



Swannanoa Preschool

Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - February, 2021

THANK YOU;

A big Thank you to Pauline Howden who has donated some wonderful duplo, puzzles and a bike to us. The children love these. Thank you to Ethan's dad for repairing our bikes.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Ella Diver's family on the arrival of Hugo.

Congratulations to Luna Corbett's family on the arrival of Lily.

REMINDERS;

- **Our operating hours are 9am until 3pm**, strict adherence to these times is required. Our Fees Policy states - A penalty fee will be charged for tamariki/children picked up after 3:00pm. This is \$25 per tamaiti/child. If you are more than thirty (30) minutes late, there will be a further \$25 charged per tamaiti. Please ensure you are at preschool before 3:00pm to pick up your child.

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,

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a great break whatever it was you were doing.

It's great to get back and hear all the stories from our tamariki. We have said farewell to approximately 26 tamariki as they head off to school over the past couple of months, we wish them all the best and are confident that they will thrive after their time here at Swannanoa.

We have also welcomed a number of new tamariki and their whānau into the Preschool. We know you are going to love your time here. If you have any questions - no matter what, please don't hesitate to ask any of our staff.

Our new build:

Its all but done!! The staff and the tamariki are loving the new space, its huge, its light, its amazing!! But best of all it has brought the two nursery spaces and teams back together. The connections with Atawhai and Manaaki have been strengthened also, fulfilling our Centre vision of 'Kotahitanga' *unity, togetherness, oneness*. We just love it.

If you don't have a tamaiti in the nursery but would like to have a look through please let us know and we would be happy to show you :)

We have a few touch ups inside to finish and also in our outdoor area and then we are done!

Following this our plan is to paint Atawhai and Manaaki the same beautiful colour and then sit back with a nice cup of tea and admire it all!

Thank you to everyone for your patience and encouragement throughout our build. We have the most amazing community!

Staffing:

Congratulations to Rachael... Rachael has been a student over the past year with us - moving throughout the Centre. Rachael graduated at the end of last year and we are very happy to say that she will be continuing with us in a permanent role in Puawai!!

Well done Rachael and welcome to the team!

We are currently advertising for a permanent position in Atawhai and will keep you updated on progress. If you know of any amazing teachers out there be sure to tell them to check our website.

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 (we would welcome a gent at any time!) who give up their time and lend their expertise.

We are sad to be saying farewell to Kate 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.

Update on the new Food Regulations:

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have introduced new food and eating guidelines and ECE regulations, these came into effect as of the 25th January.

You should have received an email from me with the detail around this last week.

There isn't a great deal of immediate change for us here as we don't provide food for the tamariki. However we do encourage you all to read the guidelines and make adjustments where you can.

This is to ensure the safety of all our tamariki. :)

Suggestions

If you have any suggestions or ideas for us here at Preschool we would love to hear them, we are a community based, not-for-profit Preschool - everything we do is for our tamariki, whānau, staff and community!

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 very limited spaces available. If you are thinking you would like extra days please let me know so I can plan accordingly.

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



New Zealand Government

The Ministry of Health

and the Ministry of Education have introduced new food and eating guidelines and ECE regulations which all Early Learning Centres and Preschools must follow.

These came into effect as of the 25th January, and all Early Learning Centres and Preschools must follow them.

There are four key features which we, as a Centre need to follow.

1. Children are supervised and seated while eating.

There is no change for us here.

We currently follow this practice

Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services

Released 2020

health.govt.nz

2. There is an adult present at all times (for every 25 children attending) that must hold a first aid qualification.

There is no change for us here.

ALL of our permanent teaching team hold a first aid qualification and undertake a refresher every 2 years.

That is 21 of our staff!

3. Where food is provided by parents, we (Swannanoa Preschool Inc.) MUST promote best practice as set out in the Ministry of Health: *Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services* and MUST provide to all parents a copy of this document.

Please find this document attached.

You are encouraged to follow these guidelines when providing food for your child.

A breakdown of this information is displayed over the page.

4. Where food is provided by the service, we MUST follow the guidelines as laid out in Ministry of Health: *Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services* (Document attached.)

When we (Swannanoa Preschool) are providing food within our curriculum practices (such as cooking, science experiments etc) we MUST follow the guidelines within this document.

We will be discussing these guidelines as a team over the next couple of weeks and in consultation with our parents and whānau will decide if we need to update any of our policies relating to food and reducing choking risk.

We understand these guidelines may impact on what you wish to send for your child to eat in their lunch box and welcome any discussion or queries.

Ngā mihi

Jo

Centre Manager



Atawhai News

Welcome back to all our families!

It has been so lovely to see you all and to hear all of the stories about the fun things you got up to over the summer break. We would love to see any photos you have from this time so feel free to print some off to share, or email them to chauntelle@swannanoapreschool.org.nz and we can print them for you :)

We have farewelled a number of children who are beginning primary school this year; some very eager and excited young students who we hope will come back to see us again one day soon! We have also been lucky enough to welcome a number of new families into Atawhai over the last couple of weeks as well. Everyone has settled in really well and we are looking forward to getting to know you all a bit better as the year goes on.

Summer is still here with us for a while longer (hopefully!) so please do make sure that your child has a sunhat, drink bottle, and sunblock applied prior to arriving at preschool; we will re-apply just before lunchtime. Spare clothes are always a good idea too - especially when we have water play out on those warm and sunny days :)

If you ever have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask one of us.

