



Newsletter

August 2024

- Dates for your Diary**
- Cultural day - Wednesday 7th August
 - Parent teacher meetings - 12th-14th August
 - Tongan Language Week 2nd -6th September
 - Maori Language Week 16th - 20th September
 - Grandparent's Day - Thursday 12th September 9-11am



Important Messages

Parent teacher meeting booking times are now available

Please collect children's artwork

Programme Highlights

Te Reo Māori
Over the last few months teachers have been focusing on increasing the use of Te Reo Māori at kindy. Te Reo is being woven into our mat times, music times and Wise Owls programme more purposefully through the introduction of our kindy pepeha, more waiata, books, targeted teaching and use of simple Māori phrases for instructions. Each week we introduce a new Māori word to the children to increase their knowledge of Te Reo Māori. We have really seen the use of Te Reo Māori increasing and are proud of how much the children have embraced this learning.

Collaborative Art Project
With an abundant supply of recycled bottle tops and an ongoing interest in the glue gun table as a creative play space we decided to embark on a collaborate art project

with the children. We painted a canvas, sorted the bottle tops into colours and discussed design options with the children before making a start. A mandela design was favoured which soon looked like a flower centre piece. As the time progressed additional resources were sought out and added to the canvas. Collaborative art projects bring children together to combine their unique ideas and talents. They offer numerous benefits including promoting cooperation, team work and respect for diverse ideas. They nurture creativity, encourage innovative thinking, and expand the horizons of imagination. We look forward to our next project, any inspiration from our kindy community is welcome!

Our Garden
We have been spending time in the garden harvesting our lettuces, turning over the soil

and adding new compost from our compost bin and worm juice from our worm farm. Each day children enjoy the process of adding food scraps to the compost bins, feeding the worms, watering our garden and investigating the progress of planting in the garden. We are growing cauliflower and broccoli which we will be learning more about in our Know Me Eat Me programme soon.

Matariki
Earlier in the month we had a wonderful week last week celebrating Matariki with the children at kindy. We had lots of different activities on offer each day from art experiences, singing, dancing, telling stories and making and eating Māori fried bread. It was also a time to reflect on what we have achieved in the last year and what we are thankful for.

Supporting Neurodiversity

We have continued to add new resources into our kindy environment to support our teaching of neurodiversity. We introduced the Zen Zone black out tent as a self regulation tool for children which reduces sensory input and provides a safe, non stimulating place for children

to calm down and refocus. In this space we have also added two sensory foam bean bags for children to spend time relaxing or reading a quiet book with a teacher. We have also introduced some new books that explore social and sensory challenges for children with autism, what we



can do when things get too loud and gender diversity.



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CHILD'S VOICE

Immersing ourselves in the world of children every day means that we have the privilege of experiencing some magical moments that make us laugh.

After lunch one day one of our children shared that they had the hiccups. We wondered where they had come from and the child decided that they had come from the Sky Tower sharing that 'when you go up the Sky Tower you go up lots of levels and it gives you the hiccups.'

Communication Corner

Empathy Stone: To foster a culture of empathy and kindness towards others within our kindergarten environment we celebrate moments of empathy and kindness shown towards others by awarding the child who has shown empathy with an empathy stone. The child is presented with the empathy stone at the end of session meeting times where we will discuss why the child is receiving this special taonga (treasure). The child will be invited to take the empathy stone home to keep along with a note explaining why they have received it to share with their families. We encourage parents to share and celebrate this achievement with their children at home.

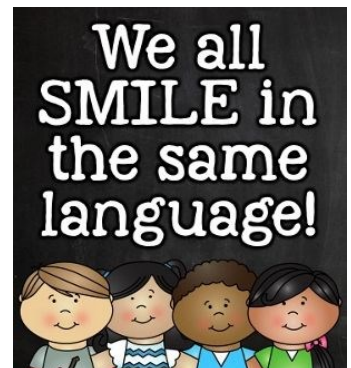
Children's art: Children's art is collated and filed daily in children's art folders found in the baskets at the front entrance. These creations are often important to children so we encourage parents to clear art folders regularly so you can share these creations with your child.

Lost property: We would like the support of parents in collecting excess clothing each day and naming clothing to make it easier for teachers to identifying clothing belonging to your child. Excess clothing can be found on the hooks in the foyer or in the lost property basket.

Emergency Drills: Our Emergency Response policy is reviewed annually and drills practiced regularly on a rotational basis. This month we have focused on our lockdown drill.

Policies: Review of centre policies are carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Emergency Response Policy and Nappy Changing Policy with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the month: As we celebrate our cultures through our Cultural Day we will share greetings from all of our children's cultures this month.



Upcoming Events

Cultural Day - Wednesday 7th August 2024: Our annual Cultural Day celebrates our children's diverse cultures. This is an opportunity for children to come to kindy wearing something from their culture and to bring something into kindergarten to share from their culture. We would love the support of parents so if you have a cultural song, dance, food dish or traditional craft activity that you can share with us please talk to one of our teaching team. Children who do not attend kindy on a Wednesday are welcome to come along with a parent or caregiver and share the morning with us too. Parents and siblings welcome from 9-11am.

Parent Teacher Meetings - 12th to 14th August 2024: If you would like to make a time to meet with Teresa and Allanah to discuss your child's progress at kindergarten then please select a meeting time on our meeting booking sheet available at the entrance to the kindergarten. If you have more than one child please book a meeting time for each child.

Grandparents day - Thursday 12th September 2024: All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten from 9-11am. This is a lovely opportunity for the children to show these special family members all the wonderful things that they love to do at kindergarten and to share morning tea with us. Please book their diaries now!

Tongan and Māori Language Weeks: In September we will be teaching the children about the Tongan and Māori culture and language during their respective language weeks.

Welcome

Adrien Mercader

Farewell

Luey Chou
Violet Kenny

Baby Announcements

Congratulations to the O'Neill family on the arrival of a baby girl, Emilia, on 1st July 2024. A little brother for Spencer.

Congratulations to the Ahmed family on the arrival of a baby girl on 25th July. A little brother for Omar.