



## Swannanoa Preschool

# Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - July 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

Friday 3rd July - Bike Day

### THANK YOU;

Stacey Davis for donating the baby spoons in Whakanui.

Maisy and her family for the very kind donations of two flower presses and some moulds for the play dough. This was very kind.

Sophie and her family and Pippa and her family for the donation of spare nappies

### 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.**

---



## It's July!

That snuck up a bit didn't it!

I must say I am over the grey - bring back the frosts and sunny days! However, we had a glimmer of beauty on Thursday - snapped by Marcella, one of our Mums - brilliant pic!

I shall start with a massive thank you to everyone for working with us as we came out of lockdown, it seems like a distant memory now, but your positivity and patience was very much appreciated.

Again, following on from the lockdown if your circumstances have changed, please feel free to come and see me for a chat to see what we can do to help you through these times. Please don't hesitate to do this, we are a community based preschool and we are here for you.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Staffing:

I am please to welcome Chantelle aboard in a student teacher position - Chantelle is undertaking her first year of study and has had a great start with us.

You will see Chantelle throughout the centre.

It is great we can have students throughout the centre - they bring a lovely new lens on things and allow our kaiako some time to do all the 'extra' things we strive to do to make Swannanoa the special place it is.

We have also had a small shuffle within the centre - we do this from time to time, great for kaiako development and collaboration throughout the centre.

Jan has moved into Manaaki and is loving using her creative skills with the tamariki and taking mat times!

Sam M has moved into Puawai - Sam came to us with lots of experience in Nursery and is enjoying getting to know our younger tamariki.

Also in our two nursery spaces Tash is now in Whakanui and Ashlee is in Puawai. Great to be able to move kaiako along with transitioning tamariki and build relationships with all of our nursery tamariki.

Did you know we have 34 staff on our payroll!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Building Works:**

What do you think of our new reception revamp? We are loving the updated look - massive THANK YOU to Axel, one of our Dad's for putting all our bits and pieces back up on the walls in the office.

Exciting progress, plans are in at the council for consent and the tenders have gone out!

A quick re-cap: We are extending the space between the nursery areas to bring them back together and create the most amazing environment. This new space will have great connections to Atawhai and Manaaki enhancing our transition processes and enhancing our vision of One Centre, One Team even more.

We just can't wait!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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**

We have recently created a new Leadership Group which we have named our Multicultural Group.

The core focus of the group is to look at how we can best support the wide range of cultures represented in our preschool and support tamariki to grow strong in their own identity, language and culture. We also aim to provide opportunities for tamariki to increase their knowledge and awareness of other cultures, helping them to value, respect

and appreciate them.

Our goal is to incorporate one cultural celebration in to each term, beginning with the Pasifika Culture in Term Three. We are currently gathering ideas for art/crafts, songs, games and stories that we can incorporate in to our preschool programme. If you have any ideas you would like to contribute please see on of the Teachers from the Multicultural Group.



## Our Vision

We have tweaked our Vision ever so slightly.

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

---



## Manaaki News

June has been a fun month for us, as we have all settled back into the routine of Preschool.

The children have enjoyed reconnecting with each other and spending time together. We have noticed how the children are enjoying opportunities to involve each other in co-operative play – this may be playing ripper rugby, enjoying the cafe area set up, drawing around each other with chalk, constructing with different construction equipment, making volcano's together, taking turns on different challenge courses, swinging each other on swings and in many other ways. Co-operative play enables all children to share, take

turns, listen, communicate, negotiate, compromise, support, encourage, lead and share strengths with each other.

We have also been very lucky to have enjoyed a visit from the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Brigade. We got to hop in the truck, hear the sirens and see the lights and also to squirt the fire hose – wow this was fun. When the Fire Men were here we talked about the number that we call in an emergency – 111. We wonder if this was talked about at home?

The children have also really enjoyed bike day and pyjama day. They thought it funny as to see the teachers in their pyjamas! But they really enjoyed the toast and being able to independently spread it with jam or marmite.

Please remember with the colder weather to have a jacket and hat for your children. We continue to head outside, when it is not raining, to enjoy the fresh air and play. Gumboots are also great to have, stops children from getting wet feet, when they find the puddles!

