

Mildura West Kinder Newsletter

www.mwkinder.org.au

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WELCOME TO KINDER 2017

The staff and committee would like to welcome all our new and existing families to the kinder for 2017. We hope you and your child have a very enjoyable year at kinder. Families are welcome to attend kinder at any time and participate in all kinder activities. As this is our first newsletter for the year, there is quite a bit of information to read through. Please grab a coffee and sit down for five minutes whilst reading over this newsletter.

YMCA Kindergarten Management in 2017

Dear Families,

The YMCA Ballarat Children's Services is very excited to be partnering with Mildura West Kindergarten to support them through Early Years Management. The YMCA have been working with kindergartens across Victoria for over 13 years with 42 kindergartens forming part of our Early Years Managed network. The YMCA administration team may be in contact soon as part of the transition to gather information from you, this may be in relation to fees or enrolment information. We look forward to working with and supporting the Mildura West Kindergarten and its excellent educators that make a difference in the lives of children every day.

Nancy Drever,

Children's Services Manager

Important Dates for your Calendar

March 16

Family Night @ Park for Play

March 21

Hot cross bun orders due

March 24

Easter Hamper items & tickets due

March 29

Hot cross buns collected from Kindy after 12noon

March 29

Easter raffle drawn

March 31

End of Term 1

April 19

Term 2 Begins

April 25

Kindergarten Closed ANZAC Day

May 18

Pupil Free Day – YMCA district staff professional development day



Committee in 2017

The committee for this year has a slightly different role now that the management of the Kindergarten is in the hands of the YMCA. Our role is primarily to **fundraise** and keep making informed decisions around the improvement and continued growth of the kinder.

The committee is made up of **volunteer parents** representing all groups from both 3yo & 4yo classes. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to a committee member and have a discussion about any concerns, suggestions for fundraising or just say thanks to them! Your committee for 2017 is:

Katie McCoy	President	Orange Group
Michelle Robertson	Vice President	Green Group
Bonnie Giles	Secretary	Green Group
Alanna Cameron	Treasurer	Red Group
Megan Gitsham	General	Pink Group
Sharna Ross	General	Blue Group
Donica Cook	General	Blue Group
Shayne Shiner	General	Green Group
Mary Manfield	General	Pink Group
Karlee Fitzsimmons	General	No Child this year

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE FOR TERM 1

Hot Cross Bun Sales from Banjo Bakery

- Packet of 6 is \$6.95 – sell to family & friends
- We make \$1.39 per packet ☺
- Return order & money by March 21
- Collect from Kindy on March 29 after 12noon

Easter Raffle

- Parents asked to donate goods for our hamper
- Raffle books to be sold & returned by March 24
- Raffle Drawn at Kindy on March 29 at 1pm



SUNSMART POLICY

Mildura West Kindergarten is a sun smart Kindergarten and we adhere to a Sunsmart policy. Hats and sunscreen are to be worn when the UV rating is 3 and over and sunscreen is to be reapplied every 2 hours when outside.

We ask that parents apply sunscreen at home and the educators will reapply sunscreen when the children go outside.

Children are encouraged to wear clothing that is loose-fitting, made from cool, densely woven fabric and covers as much skin as possible: tops with elbow-length sleeves and, if possible, collars and knee-length or longer-style shorts and skirts. Singlet tops and shoestring tops/dresses do not provide adequate protection in the sun. If your child is wearing a singlet top/shoestring top/dress, a t-shirt will be placed over the top whilst they are outside.

Our Classes of 2017

Kindergarten

Red Group

Mon, Tue, Wed 8:45 – 1:45

Teacher: Lisa Bobstchiniski

Educators: Megan Wilkes & Andrea Bowd

Blue Group

Wed & Thur 8:30 – 4:00

Teacher: Lydia McCarron

Educators: Loretta Mike & Vicki Marshall

Green Group

Mon & Tue 8:30 – 2:30

Friday (Bush Kinder) 8:30 – 11:30

Teacher: Rennae Cope

Educators: Tania Felton, Brittany Pederson & Vicki Marshall

Pre-Kindergarten – 3yo

Orange Group

Thursday 12.30 – 3.30

Teacher: Megan Wilkes

Educators: Allison Dixon

Purple Group

Friday 8:30 – 11:30

Teacher: Lydia McCarron

Educators: Loretta Mike

Pink Group

Thur 8:30 – 11:30

Friday 12.30 – 3.30

Teacher: Rennae Cope

Educator: Tania Felton



EIGHTH ST PARKING

PLEASE be so careful when getting in and out of your car once parked on 8th st. It is a tight squeeze with doors wide open to lift small children in and out. Cars & Buses travelling along 8th st can come close and seem extra fast in the designated MWK parking zones.

