



## Swannanoa Preschool

# Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - March, 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

Tuesday 17th March - St Patrick's Day, wear green

Wednesday 25th March - Wheelathon Evening

Friday 27th March - Bike Day

Wednesday 1st April - Wacky Wednesday

Thursday 9th April - Easter Egg Hunt

### CONGRATULATIONS;

Rachel & Shaun, Sophia and Pippa on the arrival of your son and Brother Ottis

Erica & Marcel, Thea and Heidi on the arrival of your daughter and sister Ally.

### THANK YOU;

Braxton Simpson and family for the donation of the hammer for our carpentry.

The families that very kindly donated nails for our carpentry area.

Marjorie Hicks for donation of clothes to Whakanui and Manaaki.

Maria Hartley for donation of hats to Atawhai.

Fiona Buhler for donation of wood offcuts for our carpentry areas.

### 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.**

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## What a wonderful whānau picnic we had to celebrate our preschool and Enviroschools success

It was such a beautiful evening and a fantastic turnout.

It was really great to see so many families making connections and catching up with each other. Relationships are key to us here at Swannanoa and this was really evident.

We were joined by the Mayor Dan Gordon and our Enviroschools partner Toni Watts to help us celebrate our Green Gold success - very proud moment!

Our tamariki shared some waiata with us - great singing!

And it was really neat to be able to share what our Leadership Groups have been doing throughout the centre. Thanks so much for all your positive feedback.

Look out for our Wheel-a-thon next (25th March), another lovely social event for the tamariki and their whānau.

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### Exciting Staff News:

**Courtney and Sam** have recently got engaged - exciting times ahead, congratulations to you both! We look forward to hearing all about the preparations for the big day.

**Ashleigh** - our Assistant Centre Manager and team Leader in Manaaki - as you will know is due to give birth (very shortly!!) to her first child, Ashleigh will be off on parental leave from the 23rd of March and will be back with us next year. All the best Ashleigh and we are really looking forward to meeting your wee bubs.

With Ashleigh's impending departure we are currently fine tuning cover for her and will finalise and share this very shortly.

However I am really pleased to announce that **Sam M** who has been with us since the end of last year on a fixed term contract has accepted a permanent position with us and will continue on in Manaaki - congratulations Sam, you have quickly become an integral part of our team.

**Our students; Rachael and Morgan** have quickly settled into the student roles and it is great having both of them as part of our team.

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### Currently:

We are well and truly underway with the 'mahi' of the year. Staff appraisals and inquiry goals set, Professional Development being attended, collaboration happening with our wider educational community (The Puketeraki Kahui Ako - our community of learning), Internal Evaluations are underway, all this amongst many other things! Its always busy!

### Building Works:

Our new office space is looking amazing! It has come together just as we imagined. A couple more weeks and we will be nicely settled and truly organised. It has been great having lots of our tamariki come in to check out our progress!

### 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.***

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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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## Our Committee

A massive THANK YOU to Tracy Mckercher who has just finished up with us here at preschool as her youngest Ella heads off to School. Tracy has been amazing on our committee for many, many years - about 6!

Tracy has filled many roles on the committee the most recent being that of Chairperson. Tracy has been a huge support to us all here at Preschool bringing her knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm. We can't thank you enough Tracy

and you will be sorely missed!

All the best Tracy and Ella!

With the departure of Tracy we welcome a new Chairperson.....drumroll.... Kristy Schouten :0) Kristy has been on our committee for the past year and has been a great asset to us, knowledgeable, organised, enthusiastic and involved. We are really looking forward to having her at our helm!

We are currently looking for a couple of new members to join our committee - if you would like to know more please stop by the office and have a chat or talk to one of our committee members :0)

Please read the attached document to meet the rest of the committee and find out a little bit about what they do.

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## AGM

Our AGM is being held at Preschool on Wednesday the 1st April. Start time 7pm. All Welcome.

As part of our obligations as an Incorporated Society and a listed Charity, we hold an Annual General Meeting no later than April every year.

At the AGM we receive reports from our Chairperson, Treasurer and Centre Manager.

These reports look at our performance over the past year.

Part of our business is to accept the Audited Financial Statements - which are then available for all of our parents to view, and to elect the Auditor for the upcoming year - currently AshtonWheelans.

And we also elect the Committee for the upcoming year.

We warmly invite you all to attend our AGM.



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## Atawhai News

We have had such a busy February! Loving all the warm weather so there has been plenty of water play happening, in the sand, water troughs, sprinklers and with ice.

I am sure that you all heard about our camping day! Such a great turnout, we even had marshmallows on the camp fire.

Our current focus is looking at the environment and how we utilise this to ensure all our tamariki are engaged, extended and interested in what we have for them, With this in mind we would love to have any materials and resources which you might have at home and no longer have a use for i.e., jar lids, bottle caps, boxes, ribbons, old pots and pans, wooden spatulas, spoons, egg holders etc. We are expanding our loose parts resources and any of these items would be much appreciated!

We would also love to get our carpentry areas back up and running outside, so if you have any untreated wood at home we could have that would be amazing!

Who can believe it is March already!! The weather is still keeping us on our toes, hot and cold, so please make sure your children come already sunblocked and with hats, as well as drink bottles so they can keep refreshed throughout the day.

As always if you have any questions feel free to ask any one of us.

The Atawhai team

From the Atawhai team

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## Manaaki News

Welcome to our new families. We look forward to getting to know you all. If you have any questions, please speak to Staff.

