make snow led to an ice-making experiment, the children thought about what was required to make snow, after working out they would need water and a freezer they created varied shaped and coloured ice blocks. Observing the result of their experiment, the children were able to reflect on their ideas and work out whether their thoughts were correct. Writing their observations on a whiteboard supported their understandings of literacy and data collection.



The teddy bear counters were planned as a way to extend a child's learning after we observed a drawing with three different size butterflies. The bears were planned to provide an opportunity for the children to explore colour, size, and size order. This experience has been out for a couple of weeks providing time for the children to revisit it many times over. By doing so they have been exploring these concepts and extending on their learning as they explore patterning. Some of these concepts have also been explored through imaginary play as the children create characters such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



Hammering with soft resources was planned to an interest in construction work. The children created rules and learnt about the tools by sharing their knowledge of the tools and dangers that can occur. By using soft resources, the resources were easier to manipulate and safer to use, making the experience achievable for all the children.

Puddle pictures were created by using pipettes to drop Edicol dye onto absorbent paper. Using pipettes encouraged the children to use a pincer grip which assists with pen control and scissor cutting skills. This experience also encourages self-regulation as the children consider the effect of adding too much dye and the need to restrain themselves from adding more. Adding water spray bottles to this experience caused the dye to run creating a rain effect. Using spray bottles contributes to building strength in the children's hands.



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Reading the Rain book, which was chosen by the children, and combining it with our music program supported the children's listening skills and familiarity with different musical instruments. The children helped tell the story by using musical instruments and body percussion to represent characters and events in the story. We have also used some of these instruments to play as we sing the song 'How Many Raindrops Make a Storm', introduced to us by one of the children.



Google Earth has been a wonderful tool for our program. With an interest in maps, we have researched the location of Warrandyte in Victoria, our kinder in Warrandyte, Victoria in Australia, and Australia on the globe. We have compared the distance from Victoria to other states, and countries such as England, America and Japan. Discussions about distance stimulated reflection on transport to travel to different countries and the time it would take to get to these destinations.

We have been very busy in the Kitchen garden, looking after the garden beds by weeding, composting and looking out for bugs that might be eating our plants. We have planted spinach and harvested lettuce which the children chose to use in lettuce sandwiches. When reflecting on the taste of a lettuce sandwich the children thought they could make it more interesting by adding a sausage. By making skinless sausages we were able to use some of the herbs from our garden to flavour the sausages. As not all our children eat meat, we talked about plant-based sausage and the children tried some that had been brought in by one of our families. We discussed the importance of trying things even though we think we might not like the taste or if we had tried them before and not liked them just in case our taste has changed. The Story 'I will Never, Ever Eat Tomatoes' supported this message. Making lettuce and sausage sandwiches helped develop an understanding of healthy eating, built on fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, hygiene practices and literacy skills, understanding of diversity, and stimulated our sense of touch, smell and taste.





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There were way too many lettuce plants in our garden for us to use in our cooking, so we decided to create a lettuce store for families to buy our fresh organic produce. The children made a sign asking for a gold coin donation. Chai donated Jerusalem artichokes to the store and Mile's family donated lemons. Both these were offered for free. By sharing our fresh produce the children are able to gain an understanding of community.



The Olympics have also supported the children's sense of community, as they learnt they are part of Warrandyte, Melbourne, Victoria and Australia. They expressed pride in the athletics representing us in the Olympics. They are gaining understandings of location and diversity as they thought about the different competing countries, their location, and the flags that represent them.

At the children's request, we created our own Olympic rings. The children learnt about the significance of the rings. When creating them, they gained colour recognition and understandings of area, as they tried to cover each ring. Tearing paper to cover the rings was programmed to build fine motor skills and when we displayed them, the children copied a poster reading the order to know the correct way to hang them.

As well as the rings the children also made medals. This experience provided an opportunity for the children to practice cutting skills and to practice the method of using rubbing to create an image, which they learnt when drawing with charcoal.

Our outdoor program was inspired by the Olympics. Plastic hurdles provided a place for the children to have a go at hurdling, adding hobby horses supported an interest in equestrian. An obstacle course provided beam work and trampolining. The children's interest in dance was used to inspire an area for rhythmic gymnastics.



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4 YEAR OLD GROUP REPORT By Ronnie Pedersen: Teacher, Nominated Supervisor and Educational Leader

Following on from our exploration of how to change water into ice, as well as water being able to take on any shape that it is contained in (ice hands) we looked at melting ice. We placed one ice hand into a tray of sand, and one ice hand into a tray of water. The children then observed what happened over the day. The children constantly returned to the experiment, noticing any changes that had occurred. They discussed if anything changed to the ice, the sand, or the water.

