



Swannanoa Preschool

Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - August, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS;

Tuesday 4th - Teddy Bear's Picnic

10th - 14th Pasifika Week

Thursday 27th - Bike Day

THANK YOU;

Stacey Davis for donating the baby clothes in Whakanui.

REMINDERS;

Please also remember to bring along your child's wet bag each day.

If tamariki or adults are suffering from general illnesses ie hand, foot and mouth, ringworm, slapped cheek, headlice, conjunctivitis, etc they will be asked not to attend preschool until condition has been treated. **Anyone suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea must not attend preschool until 48 hours after last symptoms.**



Nau mai, haere mai,

Warm greetings to you all in August!

I hope those of you that managed to get away during the school holidays had a fabulous break - perhaps some of you enjoyed some snow. I just love driving down Tram road to

work and seeing our stunning maunga covered in snow!

What does happen here at Preschool?

Everyday is a busy, productive day here at Swannanoa.

Everyday your child/ren is exposed to a rich curriculum, they are surrounded by literacy, oral language, mathematics, science, physical challenges, art, creativity, fun, laughter and aroha.

All of our permanent teaching kaiako are qualified and registered or under-going registration, that is 21 of our staff. While this is quite normal to us here at Preschool this is actually something quite unique and special within the world of ECE. This along with our outstanding teacher to child ratio's ensures that all of the tamariki that join us here at Swannanoa experience the very best education and care.

Working alongside our teaching kaiako are our amazing support kaiako, lunchtime kaiako, permanent relieving kaiako, and administrative kaiako.

By having a really stable staff throughout the centre no matter which role they fulfill ensures that we have quality partnerships with our whānau and their tamariki. These partnerships are key for everyone to have a true sense of belonging and well-being.

So a massive shout out to all of our kaiako!!

Welcome Back:

A very warm welcome back to Dani back from her maternity leave.

Dani along with her daughter Ella have rejoined us in Whakanui 3 days per week and its great having them here with us.

Internal Evaluation:

We have been busy working on our Internal Evaluation around our Centre Values, you may be aware of this by way of conversations or surveys/emails. Thanks to all of you that have given feedback, its really important to us that that everyone can contribute.

We have updated our core values to:

Manaakitanga - respect, care, hospitality

Whanaungatanga - relationships, partnerships

Whakawhiti Kōrero - communication

Kaitiakitanga - guardianship, sustainability, empowerment

You will see these are very similar to what we previously had, and we feel these represent us here at Preschool and are a reflection of our whānau aspirations for their tamariki.

You will see lots more information around these in the next few weeks and hopefully will hear your tamariki talking about them.

Facebook:

Do you follow us on Facebook? A great place to keep an eye on updates and visitors. You will also be seeing regular posts of the amazing learning that happens here at Preschool.

We currently have a few spaces available so if you are thinking you would like extra days please let me know.

I am in the office Monday to Thursday, you are welcome to drop in and see me at anytime.

Nga mihi nui

Jo Dobson

Centre Manager

Whangia ka tupu, ka puawai,

That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows



Multicultural Group

On the week beginning the 10th of August 2020 we will be celebrating Pasifika week.

This coincides with when many of the Pacific Islands celebrate their unique culture and language throughout the months of August and September.

Throughout this week we will be introducing the children to new experiences and activities to help them learn about and appreciate the Pasifika culture. These experiences will include various arts and crafts, baking, trying some new foods, songs and music.

If you have anything that you would like to contribute to this week please see one of the Team Leaders. If your child has something that they would like to bring along and show, such as traditional clothing please feel free to do so. We really appreciate your contributions.

Katrina R, Trish, Chontelle T, Sam F



Policy Review

Follow the link to our current or latest Policy review.

We have a number of Policies and Procedures that guide our practice here at Swannanoa Preschool which we regularly review on a three year cycle.

Policies identify agreed processes that ensure key legislative requirements are met and that we all have a shared understanding of these agreed processes and procedures.

