

yarrunga

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2022

DATES FOR THE DIARY
March 2021:
Management Committee
Meeting Wednesday 16th @
7.30pm



ALBURY GOLD CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY
FRIDAY 25TH MARCH 2022
Yarrunga will close at 12 midday.
All children must be collected prior to
12 midday.

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK!

How can we make our newsletter better?
What information would you like us to include?
Call us on: (02) 60217597
Or EMAIL admin@yarrunga.com.au



Yarrunga can now be followed
on Facebook and Instagram



Yarrunga Policies:

Just a reminder to families and for all our new family's information - our policies can be accessed on our website www.yarrunga.com.au and the password is 2640

Policies being reviewed this month: Health Policy, Infectious diseases policy, Dealing with infectious diseases COVID-19 (coronavirus)



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NO FOOD FROM HOME! A reminder that we have children attending Yarrunga with severe allergies to egg, dairy, nut, and sesame. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. We want to do our best to keep those at risk safe.

Please refrain from bringing food from home.

If you are bringing treats to share for your child's birthday, please check with room educators for allergies prior.

Drop off at Yarrunga.

Reminder that children and families are not able to enter the premises until 8am due to licensing requirements. Please wait outside of the gates until then.

Thank you, we appreciate your co-operation.



CHILDREN'S T-SHIRTS & JUMPERS

If you would like to order a t-shirt or shirts or jumpers for your child/ren, order forms will be available in the office - Shirts \$12.00, Jumpers \$25 each
Please see Deb or Karen

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

In recognition of the dedication to Early Childhood Education and Care that all Yarrunga educators and staff exhibit every day we have collectively decided to award a certificate for outstanding contribution each month to celebrate professional achievement.



For the way you embrace the values of our Yarrunga community. Your flexibility, thoughtfulness and cheery nature is a pleasure to be around and has earned you the friendship and respect of children, families, staff and educators. This is a wonderful example of 'Relationships' enactment.

Well Done Jodie!

PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

February saw us farewell CSU student Britt. She brought with her a zest for natural studies and STEM and look forward to seeing her around Yarrunga in the future.

Mini beasts have enthralled the class over the past couple of months and we were fortunate to have been able to witness the full lifecycle of the orchard swallowtail butterfly, commonly called the large citrus butterfly.



At our staff meeting this month, educators collectively undertook our annual Child protection refresher. During this session, we discussed the importance of body autonomy. To introduce this to the younger members of the class and to serve as a refresher for older Pre-schoolers, we will be sharing several age-appropriate books during group times, aimed at promoting child empowerment and explaining body-safety.

Art and craft, especially drawing, cutting, and pasting have been popular and are a fantastic way of supporting pre-writing skills in children, as they strengthen hand muscles and enhance control of writing implements. Artists are relishing the opportunity to self-select resources from our extensive and ever-changing range of artistic media.



There has been an emerging interest lately in both camping and beauty salons and hairdressing. An odd combination, to be sure(!), but we have created several play spaces to foster an exploration of these experiences and encourage children to share their understandings and experiences with these.





Bakers had a delightful time assisting to create afternoon tea on Friday, a super-vividly coloured marble cake! They marvelled as we created coloured batter and were intrigued as we blended colours to make new ones, predicting what would happen when combined. Cooking has been a recurring theme in children's social play, both in Home Corner, as well as in the sand pit. We continue to contribute to the afternoon tea roster every three weeks. If families have child-friendly egg, nut, and dairy-free recipes, we would love for you to share, so we can incorporate these into our repertoire!



Have a wonderful March everyone. Until next month,

Alana, Krystine, Tash, and Robyn.

Preschool@yarrunga.com.au

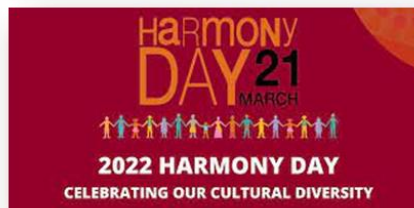
Educational Leader:

Quality Improvement:

We are making great progress towards our Quality Improvement Plan to improve the environments we provide for children whilst ensuring they are inclusive, engaging, open-ended, child focused and representative of our Reconciliation Action Plan. With success in gaining a Community Grant to supplement our plans we are in the process of obtaining authentic Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and flag poles for display. In doing so our aim is to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and educate our children on the history of the flags, what they mean, and the significance of daily Flag Raising Ceremonies which the children will lead. It is anticipated that "Boys from the Bush" will put our new flag poles up as we include the broader community in our plans. We are also considering a portable 'Fire Pit' of steel construction to be incorporated in Acknowledgement ceremonies. As soon as we have some plans we will consult with families and children on their construction.



