

May Newsletter

May 2015 Volume 4 Issue 15

Tēnā koutou

I trust you are surviving this plummet in temperature!

Did you know Swannanoa Preschool is a Not for Profit, Community Based Preschool?

All monies received go back into the preschool – spent on such things as resources for the children, upkeep of the building and grounds, wages for the staff and anything else that directly benefits the preschool. It is really important to us that we budget our money wisely so that we can keep our fees at an affordable rate to ensure no child is excluded.

Did you also know that Swannanoa Preschool is overseen by a Governing Board? (Formerly known as 'The Committee'!)

Governance thinks about strategic issues, risks and opportunities and is future facing.

We recently held our AGM, and I would like to welcome and introduce you to our two newest members.

Kate Hill - has taken over our Parent Liaison Role.

Kate has been with us at the Preschool for just over 3 years, and up until very recently has had two boys here with us, Sam still enjoying his time and we trust Harry is loving his new school!

Kate enjoys gardening, her family and the odd spot of water skiing, followed by a nice wine!!

Belinda Leen - has taken over our fundraising role.

Belinda has been with us for just over 18 months and has Louie here at Preschool.

Belinda loves sport, art and photography and socialising with friends over a good wine!!

And welcome back to our existing members

Chris Squire	Chairperson
Dawn Alexander	Treasurer
Tracy McKercher	Secretary
Graham Moss	Property & Maintenance
Tash Sutherland	Health & Safety
Corinne Lister	Librarian
Brenda Richardson	Committee Member

We have a great bunch of people on our Governance Board who give up their time freely.

Communication is key here to us at Swannanoa Preschool and your comments, feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Nāku noa, nā

Jo

Centre Manager

Pai nga mea katoa He pai atu i te kahore tōraro

Positive Anything is Better than Negative Nothing

- Elbert Hubbard



Nursery News - From Ange and the Team

You would have noticed our waka as you enter into the nursery and have probably wondered what it is all about. Some of you have asked, which has meant the process has definitely created a focus for discussion. The areas on our waka are what we as educators see as tamariki's "current focus of learning", which is an area of interest that they are currently working within. This could be areas such as independence, social skills, communication or coping with change. As educators we are continually striving to ensure learning experiences and documentation are meaningful and our latest journey has been around planning and assessment. If you have taken your child's learning journal home recently you would have noticed a few changes in the way we document children's learning and incorporate family aspirations, these are vital parts of planning and assessment.

We have quite a few children who are interested in climbing in and out of things, such as the family corner cot, which is great for "see saw majory daw". We thought why not document our journey on a waka making it visible to family while providing children with the opportunity to play a role in this process as they strike up conversations with us about their friends on the waka or join together floating down the stream. As you can imagine the waka has been a great success.



Manaaki News—From Ashleigh and the Team

A warm welcome to Chontelle who has joined our team as a teacher in Manaaki on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You will recognise Chontelle's smiling face as she has been relieving in Manaaki since we opened in 2013!

Jackie will be away for some time as she recovers from knee reconstruction. She will be missed while she is away and we wish her well in her recovery. Penny, a wonderful reliever will be working full time while Jackie is away. The other permanent staff (Ashleigh, Katrina, Nic, Simone and Chontelle) will pick up Jackie's learning journals while she is away.

Simone and Ashleigh will be leading Inquiry Learning for Term 2. At this stage we are having discussions with the children about things that they are interested in. There is a wide range including planets, animals, weather, super-heros and much more.

Check out the green room to see what we have been up to. If you have anything you or your child might like to share or contribute to Inquiry Learning please see a teacher.

Just a reminder that toys and special things from home are best kept at home. There is a high chance of things getting broken or lost and this can be upsetting for children. At times children may require a toy for comfort when they are settling (a soft toy perhaps) the teachers will encourage children to have these out only when needed. If your child has something they are proud of or that might be of interest to the other children please see a teacher and we can make time for your child to share this for 'news'.

Don't forget to check out the display in the Manaaki entrance called 'Our Learning' which shows each child's individual learning goal in relation to Te Whariki (Early Childhood Curriculum).

Our aim is to co-create these goals with parents/whanau. I would love your feedback!

Atawhai News—From Kerry and the Team

The pohutukawa tree that is by the waving window has now become our learning tree. There is a photo of each child on the tree and a summary of the learning priority goal that the teacher is following through observation and documentation in the learning journal. The journals may look a little different from now on as we endeavour to follow your child's learning and show how this learning is being developed in the preschool setting. The teachers follow the strands and goals of Te Whariki, The Early Childhood Curriculum. A brief explanation of how and why we use Te Whariki is on the board beside the learning tree. Please talk to any of the teachers if you want know more about the planning or if you have any hopes and aspirations for your child's learning.

Gayle and Simone took 4 year old children from Atawhai and Manaaki on a school visit on Monday April 20th. Gayle and Simone have been visiting other schools in our catchment area to organise visits with them too. We can only do this with the help of parents as we will need to take the children in cars to their school. Gayle will organise this when it is time for transition to school visits. It looks as though most of the schools are eager to have a relationship with the preschool.

