



## Swannanoa Preschool

# Swannanoa Preschool Newsletter - September, 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

Wednesday 9th - Wig Wednesday (get wiggy for child cancer)

Friday 25th - Dress up day

### THANK YOU;

Katie Bolin, Isla and Matilda's Mum, for donation of so many resources for the preschool.

Garth - for his tree maintenance skills.

Ngaio's family - for donation of paper for use in arts & crafts.

Eamonn Lowe - for repairing our bikes.

Axel Bolin - for his handyman skills.

Richard Brown - for helping shift furniture.

Everyone for donation of art & craft materials.

### 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.**

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## Nau mai, haere mai,

The diggers are on site!

It is so exciting seeing all our planning turn to action!

The diggers have rolled onto site and the clearing is already complete! Drainage next, then pegging out.

This project will culminate in an amazing new nursery space - extra space gained for both Atawhai and Manaaki and a much needed meeting room!

There will be lots of opportunities for our tamariki to observe the build in action and I have no doubt you will hear all about it.

Check the noticeboard in the foyer for regular updates.

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### Quiz Night

Thanks to our amazing committee we have a quiz night coming up on the 15th September, this is being held locally at The Platform. Tables are filling fast, so let Lorraine know asap if you are keen.

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## 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.

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***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*



## Multicultural Group

We recently celebrated Pasifika week at preschool. Tamariki were involved in a wide range of experiences to help learn about the Pacific Islands, their people and celebrate their unique culture and language.

Tamariki across the centre took part in some new learning experiences including art activities, where they made turtles, boats, lei, tapa cloths and weaving. They learned how to open coconuts and enjoyed tasting the flesh and milk.

Natural resources were displayed on nature tables as well as

at the playdough table and sandpit. Other Pasifika experiences were woven in to our programme such as stories, songs, music, dress ups and puzzles. We also talked a lot about how we can help care for these special islands and protect the turtles which are of cultural significance to the people of the Pacific.

Thank you for all of the feedback we have received, we really appreciate it.

We look forward to planning another cultural celebration in Term Four.

Katrina R, Trish, Chontelle T, Sam F



## Bicultural News

Nau mai hoki mai ki a Rachael! We are thrilled to welcome back Rachael as she returns from her final teaching placement. Rachael has spent the last five weeks at Kidsfirst Kindergarten-King Street.

It has been lovely observing kaiako in Atawhai teaching tamariki the actions to the waiata Te Taukaea Aroha. Kaiako

went home and learnt the waiata and actions in their own time in order to facilitate an authentic and meaningful learning experience for our tamariki. Ngā mihi nui e hoa mā!!! Your dedication and commitment to developing your bicultural practice is noticed and truly appreciated.

Te wiki o te reo Māori – Māori language week is coming up from the 14th to the 20th of Mahuru-September. Māori language week is an opportunity for concentrated celebration, promotion and encouragement. And every minute of every hour of every day is a Māori language minute – we can choose to use te reo – every time we do, even just a 'Kia ora!' contributes to revitalisation.

Over the week of te wiki o te reo Māori we will be celebrating our already strong bicultural practice at Swannanoa Preschool. Kaiako will be setting personal challenges to use reo māori wherever we can!

Ngā mihi nui whānau,

Your Bicultural Leadership Team

Courtney, Ashlee, Rachael, Laura & Jo



## Whanau Partnership

Welcome to September! Who can believe it is spring already!!!

One of the most common questions or comments we get at preschool is often around different behaviours at home – it can be anything from not eating or brushing their teeth, to angry outbursts and tantrums, or refusing to sleep. There is no absolute right way to do everything, just know that what you are doing is enough – as hard as it may be sometimes!!

Sometimes it can be like the tip of an iceberg and just like an iceberg there are many layers and underlying factors which we cannot see that our children are processing and understanding themselves.

If there is ever anything in particular or a certain topic you would like more information about, please let us know and we can see what we can do to best support you with this.

