As Mayor of Wyndham and portfolio holder for Family Friendly City, I’m incredibly proud of the work we do to ensure kids in Wyndham have the best start in life through our amazing kindergartens. The benefits of an enriched play-based kinder program last a lifetime – kinder kids develop strong connections with community as well as greater social and emotional connections with their peers, which supports a happier transition to school and a love for life long learning.

We are one of only a few Councils that deliver kindergarten services directly through our 23 kinders and we’re committed to a high standard of excellence in doing so. Our annual Early Years Matters Conference in now in its 14th year, which highlights that we are sector leading and committed to the professional development of our educators. We have also been awarded four years of funding that has allowed us to implement a Spanish language program that 1,000 children are participating in.

We introduced the Kindergarten Online Portal to streamline and centralise the process for families enrolling their children into kinder. Visit council’s website to find out more.

Council is committed to ongoing advocacy on behalf of Wyndham’s families and support agencies and that’s why, we developed the I Love Kinder campaign. The campaign calls for continued federal funding for four-year-old kindergarten on an ongoing and permanent basis. You can find out more at: https://ilovekinder.org.au/

WINTER STREET PARTY IS HERE

See the city light up after dark on Friday evening with beautiful light installations, street performers, kids’ activities, music and warming winter fare at Wyndham City’s FREE Winter Street Party.

From glowing angels, to twinkling fairies, hula hoopers and dazzling fire shows, this year’s program will bring a touch of magic to Werribee City Centre.

As night falls, a giant illuminated cube in the heart of Station Place will be transformed into a space of wonder, with renowned Melbourne theatre company, Born in a Taxi and crowd favourite, Carla O’Brien bringing a series of new works to Watton Street, creating a Winter Wonderland.

There’ll be fire shows, ice sculpting, glow-in-the-dark face painting, projections, roving circus acts, kids craft and even a light-up dance floor!

Local businesses will be open late, to create a bustling winter marketplace of warm winter dishes, hot chocolates and special winter offers.

So, rug up, bring the kids and enjoy the magic of the Winter Street Party.

Follow www.facebook.com/werribeecitycentre or head to www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/winter to see the full program