



## Swannanoa Preschool

# Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - December 2020

### COMMUNITY;

Mandeville Bistro & Bar will be open over the Christmas and New Year holidays, check out their facebook page and website for more details.

### A HUGE THANK YOU;

Rebecca Kiesanowski for repairing, painting and giving our Red Bus a fabulous makeover!

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES;

Wednesday 9th December - Atawahi

Friday 11th December - Manaaki

Christmas Closure: Midday Wednesday 23rd December

Reopen: 9am Friday 15th January, 2021

### CONGRATULATIONS:

Liana & Tarquin on the birth of Bjorn, a wee brother for Isla

### THANK YOU;

Sarah Waller and family for the donation of soil for our garden beds.

Julie Tapp for all the gardening

### 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.**

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## Nau mai, haere mai,

We are on the countdown to year end now and in the midst of our fun celebratory week.

**The tamariki are enjoying dress up and bike days, parties and baking yet to come, a very busy week here at Swannanoa!**

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### Our new build:

Every day brings us a little closer to moving into our amazing new space, the painters have been through, the kitchen is in, the floor coverings are being laid this week, and the staff are very excited!!

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### Our amazing Committee:

I would like to say a massive thank you to our committee members - Kristy, Kate, Jo, Amanda and Jane.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our amazing Preschool. We are lucky to have a great group of ladies who give up their time and lend their expertise.

We are sad to be saying farewell to Kate at the beginning of next year as Ollie heads off to school. Kate has been a fabulous member of our committee, very generous with her time and always enthusiastic!! All the best Kate and we know we will stay in touch :)

With Kates departure we are looking for a new Committee Member, please feel free to drop in and have a chat to Jo or Kristy (our Chairperson) as to what is involved.

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### **Our amazing Team:**

A huge shout out to our amazing team of staff here at Swannanoa, we have a total staff of 40!! Everyone works really hard to make Swannanoa the very special place it is. How special? Many of our staff have been here with us in excess of 10 years and one very special teacher has been with us since the day we opened!!

### **What else makes us extremely special??**

Our tamariki and their whānau :) Without all of you we simply wouldn't be here! You all contribute to making our Preschool and community what it is. We all thank you for all the support you show throughout the year - most especially in 2020, a year like no other.

I hope you all have a lovely break over the holiday period and get to spend some quality time doing whatever it is you choose to do.

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### **Christmas Raffle**

The foyer is filling up!! Thank you so much for your generous donations and for selling tickets. Good luck everyone!

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### **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.

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***We currently have very few spaces available in the New Year so if you are thinking you would like extra days please let me know.***

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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*

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## Whakanui & Puawai News

Christmas is creeping around the corner and Whakanui have been getting into the Christmas spirit with lots of music and Christmas themed activities.

The children have loved hearing new songs and playing instruments along with the tunes. Music ignites all areas of child development, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music helps

them learn the sounds and meanings of words and understanding new and fun ways to express themselves!

There has also been lots of sensory fun as is the current focus in Whakanui at the moment and kaiako have enjoyed expanding on this interest with a Christmas twist- lots of smiling red faces! We look forward to building excitement as the end of the year unfolds, and our brand new space isn't far away!!! So much room for activities!!

In Puawai the baubles on the tree haven't lasted very long but we have enjoyed exploring them and other Christmas traditions in different ways. We use familiar interests like water play and mix them up with Christmas colours and decorations for the children to explore. Combining familiar with new gives the children a sense of wonder while also feeling empowered by predictability. We really enjoy putting small twists on experiences and we do love a good theme! Our Christmas wall in Puawai is evolving as lots of new art work gets added and we share time together painting paper, plates, leaves and anything we can get our hands on! This wide range of materials ensures our busy Puawai children develop new creative strategies as they explore.

As we draw close to the end of a very busy year we enjoy reflecting on how far the children have come, we remember when they first started and celebrate all the amazing milestones they have reached as well as the strong relationships we have built with you all. We look around at the happy, busy, curious and confident children that we get the pleasure of spending our time with and are extremely grateful to be supporting them along their learning journey.

*He waka eke noa- We are all in this together*

*-Whakanui and Puawai Kaiako*

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams

**Hip Hip Hooray**  
**It's Christmas party day.**  
**Ahauhai**

**Wednesday**  
**9<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am**

Please come and join us on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> December, as we share with you our special Christmas songs and meet Santa.

How the morning will run:

**9.30am** - the children will all gather and sing their special Christmas songs for you.

**9.45am** - Santa will arrive. Everyone will get the chance to see him and have a photo.

**11.00am** - Lulu the Clown will be here to have lots of fun with the children.

Bring your own morning tea and sit down with other families to enjoy the morning.

All families and children are welcome to join us today. However if it is not a day that your child is normally at Preschool, then they must have an adult with them.

We look forward to fun filled morning and sharing it with you.

**Merry Christmas**  
**Everyone.**



## Atawhai News

Can you believe that we are in December! Only a few more weeks left until we are enjoying sunshine and warmth (hopefully!) over the christmas break

We have been busy in the room turning our environment into a festive space, i'm sure that you all would have noticed the arts and crafts creations starting to make their way home!