As an extension of this exploration of freezing water, the children were eager to see what would happen if we tried to freeze other things. After 'raiding' the pantry and the fridge, we were able to use water, milk, oil, coffee granules, vinegar, sugar, tomato sauce, and golden syrup. We wondered if these things would change their 'state' if they were frozen? The children hypothesized on what would happen, and which would freeze. They were very eager to see if their hypothesis was correct! When asked why some of these substances froze and some did not, a few children were able to understand that those products that had water in them would freeze, and those that were dry didn't.

But what about the golden syrup, why didn't that freeze? Because there is not much water but lots of sugar! The children are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning, using reflective thinking to consider why things happen and what can be learnt from these experiences. They are able to make connections between experiences, concepts and processes, and transfer knowledge from one setting to another. It is so enjoyable to observe the children's awe and wonder as they interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, clarify and challenge thinking, negotiate and share new understandings. The children are open to new challenges and make new discoveries, making predictions and generalizations about aspects of the natural world and environments. They use reflective thinking to consider why things happen and what can be learnt from these experiences.





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If we can't go to the snow, then let the snow come to us! We used shaving foam as pretend snow. Some of the children took great delight in this fluffy, soft, sensory experience. Some would touch it hesitantly at first, and then become quite excited in what they could do with it. I'm glad that they had smocks on! The children use their sensory capabilities and dispositions with increasing integration, skill and purpose to explore and respond to their world.

Out to our Kitchen Garden, the weed patrol was definitely required! There is so much grass growing in the tan bark surrounding the garden beds. I think it will take a few sessions to clear it all up. The children also harvested most of the lemons from our tree. The children are still working out if the lemons are ripe enough to pick, it's like a frenzy when one lemon is picked! The children get to decide what to make with them.

With the changeable weather of the past few days, we decided to make a "Weather Clock". The children were able to reflect on how the weather doesn't stay the same all day, but may start out sunny, then change to windy and cloudy, and perhaps may also rain. The children are able to make connections between experiences, concepts and processes.

Some of the children created their own "Ninja" course using the rafters in the cubby house. I'm not sure if it is the best thing to do in the cubby house, but we need to let the children take risks and sort it out themselves, within reason! We are constantly amazed at the skills the children show. Even when they have blisters on their hands, they still persevere! Future Olympians??!!! The children show enthusiasm for participating in physical play, and negotiate play spaces to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others. What joy!!



There has been a lot happening with the Tokyo Olympics, and ParaOlympics, and we have been as busy as the officials must be at the Tokyo Olympics. The Olympics have really inspired the children and it was easy to stoke their enthusiasm, especially when Australia won so many medals! The children created many versions of an Olympic gymnastics course. We could change a few elements each time depending on the level of risk taking that each child was capable of. We had such a diverse range of events in our Kinder Olympics!!



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The children celebrate and share their contributions and achievements with others, as they recognize these individual achievements. They are also using the creative arts to express ideas and make meaning. Especially in making medals. Our children are so gifted to be able to excel in so many sports. Our beach volleyball competition was fierce. The children's skills were quite impressive! They are manipulating the ball with increasing competence and skill. They show enthusiasm for participating in physical play and negotiate play spaces to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

Then it was time to see what else our bodies are capable of, so we played 'The Body Game'. As well as needing to recognize the pattern of the dots on the dice and count them, the children also have to recognize the corresponding number symbol on the back of the cards. The children really enjoy the small challenges that are required (eg stand on your left foot and count to 10, bend down and touch your toes, walk like a crab, etc.). The children are beginning to recognise patterns and relationships and the connections between them.

As well as exploring the Olympic flag, the Japanese flag, and the Australian flag, we use posters and puzzles to discover the flags of other countries. The children can look at the similarities and differences, and wonder why some flags have pictures on and what they might represent. The children explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings.

We have been reflecting on how Olympic athletes also need to be very aware of what they eat to ensure that their body works as well as possible. The children needed to think about what foods are 'Everyday Foods', and which are 'Sometimes Food' (or Treats). The children are happy, healthy, safe and are connected to others, making connections between experiences, concepts and processes. We also reflected on how to keep our bodies healthy by eating well, sleeping well, drinking lots of water, dressing for the weather, exercising, cleaning our teeth and so on.

