



## Swannanoa Preschool

# Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - February, 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

Monday 10th February - Camping Day

Tuesday 25th February - Bike Day

### CONGRATULATIONS;

Hayley & Stacey Cunningham on the birth of Ruby a sister for Max.

### THANK YOU;

Kelly & Addie Fleming for donation of toys and books.

Archie Moore's Dad for picnic tables in each classroom.

Anna Allen for donation of duplo blocks.

Wendy Davis for donation of toys to Whakanui.

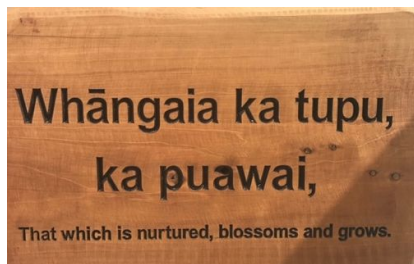
Fiona Buhler for donation of wood off-cuts.

### REMINDERS;

During these very hot days all children must wear their hats and have sun screen applied. Can you please provide your child with **a named sunhat** each day, as all children are required to have one on outside. We apply sunscreen to the children before lunch, so **please** can you **ensure** that you have **applied sunscreen in the morning**. If you would like your own sunscreen applied, can you bring one in for us.

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.**



## Welcome back to Preschool!

I hope you have all had a wonderful break, I'm loving hearing about the adventures and happenings from our tamariki.

We have farewelled many tamariki off to school over the past couple of months, it is such a privilege for us to be part of their lives and be confident we have helped instill in them a love for learning, a curiosity in the world around them and a confidence to succeed.

In turn we are welcoming many new tamariki - we trust you will love being part of our Preschool and our community.

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

We have had a few spaces open up in our Under One environment - this is a truly special space and I would encourage you to drop in and have a look if you think it might be for you.

### Whānau Picnic:

We are holding a whānau picnic to welcome everyone back on Tuesday 25th February, we will have some waiata from the tamariki - showcasing our new 'Guardians song', we will be celebrating our Green Gold Enviroschools award and will be sharing our in-house Leadership Groups.

More details to follow, we really hope you can make it!

### **Building Works:**

or 'Jo's new office' as it is better known by!! is well underway, the builders are doing a great job with minimal disruption - just a bit of noise here and there which keeps us on our toes!

We are really looking to the extra space!

### **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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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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## **Manaaki News**

Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and have enjoyed the holiday period. We have been enjoying hearing all about what the children have been up to. If you would like to bring in photos that we can share, that would be great.

A warm welcome to the new children and families that have joined us, we look forward to getting to know you. If you have any questions at all, please speak to us. We have also

said good bye to a number of children who have headed off to school.

As the term begins in Manaaki we are focusing on supporting the children's independence and respect - respect for each other, the environment and our resources.

To support the children's independence we are encouraging all children to unpack and pack their bags (putting away lunch boxes and drink bottles) opening their own lunch boxes, making sure that their belongings are in their bags, and where appropriate changing themselves. To help support this, it would be good if you are able to encourage your child (where appropriate) to carry their own bag into and out of Preschool and to unpack their own lunch boxes and drink bottles. Small things like this are a great early step for school readiness.

To support the children's understanding of respect, we have been discussing how we look after our belongings - our own and those of the preschool. Children are supported and encouraged to put away things when they have finished playing with them. They are reminded of how to appropriately use the toys and equipment, also if we all look after things we will all enjoy them for a long time. We use the term 'respect' frequently when talking with children about how they speak or behave with each other - there are always ways to do this that is respectful.

Please remember that you are welcome to spent time with us in Manaaki at any stage.

If you have any questions, please speak to us.

The Manaaki Team

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## Atawhai News

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you have had a fantastic break over Christmas and New Year, and made some special memories with your families. If you have any photos that your children would like to share then we would love to see them! We have heard many stories about what everyone has been up to – sounds like lots of fun has been had!

With school starting back we have been farewelling a number of children and their families, and with that we have also been welcoming new children and families who are transitioning into Atawhai. Lots of new relationships forming and resettling as we begin a new year.

