



Swannanoa Preschool

Swannanoa Preschool - Mid Term Newsletter, June 2021

CONGRATULATIONS:

Jess & James on the birth of Sienna

Hazel & Matthew on the birth of Percy

THANK YOU:

Mark Thompson for coming in and helping us to move a big wooden outside table. The new location is great.

Georgie and Asha for the all the fun balloons that you have been bringing and sharing with us.

Ness and Wolf for the kind donation of the blocks and road for the children. The Tamariki have been having a such a great time with these.

Simon Hill for mending our dolls prams. Much appreciated

Ngaio and family, Andrew and family, George, Kayleigh and family for kindly donating table clothes for us to use on kai tables. We are all looking forward to setting the tables before we eat – a special ritual.

Thank you also to everyone for supporting us as we encourage and support all tamariki to wash their hands each morning as they arrive.

EVENTS:

Friday 28th May - Favourite Character Dress Up

Wednesday 9th June - Winter Theme Wheels Day

Tuesday 29th June - PJ Day

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.**



Isn't the Preschool looking amazing!

Later this week our builders will back to finish the connection between

Whakanui and Manaaki.

We will be erecting a dividing wall with a beautiful window to enhance the 'homely' feel of Whakanui.

We are also taking out the art sink area and the wee wall around it in Manaaki as they gain some of the old Whakanui space. This is going to create a fantastic kai space and allow for great interaction between the tamariki in Manaaki and Whakanui.

So the builders will be here on Friday but will keep the disruption to a minimum, and then the plasterer and painter will be in and out next week to tidy it all up!



Whakanui & Puawai News

Lately in the nursery we have noticed a huge interest in books and storytelling.

Children began showing us this strong interest by bringing us special books to read across the day and quite happily sit for long periods of time engaged with the words and pictures.

We have utilised our amazing library space taking small groups there for uninterrupted times together sharing stories as well as rotating books in the space to encourage curiosity and further exploration.

Books and storytelling are a really important aspect of our nursery curriculum, not only does it provide opportunities for oral language to develop and a recognition that symbols can have meaning; but this unhurried time together gives focus and attention to the relationship we have with each child. It shows them that we prioritise time with them above all else and these repetitive, nurturing interactions only cement tamariki's sense of belonging and empower them in the nursery environment. There is nothing quite like snuggling up with a good book!

This focus will inform our group planning for as long as the interest is sustained, it will evolve over the term, with hopefully a visit to Kaiapoi Library for a story time, as well as extending on loved stories from home, book dress up day, and an overall appreciation of storytelling and how it brings us together in the nursery.

He waka eke noa - We are all in this together

Whakanui and Puawai Kaiako

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams



Atawhai News

Welcome to winter! The weather has been so changeable but you can definitely feel that winter is in the air – so please bear this in mind and make sure your children come with appropriate clothing and jackets. We make sure to venture outside most days so it is important your children can keep warm as they explore the outdoor environment.

This term we have focused our group planning around one of our centre values – Kaitiakitanga. This looks at the guardianship and respect which we have for ourselves, each other, and our environment. This is a value which we try and instill in all our tamariki so we would love to hear any feedback which you have around this; maybe an interest in recycling at home (I know I am often reminded what I can and cannot recycle at home!!!)

You may have noticed that we now have worm farm in Atawhai, and we have also set up a compost bin in the shared garden space where our paper towels go each week. Tracy has begun making paper bricks with our other paper towels – these will make for excellent fire starters so look out for them on the kai swap stand

Building and construction is always a strong interest with our tamariki and we are looking for any extra resources or loose parts which we can add to our collection for our budding builders to use. If you have any spare parts then we would love to utilise them

Music and movement is an area of learning which our children all love to be involved with. Recently we have been exploring this through different cultures; the music, dance, and singing. It has been fun to look at these with the children, and to see them engage with music in this way – I wonder if there has been any discussion around this at home?

We would love if anyone has anything special around this they would like to bring in to share with the children – perhaps a certain type of dance or an outfit that fits with a cultural dance?

Matariki is coming up next month so keep an eye out for how we will be marking this occasion – our guardians song will be revived so this too may be sung along at home!

As always if you have any questions or concerns then dont hesitate to discuss these with any of us, we are happy to hel

The Atawhai team



Manaaki News

Throughout the term we have welcomed a number of tamariki who have transitioned from Puawai to Manaaki. These transitions have developed a sense of belonging with tamariki settling well. We also welcome the families of our new tamariki. We enjoy having the time to talk with you and hear about your hopes and dreams for your tamaiti.

All tamariki have a special learning journal, which documents the learning and fun that your tamaiti has during their time at Preschool. These journals are out in Manaaki, for the tamariki and you to sit and enjoy. You are welcome to take these home to share, please just let a kaiako know if you wish to do this. We also like to share with you photos and stories of your tamaiti's day via seesaw and we appreciate the comments that you share back with us.

Throughout the term you would have noticed that we rearrange the classroom space from time to time (family areas becomes a doctors surgery, the blocks get moved to the new space, the couches find a different place).By changing things around it provides a whole new outlook and opportunity, as the tamariki view it as new space that needs to be explored – new play is created and discovered.

The changing of the family area into a small doctor's room has been a popular place to play. Setting up this area has allowed the tamariki to share with each other their knowledge and understanding of what happens when you visit the doctor. They have been enjoying the equipment that is similar to what they have seen the doctor use stethoscope, blood pressure pump, injection, bandages and thermometer. It has also provided opportunities to play and work together, share equipment, listen and contribute to talk about doctors and hospitals and appreciate another person's ideas and understanding.

The continued interest in construction has seen many amazing ideas being created. The open ended ways that the tamariki can use the different construction equipment sees them exploring new ways to challenge themselves. The use of construction equipment is supporting the development of their hand eye coordination, manipulation skills, allowing for trial and error, creativity, sharing equipment with others and pursuing an interest for a sustained period of time.

To support the interest in construction, we have been doing some work on building a wooden structure outside with the wood. There has been a lot of discussion around what could be built. Tamariki have drawn up their own ideas and plans. With the support and guidance of kaiako the tamariki have worked hard at sawing the wood to the size they need for the base – there has been precise measuring to make sure each piece is the length needed, there has been team work as everyone helps each other. The wearing of the work vests was a highlight. However, things came to a halt when we discovered we had no nails – luckily we have now sorted this, so construction can start again.

It is through Exploration/Mana aotūroa that tamariki learn. Tamariki are active thinkers, problem solvers and explorers. They see themselves as explorers, able to connect with and care for their own and wider worlds. In Manaaki we provide an environment that offers a range of possibilities for exploring, planning, reasoning and learning, with space arranged to encourage active exploration.

Please speak to kaiako if you have any concerns, highlights, laughs or would just like a chat.

Manaaki team
