

The Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten

My name is Gerard Tran. I was a pupil of the Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten from 2008 till 2009. As an avid high school student of history, I recently discovered this website. I don't remember much about the daily routine of our class but what I do remember is that I did arts and crafts such as painting, playing with big lego blocks, and riding tricycles around the playground. In the playground, there was a sandpit, a big red slide, and an obstacle course. When I had lunch, I remember one of the teachers taking her time to cut our apples for us. Also, my parents also told me that they weren't allowed to pack lunches with meat in them as they weren't "kosher" (I don't think they knew what this meant at the time but I think they understood that this was for religious purposes). At around noon, we would go to our netted "camp-beds" to have a nap. I particularly enjoyed dressing up for my graduation photo in a blue cap and gown as it made me feel like an adult.

The main reason my parents sent me and my sister to the Y.K. Kindy was that we lived in the house directly in front of the school, but they also knew that the school had a good reputation amongst the Strathfield community, as evidenced by the fact that the cohort was quite diverse in ethnic and religious backgrounds. On my first day of pre-school, there were many pupils so it was clear that the school was quite popular.

Looking back, Y.K. was instrumental in defining my early childhood in an enjoyable way and it prepared me well for kindergarten in 2010. We are grateful that the Strathfield Jewish community was willing to open their pre-school doors to people from different backgrounds, such as myself.

As I still live quite close to the site I have noticed many changes to the property since the kindergarten was closed in 2013. They are as follows:

- The entrance of the synagogue has been converted into the school's main entrance.
- The left-side of the entrance has a new wall and windows.
- There is a drive-through from Albyn Road that passes the entrance and into Florence Street. Originally, the new owners wanted to demolish Florence Reserve but we were able to get community support to block this proposal.
- The crumbling brick walls facing Florence Reserve have been replaced with new bricks.
- The minister's residence has been demolished and replaced by a new home.

Today I am a Year 11 student at St Mary's Cathedral College in the Sydney CBD. Obviously, it differs vastly from pre-school life at Y.K. due to its differing religious ethos and higher academic rigour, but it is essentially similar as there is an environment which fosters learning and growth.

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