The weather is definitely still very warm so please make sure that all children arrive at preschool with a named sunhat, drink bottle, and sunblock already applied. We will be doing

lots of water play to keep ourselves cool so make sure there are changes of clothes, as well as your child's wet bag in their bag each day.

Our whānau tree is looking a little bare so we would love to have an updated family photo; you can either bring one in for us or email it through to us and we will print it off for you.

As always if you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to ask!

The Atawhai team

From the Atawhai team

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## Whakanui & Puawai News

Welcome back for 2020 we hope you had a lovely break and are ready for a great year ahead! The first few weeks have been spent reconnecting and settling back into routines. We have welcomed some new faces in Puawai Pearl, Nora and Maclan and in Whakanui we have been getting to know our new friend Hannah!

The weather has been super warm (if you haven't noticed already 😊) so there has been lots of time for exploring outside!

In Whakanui we have enjoyed water play in many different forms; cornflour, mud, sprinklers, and just all-round splashing! A great way to cool down as well as providing

valuable opportunities for social interactions!

In Puawai we are noticing the formation of friendships as the children enjoy reconnecting and exploring alongside one another! We value the unhurried opportunities we give tamariki to engage with one another and are celebrating their social skills developing in new contexts. We are blown away by how much all the children have grown and are marvelling at the new skills they have picked up over the holidays; new words, phrases, songs are all shared with pride and confidence, we will continue to nurture their growing oral language.

It has been great reconnecting with all the families, we enjoy hearing stories of your adventures and spend time chatting with the children about these long after you have said goodbye. We also try to incorporate some of these at-home experiences into their play to build connections between Preschool and home. Also, have you had a peek at the new and improved Puawai sleep room? With fairy lights and snowflakes, we have created a magical space for children to enjoy their sleep together.

A reminder that we really appreciate children being sun blocked prior to arriving, hats and changes of clothes! We cannot wait to see what 2020 will bring! Welcome back 😊

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams

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## Enviroschools News

Welcome back everyone! The Enviroschools Leadership Team are looking forward to continuing our high standards of supporting and teaching our tamariki and whanau about the environment.

We will be having an information day at the end of February to coincide with the whanau picnic. We will also celebrate our Green / Gold Enviroschools Award with Toni and Andrea from Enviroschools Canterbury. We look forward to seeing our whanau there.

If you have a green thumb or are interested in learning about vegetable gardening we will be planting our communal garden next week with the children. Your help would be much appreciated!

We are also continuing with the kai swap stand so if you have any produce / eggs / honey etc to swap please feel free to donate - the stand is at the end of the parking lot.

We are continuing with teaching the children about package free lunch boxes. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Brooke, Jan, Jo and Laura

Ka kite

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## New Zealand Sign Language

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## Bicultural News

Kia ora e te Whānau!! Welcome back.

We hope you have all had a relaxing break with lots of fun, laughter and memories made. We will be kicking the year off with a whānau picnic on the 25th February with a Hui tanguru, please do come and make yourself known to the Bicultural Leadership Team and share any suggestions, wants, needs or feedback. From there we will gather your voice and as a rōpū we will set our bicultural annual plan for the centre.

Our first focus this year is to seek professional development to support us in our growth of te reo Māori. Jo, Ashlee and myself have expressed an interest in some local P.D.

As we have struggled to find a Kapahaka kaitātaki we decided what better way to learn than by throwing ourselves in the deep end and facilitating waiata hui ourselves. We will start the year by recapping the basics.

### **Weekly time? End of day, invite parents?**

We are looking forward to busy year of growth for our bicultural practice.

Ngā mihi nui whānau,





## Transition to School

Welcome back to a new preschool year! Yay to 2020!

We are starting the year off with a number of our children heading off to school, we wish them well.

This year Kerry will take over from Penny and join the transition team.

If you have any questions or need any information about transition to school please feel free to ask Jess in Atawhai and Kerry in Manaaki. Your child's Key Teacher will also be able to help you out.

School visits will start as schools open and get going.

If your child is four please make sure you have enrolled them in your local school and if not make an appointment to have a tour and meet the Principal.

We will look at having a parent talk at Swannanoa School in Term Two.

Please feel free to have a chat if you have any questions.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry

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## Have you seen our Library?

Jess is our in-house librarian -

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