

Bishopdale Community Preschool

February 2012

Kia ora ia tangata / Welcome everyone

It is good to see you all back for another year and to hear that you had a safe and happy summer break. 2012 looks to be an exciting year and our teaching team are raring to help you and your child/ren with some fantastic learning over the year.

A special welcome to our new families that have joined us in the last couple of months, we hope you enjoy your time at Bishopdale Community Preschool.

Our quote to start the year has been selected from a fabulous article about preparing young children to go to school.

Quote:

Peters (2010)

“Supporting children’s learning dispositions are likely to be particularly relevant for long-term success.”

Latest earthquake related news:

We are hoping that this year we will experience less and less earthquakes, but of course the shakes over the holidays reminded us that it is not over yet. The City Council’s latest response protocol for our building has been posted on our website. It basically requires the Council to contact us in the event of an earthquake over 5 magnitude. This may mean more emergency closures throughout the year, but I’m confident that we can all work through these and manage any disruptions in the interests of providing a safe learning environment for our tamariki.

Please collect the earthquake support sheet from reception, it has some very helpful suggestions on how to manage this stressful time.

Centre annual review plans:

Every year at this time our management and teaching teams make a plan of review

for the centre. This year we are putting this annual plan on our website so that our parent community stays informed. Last year our teaching team worked on improving our transition to school programme and the implementation of the outcomes of this review will begin this year.

The new focus for review this year will be around culturally responsive teaching practice. As the teaching team work to consolidate their knowledge of this kind of teaching and learning we will be implementing some new aspects to our programme.

You can become involved by giving feedback to us (either verbally or written), or by adding a comment to the forum on the website.

Staffing:

Last year we told you about Cheryl joining our casual relief teaching team, this year we are celebrating her move to become one of our permanent teachers. We are excited to have Cheryl on our team and as a highly skilled qualified teacher I’m sure she will bring added valued to our learning community.

Emergency Text Messaging:

Thank you to all those parents/Guardians that have signed up to become part of the emergency text messaging service. We hope to have this operational by the end of this month and will let you know when we are testing the service. I am sure that it is going to make it much easier for you to know what is going on here at preschool should an emergency event occur. If you have not already signed up to be part of this service and would like to, please see Jill as soon as possible.



Event Calendar

27th Feb - Committee meeting

March - Parent aspirations forms handed out.

6th & 9th April—Centre closed for Easter

May—AGM & parent evening

Parent Consultation:

We welcome your feedback on our service. You can give us your feedback by completing our survey online when you register on our website or just drop us an email or leave a message in the book at reception.

Help us improve our service.

General Reminders:

- Please remember to drop off and collect your child at their booked time. If you do not, at times during the day it can result in us going over our legal ratios.
- Please make sure you name your child’s belongings and regularly check the lost property box, we gave away a lot of clothing at the end of last year.
- Remember to Slip, Slop and Slap during these summer months. Children must wear a hat outside at all times. So please remember to name your child’s hat.

Our Programme News

Preschool Programme: The children have returned to preschool full of holiday news and the teaching team value these experiences and are committed to supporting and recognising these funds of knowledge from home. Through the retelling of their adventures the children are extending their verbal language and storytelling skills, visually & through emergent print. An example of this is how we have celebrated the Chinese New Year, the children made lanterns and shared their experiences of going to the festival. We look forward to exploring and celebrating many cultures as the year progresses.



Whilst the hot days that inspired our trip to the gardens and the purchase of a paddling pool in January seems to have abated for now, we are continuing to explore our connectedness with our natural world via the harvesting of our vegetable garden. The tamariki have been enjoying eating the fruits of their labour and discovering the joys of fresh vegetables. The teaching team are using these experiences to reinforce messages of keeping our bodies healthy through diet and exercise. Rachel has taken on the responsibility of having our community accredited with the Heart Foundation Healthy Heart award this year and will be working on this education programme with the children over the first half of the year.

Nursery Programme:

Since returning the children have been busy with developing self help skills, learning to walk and increasing their communication skills with each other and their teachers. The tamariki are setting their own goals by challenging the resources, the environment and themselves, not to mention us too.

We have also celebrated the Chinese New Year by creating our own lanterns during this festive time and displaying them around the nursery. The history behind the lantern festival is that the holiday evolved from an ancient Chinese belief that celestial spirits could be seen flying about in the light of the first full moon of the lunar calendar. To aid them in their search for the spirits they used torches. These torches gave way to lanterns of every shape, size and colour. Today Lantern Festivals are held each year in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan to mark the end of Chinese New Year celebrations. Competitions are held to select the best lanterns.



A Message from the Committee: **Kai Ora everyone**

Welcome back to preschool for 2012. We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

In January we welcomed two new members to our committee Sarah Kelly and Sonia Dixon. Committee meetings are held once a month on the last Monday of the month, if you would like to contribute to the management of our preschool please see one of the staff and let them you know you are interested.

At the last meeting we were lucky to hear the staff present their research into Transition to School. The research was led by Sarah and Becky and has provided some valuable insight into how to best prepare children and their families for school.

If you have any questions about the transition to school please ask one of our fantastic staff members. We are hoping the team will be able to present their findings to the rest of our community at the AGM in May . Look out for further information closer to the time.

Thanks for your continuing support.

Regards Leanne (Committee Chairperson)