It was wonderful to see Sheena Patrick, speech and language therapist, in the holidays again. We try to get her into the preschool in the school holidays if she is available: she is very experienced and so lovely to work with. If you ever have any concerns about your child's speech talk to the teachers to see if your child is at an appropriate stage to be assessed. This is a wonderful service that the preschool management have provided for a number of years now.

It's getting cold now so please pack coats and hats we do go out in all weathers. Also pack clothes just in case your child gets wet from the grass or play equipment on wet days.



Dean Ashby, Grace and Jack's Dad and Denis Hill, Harry & Sam's Dad for assisting Bryant to bring our beautiful koru inside where we can all appreciate it.

Georgia Ward-Faulks mum Jordan for the cards

Isabella Moss's Mum Tracey for the crepe paper.

COMMUNAL GARDEN

Exciting news for the start of our garden area. We have accepted a quote for fencing. We have the amazing Bryant (Hire-a-Hubby ph: 0800 248 229) to help us clean the storage shed. So watch for those changes in the next few months. We will be writing letters to local business for donations, please let the Communal Garden Team know—Ka Kite Katrina J, Jenni & Laura

Children's Learning

Te Whariki is the name of the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum. All of our curriculum planning, learning story planning, evaluations and assessments are based on this document.

The early childhood curriculum empowers children and reflects the holistic way that they learn and grow. Children learn through responsive and reciprocal relationships with people, places and things, therefore the wider world and family is an integral part of the early childhood curriculum.

The curriculum has 4 principles, empowerment, holistic development, family and community and relationships which are woven together with 5 stands to make the Whariki or woven mat. The Stands of well being-mana atua, belonging-mana whenua, contribution-mana tangata, communication - mana reo and exploration mana aoturoa along with the principles form the frame work of the curriculum. Learning outcomes have been developed for each goal of the stands so that the whariki becomes an integrated foundation for every child's development.

You will notice that reference to te whariki is now being used in your child's learning stories. This is so that the links between stories and planning is visible and can be used as formative assessment. Formative assessment enables teachers to understand children's learning pathways and further develop and strengthen them.

FUNDRAISING

Vanuatu Appeal

\$222.40 raised—thank you!

\$465.00 raised by Mrs Smith Loves Evening as fundraiser for preschool

General

Reminders:

Please name all clothing, bags, bottles, lunch boxes etc

Please pack a change of clothes

Please use recyclable lunchboxes etc, we are an Enviro-school

Can you please notify us well in advance what date your child will start school

Please phone in if your child is absent for the day

Please apply sunscreen on your child before coming to preschool and we will apply again during the day

Please keep sick school

children out of preschool

Congratulations

Tammy and Shannon Goddard, on the birth of Georgia a sister for Jack

Kate & Tim Cronin, on the birth of Lewis a brother for Zoe



COME ALONG FOR A COFFEE AND A CHAT
MEET SOME OTHER PRESCHOOL MUMS!



WEDNESDAY 13 MAY • HOSTED BY KATE HILL
171 JACKSONS ROAD, OHOKA • 10AM

any questions, please phone kate 03 312 0113

As your new parent liaison person, there are many of you I have caught up with over the phone but haven't yet met and we are overdue for a catch up!

I would like to invite you all to the first preschool coffee morning of term 2, Wednesday 13th May at my place, 171 Jacksons Road from 10am.

There will be cake!

This is a good chance to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and put a name to the faces you bump into in our morning drop off rush. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible so mark it in your diaries. Toddlers are welcome. See you then.

Kate Hill
3120113

CAN WE TEXT YOU REMINDERS;

In the unlikely event of a school closure, we would like to be able to text you. We will also send reminders to your mobile about special events, like bike days, preschool barbecues etc Many of you have signed up already, but our aim is to have 100 percent of our parents in our system.

To register for free text
messages

TEXT THE
FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO:

8987

follow SwannanoaP

(note case sensitive)
and that's it
you're good to go!
Never miss a dress up day again

ENVIRSCHOOLS

We have had a very successful waste audit at Swannanoa Preschool.

Congratulations to all our families for supporting our waste free lunchboxes. It makes such a difference in the amount of rubbish going to the landfill!!

Toni Watts from Enviroschool came out to do the audit with help from both the Atawhai and Manaaki children.