Please find following the link to our latest policy review for your comment.



Bicultural News

July has been a very busy month for us here at Swannanoa Preschool! We have been having lots of fun celebrating Matariki, starting with soup and raranga (weaving) at Swannanoa School, it was so lovely for our tamariki to relax and reconnect with past students over kai.

We have been creating visual mihimihi, kite making and many other fun activities at four year old group as well as sharing lots of ancestral stories and activities across all age groups within centre. Our soup making day was a hit and not surprisingly nearly all of the vegetable soup was consumed with the last pot being gifted to Kids Base at Swannanoa

School which they were most thankful for.

Courtney, Ashlee and Jo have had a very exciting month as we continued on our te reo Māori journey through Te Ahu o te Reo Māori (ki Ngāi Tahu), and celebrating with graduation on the 24th of July at Tuahiwi Marae. Courtney, Ashlee and Jo now hold te taumata tuarua (level 2) certificate in te reo Māori.

Ngā mihi nui whānau,

Your Bicultural Leadership Team

Courtney, Jo, Ashlee, Katrina J and Laura



Whanau Partnership

Emotions sure can be a roller coaster – not only for adults, but also for our tamariki.

For tamariki it can be hard as they often don't understand what emotions they are feeling, or why they are even feeling them in the first place.

We have been supporting our tamariki to develop an understanding of their emotions; having conversations with them, allowing them time to regulate and then express themselves, and using some of the tips below for developing their emotional resilience. At preschool we also use sign language as another way for tamariki to let us know how they are feeling.

If you ever have any questions or concerns just ask any of us and we can see how we might be able to help.

Remember to check out the community noticeboard as you walk in – we will keep you updated with any local event that might be of interest you

Chauntelle, Tash & Sam



Enviroschools News

Kia-ora everyone

Last month the 4 year old tamariki thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Justin from Eco Educate. Justin used the opportunity to educate the tamariki about all the things that use water in our house, and where the water goes from here. He spoke about what can and can't go down the toilet, the children

were great at knowing what shouldn't be put down the toilet and will be able to educate our younger children about this. Justin shared photos with the group of where the water waste goes once it leaves our house and how it gets recycled. Finally he finished off with a story about the importance of saving water.

The children are now starting to use coloured recycling bins on their kai tables to help their understanding and involvement of recycling at preschool.

Brooke, Jan, Jo & Laura



Manaaki News

Welcome to all of our new families. We are excited to have you join us in Manaaki and we look forward to getting to know you all more. You are welcome to come and spend time with us any time and if you have any questions, concerns or would just like a chat please speak with Kaiako.

As part of our programme we have a mat/group time each day at 11.40am. At this mat/group time the children head off into two groups: The Kiwi's and the Moa. The kiwi group is predominately with the younger Tamariki – where they enjoy songs, music, movement, stories. This group time allows the Tamariki the opportunity to participate within a smaller group. The Moa group is generally for the older Tamariki or tamariki who are looking to be challenged a little more. At Moa group time the tamariki are involved in a range of different activities and experiences: - games around numbers and letter recognition, art experiences (painting, clay, construction), sharing of mihi's, group games and much more. If you would like to know more about our mat/group times, please ask Kaiako

Sometimes little bits and pieces from Preschool end up in bags and go home. If you do find bits of equipment, please could you return it, no matter how small – this helps us to keep our resources together and to continue enjoy using. We would love a family photo of all our families that we can add to our whanau tree (you may have seen this in the green room) – by having your family photo on our whanau tree, supports the connection between home and Preschool. If you would like a photo on the tree, you can either email it through to your child's key teacher and we will print it, or you can bring one in for us to add. Have a great month everyone

From all the Manaaki Staff.



Whakanui & Puawai News

We have had lots of new faces join the nursery over the past month! A big warm welcome to you all, we are very excited to get to know you better.

