



# THURGOONA PRESCHOOL

## Newsletter December 2023



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- \* Friday 8th December- Last day for donations for the Christmas Raffle
- \* Monday 11th December, 4pm- Christmas Raffle tickets & money due
- \* Tuesday 12th December- Christmas Raffle drawn
- \* Friday 15th December- Last day of Term 4

### PARENT SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who responded to our 'Parent Survey'. If you haven't yet had a chance, there is still time. We have extended the survey closing time to Friday 8th December at 10pm.

It is wonderful to achieve feedback from families, so we can reflect on our practices and procedures and improve our preschool.

If you would like to provide any further feedback regarding your survey answers, we would encourage you to make an appointment with Karen our Preschool Director on 60431633, [director@thurgoonapreschool.com.au](mailto:director@thurgoonapreschool.com.au)

To do the survey, please follow one of the following links (The URL or the QR Code)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THURGOONA23>



### MOSQUITOS

The mosquitos are out and about, including in our preschool environments.



To protect your child we suggest you do the following-

- Cover up with a loose-fitting long sleeved shirt
- Cover up with long pants
- Apply mosquito repellent to exposed skin before your child attends preschool



THE LAST DAY OF PRESCHOOL FOR 2023 IS FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER.

BEST WISHES TO THOSE CHILDREN GOING TO SCHOOL OR A DIFFERENT SERVICE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE RETURNING TO PRESCHOOL IN 2024.

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY BREAK.

### DISCO

We can't wait to celebrate the end of the year with our full day groups by having a disco with our favourite DJ Brenden from Albury DJ Entertainment.

Brenden has been coming to the preschool for the last few years and the children and educators have had a fantastic time. The discos will occur in the last week of term during the preschool sessions.



# ALBURY DJ ENTERTAINMENT

## PRESCHOOL FEES FOR 2024

The Government has finally released our funding allocations for 2024. The committee is now finalising the preschool budget and fees and next week families should receive an email regarding the fee structures.

The NSW Government is providing fee relief to families through the Start Strong for Community Preschools program. Families can only apply for fee relief from one service.

If your child will be attending another service that offers fee relief (another community preschool or a long day care service), you will need to choose which service you would like to receive fee relief from.

Families will need to complete a **declaration form** from the NSW Department of Education so that we know whether our service should apply fee relief to your child's invoices. We will provide you with a copy of this form with the fee information.

## THURGOONA PRESCHOOL FAMILIES FACEBOOK GROUP 2024

If your child is returning to Thurgoona Preschool next year, have you joined our closed Facebook Group? This group is for families with a child attending Thurgoona Preschool in 2024.

The preschool will use the group to provide families with reminders, upcoming events, and information.

**Thurgoona Preschool Families 2024**



## BEST WISHES

Jess Hartshorn finished up at preschool on Friday 24th November. Jess has finished the term a bit earlier than she expected to rest up before the arrival of her baby.

We wish Jess and her partner Hadyn all the best as they embark on their journey of parenthood.



## GOODBYE & BEST WISHES

Good bye and best wishes to Mrs Lane and Miss Diaz who will be leaving us at the end of this year. We would like to wish them well in their future endeavours. Thanks for everything you have done during your time at Thurgoona Preschool. The children have loved listening to Miss Diaz reading books in Spanish.



Thurgoona Preschool is a SunSmart centre.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS WEARING  
A SUN HAT, SUN SAFE CLOTHING AND  
SUNSCREEN.**



**Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer**

## FESTIVE EXPERIENCES

As we are nearing the end of term four our programs may include some festive experiences.

This may include adding various items to our collage areas, reading Christmas books and singing songs, painting, using Christmas stamps and cookie cutters added to the playdough, etc.

If you would rather that your child does not participate in these experiences, please talk with your child's teacher.



## TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

To celebrate the great year we have had with our 3 year old groups this year, we are going to have a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'.

The Kookaburra and Rosella Groups will have their picnics on their last days of preschool. They will bring their special teddy and may even be involved in some special teddy bear experiences.



If your child will be finishing early for the year (before the end of the term) please let their teacher know. This way we can make sure they receive any end of year items, including medications & end of year gift. Thanks.

