

Bishopdale Community Preschool

July 2011

Kia ora ia tangata / Welcome everyone

As I write this newsletter I find it hard to believe that we are already into the 7th month of the year. This has been a strange and difficult year for many of us and maybe this is why we have lost our sense of time. We hope that you are all starting to get back to some sort of normal routines and are able to work through solutions to renewing any damages your family may have sustained.

Earthquake Up-date:

After our latest major earthquake event on the 13th of June we received some feedback from our parents about communication after an event such as this. Our management committee have considered several ways we can be more effective in communicating with everyone after an event. Some of the suggestions we are currently implementing are:

1. *Informing parents about why we are closed and what the processes are*—We have added this information to our website and had a notice at the front desk about this, if you didn't get a copy and would like one just ask Jill.
2. *We are looking into the Text Tree form of communicating immediately after the event and will keep you informed about when you can sign up for this.*
3. *We are writing to the City Council to request that preschools buildings be a priority check after events so that we can reopen sooner.*
4. *Publishing our emergency plan on our website for all parents to see the plan that will take effect after a significant event.*

We hope that once we have implemented these ideas it will keep everyone informed and help you in making decisions after an event more easily. If you have any other suggestions about strengthening our communications in this area please talk to one of our team.

Centre License:

Over this month we are getting ready to have the Ministry of Education relicense our centre. The Ministry are in the process of relicensing all early childhood services throughout the country due to the development of new regulations in 2008. Our service will receive a visit from the Ministry on the 28th of July at which time we will be evaluated against the new regulations. All going well this should be a fairly straight forward process. We will endeavor to keep you well informed of the outcomes.

Staffing:

We would like to inform our community that Rachel gave birth to a healthy baby girl at the beginning of the month. She has named her Sophie, we wish her and her family joy and happiness with this wonderful new addition to their family.

2010-11 Financial Reporting

Income:

Government Grants	\$604,098
WINZ	\$ 80,588
Fees & CCC grant	<u>\$84,073.</u>
	768,759

Expenditure

Wages & training	\$606,145
General expenditure	<u>\$138,808</u>
	\$744,953

For a full report of our audited accounts please ask at reception.

Christmas Holiday Close Dates:

We are having our last day and children's Christmas party on the
16th Dec.

We will reopen on the **10th Jan 2012.**

Event Calendar:

29th August YMCA last session.

24th & 25 August—parent / teacher interviews.

September: centre Disco

Quote:

Shonkoff and Phillips (2000) found that where teachers are skilled at assisting young children in managing conflict, the children are more likely to develop empathy and conflict resolution skills of their own.

Policy Reviews :

You are welcome to give us your suggestions on improvements to the following policies:

1. Fire Evacuation Policy
 2. Alcohol Policy
- See our Operations Manual for these policies

General Reminders:

- Please make sure you drop off and pick up your child at your booked times.
- Please remember that all children should bring clothing suitable for the outdoor weather.
- Make sure you check the lost property regularly, we empty this at

Our Programme News

Preschool Programme:

Over the last couple of months we have been exploring the concept of the Maori New Year of Matariki with the children. We had a visit to the Library where they provided a story time on this subject and the children all took home some art activities to work on. This celebration begins when there is a particular star constellation in our southern skies. It is about being with whanau, community, clearing the garden for the new growth and sharing of kai. This was our first year of including this concept in our programme and we hope that we can grow in our understanding of this important celebration in the Maori calendar as we continue to include this and other cultural celebrations to our curriculum.



Another group learning concept that we have been working on is drama, retelling a story through actions and song. The children have been participating in this kind of activity at mat times and have really enjoyed dressing up and performing. This kind of activity supports early literacy skills, speech and language development as well as building confidence and courage to perform in front of a group. If your child has any favourite dress ups at home or characters they like to become please let us know, we are thinking of having a dress up day soon so look out for this notice on the whiteboard.

Nursery Programme:

Over the last few months the children have been exploring different art activities. Art activities provide opportunities for sensory exploration and experimentation. During these art activities the tamariki express themselves through the use of art materials, which help develop their motor co-ordination, visual discrimination and hand/eye co-ordination. Art activities strengthen the children's ability to observe and to imagine. They increase the children's sensitivity to self and others. When the tamariki take home their art we recognise that it is the process, not the product which is important to the children.

At the end of May and the beginning of June we celebrated Matariki with the tamariki by setting up an art activity to represent the starry sky to celebrate Matariki which signals the beginning of the New Year according to the Māori lunar calendar. Tamariki were actively involved in the activity and created the beautiful starry sky using star stamps.



Tino pai tāu mahi Tamariki ma!!



A Message from the Committee: Kai Ora everyone

We hope that you are all keeping warm this winter and that you managed to find alternative care arrangements while the centre was closed after the June events.

We also wanted to encourage you to have a look at the government Taskforce report on Early Childhood Education. This is a significant report that will have a huge impact on the future of Early Childhood education in NZ. You can access the report on line at www.taskforce.ece.govt.nz/ submissions on the report close at the end of August so please have a read and have your say on the future of education for our young children.

In our last newsletter we reported on the elections of our committee office holders, since then we have had Shelley Johnston resign and have now appointed Sally Mc Kinnon to the role of internal Review officer.

Kind regards from your Management Committee