With our reflecting on healthy foods, the children have really enjoyed playing with the segmented wooden fruit, and cutting them into pieces. This has also provided the opportunity for children to talk about many things in their cooperative play. Whilst some others like to work on their own, the children are playful and respond positively to each other, reaching out for company and friendship. They listen to others' ideas and respect different ways of being and doing. We were also able to use our posters of various vegetables to classify them into colour groups; whether we eat the root, stem, or leaf; whether the plant grew under the ground, or on top of the ground, and so on.



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When asked what the children would like to make with the lemons picked from our tree, they suggested lemonade, and lemon slice like they made for Mother's Day earlier in the year. This was the easiest and yummiest option! Grating the rind from the lemons was perhaps the trickiest part!

The extended COVID Lockdown has created its fair share of dilemmas for us and we thank Staff, Committee, and families for being so co-operative and understanding. With the small numbers of children attending, we are running an emergent program based on what the children are interested in at the time.

It is a very unusual feeling at Kinder when there are only such a few children, due to these Lockdown restrictions. The children all gravitate to one another, and the pace is much slower. If one child is doing something that looks exciting, the others move over to see what is going on, and so they are also scaffolding their own, and each other's learning. With the smaller numbers it is also easier to fulfil the children's requests for different equipment/materials, as well as offering provocations, or being part of the play. We are offering online learning, as well as the Take Home Learning Bags, which appear to be the thing that the children and parents really like. The more tangible items.

Earlier in the month, prior to Lockdown, I wanted to test a theory that there were always 11 segments in every mandarin! The children really enjoyed this challenge. Fiona brought in her dehydrator and the children placed the segments onto the trays. The segments that were totally dried were very tangy and chewy, and those that still had some juice left in tasted very much like marmalade.





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We were lucky that the children were able to complete their Father's Day Surprise prior to Lockdown, with only the wrapping and part of the card to complete at home. They did a great job and the result looked fantastic! I hope all of the Dads were suitably impressed!



We were lucky to have one of our students bring in her 2 little chickens. We were fascinated to watch them, especially when they came out to walk in our room for the first time! This was a great lead in to when we have the incubator with some fertilized eggs coming to Kinder. We looked forward to seeing the 4 chickens and the 12 eggs hatch that came from Henny Penny Hatching.

We were sorry that the majority of children were not here to be a part of this, but we made sure that we sent a post home every day, so that they could keep up with our newest family!! The excitement of our week has definitely been in watching the chickens hatch from the eggs in the incubator! The children have been learning about the fragility plus the robustness of life, care and nurturing of life (both all creatures great and small!!), and also farming practices!



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EXTENDED CARE By Hayley: Extended Care Activity Group Leader



Extended Care provides an emergent program that is child led, mixed with opportunities for the children to drive their learning in the direction of their current interests. We also collaborate with the three and four year old educators to extend on learning from those programs.

We started the term with exploring topics like Winter and The Olympic Games. It was wonderful to watch the children's knowledge of these topics grow and their interests expand. Through creative activities such as arts and crafts, music and movement and storytelling the children explored these topics.



The Olympic Games were a highlight this term. The children created a medal podium for our Kinder Olympics, created medals, learnt about different countries, explored more about Australia and the colours the athletes wore and how they related to Australia. We explored native flora such as wattle and were introduced to so many new sports. The children were inspired by the amazing athletes and we used this opportunity to talk about how hard these athletes work, how they look after their bodies and how amazing it is to be in the Olympics. It opened up opportunities to discuss the spirit of the Olympics and how it's not all about coming 1st but more about doing your best and the importance of cheering on others. We also published our first book "If I went to the Olympics..." with photos, drawings and using the children's words.

The children enjoy playing games in small groups at Extended Care. Every session we provide opportunities for group games and activities to help develop language and social skills. The children's favourite games are snakes and ladders, Uno, Board Games, Memory, Duck - duck goose, Freeze and many others. The children work together to set rules, problem solve and build on skills like taking turns.





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Small group activities are great for building healthy relationships at kinder, regulating emotions and developing empathy. In Extended Care we have a mixed ability and age group. This is wonderful and provides an opportunity to practice leadership skills and observe how their peers play and interact with each other.

Another highlight this term was the children exploring sinking and floating. We conducted experiments as a group and then we provided opportunities for the children to develop their interest in this topic further by conducting their own experiments with materials found around the kinder.



We have started to explore Spring and have discussed how the kinder has changed as we move into Spring. Our Chicken hatching program has been a wonderful platform to give children first-hand experience on how life begins for a *chicken*.



We have tried to keep our children connected during lockdown by sending home activities, story readings and updates on our Henny penny hatching program to help children learning from home feel connected and valued. We love the message of the book "Under The Same Sky" by Britta Teckentrup. With some children learning from home and some children learning from kinder it's important to remember that we all have the same dreams and live under the same sky... A wonderful message to helping children feel connected through these difficult times.