Even though it is the end of the year, it is very important that you are prompt to pick up your child/ren at the end of the session. The educators have a lot to do once the session finishes, and may need to pick up their own children or get to appointments themselves. Thank you.

# Helping your young child with literacy learning



**Wednesday 24 January 2024**

Join us for an interactive workshop with Associate Professor Noella Mackenzie from the Australian Literacy Educators' Association. It takes most children several years to learn to read and write independently. Their teachers will guide this process, but your help and encouragement can make all the difference.

This workshop is open to all parents, carers and early childhood educators including homeschooling families. It is particularly aimed at supporting children aged 4-8 years.

Children welcome to attend the session.

Scan the QR code to book now.



**Library  
Museum**

**6:00 – 7:00pm**

**Free**

**Bookings essential**

## PRESCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Our Thurgoona Preschool building and grounds are owned and maintained by Albury City. They do a wonderful job in maintaining our preschool and we thank them for everything they do.

The preschool staff lodge maintenance requests with council as required.

If there is ever any areas that you notice should be put on our maintenance and improvement list, please see your child's teacher or Karen our Preschool Director.



### ***A note from the Director.....***

Dear Preschool Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Thurgoona Preschool for your child's preschool education and care. We have loved watching your child grow and develop during their time at preschool. Thanks to the families who have supported the preschool in so many ways throughout the year. This has included participating in fundraising events, providing feedback and ideas about the preschool and the program, being on the management committee, donating boxes and collage items, joining in the program, assisting on excursions..... Just to name a few! A big thanks to the preschool educators for their hard work and dedication through the year. There is a lot of work put in behind the scenes preparing quality preschool programs, setting up inspiring learning spaces and experiences and catering for the individual needs and interests of all the children that attend preschool. The preschool teachers spend many hours preparing the group daily diaries and documenting children's learning and development. The teachers would love to hear your feedback.



Thanks to Jess our preschool admin who is always busy in the office answering calls, greeting visitors and completing many office tasks.

Thanks to the preschool management committee who work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning and ongoing viability of the preschool and support the preschool staff.

If you have any feedback regarding your year at Thurgoona Preschool we would love to hear it.

Best wishes to the children and families who are moving on to school next year. To those returning to preschool, we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Have a safe and happy holiday break,

Karen Collins





Merry Christmas from the team at Thurgoona Preschool. We thank you all for a great year of fun and learning with your children and families.

**KOOKABURRA GROUP EDUCATORS-** ↑

Miss Hawkins (Teacher), Mrs Kentwell, Mrs Cartwright and Mrs Lane (Educators).



**MAGPIE GROUP EDUCATORS-** ↓

Miss Hawkins (Teacher), Mrs Kentwell, Miss Diaz and Miss Viggers (Educators).



**EMU GROUP EDUCATORS-** ↑  
Miss Hawkins (Teacher), Mrs Cartwright Mrs Lane and Mrs Smith (Educators).



Miss Hartshorn has left early to rest up before having her baby. Mrs McLean will be working for the rest of the year with the Cockatoo, Pelican & Magpie groups.



**PELICAN GROUP EDUCATORS-**

Mrs Heaphy (Teacher), Miss Viggers, Mrs Griffiths, Miss Hartshorn (Educators). ↓



**COCKATOO GROUP EDUCATORS-** ↑  
Mrs Symington (Teacher), Mrs Qvist, Mrs Smith, Miss Hartshorn (Educators)

**ROSELLA GROUP EDUCATORS-**

Mrs Heaphy (Teacher), Mrs Qvist and Miss Hartshorn (Educators). ↓



Karen Collins (Preschool Director), Jess Leonard (Admin)







# THURGOONA PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Thurgoona Preschool Christmas Raffle is underway. The raffle is our last big fundraiser of the year to finish off a fantastic year of fundraising.

Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

These are some of the amazing raffle donations we have received so far:-



The Boat Shed  
2 x \$75 vouchers



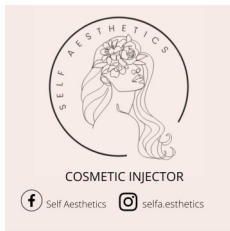
Repco Wodonga  
L.E.D Daytime Running Lamp Kit  
& X-L Vehicle Cover



**ARNOLD'S**  
Arnold's  
\$30 gift voucher



Borella Butchery  
3 x \$50 meat vouchers



Self Aesthetics  
2 x \$100 gift vouchers



Kellys Mitre 10  
Wodonga



Bunnings Albury- 2 x \$50 vouchers



Harris Farm Albury- \$75 gift card



Eduthreads- \$25 gift voucher



Thurgoona Country Club Resort  
Voucher \$100



\$500 Voucher towards a \$750 family  
photoshoot



Commercial Club  
\$50 Voucher



Peards Albury- Vouchers- \$25



Various vouchers



Plus lots of great  
Christmas food  
and hamper  
items donated  
by our preschool  
families.



Woolworths

Woolworths Thurgoona  
3 Vouchers- Total \$175  
3 x Food hampers



2 x \$25 vouchers



JBS 43 Piece socket set

We would like to thank the businesses and families who have so generously donated to our raffle. We ask that you support the businesses that have supported the preschool.

Each year we include the following article in the preschool newsletter as it is quite thought provoking.  
What are your thoughts?

## IT'S NOT CALLED THE SILLY SEASON FOR NOTHING!

Christmas is a great time for children to enjoy family and friends. But it can also be a time when they learn some dangerous lessons that could make them more vulnerable to abusers. Let's take a look at some of these lessons we are teaching our kids and make sure we don't get caught in some of these common traps.

### **Santa is a Stranger**

What have we been thinking all this time?!!! We sit our children on a strange man's lap - he's dressed in a ridiculous red suit, has a weird long white beard and facial hair, and talks in a spooky low voice saying "Ho ho ho" all the time. Then - when our children's perfectly good instincts tell them this could be dangerous, they scream and cry with fear. But instead of validating this fear and nurturing the very instincts that could one day save them from a predator - we encourage, beg and plead with them to stay on the man's lap on their own while parents step away to have the photo taken!! Then we cap it all off by saying, "Smile!!" If very young children are scared of Santa then there's no need to push them to interact with him. If you're desperate for a photo then hold your child while you're standing beside Santa - but if even this is too scary - then the most sensible thing to do is photo shop him in later! Let children learn the lesson that when they let a parent know they're scared, then they will be protected and will feel safe again. This is the very beginning of teaching children to listen to their instincts and feelings and then making good choices to feel safe.

If children are a little older you can talk with them about how they're feeling. Make sure you validate their fear so they learn to listen to their instincts instead of ignoring them. You could say, "I can see you're feeling scared and frightened. That's okay - Santa looks scary and he's a person we don't know." Then you can discuss how the Santa at the shop isn't real, and it's just a bit of fun at Christmas, and then ask them whether they'd like to have a photo or not - but reassure them that they have the choice. You should also let them know that you'll stay with them and watch them the whole time while they are there and anytime they want to leave they are free to do so. Make sure you talk to them later about how they listened to their feelings and told someone about feeling scared and now they feel safe - so they learn that trusting their feelings and talking to people about them is good.

### **A Less Stranger Kind of Danger**

Christmas is a great time to catch up with those friends and relatives we only see once a year. But sometimes there's a reason we don't see these people more often! And sometimes we see friends and relatives more often but we *wish* we only saw them once a year! But if you think it's hard dealing with this as an adult - try being a kid!

Remember when children are greeting or saying goodbye to friends and relatives - let them decide how they'd like to do that. Don't trample all over children's instincts by forcing them to kiss furry Aunt Thelma, or hug smelly Uncle Dave. Children have a right to make choices and a right to feel safe. If they don't feel comfortable with kissing or hugging others, don't push them to do it.

Make sure you stop yourself before you say things like, "Don't be rude - give your Auntie a kiss" or "Uncle Dave loves you - he bought you that lovely gift - now you go and give him a hug goodbye". Don't let other relatives do this either - interrupt them and explain that you don't expect your children to be forced to do things that make them feel unsafe.

If children are scared or apprehensive, validate that feeling and let them know it's okay to be a little worried about people sometimes - and then encourage them to make a choice to feel safe. They may choose to do a high five instead of a hug or kiss, or just a friendly smile and wave if they don't want to get even that close.