Remember *HARMONY* Week - 21st to 25th March. We have planned lots of fun activities to explore culture and belonging and what this looks like for different people. Children can dress in orange or cultural costumes.



Educational Leader:

All educators completed the 2022 Child Protection Refresher during the first week of March, and we were fortunate to engage a professional guest speaker at our March staff meeting. Body Safety was addressed and the importance of using the correct anatomical language when talking with your children stressed. Room educators will forward more details along with simple handouts to support families in teaching body safety at home when they receive them later this month. Of course, if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to speak with your child's primary educator.

During the next month we will be reviewing Yarrunga's Philosophy. It's so vitally important that our Philosophy represents the voices of children, families, educators, and the values of our local community. Please keep a look out in our foyer and on social media as I post some provocations for consultation.

As always please share your thoughts and ideas with us. It doesn't matter how small or if they are positive or negative. **THAT'S WHAT QUALITY IS ALL ABOUT. RECOGNISING OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WITH OTHERS AND COLLABORATING ON IMPROVEMENTS!**

Krystine

Recipe of the month:

Gluten Free Apple Crumble

Juicy apples baked with cinnamon and sugar are topped with a gluten free streusel in this gluten free apple crumble!

| Prep Time | Cook Time | Total Time |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 20 mins | 1 hr | 1 hr 20 mins |



Course: Dessert Cuisine: American Servings: 20 people
Calories: 392kcal Author: Holly Baker

★★★★★
5 from 14 votes

Ingredients

- 3.75 cups almond flour
- 1.25 cup brown rice flour
- 1.25 cup granulated sugar
- 1.25 tsp salt
- 20 tbsp unsalted butter, cold and cut into cubes (1 stick)
- 10 apples Honeycrisp, Granny Smith, or Gala
- 5 tbsp lemon juice (one small lemon)
- 0.83 cup brown sugar packed tightly
- 2.5 tbsp cornstarch (gluten free)
- 2.5 tsp ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease an 8 x 8 glass baking dish with butter.

For the Crumble:

1. Combine the almond flour, brown rice flour, granulated sugar, and salt. Whisk gently to combine.
2. Use a pastry blender or your hands to mix the cold butter into the dry ingredients. Set the crumble aside in the freezer while you prepare the apple filling.

For the Apple Filling:

1. Slice the apples in half, remove the cores. Slice thinly. Toss the apples with the lemon juice in a bowl to prevent browning.
2. Add the brown sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon to the apples. Gently stir.
3. Place the apple mixture in the prepared baking pan. Top with the cold crumble; press the crumble down with your fingers.
4. Bake for 55-60 minutes or until lightly golden brown.
5. Optional: serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

This month we have been focusing on doing toothbrush painting, using lots of different colours and a different material to what we're used to. These have been producing some marvellous creations.

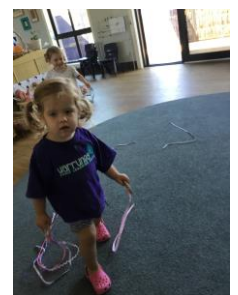
We have also been using some of the new rubbish and recycling trucks that we have got and discussing what goes into our bins, recycling, food waste and general rubbish. This allows the children to further develop their knowledge on what happens in their surrounding world. We are going to introduce more recycling and waste concepts throughout this month. We are also in the process of getting the worm farm brought up to our yard so that we can feed the worms our scraps from lunch, linking in with our reduce-reuse-recycle concepts.

Interest in colours and shapes has been another popular concept this month. We have been building with coloured blocks, magnets, and pegs, swapping out the bugs on the light table for coloured shapes.

We love to dance! Dancing has been helped get us moving and grooving this month, further developing our fundamental movement and gross motor skills. We have had our yellow egg shakers out which help us recognise tone, rhythm and pitch, and dancing ribbons that help guide our movements. We have loved picking the coloured ribbon to make the dancing ribbons.

