

# Mildura West Kindergarten



Term 1, Issue 1, Newsletter, 2018

## Welcome



The Staff and the Parent Advisory Group would like to welcome all our new and existing families to the kinder for 2018. 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.

## Parent Advisory Group

On behalf of the 2018 Parent Advisory Group (PAG) we would like to welcome all families to the Mildura West Kindergarten.

The main roles of the PAG is to arrange fundraising activities for the kindergarten, source and apply for grants to assist the kindergarten and in collaboration with the staff and families work together to ensure Mildura West Kindergarten continues to look great and be welcoming to everyone.

2018 Parent Advisory Group members:

Sharna Ross	President	Blue Group
Michelle Robinson	Vice President	Pink Group
Emma Kotsiakos	Secretary	Blue Group
Bec Marciano	Treasurer	Pink Group
Ben Nitschke		Blue Group
Fleur Manno		Pink Group
Jacinta Kolpin		Blue Group
Mary Manfield		Red Group
Tessa Lock-Mooibroek		Red + Green Group
Vanessa Hall		Pink + Blue Group

The PAG have begun planning for the year and have a number of fundraising and social activities happening over the next couple of months including a Family Welcome Night, Easter Raffle and a second round of screen printing for those who may have missed the last one or are wanting winter clothing printed. More information is included in this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for fundraising or social activities please approach one of the PAG members or a staff member can provide contact details.

The PAG hope that you and your child have a wonderful year and look forward to meeting you at the Family Welcome Night.



### Mildura West Kindergarten

214 Eighth Street, Mildura.

Phone: (03) 5023 0147

Email: [mwkinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mwkinder@bigpond.net.au)

### Kinder Term Dates

#### Term 1

Start - Monday, 29th January

Finish - Thursday, 29th March

#### Term 2

Start - Monday, 16th April

Finish - Friday, 29th June

#### Term 3

Start - Monday, 16th July

Finish - Friday, 21st September

#### Term 4

Start - Monday, 8th October

Finish - Friday, 21st December

### Dates to Remember:

#### Friday 2nd March

- Screen printing items due back

#### Thursday 15th March

- Family Welcome Night

#### Friday 16th March

- Raffle tickets and money due back

- Donations for the Easter Hampers due back



## Family Welcome Night



On Thursday, 15th March we will be holding a Family Night at Park For Play in 11th Street Mildura, beginning at 5:30pm. All families are encouraged to come along and meet the educators and other families from our kindergarten community. Please bring along your own picnic dinner, drinks and a rug and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere. The staff and members of the Parent Advisory Group look forward to seeing you there.

## Settling Into Kinder

Some things you can do to help your child adjust to kindergarten include:

- making sure your child knows who will take them to kinder and pick them up.
- getting your child to kinder on time helps avoid anxiety.
- laying out your child's clothes, shoes and socks the night before.
- encouraging your child to help you pack their kinder bag with a snack, drink and lunch.
- placing a spare pair of underpants and a change of clothes in a plastic bag and letting your child know these clothes are in their bag in case of any accidents at kinder.
- putting sunscreen on your child in the morning if it is needed.
- ensuring they have a healthy breakfast – this is important for energy to get through the day.
- making time to chat to your child about what they did at kinder that day.
- developing a bedtime routine so your child can wind down at the end of the day and get a good night's sleep – children aged 3-5 need around 10 to 13 hours sleep a night.
- trying not to put too many expectations on yourself or your child; if they are happy and enjoying kinder, that's a real achievement.

You know your child best. If you have any questions about how they are settling in at kinder, contact your child's teacher so you can talk things through together. You can contact your child's teacher in person, over the telephone or via email, whichever suits you and your situation best.



## Easter Hamper Raffle

This year we have decided to again run the Easter Hamper Raffle. This will be the first fundraiser for the year. Raffle tickets have already been sent home with your child and further details were provided with these. Each ticket is \$2 and we encourage you to sell as many as you can. Ask friends, family members and neighbours. If you require another book of tickets, please ask your child's teacher.

We are kindly asking for each child to donate a gift to put in these Easter Hampers. These gifts can be left in the basket in the foyer near the sign-in book. Funds raised from this fundraiser will go towards purchasing new equipment for the kinder rooms which the children will enjoy.

We ask that all tickets please be returned (sold or unsold) to the Kinder by Friday, 16th March.





## Footwear/Clothing/Sunscreen



Could parents please make sure that children are wearing shoes that are suitable for all kinder activities i.e. climbing, running, sitting etc. Thongs, clogs, gumboots and slippers are not deemed appropriate footwear whilst at kinder.

Clothing also needs to allow children to participate in any activity whilst at kinder. Children are encouraged to wear clothing that is loose fitting, made from cool fabric and covers as much of the skin as possible: tops with elbow length sleeves, and if possible, collars and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts. Singlet tops and shoe string style tops/dresses do not provide adequate protection when in the sun. If your child is wearing a singlet or shoe string style top/dress, a t-shirt will be placed over the top whilst they are outside.

Parents are also reminded to please place sunscreen on their child before coming to kinder. Sunscreen is available near the sign-in book if needed. Staff will reapply sunscreen during the day as required.



## Reminders

Please ensure that your child has a spare change of clothes in their bag including underwear and socks. Please make sure that everything is clearly named.