We always enjoy having you stop and spend time with us in Manaaki. If you would ever like to share a special skill or interest with us, please come and talk to us.

Happy July Everyone.

From all the Manaaki Staff.

---



## Enviroschools News

Kia-ora everyone

Awesome to see more people having a go at a waste free lunch, they are looking great and we really appreciate it! We will soon be re-introducing coloured bins into the class (red, green and yellow) and educating children about what needs to go in each bin. We are also currently in the process of setting up a compost bin to help reduce our paper towel waste. We look forward to a visit from Toni Watts – our Enviroschools facilitator, in the school holidays as we plan our next steps now that we have achieved our green-gold award.

Brooke, Jan, Jo & Laura



## Atawhai News

Bbbrrrr its certainly been very chilly in the mornings over these last few weeks – Jack Frost has been out for sure!

We've been tending to stay inside a little longer so that its not so chilly for little fingers and toes – but when we do venture out the children are loving drawing in the ice, crunching it under their feet, and finding those hidden lumps of ice to crash into the ground!

Please remember to pack in warm jackets and hats for your children – they do love to head outside, but need some layers on to keep nice and toasty warm.

Also naming lunch boxes and drink bottles in the morning please so that we avoid any confusion around whose is

whose.

The family corner play has been a big hit with all our children recently – Rebecca kindly donated some items from home which her children no longer use, and it has gone down a treat!

We are also noticing that the children are enjoying physical activity; whether that be playing Rippa rugby, climbing an obstacle course, or learning how to hula hoop! I wonder if everyone is enjoying this play at home too?

It's been lovely to see you all and catch up with you about where your children are at – everyone returned so settled and are now likely to be on their way with their learning focus so we look forward to seeing where that might take us!

If you have any questions or concerns then please have a chat with one of us.

The Atawhai team



## Bicultural News

We are so excited to have Reece Bonner & Kate Monteath back in centre on a Monday afternoon for waiata hui.

The children and teachers are thoroughly enjoying refreshing our bicultural lenses and reconnecting with the Swannanoa School on a weekly basis.

Over the Matariki period we will be implementing the pūrākau (ancestral story) 'Tamatea Pōkai Whenua'. We have created resources for each room starting with Whakanui and extending on through each age group. A massive thank you to the very talented Kerry for creating knitted dolls of each character for the **pēpē (babies)** in Whakanui.

A photo of this amazing resource has been shared with 'Te Hekenga Tuna' (a group for bicultural leads within ECE across Canterbury), which Jo and Courtney attend. The image also shared with Andre Konia of the Rāpaki Education Committee. Andre was thrilled to see our commitment to our bicultural practice and would like to come and have a look around, exciting stuff!!!!

We have a full month coming up as we celebrate Matariki. We have lots of exciting in-centre activities planned, including raranga (weaving), kite making, bird feeder making, story times, and a soup day!!!

Ngā mihi nui whānau,

Your Bicultural Leadership Team

Courtney, Jo, Ashlee, Katrina J and Laura



## Whanau Partnership

We are in the process of setting up a folder which will house a number of readings and resources to support everyone in a wide range of different areas; from behaviour to sleeping, eating to social skills and developing relationships.

This will live as part of our parent library, which is in the hallway just beside our transition to school board.

If you would like some information on an area in particular then please don't hesitate to ask us and we will see what we can find to support this.

Did you know about our community noticeboard? As you walk in the entry it is located just to the left heading towards Atawhai and Puawai. We are going to be keeping this updated regularly with local events that might be of interest – keep an eye out for any changes!

This month we thought we'd focus on healthy eating – you likely will have heard your children talk about having a healthy choice first when eating their lunches. We try and encourage all our children to choose a healthy item to eat before other items – quite often we even get told "I've had my healthy choice already so now I can have ..." by the children as they're eating.

In case you get stuck for any ideas the photo gives an example of what you may like to include in your child's lunch box.

This link also has some great tips and ideas which may help.

<https://nutritionfoundation.org.nz/nutrition-facts/nutrition-a-z/lunchbox-ideas>

Our younger tamariki can also be enjoying healthy food options as they explore the different textures and tastes of these. Plunket has some great information to help support as our young children begin to show signs of wanting to begin solids.