We have been working with the children encouraging self-help and responsibility skills. The children have adopted putting on their own sunscreen, counting in Wiradjuri language as we go. We have been encouraging the children to also take responsibility of their belonging such as hat, shoes, and drink bottles. This has helped with the name tag system we have recently introduced. The children are encouraged to get their name tag when they arrive and place it above their bag hook.

Harmony week is coming up and we have begun discussions with the children about what harmony means. We have also included books around our room with the theme of love and friendship, as well as different languages and cultures. Looking forward to sharing this wonderful week with you all!



Cheers, Junior Pre-School Team
Natt, Liv, Kali, and Lesley
juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au

NURSERY NEWS

We have had another very busy month. We have a bit of a run of illness and so have been doing lots of extra cleaning. We have been adjusting our program to suit the varying size of our group each day.



Nicole will be away from the 14th of March to the 8th April on Uni placement for her studies.

Jay will replace Nicole while she is away, and this will maintain some consistency and familiarity in the room.

Over the last month we have loved exploring water play in our room and have also explored a variety of sensory and creative activities learning how to use and manipulate some of the resources that we have explored. We have practiced using both textas and crayons, painting using paintbrushes, hands, fingers, and our whole body. We also explored clear contact collage, this activity was a wonderful tool to explore cause and effect, build on our fine motor development.

Some of our younger babies have been exploring lots of tummy time, building on their core strength, standing supported by educators, which the children have been enjoying, getting a different view of their world.

Some of our older children have shown a lot of interest in colour and dinosaurs, so we have gradually been adding some resources that we made to build on this interest and have fostered this with our everyday conversations/interactions with the children.

Nicole, Emma and Chrissy
nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au



Grievance Policy

If parents have any concerns or complaints, please follow the attached Grievance Policy

1 Informal Resolution of Grievances

Initially any grievance raised will be approached in an informal manner. (Informal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance). If required, an appointment time with the Centre Director and/or President of the Management Committee Genna Richter (phone 0428109382) to discuss the grievance can be arranged.

2 Formal Resolution of Grievances

2.1 In the event informal processes are unable to be used or informal processes fail to achieve a satisfactory outcome for any of the parties involved in the grievance, the formal process will then be used. Determining whether the grievance will be handled formally is at the discretion of the Director/President of Management Committee based on feedback from the concerned parties at the conclusion of the informal stage (Formal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance).

2.2 **When a formal resolution of grievance is pursued, all interactions must be documented by the Director (Complaint form), signed (by Director and or parties involved), and a copy given to each party concerned.**

2.3 Any allegation that the safety, health or wellbeing of a child has been compromised, or relating to a staff member, the details of action taken in response to a complaint will be recorded and kept in a confidential place.

3 Regulatory Authority – ACECQA

3.1 The Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor will notify (within 24 hours of the complaint being made) ACECQA of a complaint that alleges

- a serious incident has occurred or is occurring while a child is being educated and cared for by Yarrunga.
- the National Law and/or National Regulations have been contravened.

The required Forms to be completed are;

Notification of Complaints and Incidents (Other than serious Incidents) as required by the Education & Care Services National Regulations – through the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA IT System). Log in to access the portal.

A scanned copy of the written complaint will be uploaded prior to submitting the form electronically.



Australian Government

HARMONY WEEK



Harmony Week at Yarrunga!

21st – 25th March 2022

Yarrunga Early Learning Centre will be hosting Harmony Week this year celebrating all our different cultures we have in Australia.

We will be enjoying some delicious lunch dishes from all different cultures, cooked by our own families we have here at Yarrunga.

Children are welcome to dress in any cultural outfits or in the colour Orange for the week to represent Harmony.

EVERYONE BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au

Nutrition Snippet

SIMPLE SWAPS.



Store bought muesli bar -> Healthy muesli bar

Try our chewy fruit and seed bar recipe!

- ✓ Less nasties
- ✓ More goodness
- ✓ Tastier!

For this recipe and more visit:
healthylunchbox.com.au



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box

Book now
for **April**
School
Holidays
at PCYC!


IS LIFE CHANGING