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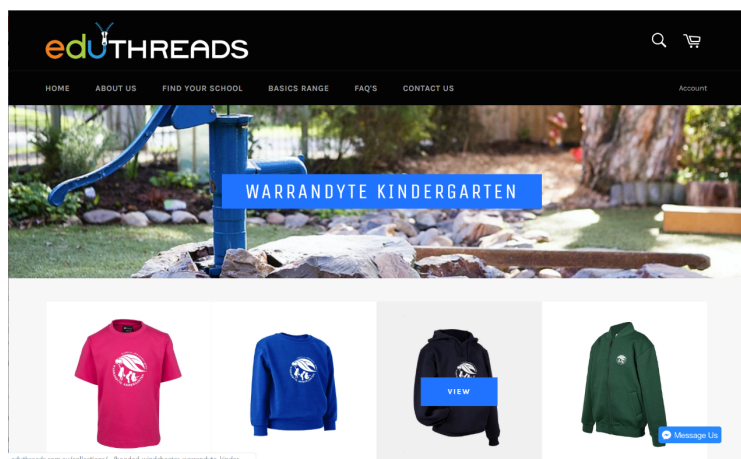


Do you shop at IGA?

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 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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FUNDRAISING

TRIVIA NIGHT



Due to lockdown 6.0 we have postponed our Trivia and Silent Auction Night Fundraiser until Term 4. It will be a fantastic evening of socialising, fun and raising money for our kinder and children.

WHEN:	Saturday 13th or 27th November 2021 (awaiting confirmation for new date)
WHERE:	Warrandyte Football Club
TIME:	7.30pm

Please save the date as this going to be the BIGGEST fundraisers for the year.

If you are a business that would like to be involved in the silent auction then please email our president with details, president.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

FUNDRAISERS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Picture Plates

During term 3 the fundraising team organised picture plates to be collected and returned during lockdown 6.0. The date was extended due to running out of templates. If you are still interested in participating in this fundraiser you may still have time, please email the fundraising team or check 'Story Park' for more information.



Plant Drive

Who doesn't love buying plants especially during spring! In Term 4 the fundraising team are planning on organising a plant drive. Please keep an eye on story park for more information about this fundraiser.



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TIME FOR SOME YUMMY HOME COOKING!



Colin's Tomato and Zucchini Tart

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet puff pastry (frozen is fine)
- 1 jar passata
- 2 medium zucchini, peeled to make ribbons
- 5 medium tomatoes, sliced
- 1 large handful chard or kale (or baby spinach) roughly ripped into pieces
- small handful of basil, leaves picked and torn
- small handful of tarragon (or any herbs from the garden), finely sliced
- 50ml olive oil salt and pepper, for seasoning

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180oC fan forced
2. Take a sheet of pastry and score a ridge around the side of it about 3 cms in from the edge.
3. Spoon the passata onto the pastry not going over the ridge and leaving a border to allow it to rise.
4. Lay the sliced tomatoes over the passata.
5. In a large bowl, lightly toss the zucchini, kale, basil and tarragon (leave a little of the herbs aside for garnish) with some olive oil and seasoning. Place the tossed greenery over the tomato.
6. Place onto a greased proof tray and place in the oven.
7. Bake for 20 – 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden and the tart is bubbling.



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BUILDING *Confidence* IN CHILDREN

- You have such a gentle heart
- I'm so proud of who you are
- You will always be my hero
- I will always be there for you
- I love your creativity
- I'm so proud to call you my child
- You were born to do great things
- You're such a quick learner
- Live to be better every day
- You have the best manners
- All your problems have solutions
- You make a great leader
- You are so amazing
- You make me smile
- Thanks for working so hard
- You are such a great kid

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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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Kinder Committee 2021

President	Natalie Mander	president.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
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Vice President	Andy Wilgose
Secretary	Merryn Platt
Treasurer	Kylie Smith
Fundraising Coordinator –	Georgina Hannan
Fundraising Officers	Rachel Gittus
	Tricia Canny
	Cat Duncan
	Naomi Greenwood
Festival Float	Bec Asquith
	Julia Slussareff

Assistant Secretary	Bec Asquith
Marketing	Kimberley Hall
Social Media	Katie Pelosi
Market Parking	Kimberley Hall Jim Sill
IT Support	Lauren Wilgose
Maintenance	Lauren Wilgose
Kitchen Garden	Kate Misra
4YO Group Parent Rep	Cat Duncan
3YO Group Parent Rep	Nikki Teggelove

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

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.