<https://www.plunket.org.nz/caring-for-your-child/feeding/>



## Transition to School

Kia ora, we have had a number of children doing their school visits. We have been to West Eyreton, Swannanoa and Ohoka schools and have had wonderful visits.

We are celebrating a number of children turning five and wish them all the very best for their new adventure at school.

We welcomed Mr van Lent the Principal of West Eyreton School who came to visit us and enjoyed a tour of our

preschool.

Jackie Stafford, the new entrant teacher from St Josephs School in Rangiora visited along with Caroline Smith, the new entrant teacher from Ohoka School. It is wonderful for the teachers to visit with the children transitioning to their schools and see our preschool environment.

We have organised a parent talk to Swannanoa School on Monday 27th July at 9:30am, we will meet in the staff room at 9:20am and then walk over together.

If you have any questions or queries about your child/ren transitioning to school, please talk with Kerry in Manaaki and Jess in Atawhai.

Our Mahi Tahi group has started back up, meeting each Monday in Manaaki and Wednesday in Atawhai. This is a group of the six oldest children from each room preparing for school

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry

---



## Our Library

Jess is our in-house librarian

This month in the library window there is a display on New Zealand Birds.

Just a reminder:

During the year Scholastic puts out a catalogue of books you can order from. The preschool is awarded points with every purchase made, these points allow us to purchase more

books for our library for all the children to enjoy.

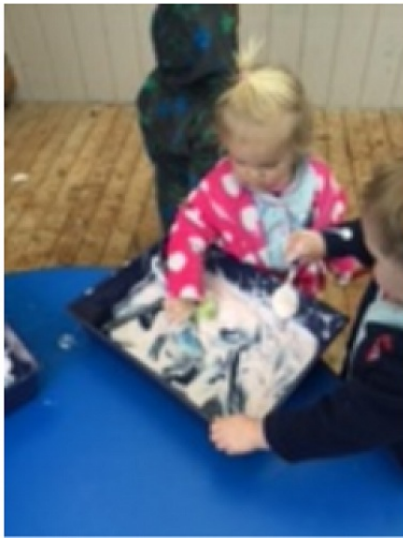
We are very lucky at our preschool to have a designated library space that is warm and inviting where we can run small groups.

Every month I make a display in the window of topics, events and new books we are interested in.

Please feel free to chat with me if you have any ideas of other topics or suggestions you might like to see in the window.

Jess, Atawhai.

---



## Whakanui & Puawai News

This month has been all about messy play!

Thanks to Atawhai for giving us a bit more space in our room we now have a designated art space which we can explore new textures and tactile experiences. Messy play provides children with opportunities to be creative and expressive with each other. We notice lots of interaction, laughs and smiles as the tamariki explore new sensory experiences alongside each other. We use messy play to introduce tamariki to lots of new and rich language; slimy, sticky, cold, etc modelling these words encourages their oral language in a fun and informal way. We have also noticed how amazing the transition in the mornings is as children excitedly hurry to see what is put out for the day, we have made sure to incorporate lots of interests from home and find this supports each child's sense of belonging and

confidence in Puawai.

In Whakanui there has been lots of relationship building as we welcome new children and Tash and Jenni spend time getting to know them and their routines. We have also taken the time to visit between Puawai and Whakanui and Whakanui children are enjoying the kind and gentle interactions from our older tamariki. In Whakanui messy play and physical challenges have been a big focus, watching the tamariki gain confidence in controlling their bodies and celebrating with them when they achieve new milestones!

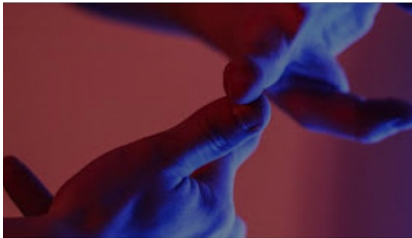
*He waka eke noa- We are all in this together*

*-Whakanui and Puawai Kaiako*

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams

---



## New Zealand Sign Language

The NZSL team have had their first leadership meeting and are super excited to jump back into developing our everyday use of NZSL throughout the curriculum. Keep an eye out for fresh signs being implemented. Our Term Three focus is routine signs, we are also going to be learning '5 little speckled frogs'!!!

Courtney, Brooke & Jan

---