Please also be mindful when parking on 8th street that the parking inspector is booking vehicles parked in the no standing zones. These no standing zones have car parks marked but apparently it is still illegal to park in them.

Both of these issues are ongoing and the Committee are continuing to follow them up and champion for safer parking options.

A timely reminder, that it is NEVER ok to leave children unattended in a car, even if you feel that the 7th St carpark is safe &/or secluded.

Health and Wellbeing at MWK

Nutrition, oral health and active play policy – Mildura west kindergarten promotes healthy eating and encourage all families to provide their children with healthy meals whilst at kindergarten.

Over the last few weeks we have noticed that some children are bringing in bags of chips and 'lolly' like items. We would like to ask you to refrain from putting these items in your child's lunch boxes and to replace them with a healthier alternative. This year we are taking part in the "Smiles for Miles" program. Your child would have already received their own tooth brush and tooth paste, this program is also part of the "Healthy Together we Grow" program, both run by Sunraysia community Health to help promote a healthy future for our children. On page 5 of this newsletter is an information sheet that will explain the areas we will cover this year in our educational program relating to "Smiles for Miles".

Mildura West Kindergarten is a "Nut Free Kindergarten". The staff have noticed that a few nut products have made their way into the children's lunch boxes, (these families have had a kind reminder from staff). It is of utmost importance that nuts do not make their way into the kinder environment due to the sever risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring. The staffs values the health of all children and have put in place strategies to minimize the risk of such reactions occurring. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Happy confident children: all staff would like to report that all the children have settled relatively well into the kinder environment. Yes we may have a few tears but these quickly dissipated once the child is engaged in an activity. The staff would like to thank you for being so brave and letting your child/ren self-regulate and settle themselves into kinder life. If you have any concerns please feel free to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss these matters.



THANK YOU

To all our parents who have volunteered their time to help out already this year. Your time is very much appreciated.

DONATIONS

We love donations here at Mildura West Kindergarten. We would love items such as boxes for art and craft (please no toilet rolls or containers that have contained nuts) If you supply yoghurt containers or milk lids can you please have them bagged as we need to wash them correctly before use to reduce the risk of an anaphylactic reaction. We also love scrap material, ribbons, paper etc. If you have an item at home and you are not sure that it is suitable please feel free to ask the educators if it is ok for use at kinder.

Smiles 4 Miles family information handout

Your child's baby teeth are important for them to eat, speak and smile without pain or embarrassment. This year MILDURA WEST KINDERGARTEN will be promoting good oral health habits among the children by teaming-up with Dental Health Services Victoria in the popular Smiles 4 Miles program. The program encourages learning about good oral health from an early age to prevent problems as an adult.

As an early childhood service, we are well-placed to help children learn about oral health. Our staff will need your support to promote the following messages:

Drink well

- Tap water is the preferred drink.
- Limit sweet drinks (especially between meals).
- Choose plain milk over flavoured.

Eat well

- Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods every day from the five food groups.
- Limit foods containing added sugars.
- Healthy meals and snacks are important for healthy teeth.

Clean well

- Brush teeth and along the gum line twice a day.
- Children should use a low-fluoride children's toothpaste from 18 months until they turn six.
- Don't wait for a problem. A child should see a health professional (Maternal and Child Health Nurse, Dentist, Oral Health Therapist, Dental Therapist or General Practitioner) by the age of two for an oral health check.
- An oral health professional will discuss a child's risk level and how frequently they need to visit for an oral health check.



By incorporating these three messages into your child's life, at MILDURA WEST KINDERGARTEN and at home, we will be working together towards better health now and in the future.

We will be providing you with information and support throughout the year, as well as suggested activities for you do at home with your child. Keep an eye out for updates in the newsletter and on our noticeboard.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I also encourage you to visit the Smiles 4 Miles website: <http://www.dhsv.org.au/smiles4miles>

Thank you for your support in promoting better oral health among our children.