We would also like to Welcome Rachael who is completing her third year of study in Early Childhood Education at the University of Canterbury. Rachael will be with at Preschool on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 2020. We are excited to support Rachael with her training, as she works alongside us all as a valued Kaiako in our team, please feel free to introduce yourself and say hi.

There has been a lot of interest and many discussions around the fascinating life cycle of a caterpillar. We have been lucky to have had a few caterpillars come to preschool and we have been able to watch as they go through their life cycle. The Tamariki have been very excited watching as the caterpillar goes into its chrysalis. They then watched eagerly each day to see as it came out of the chrysalis and turned into a beautiful monarch butterfly. Having the opportunity to watch this cycle of life has had the tamariki asking lots of questions and sharing their own knowledge and understanding.

Our Group planning for term one is focused around three learning outcomes -

- Recognising and appreciating their own learning – Contribution / Mana tangata
- Understanding oral language and using it for a range of purposes – Communication / ManaReo
- Making connections between people, places and things in their world – Belonging / Mana Whenua

The interest areas of water, oral language and respect support these learning outcomes through different activities and experiences.

Are you able to help - does anyone have a spare saw or saws that we could use in our carpentry area?

We also enjoy having our families come spent time with us throughout the day. If you would like to come in and read stories, do some baking/cooking, share a special skill or interest with us, we would love for you to do so. Please speak to us and we can arrange a time that would work for you.

Happy March Everyone.

The Manaaki Team

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## Whakanui & Puawai News

This month in Puawai our focus has been on sandpit play and new and creative art experiences

We have been getting back into making volcanoes and roller painting. These experiences provide tamariki the opportunity to develop negotiation skills with each other and turn taking, also coming together as a group and working together to

reach a goal. We have also enjoyed teacher swaps within the nursery room where children are getting opportunities to reconnect with old key teachers or meet new faces to support transition.

In Whakanui caring for baby dolls has been a huge interest and kaiako have extended on this with bathing babies and opportunities to care for them through a range of activities. As we have some older children in Whakanui encouraging this nurturing quality supports them to help younger children with routines and empower them to care for others and themselves.

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whakanui & Puawai teams

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## Transition to School

We would like to welcome all the children who have turned four of the last couple of months. All the best to those who are turning five and heading off to school, we wish you well.

Our school visits have started and we have visited West Eyreton, Fernside and Swannanoa.

Please make sure you have enrolled your child in school if they are now four. If you have any questions please feel free to see us, either Jess in Atawhai or Kerry in Manaaki.

We will be organising a parent talk for early in Term two so stay tuned for the date.

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Whanau picnic and talked to us about Transition to School and the Mahi Tahi group it was great to see everyone.

### Mahi Tahi

The coming together of the older children from Manaaki and Atawhai to build relationships and new friendships that will support them as they begin transitioning from Preschool to School.

Mahi Tahi has already commenced for 2020, we are bringing together a small group of children from Atawhai and Manaaki every Tuesday and Thursday for four year old group time.

This is part of our collaborative culture bringing Tamariki and Kaiako together from each end.

Have a Magical March.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry



## Enviroschools News

We were very excited to be presented with our Certificate for our Green / Gold Enviroschools award at the whanau picnic.

Thank you to those children who joined the staff to be presented with this award. Also thank you to the families for joining us in this celebration, and checking out our display to learn more about what we have been doing at preschool to work towards this award. If you missed this evening and

would like to know more information about how Enviroschools is implemented into our curriculum, please see a teacher and we can get a pamphlet emailed to you.

Our swap stand is still located at the far end of the car park, where you can leave produce to swap with other families or take some produce home to enjoy.

This term we have Justin from Eco-Educate coming to educate our Mahi Tahi group. We had our first session on Wednesday the 4th of March where the children learnt about our water cycle, the children enjoyed this visual adaptation and were really engaged. We are looking forward to the next session in April where the tamariki will learn about water waste.

Brooke, Jan, Jo and Laura

Ka kite

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## Bicultural News

Thank you all for attending our whanau picnic! We had some great discussions with whanau around our bilcultural practice across the centre.

As the Bicultural Leadership Group we will discuss where to next for us on our bicultural journey.

This month Ashlee, Jo and Courtney will be attending a two night three day noho marae at Tuahiwi Marae as we begin an exciting three month te reo Maori course, Te Ahu o te reo Maori.

Rachael Howley (currently teaching in Manaaki) will join the Bicultural Leadership whanau. Rachael is completing her final year of her Bachelor of Teaching and Learning ECE with the University of Canterbury. Rachael will be a wonderful addition and help in supporting us on our Bicultural journey at Swannanoa Preschool.

We are really pleased to announce that Reece and Kate from Swannanoa School, along with a group of senior students, will be joining us on Tuesday afternoons at 1pm when we recommence our waiata hui (*formerly known as Kapa Haka*).

Ngā mihi nui whānau,

Your Bicultural Leadership Team, Courtney, Jo, Ashlee, Katrina J and Laura

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## Whanau Partnership

This year we have established a leadership group which will be focusing on ways that we can work in partnership alongside our families and children.

There will be opportunities to network with the local community throughout the year, with a range of different resources and activities available. We will always be available to have a chat if you ever have any questions or are looking for any support.

If you want any more information please feel free to ask.

Thanks, Chauntelle.

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## New Zealand Sign Language

NZSL Sign of the month  
March-Poutūterangi



How are you? kei te pēhea koe?



Emotions/Feelings

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## Have you seen our Library?

Jess is our in-house librarian

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