Bush kinder children are reminded that on Fridays they will be walking and carrying their own back packs. For this reason we encourage parents to ensure that their child's bag isn't too heavy.

## Scholastic Book Club

Reading aloud and sharing stories with your child is a great way to spend time together. Did you know that reading and storytelling also helps to promote language, literacy and brain development?

Reading and sharing stories can;

- help your child become familiar with sounds, words, language and the value of books
- Spark your child's imagination, stimulate curiosity and help with brain development
- Help your child learn the difference between 'real' and 'make-believe'
- Help your child understand change or new and frightening events, and also the strong emotions that can go along with them
- Help your child develop early literacy skills, like the ability to listen to and understand words

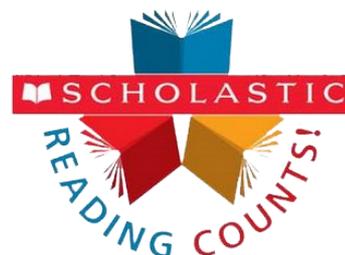
Our kindergarten promotes reading with your child and we are a member of the Scholastic Book Club. It is a great way to purchase books that are currently popular amongst children and teachers, at a bargain price. Our kindergarten receives 20% of each purchase back in rewards. These rewards are then used to buy books for the kindergarten. A win-win!

Several times a year you will receive the Scholastic Book Club brochure. The first issue of 2018 was handed out at the beginning of February. The due date for orders is on the back of the brochure. The easiest way to order is using LOOP, an online ordering system. You can also download an app that you can use to place and pay for your order (download via App Store or Google Play).

The books will be delivered to the kindergarten and sent home with your child.

If you have any questions, please Call Tessa on 0488 368 884 .

Thanks for your support and happy reading.





## Drop Off and Pick Up

Please make sure that you sign the attendance record book as your child arrives and departs from the kinder, also recording the exact time of arrival (this must not be before their official starting time i.e. 8:30am, 9:00am) and departure. Parents are to make sure that the educators are aware of their child's arrival or departure from the kinder. Parents are also responsible for collecting their child on time. If you are going to be late please phone the kinder and let us know. This allows us time to inform your child and helps alleviate any anxiety your child may feel.

Staff may request ID from parents/guardians that collect children from the kinder if they are not known to them. Please make sure that your pick up people are aware of this.

Each entrance to the kinder has a front door security code that is for parent/carer use only. Please do not let your children use the key pad. Please refrain from telling people the code (except for your authorised pick up people) as it has been implemented for the safety of the children. Please also be mindful to only let your child out of the door or gate.

## Lunch and Snacks at Kinder

At Mildura West Kindergarten we encourage children to have a healthy diet. Parents are reminded that unhealthy choices like chips, lollies and cakes are not appropriate foods for kinder. We'd also like to encourage that parents avoid sending products containing nuts.

Please remember to bring your child's drink bottle every day and make sure your child's lunch box and drink bottle are clearly named. No fruit boxes please. Ensure that your child has enough food to last them throughout their session, particularly those in the Blue Group who attend long days.

During the warmer months it is advisable that ice packs are placed in your child's lunch box. If your child requires a spoon or fork to eat their lunch or snack, please provide one for them. The staff do not heat, cook or peel food for the children. If your child requires their apple peeled, please do this at home.

**Rubbish Free Food** - As a part of our sustainability program we ask that parents be mindful of the amount of packaging that is brought to kinder i.e. foil packets, cling wrap etc. We encourage using a sandwich container and other small reusable containers to keep food in which helps reduce the need for plastic wrap etc.

Your cooperation in all these matters is much appreciated.

## Screen Printing



We are going to do another screen print run for those parents who missed out first time round. If you have any items of clothing that require screen printing (Summer or Winter items), please ensure that they are left at kinder before Friday 2nd March. Each item costs \$7, needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name, and needs to have an information form attached. Please see your child's teacher if you require an information form.



Developed in conjunction with the Achievement Program to support a whole-school approach to healthy eating.



## Rooms And Staff

<p><u>7th Street Room</u></p> <p><b>Red Group:</b> Lisa, Andrea and Megan</p> <p><b>Pink Group:</b> Lisa, Lydia and Megan</p>	<p><u>8th Street Room</u></p> <p><b>Green Group:</b> Rennae, Marly, Tania and Brittany</p> <p><b>Blue Group:</b> Lydia, Loretta and TBA</p>
<p>Lunch Relief: Janine, Amy and Zoe</p>	<p>Kindergarten Inclusion Support Workers: Vanna and Anita</p>

## Session Days and Times

### Red Group

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

8:45am - 1:45pm

### Pink Group

Thursday and Friday

8:30am - 11:30am

### Green Group

Monday and Tuesday

8:30am - 2:30pm

Friday (Bush Kinder)

8:30am - 11:30am

### Blue Group

Wednesday and Thursday

8:30am - 4:00pm

## Enrolment Information

Contact information may be updated as required throughout the year. Please remember to advise us if your phone or mobile number changes. It is vital that we are able to contact you in the event of an emergency.



## Donations

Please save any old boxes, plastic containers, bottle top lids, off cuts of material or wood etc. that we can use for construction. Old magazines (appropriate for kinder) are also great for children to use in their artwork. All donations will be gratefully accepted.



Volunteer Requirements