We have been practicing our songs for the christmas concert; all the children are very eager to meet Santa this year, and we can't wait to see what comes in for our celebration week! Festive bikes, scooters, hats, dresses – I wonder what else there could be!??

If any of you would like to come in and read a story or share with us what you do to celebrate christmas you are most welcome. We'd love to see you, and maybe even a photo or

two of how your family are getting in the festive spirit – some of the tree decorations we have heard about sound fabulous!

Look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas concert this year – 9th December at 9.30am, with some special guests to follow!

Please as always remember to have anamed drink bottle and sun hat each day for your children, and a change of clothes is always handy for any fun water play.

As always if you have any questions or concerns then dont hesitate to ask one of us J

Thanks and have a wonderful christmas celebrating with your families!

The Atawhai team

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## Manaaki News

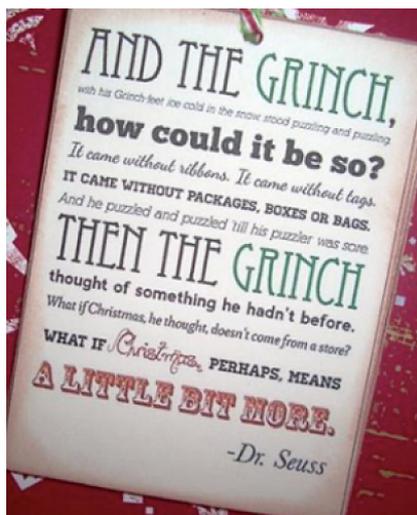
It is hard to believe that it is the December and that the year is coming to an end and what a unique year it has been.

It has been a busy year, with lots of new experiences, discoveries, challenges, friendships and fun. Each Tamariki's learning has taken them in new directions and enabled them to grow, be confident and empowered. You will be able to see this in your child's learning journal - which you can take home over the holidays and enjoy sharing. With Christmas just around the corner we are looking forward to our Christmas celebration week - which the 7th - 11th of December. This week will end with our Christmas party on Friday the 11th December - Our little concert will begin at 9.30am, with a very special visitor arriving after this. We would love to see you all here, to share this with your tamaiti. If you have any questions about this please speak with kaiako. Please remember to sunblock your tamaiti before arriving at Preschool and put in a named sun hot.

With the weather warming up, it is important that we are protected. Before the end of the year please check the lost property, to see if you are missing anything. Any lost property that is not claimed will be donated to charity. Our last day at Preschool for the year is Wednesday the 23rd December at 12pm. Thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and enjoy time with your family over the holidays.

Merry Christmas from the Manaaki team

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## Whanau Partnership

Welcome to the festive season! It sure can be a busy time of year with lots of celebrations, parties, festivals, family gatherings, and of course Christmas itself.

Children get so excited at this time of year; excited for seeing Santa, for decorating their christmas trees, for seeing the pretty lights, and for chatting about their summer holiday plans.

They really do get enjoyment from engaging in simple tasks alongside you; maybe they could decorate their bedroom, or they could wrap a couple of gifts up to go under the tree. Keep an eye on the community noticeboard for any local christmas festivities coming up, they can be a fun way to spend time together and get into the christmas spirit J

Make some special memories together over the summer break; have a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Chauntelle, Tash & Sam

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## Enviroschools News

What an exciting year 2020 has been for the enviroschools group, getting our green gold award has been such a massive achievement!

Thank you to the families and whanau who continue to support us with this journey. A massive thank you to the Waller family for the delivery of a huge load of soil for the Manaaki vegetable gardens, the children loved being involved in transporting this to the garden beds, so we can plant our vegetables! You might just see some of this produce available on the kai swap stand in the new year.

Brooke, Jan, Jo, Dayna, Rebecca and Dani

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## Transition to School

The end of the year is fast approaching and our last school visits are taking place.

Please remember if your child is turning five next year take the time to go to the school and have a look around, meet the principal and staff.

Please let the office and key teacher know your leaving date asap.

We establish strong relationships with our surrounding schools and these collaborative relationships help our children experience successful transitions.

Heading in to 2021 Kerry Hill will continue to be the Transition to School liaison person in Manaaki and Jess Heidmann will continue to be the liaison person in Atawhai.

Please feel free to come and see us about any questions you may have.

All the best for a safe and happy holiday.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry

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## Our Library

Jess is our in-house librarian

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## The Champion Centre in Christchurch does an amazing job working with infants, young people and their families.

One of their staff, Sonya, is raising money for the Champion Centre and shaving her gorgeous hair! :)

If you are able to make a small donation here is the link to the give a little page.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/losing-the-locks-for-our-champions>

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## New Zealand Sign Language

Courtney, Brooke, Jenni & Jan

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## Multicultural Group

Throughout the months of November and December tamariki have been participating in a variety of Christmas activities celebrating and reflecting our unique cultures within the preschool. We would love to hear about the ways you celebrate Christmas at home with your family, such as songs you sing and traditions you observe. Feel free to email through any photos as we would love to include these in our Christmas displays around the classrooms.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Katrina R, Trish, Chontelle T, Sam F

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