A big warm welcome back to Dani, Dani returns to the nursery team 3 days a week in Whakanui with her new addition Ella. We have also been lucky enough to have a third-year student Laura join us and build some wonderful relationships with our friendly nursery tamariki.

The last month has been spent building relationships with new children and enjoying each other's company. We ensure there are plenty of opportunities for tamariki to interact with us and each other. Our unhurried environments allow for

plenty of time to share stories, smiles and make discoveries alongside each other. Relationships are at the core of what we do, and behind every moment is love, attention and curiosity. We celebrate milestones, we introduce new and interesting resources that provoke interest and excitement and we engage in each meaningful moments.

We make the most of our amazing outdoor environment enjoying tactile experiences in the sandpit, we have even had a visit from a friendly neighbour cat! This has provided much entertainment for all the tamariki and shows the value in our natural environment.

He waka eke noa- We are all in this together

-Whakanui and Puawai Kaiako

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams

New Zealand Sign Language

We will celebrate New Zealand Sign Language in September.

With New Zealand Sign Language week coming up in September we will review the signs we have implemented over the last year. If your tamariki are coming home signing something and you are not 100% sure what this means, please make sure you check in with your NZSL leaders in centre, Courtney (Atawhai), Brooke & Jan (Manaaki) Jenni (Whakanui & Puawai), who will help you.

We are currently looking for a mentor to support our NZSL leadership team in extending on our knowledge of NZSL so if you or anyone you know would be suitable please do let us know!

Keep an eye on our Face book page this month for a video of our tamariki signing 5 little speckled frogs!!!

Courtney, Brooke & Jan



Our Library

Jess is our in-house librarian

Colours-Nga tae!

This month for our window display in the library I wanted to focus on colours-nga tae, these are the colours we focus on in te reo and english throughout our day, through songs, books, painting, drawing, duplo, cars and puzzles.

See if your child/ren are able to name some of the colours

and teach you!

The new Scholastic catalogue is out so check out what's new!

We have also moved the parent library to near the transition to school board as well as there are some books for those getting ready for school if you are interested let the office know you are taking any.

Happy reading,

Jess, Atawhai.



Transition to School

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Parent talk with Brian and Bridie on Monday 27th July.

We really value the input from the school. We hope the information was helpful especially for new parents and that you now have insight in to how Hapu1 works after seeing it in action.

There are some books about transition to school in the parent library if you want to take a look.

This term we have children transitioning to Swannanoa, Fernside, West Eyreton and Ohoka.

If you have any questions or queries about your child/ren's transition please do not hesitate to ask Jess in Atawhai or Kerry in Manaaki.

When the children are ready for school we complete a 'We are Ready' sheet / Ka rite matou with parent help. This is to let the school know a little about the children's interests and strengths. The feedback we have had from the schools has been really positive and they find it very valuable.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry



Atawhai News

Welcome to August and to Term 3! We have been busy over the last few weeks farewelling a couple of children off to school, and welcoming children from Puawai.

You might have noticed our Matariki display; we have extended our celebrations this year having joined in with some of the activities at Swannanoa school; weaving, sharing soup, and reading stories. At preschool we have enjoyed a shared kai of vegetable soup, made our own bread, and enjoyed singing waiata with Manaaki.

Our current focus for planning this term is around encouraging children to be independent, to challenge themselves, and develop their confidence. We'd love to hear

any feedback you have around this – maybe your children are becoming more confident in taking on new physical challenges, or more confident in sharing their emotions, or perhaps they are relishing their independence with everything they do at home – dressing themselves, packing their bags, making their breakfasts!?

The outdoors is always a source of fun and entertainment for our children and with the recent repairs to the sandpit this has rejuvenated the play here; trucks, diggers, and ramps have been especially popular as the children re-create their own construction scenes.

We've been teased with some spring-like days recently which is making us look forward to warmer days ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns just grab one of us to have a chat.

The Atawhai team



Our Vision

We have tweaked our Vision ever so slightly.

Here is the new improved version.... would love to hear your feedback.
