

# Newsletter

April 2017

Tena koutou and welcome;

We have welcomed so many new families to Heathcote Valley Preschool. In the Nursery we welcome Nova, Izaak, Willow, Aoife, Joshua, Honor. Sam and Quinn. In the Toddlers we welcome River, Isla, Coral, Skye and Jesse. In the Preschool we welcome Nicholas and Eleanor. We look forward to getting to know you and your children and being apart of their journey.

Congratulations to Larissa and Ashley & Katie and Joseph, both have beautiful healthy little ones, Lincoln and Cassidy. Congratulations to the Monro family, Jana, Robert and Helena on the birth of Filip.

## Dates for your Diary, Term 2

### **Term 2 Extra Curricular Activities**

Tuesday's Sporty Shorties, starts Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

May to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Friday's Creative Dance starts Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May to

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Event Days:**

1-31 May – NZ Music Month

8-12 May – NZ Sign Language Week

12 May – Mother's Day

6-9 June – Winter Week

23 June – Matariki, Maori New Years

### **Next Celebration Date:**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 5.30-6.30

### **Next Hair Cut's Date:**

Monday 8 May

### **Notes:**

Term 2 brings the cooler weather; we ask that children have Kampūtu (gumboots) and tāpōrena (jackets) for outdoors play and slippers for inside play. Please ensure everything is named and we will encourage when items aren't being worn will be kept in bags/lockers.

### **New Equipment:**

Sand & water play toys, Maori resources, physical play resources, Reggio Emilia resources text books, flax baby rattles, construction resources and children's books.

## **House Keeping Matters:**

Up dating records, at the start of the new term we will be going through the process of up-dating all records. You will be asked to check through your child's current enrolment form to check and sign off details.

A phone list will be placed out for you to check and update for our multi text system.

## **Lost Property**

We are accumulating LOTS of Lost property! Please ensure that you name your child's clothing so we are able to support your child in looking after their belongings.

## **Policy Review:**

Programme, Assessment, Evaluation & Curriculum Management Policy  
Immunisations Policy  
Emergencies Policy

The above policies are currently undergoing review and we value your feedback, you can get a copy of these policies form reception.

## **Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers:**

- Incredible Years Programme, behavioural
- Autism
- Teacher Certification
- Reggio Emilia

Ngā Mihi  
Kathryn Palliser

## Nursery News

Kia ora koutou, as our term project was focused around whanaungatanga/relationships Lyndal and Ngaire began their own journey of working together for the first time so this was the first step to discuss what our values in teaching encompass. We both agreed it was respect towards one another, the tamariki and whanau. Building a safe and respectful environment for the tamariki to make discoveries and learning through curiosity has enhanced their well-being and trust that their needs are taken



care of. Fun and laughter along side the pepi has been a daily ritual, which has a strong emphasis in strengthening our relationships. The pepi have ventured out into the whole centre environment to meet and greet their siblings and kaiako. Inviting the tuakana to the nursery was welcomed by the pepi. Having hui/group activities allowed the pepi to solve problems together, communicate and share resources. Ngaire & Lyndal. Want to bring music for our next term project as we see this topic as beneficial to self-expression and creating hui/group inclusion. We look forward to introducing music as our project and learning beside your pepi while making learning fun and enjoyable through music. As

we observed our pepi during music times there was an obvious joy and avid interest-taking place. Ngaire and Lyndal want to extend their knowledge and variety that is available in the world of music.

## Toddlers News

This term we have been focusing on The Animal Kingdom as our project. Throughout the term we have learnt various aspects of animals, including their names and the sounds they make, what they like to eat and where they live. Our tamariki have been getting involved in every opportunity possible, from reading animal related stories, researching on the iPad, using their knowledge to influence pretend play, and even creating works of art with paint and footprints. As we have welcomed new children and their whanau into the Toddler Room, as well as some from the Nursery, we have seen great relationships forming as well social skills developing in some of our younger children. This has influenced our decision to move towards our next project for term 2, where we plan to strengthen those relationships already formed, as well as create new ones, and overall learning, developing and furthering our turn-taking, sharing and negotiating skills.



## Preschool News

Kia ora whanau,

This term has been full of learning, fun and adventures for the preschool tamariki as we embarked on our 'Wonders of the Natural World Project.' This has seen the tamariki grow in their knowledge of scientific concepts, experiments and materials. We have also investigated life cycles of insects, animals and plants as well as the habitats they live in. Growing and harvesting our vegetable garden allowed the tamariki to take responsibility and feel a sense of empowerment at growing their own kai. We ended the project with a visit from Science Alive and our



celebration night. Thanks to our wonderful parent helpers that made the Science Alive workshop a success and thank you to everyone who came along to celebration night and made that a success as well. As this learning project has wound down we have noticed a growing interest in physical activity and play as well as a keen interest in preparing and cooking kai. These interests have underpinned the focus of our next project, which will look at different forms of physical activity, exercise and sport as well as investigating how the human body works and grows. As an extension of body growth and development we will grow a winter garden so the tamariki can learn of, prepare and eat healthy kai. Also, a friendly reminder, that now we are in the winter months a rain-jacket, gumboots and a winter hat are great additions to your child's backpack. We do love to get out in the rain and

splash in puddles so a change of clothing is helpful also. As there are a high number of children in the preschool we do ask that you take home your child's gumboots, jackets and hats at the end of each day. We are looking forward to the holiday programme and sharing a new term of learning with you all. Arohnaui, Stef, Corey, Sue and Michala.

## Teaching Room News

In the teaching room we have focused on a variety of key skills needed to transition to school. There has been lots of fine motor activities during focus teaching groups and at the stations to strengthen the muscles in their hands in readiness for writing. During writing activities we have focused on our handwriting, writing and recognising our name, recognising cvc words and forming them with ready made letters, and starting to create our own sentences linked to our own events and news and also linked to our stories of the week. We have had an interest in the world around us linked to life cycles of plants and animals. We learnt about ladybugs, spiders, dinosaurs and chickens. Activities and mat time have also focused on working together, taking turns with toys, as well as in a conversation. The tamariki enjoy taking turns to share their news and the objects from our letter bucket. Each week we have a new letter focus and a child is chosen to take home the bucket to fill with objects that begin with the letter of the week. This helps the children engage with learning the letters and to consolidate their learning. During next term we will continue to introduce new concepts each week and link the activities to the concepts of that week. A key focus of exploration will also be linked to well being and staying healthy. This has developed from the children's interests and enjoyment of exercise within the teaching room and preschool. Michala.