The Atawhai team



Manaaki News

Welcome back to Preschool everyone.

We hope that you all enjoyed your holidays and had wonderful times as families. We love hearing about what you got up to and have started a special display board with the photos you have been sharing with us - it looks like you have all had a great time. Welcome to our many new children and families. Over the coming term we look forward to getting to know you, and supporting you, making sure you

feel a sense of connection and belonging within Manaaki. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please speak with a kaiako. We are excited to welcome Ashleigh back from her maternity leave. She will be working with us on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is great to have her back and she looks forward to seeing you all again and meeting all the wonderful families that have started in her absence. You would have noticed the wonderful extension that has now been completed, it looks amazing. We are lucky enough to gain some extra space in what was Whakanui - which we will slowly be moving into.

As the term is beginning it is a good time to remember that we ask you to please sunblock your child before you arrive each day and we will reapply it around 11am each day. Please also make sure that you have a named hat in your child's bag - as they will need a hat on in order to play outside (we do have a few spare hats, but not enough for everyone, so please put one in - we want everyone to enjoy being outside whilst being sun safe). Many of you would have taken your child's learning Journal home over the holidays to enjoy. Please can you return these to us, so that we can continue to add to them. We would love to hear if there have been any changes to your child's routines, interests etc that you would like to share with us.

Manaaki team



Whakanui & Puawai News

Welcome back and welcome to our fancy new space! How big is it! How great is it!

Our tamariki have come back happy, settled and ready to explore.

It's amazing to see the incredible relationships built with key teachers remaining so strong that each child can feel safe and secure after 3 weeks away- a real credit to our amazing kaiako nursery team.

A big welcome to Rachael, who is our new permanent staff kaiako in Puawai. She completes the team alongside Sam, Sam, Dayna and Emily. In Whakanui we have our amazing trio Dani, Jenni and Tash supporting our youngest as they grow and challenge themselves in a new environment.

The children have mostly enjoyed pottering around and exploring each new corner of the room. The outdoor space with the slide and the lush grass opens up endless opportunities.

This month has been all about enjoying the new and reconnecting with each other in our unhurried, calm and fun new space.

We look forward to the rest of the year with you all and hope you had a wonderful break!

See you soon

Nursery Kaiako

He waka eke noa- We are all in this together

-Whakanui and Puawai Kaiako

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams



Transition to School

Welcome back to preschool for 2021!

Our transition to school team for 2021 is, Jess from Atawhai and Kerry from Manaaki. We work closely with schools to arrange and support an easy transition to school for our tamariki.

We wish all our tamariki turning five this month all the very best for the school year.

We have a strong relationship with our surrounding schools and these collaborative relationships help our tamariki experience successful transitions.

We are always available to talk with you about anything to do with your child's transition to school: i.e. contacting the schools, speaking with teachers, enrolment packs and zoning information.

If your child is turning five this year, take the time to go to their school and have a look around and to meet the principal and staff.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry



Multicultural Group

Term four last year we began to celebrate kiwiana. How do we celebrate being a kiwi? It was fantastic to observe tamiriki involved in the variety of experiences we offered.

We have chosen to extend this focus throughout term one this year as we feel there is still so much to explore and celebrate.

The multicultural group will be meeting soon to discuss ideas and will share further information in the March news letter.

Katrina Read



Our Library

Jess is our in-house librarian

Welcome back it's 2021!

I hope you have all had a wonderful break and are ready for the new year!

The display window at the library will be changing monthly throughout the year so check it out.

Please feel free to recommend any books you think the children might enjoy and any teacher resources that might be useful for our Kaiko.

Jess



Bicultural News

Ngā mihi o te tau hau! Happy New Year and welcome to 2021!!!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break! I am so excited to see where our bicultural journey takes us this year. I would love to hear what you are interested in learning and what some helpful resources may be that we could provide for you to continue developing your knowledge of te ao Māori and te reo Māori outside of preschool, I would love

to know so please do flick an email to

courtney@swannanoapreschool.org.nz or come and see me at any time!!

Ka kite ano

Your Bicultural Leadership Team

Courtney, Ashlee, Rachael, Laura & Jo



Enviroschools News

The tamariki have been excited to return and see just how much their seedlings have grown which they planted at the end of the last year.

They have taken the responsibility to ensure the plants have been getting plenty of water on the hot sunny days. Not only have the vegetables grown a lot, but so have the lovely plants in our large outdoor environments. It has been awesome to see the tamariki taking responsibility to care for their environment and helping with the pruning process of some of our overgrown shrubs. This term we want to have a go at making some paper bricks! Which we plan to place on our swap stand for you to take home for fire lighting this winter. Speaking of the swap stand, we also plan to move this to a more convenient location – so keep an eye on this.

We may need some muscles to help move it, so we welcome any volunteers for this task.

Brooke, Jan, Jo, Dayna, Rebecca and Dani

New Zealand Sign Language

Is New Zealand Sign Language something that is of interest to your whānau? How could we help you learn New Zealand Sign Language at home? If there is any way that the NZSL leadership team could help you we would love to hear!!!

Courtney, Brooke, Jenni & Jan