Bus Route Oxford to Northlands

Pick Up Points:

7am: Oxford - Oxford Service Centre & West Oxford Hotel

Cust - Service Centre

Swannanoa - Swannanoa Hall

Mandeville - Tram/Bradleys Road

Northlands Mall

Red Bus also pick up between these points - wave to the driver as the bus approaches

The bus goes into the city once in the morning and had one return in the afternoon, leaving Central Station at 5.30pm

More details: <http://www.redbus.co.nz/christchurch/Oxford-Service>

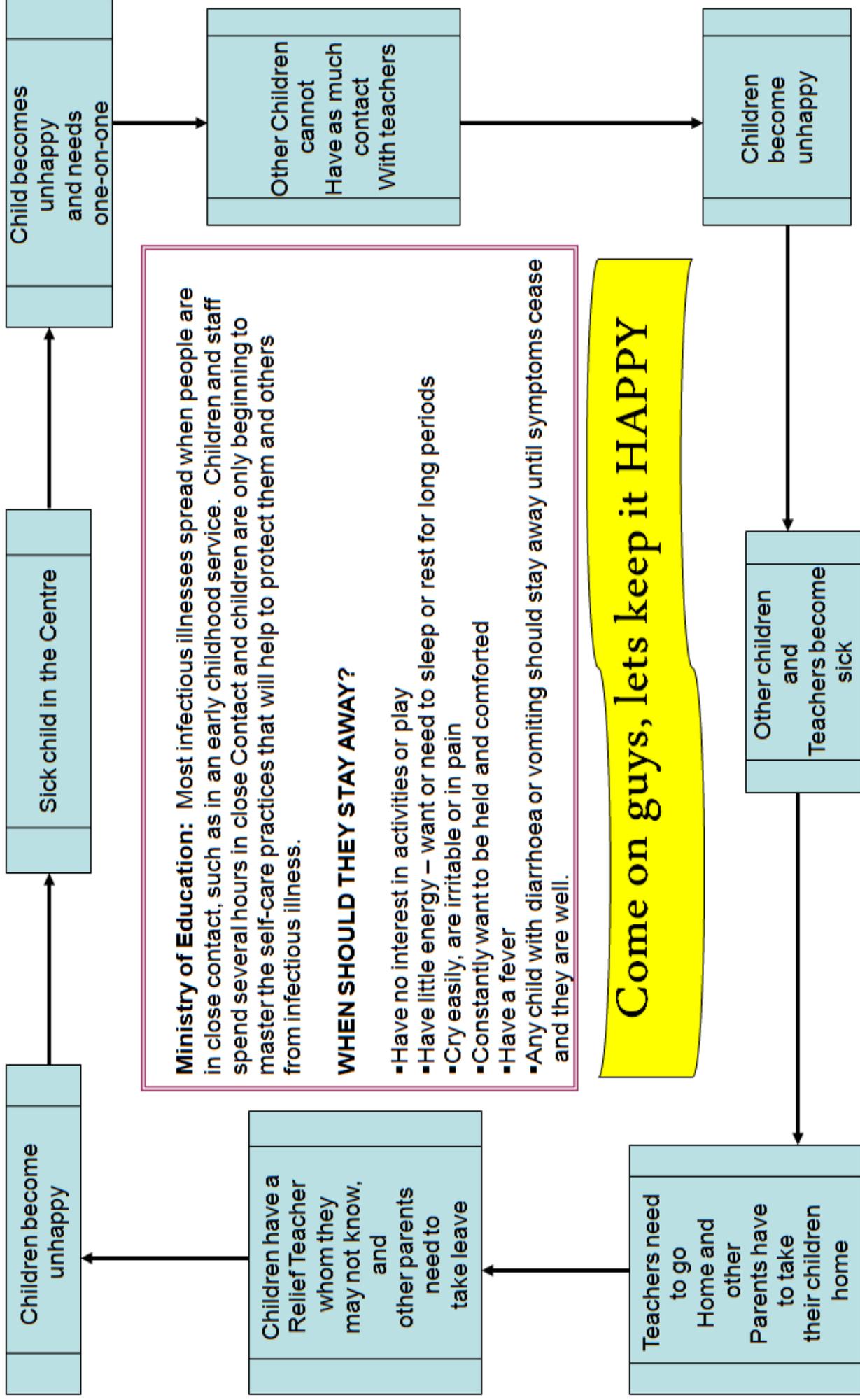
Important

Our license does not allow us to have children on the premises outside of the hours of 9am to 3pm, so your cooperation with this is very much appreciated.

Important

If your child has had an accident/incident (falls/bumps/bruises etc) at home it is really important for you to let us know, so that we are aware of your child's needs at preschool

SICKNESS CYCLE



May 2015

Mon **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat** **Sun**

Ballet Classes

Sarah Mead School of Ballet offers classes for ages 2 and up in Ohoka, Rangiora and Woodend. Exam and exciting performance opportunities available! Modern classes are also available for ages 5 and up. For more info contact Sarah on 0274527752 or Gail on 03 3276662, or visit www.sarahmeadballet.co.nz



1 Dress Up Day—Gold
2 Coin Donation for
 Nepal Earthquake
 PLEASE HELP!!

4 New Zealand Sign
 Language Week
 4th to 8th May

5 Dress Up Day—Gold
 Coin Donation for
 Nepal Earthquake
 PLEASE HELP!!

11 **12** **13** **14** **15** **16** **17**

18 Wheels Day—
 Come to Pre-
 school with your
 favourite wheels

1 **8** **9** **10**

11 **13** **20** **21** **22** **23** **24**

25 **26** **27** **28** **29** **30** **31**

25 **26** P.J. Day—come to
 preschool in your
 P.J.s