It's important to remember that when it comes to child abuse, statistics tell us that friends and family are more likely to be offenders than strangers - so don't drop your guard and don't squash your child's instincts even around family and friends.

From: In Safe Hands Educators in Safety



## THE KIDS ALIVE DO THE FIVE APP

With summer now upon us, now is a great opportunity to reinforce water safety messages with your child/ren.

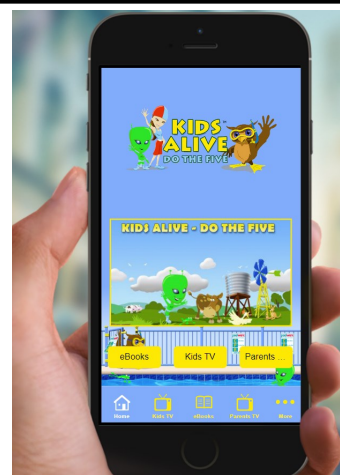
The Kids Alive Do The Five App has been designed to teach young children and parents about water safety. Users can explore a range of water safety education materials to enjoy with young children. This App will work on iPad and iPhone.

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in children under five in Australia. This trend is similar world wide. The emotional impact on families from such a tragedy lasts a lifetime. Backyard swimming pools pose the greatest danger.

In 1988, Laurie Lawrence created the Kids Alive Do the Five water safety program. Since then drownings in the under 5 age group have reduced however they are working towards zero preschool drownings.

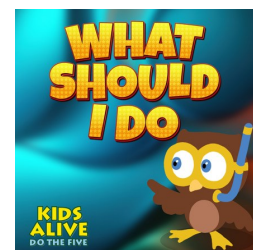
The Kids Alive community service program pushes the mantra of, fence the pool, shut the gate, teach your kids to swim - it's great, supervise - watch your mate and learn how to resuscitate. Kids Alive - Do The Five.

The materials have been developed in consultation with early childhood educators, water safety experts and parents. Follow the URL link or scan the QR code <http://cms.nashapps.io/promo/kidsaliv>



## NEW SONG- WHAT SHOULD I DO

They have launched an exciting new song from their new water safety series. "What Should I Do" is a catchy, easy-to-sing-along song that helps children learn what to do around any body of water from the pool to beach. It is a great way to start a conversation about water safety. Listen now on Spotify, itunes, Apple Music, Amazon Music or YouTube to see some live action performance.



## CHECK POOL GATE MONTH

Kids Alive is proud to be a partner of the annual '**Check Pool Gate Month**', championing pool gate safety and urging the community to prioritise this essential aspect of water safety.

### **Ensuring Backyard Pool Safety**

Research from The MagnaLatch® Pool Safety Report, conducted for 'Check-Your-Pool-Gate Month,' reveals a concerning trend: over half (55%) of pool owners prop open the gate when kids are in pool or while having a party. Shockingly, a significant portion of families (30%) have experienced a pool-related injury and emergencies.

The report also revealed that one in five families found a child gaining unsupervised access to their pool. It also showed supervision is lacking with 50% of parents admitting to leaving the kids in the pool while they completed a quick chore. Leaving a child unsupervised significantly increases the risk of accidents. Supervision is a drowning prevention method that no one can overlook!

## BUTTON BATTERIES

With Christmas approaching please be aware of the dangers of button batteries for children.



Identify items with button batteries in them, secure the battery compartment, keep them out of reach of children and dispose of them safely.

If you think your child has swallowed or inserted a button battery, immediately call the 24 hour Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for fast, expert advice.

For more information visit [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)

**TAKE CHARGE...**  
of button batteries around your home  
Identify | secure | elevate | eliminate



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

## KELLYS MITRE 10 COLOURING COMPETITION

Kellys Mitre 10 Wodonga who have donated a children's wheelbarrow set for our preschool Christmas raffle are running a colouring in competition. We have some of the templates available at the front of preschool. Completed colouring ins



can be delivered or emailed to the store, or drop them in to preschool and we can email it for you. Competition closes Wed 20th December.

Drop back in store or email to [kellysmitre10.com.au](mailto:kellysmitre10.com.au)  
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