



December Newsletter

Dec 2014 Volume 12 Issue 14

It's December!!

We have had an incredibly busy and productive year and I would like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU AND WELL DONE to all of our staff here at Swannanoa Preschool, they do an amazing job and you couldn't ask for a better bunch!

Thank you also to our Committee, we have a fabulous committee who do a great job of governing the centre and a multitude of other things!

To all our families and whanau, thank you for entrusting us with your precious tamariki, and for all you do for our Preschool. I wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year and hope you're not too frazzled after the mad lead up!

Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party date will be Friday
12th December at 12:30pm
Put the date in your diary.



FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Will not be held this Friday

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year at our monthly coffee morning.

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General Reminders:

Please name all clothing, bags, bottles, lunch boxes etc

Please pack a change of clothes

Please use recyclable lunchboxes etc, we are an EnviroSchool

Can you please notify us well in advance what date your child will start school

Please phone in if your child is absent for the day

Please apply sunscreen on your child before coming to preschool and we will apply again during the day

Please remember that water in drink bottles is best for children. The teachers will make sure that drink bottles are refilled with fresh water as needed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Carissa Lynn and Paul Harrington on the birth of Autumn Rose, a sister for Austin

**Kerry & Jacob Brownlees
On the birth of Macy, a wee sister for Jack**



Nursery News - From Ange and the Team

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas, as this is our last newsletter for 2014

See you in the New Year.....



Manaaki News

From Ashleigh and the Team

Wow, December is here! What a wonderful year it has been. We have welcomed a number of new families into Manaaki while also farewelling some that have moved on in their lives. This time of year is exciting but busy, remember to take time to reflect on how much your children have grown, and to look back at the special memories you have made with them. We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Party on 12th December (see notices or a teacher for more info). The children have been practicing their Christmas songs to entertain you with on the day. The teachers in Manaaki would like to thank parents and whanau for their ongoing support, we are a community of learners and we appreciate your input into our Programme. We look forward to hearing about your Christmas adventures when we return to preschool for another fun filled year in 2015.

Welcome back and congratulations to Nic who has just completed her Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

Nic has worked very hard this year, balancing work, study and family and should be very proud of her efforts. Nic will be working Monday to Thursday starting in 2015.

If anyone (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends etc) would like to come and do Christmas things with the children you are more than welcome. In the past we have done baking, art and craft, and Christmas stories and songs.

We are on the hunt for a couch. Preferably in good condition and easy to keep clean. Let Ashleigh know if you think you could help.

We are in need of plastic bags if anyone has any spare at home.

Please return your child's profile book to their profile teacher before preschool closes for 2014 so that we can finish adding to them for the year. A lot of work goes into these books, please see a teacher if you think yours may be lost!

The inquiry group have been busy investigating the ocean/sea with Katrina this term. This has been concluded with a very exciting trip to Waikuku Beach. We really appreciate all the support we have had from parents/whanau during our inquiry this term. The inquiry group meets each day at 10.30am in the green room and the focus is led by the children with the support of a teacher. Next term we will start a new inquiry which will be led by a different teacher. Please remember to check out the green room to see what our little explorers have been doing!

Atawhai News

From Kerry and the Team

The children have been learning about the importance of protecting their skin from the sun's harmful rays. I hope that they can recall some of the facts they have learned. Please continue to sun block them in the morning.

We will be busy making Christmas decorations for the preschool and for home from now to the end of term. Please feel free to bring in any colourful or sparkly odds and ends for collage work.

Thank you for everyone who has sent back the short questionnaire about the input to the learning journals. Your support is very much appreciated

Could you please return your child's learning journal so that the last stories of the year can be added. You are welcome to take them for the holidays to share with your family.

Don't forget the Christmas party. It is a very relaxed affair. The children have been practicing the songs for the concert and are very proud of their achievement. DONT MISS OUT!

We hope to see you all at the party but, as this is the last news letter of 2014, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see the greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself

Would anyone have any nails they would like to get rid of?

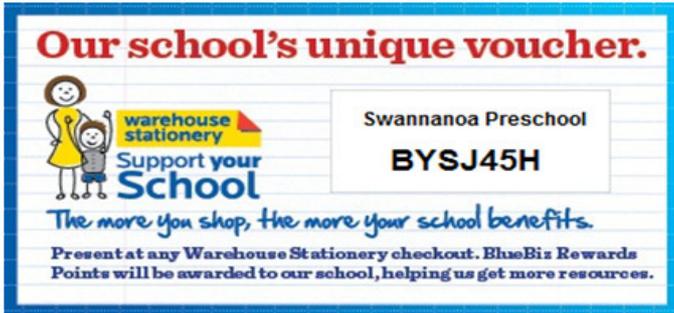
We would love to have them for our carpentry area

Is anyone able to source us some UN TREATED wood for our carpentry area?



- Jo Taylor, Grant Carrington and Bella for the awesome tree they made for Manaaki
- Andrea Whittingham for donation of plants
- Kelly Fleming for planting the herb garden in Manaaki
- Fiona Fulton for the undies!
- Graham Moss for the garden tools
- Brenda Richardson for donation of Huggies Puzzle Toy to Nursery
- Hatherall Family for donation of the many puzzles
- New World who donated a 'checkout' for the children
- Don Stott for putting up the Hope and Aspirations Tree

- To everyone who helped to put our Hopes and Aspirations tree together - it looks terrific. You can start thinking about your hopes and aspirations that you have for your tamariki (children), whanau (family), the preschool and the wider community - we will be attaching these to the tree.
- Aimee Roodts, brother in law for putting up the welcome sign made by Jan
- Matt Howden for bringing his chainsaw in to cut up some big logs - the children enjoyed this!



When purchasing items in either The Warehouse or Warehouse Stationery please present our unique number

BYSJ 45 H

and we will benefit directly as a result.

Children's Learning

Tikanga Practices



TEXT REMINDERS

We aim to communicate in a variety of ways to ensure our parents/whanau are fully informed of preschool happenings—to receive text reminders,

TEXT THE FOLLOWING

MESSAGE TO:

8987

follow SwannanoaP

Make sure the spelling and capital letters are accurate. Note: there is no gap in 'SwannanoaP'

Tikanga Māori - Protocols overview

Tikanga can be described as general behaviour guidelines for daily life and interaction in Māori culture. Tikanga is commonly based on experience and learning that has been handed down through generations. It is based on logic and common sense associated with a Māori world view.

At Swannanoa Preschool we use tikanga in our every day practice, this demonstrates our commitment to bi-cultural partnership in Aotearoa New Zealand and respect for The Treaty of Waitangi.

Examples of Tikanga

- We use relevant greetings, karakia and waiata to show hospitality
- We have respect for sleeping children and do not step over them, we sleep the children feet to feet or head to head, we try not to pat, stroke or rub children's heads – heads are te tapu (sacred)
- We do not sit on tables or allow children to sit on tables
- We do not change babies on the table, we use the change area in the bathroom
- We do not allow children to sit on the cubbies—this is where their food is kept
- We do not sit on food preparation surfaces
- If we use harakeke (flax) for art purposes we use the older, outer leaves and allow the young leaves the chance to grow. We bury the unused flax back under the plant. We say a karakia (prayer) before we cut.
- We say a karakia before our meal to thank everyone for the preparation of food.

Participating in a different culture takes time and patience. If you are unfamiliar with tikanga, learn as much as you can from as many sources as possible. Learning about tikanga will enrich your experiences with the culture and improve your ability to participate fully.

We hope that you will support us as we develop our knowledge and practice in the future.

December 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Christmas Party	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Preschool Closes 12 midday	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				