



March 2017

WARRANDYTE AND DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.

March 2017

Warrandyte Festival 2017!

By Michaela Collins

Welcome back to kinder for Term 2!

Wow, Wow, Wow is the best way I could describe the many varied ways our kindergarten was involved at our 2017 Warrandyte Festival! Our fantastic new BBQ stall set-up and the addition of kitchen garden seedlings and gorgeous kinder-made relish for sale, our beautiful award-winning parade float on the awesome truck, one of our kinder families representing our kinder in the Bendigo Bank group in the parade, the last minute idea to enter a Warrandyte Kinder children stall in the Sunday children's market which sold every jar of kinder relish... seriously wow!!!

And wow what an incredible kindergarten community we have. All of the above was possible due to the enthusiasm, motivation and tireless efforts from many of our kindergarten families.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our kindergarten parents, carers and families who embraced and participated in our festival fundraising efforts and festival activities. Whether you bought a duck to decorate, donated lucky dip prizes, volunteered to help with our BBQ stall or helped in any other way throughout the festival weekend, your efforts have benefited our kinder and are most appreciated.

The lead up to the festival was so exciting for our kindergarten children and I'd like to thank our teaching staff for their amazing efforts in coordinating the many festival projects which our children so enjoyed.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events	
Tuesday 18th April	Term 2 Resumes
Tuesday 25th April	ANZAC Day-No Kinder
Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th May	4 year old photo day (3 year old dates TBC)
Sunday 7th May	Working Bee (Time TBC)
Saturday 20th May	Warrandyte Kindergarten Open Day

March 2017

Warrandyte Festival 2017...continued



A huge thank you to our Kitchen Garden Classroom volunteer Katie, who helped to coordinate our four year olds in the making our tomato relish and then donated the gorgeous tie-dyed t-shirts which were perfect for our children to wear on our festival parade float. We are so fortunate to have you helping at our kinder Katie!

Late last year, one very generous kindergarten family donated our new kinder-branded marquee for us to use for our Warrandyte festival BBQ stall. I think all would agree that the marquee looked fabulous and was very eye catching. We are so very grateful for this donation which will benefit our kinder for many years to come.

I would like to sincerely thank Esther Smith (Mackenzie's Mum) for co-coordinating our BBQ stall with me. Esther and her husband Jake put many hours into the preparation, set-up, running and pack up of our BBQ stall over the festival weekend and we are so appreciative of their amazing hard work. Special thanks also to the Kamphuis and Baggoley families who were a wonderful support at the BBQ stall throughout festival weekend. Enormous thanks also to our fundraising team and to all of our kinder family volunteers for their wonderful assistance with our stall. Expenses are still being tallied for our BBQ stall but I am pleased to announce that it looks as though we will have raised circa \$3000 from our stall!!! I will announce the precise figure in the next Possum Post; such a fantastic result.

How fantastic to win the "Most Colourful" award for our Warrandyte Kindergarten parade float!!! Our float's concept was created by Rachael Banks (Murphy's Mum), who, along with her Mum, and husband Steve, put an exhaustive amount of work into decorating our float. And wow what a truck!! We sincerely thank Steve and Rachael Banks for offering us the use of their truck for the parade, for transporting our children, educators and parents so safely and for creating some special memories for our kinder children.

We were again asked by Bendigo Community Bank, to include a representative from our kindergarten to walk with the Bendigo Bank team in the parade, to highlight that we are one of the community organisations to have benefited from Bendigo Bank grants. A huge thank you to Darcie's Dad Daniel, who kindly represented our kinder. Daniel pushed Darcie and her little sister Lacy in their double stroller, while carrying our Warrandyte Kindergarten placard in the parade, a great effort!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge a wonderful last minute idea suggested by Joel's Dad, Paul Kamphuis. Paul along with Brigid Linden (Lou Lou's Mum) thought that entering a stall into the Sunday children's market would be a wonderful way to sell our kitchen garden seedlings and jars of tomato relish which had been a little slow to sell on the Saturday. Brigid engaged the help of Rachael Banks and together they set up a gorgeous colourful little stall where available children from the 3 and 4 year old groups, along with siblings from past kinder years, greeted and served customers and sold all of our relish! Such a wonderful experience for our children and a success for our kindergarten; thank you Brigid and Rachael!

I trust that all of your families thoroughly enjoyed your time at the festival.

March 2017

Festival Fun..



March 2017

3 Year Olds

By Lyn De Giorgio, Certified Supervisor and Group Activity Leader



One of our main aims in the last month has been to create a sense of belonging and security for the children. To help achieve this the family picnic night was organised we had 16 families attend. This was a great opportunity for the children to show off their kinder to their families and for their families to meet the children's new friends and their families. We have found when families join in this experience that their children gain a sense of belonging to the kindergarten and usually settle much easier.

Another strategy to build continuity between home and kindergarten is the introduction of our take home teddy Harry. Harry is able to provide the children with a sense of connection between kinder and home and by sharing the stories of Harry's adventures the children are able to share their way of being and their interest with the rest of the children and staff. This also provides the other children with an understanding of the diverse ways of others.

To also help children with separation anxiety we have been using the story *The Owl Babies*, this has also been support with the CD and puppets, allowing the children to enact the story has provided them with the knowledge that their loved ones will come back for them. The children have responded well to this method.

