

Bishopdale Community Preschool

November 2011

Kia ora ia tangata / Welcome everyone

Over the last few months we have had many new families join our learning community and we would all like to welcome them and hope that they have settled in well.

As this is the last newsletter for the year I began reflecting on what 2011 has taught us. I would like to begin by saying that we here at Bishopdale Preschool have really noticed that this year of challenges and disruptions has shown us that we are a strong community, that cares about each other and has shown huge resilience throughout all the difficulties that the earthquakes and snow have brought us. With that said I would like to wish you all a well deserved safe and happy holiday season and best wishes for the 2012 year.

Latest earthquake related news:

Most of you will be aware that we had to close the centre for the fourth time this year on Friday the 4th of November. This closure was related to the closing down of the library and community centre next-door to us, news about the library closure can be found in the 5th Nov Press. The Christchurch City Council, which owns our building, requested that we close the centre while they completed further analysis of the consequences of the structural damage they had discovered in the Library building. They assured us that our building was structurally sound, however they were looking into the likely impact to our building should the Library fall in another big aftershock.

Late on Friday afternoon the City Council reported to us that their engineers had concluded that there was no threat to our building as it was not likely to be in the fall zone should the library building be compromised in an aftershock. We were then given the all clear to reopen the preschool. We hope that this information reassures you that our preschool building is safe to occupy and we thank you for your patience over this short closure.

Centre License:

In our last newsletter we informed you that we were undergoing a relicensing process with the Ministry of Education. We are happy to report that we successfully completed this process and are now licensed under the 2008 Early Childhood Regulations and criteria. If you have any questions about this process or would like some further information about the regulations please either ask at our reception or we have a parent copy of the regulations for you to look at or you can access these online at www.minedu.govt.nz

Staffing:

We would like to introduce to you our newest teaching staff, Martha Jules and Cheryl Schofield. Both of these qualified teachers are currently working with us as casual relievers. Cheryl will be a familiar face to many of our nursery families as she began working with us much earlier in the year. Martha has recently come to join our community and she will mainly be working in the over two area. Martha has a background in primary teaching and we hope that you all welcome these two wonderful teachers.

ECE Advocacy:

As we draw closer to the elections we have seen and heard much discussion on child poverty, family policy and early childhood education. A new website has just been launch so that you can keep up with what's happening in education and have your say, please check out www.speakup.org.nz !!! Help us Stop the cuts being made to early childhood education!!!



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:

1st December — Grandparents and special people day

16th December—last day and children's Xmas Party

Quote:

Esler(2001) shows that shared book reading enhanced children's vocabulary as well as their comprehension and sentence level language skills.

Parent Consultation:

We welcome your feedback on our service. You can give us your feedback on 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 make sure you let us know if your child is going to be absent. If you are going on holiday over Christmas please let Jill know when you will be returning.
- Remember that all children should bring clothing suitable for the outdoor weather.
- Make sure you check the lost property !!!!!!!

Our Programme News



Preschool Programme:



Over the year we have been reviewing our teaching practices around transition to school, the whole teaching team has been involved in this review and it has been supported by the Ministry of Education. We would like to thank the parents and children that have kindly shared their experiences and views with us, it was fantastic to get your feedback. In the new year we will present our findings to both our learning community and the wider early childhood community, so if you are interested in finding out how best to create a successful transition for your child and what we are going to be doing please look out for more information on our website and around the preschool.

Over the last few months we have continued to explore drama activities with the children, but have not yet set a date for the dress-up day.....The rugby world cup events took the interest of the children and we followed this up with exploring country flags, the Haka, and our national anthem. The children also made some art work related to this major event.... As spring arrived we also tried to plan a trip to a local farm to visit the baby animals, however the weather had other plans for us and this trip has been postponed till the new year....Currently the teachers are working on the final assessments for the children's profile books, you are welcome to take these home over the holiday and add your own stories to their learning profile.

*Merry
Christmas*

Nursery Programme:

Firstly, we would like to welcome all the new families that have joined the nursery over the last few months, it has been great to have you contributing to our learning community so quickly after joining us. Your comments in your child's learning stories really helps us to plan for their needs within our curriculum.

During the last few months we have had a focus on introducing our bicultural resources to our tamariki, these include poi, rakau, shells, stones and flaxes....We have also noticed a general increase in the children's verbal language vocabulary, with many of the older toddlers beginning to express their needs verbally to us....Another delightful learning experience we wanted to share with you has been the children that have recently learnt to walk. Reaching this milestone is such an event in a

toddler's life and we are currently celebrating this with several of the children. (Please note we do not recommend that you put shoes on children that are just learning to walk, as they need to feel their feet to gain that all important sense of balance)Another area that we have been working on is in our transition practice. Moving over to the bigger preschool side is a huge next step for our two year olds, so to help them we have increased their opportunity to build relationships with the teachers in this area by increasing their visits and Becky has been working us on a Wednesday. We hope this will all make the transition a successful experience for our tamariki.



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

As the year comes to a close we would like to remind you that we have our last committee meeting on the 28th of November. If you would like to come and see what it's all about please let one of our friendly teaching staff know you are interested. We are currently seeking new members for the committee for next year, so please consider joining and contributing to the management of our preschool.

Unfortunately we will be accepting the resignation of another valuable committee member at our next meeting, Alison Doorey (Secretary). Alison and her family are moving down south to Gore. We would like to thank Alison and her family for all their wonderful contributions to our learning community and wish them well with their future.

We hope that you have all managed to get through this difficult year and that you have a lovely holiday season with your families.

Kind regards from your Management Committee