We have also used literacy to support the understanding of emotions and social skill. The *Rainbow fish* story was extended from last month after reading the story the children made their own designs of the rainbow fish and through their art we were able to discuss the emotions of the fish they had created. The stories *Don't let the Pigeon drive the bus* and *Calm Down Monkey* have also allowed the children to learn how to read the way others feel by their expressions and body language. *Calm Down Monkey* also provides strategies to calm down such as deep breaths, is what we encourage the children to do when they are upset. We have extended our understandings of emotions by pointing out the emotions of others within the children's play, by using *Fuzzy Felt* with facial features and in the playdough by adding *Mr Potato Head* pieces along with mouth shapes with different expressions.

March 2017

Continued from page 4...

For the safety of the children we continued offering the children half of the playground this worked well as it allowed us to support the children in learning the skills of sharing, turn taking and being aware of the safety of others. Now they have become more familiar with equipment and their skills are improving we are opening up the climbing equipment to small groups of children at a time. We are trialing the use of photos to display who is in the area and who is on the waiting list to go in. This is still a work in progress and we will monitor and assess its progress in the coming weeks. As some children are still getting use to being in such a large environment with so many children and experiences, we have reduced the amount of experience that are put out. We have limited the puzzles to four, selecting a range on the day for the children that are attending so that we are able to cater to the diverse abilities and interests. In the indoor vehicle area we have been offering the trains as the children have been using team work to create their tracks and then offering trucks in the sand and mud patch outside. At present this seems to be work well with the children.

To try and promote team work we have introduced experiences that require the children to share the resources on offer, work as a team and consider others. These have included group drawings and the decoration of a duck for the duck race at the festival. The duck decoration has also supported the children's understanding of being part of the kinder and local community as well as sustainable practices.

Lisa has joined us she is working on building relationships with the children, we will also be using Lisa to get additional observations for us so that we can gain deeper understandings of children's interests, ways of being and reflect on our programs and practices. Lisa is trained in Brain Gym and we would like to utilise this knowledge in our music and movement.



Congratulations...

A very big congratulations to **Nelly Pedram** from our 3 year old group who placed 2nd in the river duck race. Nelly is the proud owner of this prize winning duck!!"



March 2017

4 Year Olds

By Veronica Pederson, Nominated Supervisor /Education Leader



The children really responded well when we practiced our emergency fire drill, where we go into lockdown. Using the Fuzzy the Clown puppet that the children were familiar with from last year, we practiced curling up into a ball and holding a woollen blanket over our heads, and then crawling under the tables with the blankets in place. Most of the children were able to do this comfortably, whilst there were a tentative few who were able to join in once their peers did so. We had one child who refused to even come inside, so this shows us how we can never expect everything to go smoothly in these situations, and that we must critically reflect on what we did and how we can improve on it. We need to be aware of the safety of all children (and staff!).

The children explored the many different forms of families there are. It is really important to be aware not to emphasize that there is always a mummy and daddy living at home together, BUT that usually there always is a mummy and a daddy somewhere...both of whom love their child, no matter what the circumstances. Children of this age really need to know the feeling of security in their own situation (but then, don't we all?). This is where extended families are so valuable.

Our Family Night was well attended. Thank you to all who made an effort to come. It's a great night for all to get together. I took a few photos to put in the Reflections Journal as a record of how our Kinder community demonstrates a sense of belonging and comfort in our environment. Thank you to all for taking the time to make this special for your child.

We have moved on to Colour Awareness.... just in case you've missed it!! We have been doing lots of colour discrimination, as well as discovering that there is colour everywhere in our world. Some colours can make you feel hot, cold, sad, happy, and so on. The children are beginning to enjoy experimenting with mixing colours together to make a new colour....oh, the excitement of these young artists/scientists!! I find that the four/five year old children have a really good grasp on colour recognition already, so thanks to all parents and three year old educators for preparing the children so well!

The Festival has also provided us with a great deal of excitement as we prepare hats and shakers, and various other adornments for our 'Float'. Many thanks to the Banks family for providing the truck, and in Rachael's very creative ways of putting this all together! Thanks also to Sandra Twomey Frankie's Grandmother) who came up with the amazing hats that we will make. We will look 'stunning'!! I hope it doesn't rain!

We are gradually building up the excitement for the children for his celebraton with the addition of learning the song, "We are the Kinder Kids". The children really enjoy the shouting part of this! I hope they are this excited on the truck!

Katie Taubert came today to work with the children to make tomato chutney with our amazing tomato crop. These will be a big seller at the Festival, along with our packets of parsley seeds! Hopefully the corn will also be ripe enough to harvest to sell.



March 2017



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Michaela Collins	president.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	0413 183 610
Vice President	Vanessa Greenstreet	vicepresident.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	0406 426 634
Secretary	Melissa Baggoley	secretary.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	0417 349 002
Treasurer	Veronica Ernst	treasurer.warrandyte@kindergarten.vic.gov.au	0417 176 972
GENERAL COMMITTEE			
Assistant Secretary	Katie Pelosi	Market Parking Coordinator	Isabella Van Dongen
Fundraising Coordinator – General	Esther Smith	Maintenance Officer	Leon Du Toit
Fundraising Coordinator – Festival	David Paterson Clinton de Abreu	Festival Float	Tony Hackett and Liam Baggoley
Fundraising Officers	Rachel Paul, Isabella Van Dongen, Rachael Banks, Brigid Linden, Tamara Kamphuis, Andrea Williams, Kerri Simmons, Shar McKenzie		

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES		
3YO Group Parent Representative	Sarah Cornish	scornishsmith@gmail.com
4YO Group Parent Representative	Katie Pelosi	pelosi.katie.e@gmail.com