Also keep an eye out in the next couple of months, we hope to run a fun evening where you can come along to learn and play just as your children do during their days at preschool!

Chauntelle, Tash & Sam



## Enviroschools News

This month one of our Mahi Tahi groups went out on an adventure to look after our preschool environment armed with gloves and paper bags (of course!) They headed out to the car park and drive way and collected bags full of litter, even an old slipper!

Manaaki were lucky enough to receive a couple of the garden beds that were removed from the communal garden, the children have been actively involved in this process, digging out the plants to prepare for the garden beds, then

carting loads of soil from the communal garden and back to Manaaki. The lovely thing was the children weren't asked to help, but instead when they saw the teachers working they automatically came to help!

Atawhai are now in the process of setting up their worm farm, so watch this space! We need a lid for our worm farm, please talk to any member of the team if you have any ideas of what we can do. Or if you would like some of our worms to create your own worm farm at home, we have plenty!

Brooke, Jan, Jo & Laura



## Our Library

Jess is our in-house librarian

This month we celebrated all the Pacific Islands.

Throughout the centre all areas did their own activities. These included crafts, signing, cracking open coconuts, drinking coconut water, dressing up and reading stories. It was a wonderful collaboration with everyone participating.

The new Scholastic Catalogue is out so check out what is new. Books make wonderful gifts, especially as Christmas approaches.

Happy reading,

Jess, Atawhai.

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## Manaaki News

Spring is just around the corner and we are enjoying some great weather, which has everyone outside having fun.

Over the last month there has been a great deal of interest and fun in playing rugby. Each day the Tamariki ask if they can play (they are playing ripper) and when they have 'the go ahead', they arrange their own teams and share the rules with each other. We have been noticing great tuakana- teina – which is the older Tamariki, teaching/supporting the younger Tamariki, to be involved in the rugby game. Within each game of rugby we are seeing the Tamariki displaying and growing these skills – co-operation, encouragement, praise, support, help, negotiation, confidence, developing physical skills, persistence, determination, courage, communication, tolerance and understanding. With so much interest and enjoyment gained from ripper rugby, a game

was organised between Manaaki and Atawhai. The Tamariki were so excited about this – with a great game had by all. It was also fantastic to see the support and encouragement from all the Tamariki who enjoyed watching from the side lines.

Learning Journals: each tamariki has an individual learning journal, which documents your child's learning during their time at Preschool. Each month you see a new learning story added, it will also be uploaded to seesaw for you to see. These Learning journals are available for you to see/take home at any time. Please ask if you have not seen your child's learning Journal.

Exciting times as work begins on the new extension for Preschool. All the Tamariki are loving watching what is happening over the fence, lots of great conversations and questions about it all. We are looking forward to the build progressing and being able to watch it from next door. Keep an eye out for the display that will reflect what we are seeing. Looking forward to springing into spring!

From all the Manaaki Staff.

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## Whakanui & Puawai News

A group focus on sensory experiences in Whakanui this term has meant the children are being introduced to new textures and interesting tactile experiences.

Sensory experiences support infant and toddler development in a range of different and positive ways; self-regulation, understanding the world around them and exposing them to a range of rich language. 'Soft' 'squishy' 'slimy' all of these describing words help to encourage oral language and support children to make connection between words and feelings.

In Puawai there has been some incredible friendships emerging and spending time enjoying each other's company. The children are LOVING singing 'row your boat' together as well as other action songs and have begun holding hands as they walk around outside enjoying the sunshine! We are

celebrating and encouraging our social butterflies and are enjoying lots of laughs and singing together.

*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

We will celebrate New Zealand Sign Language in September.

We have been enjoying some more structured learning with New Zealand sign language during Mahi Tahi (our collaborative four year old group held on Monday and Wednesdays) where we have been revising some social

language such as:

"Hello my name is....."

"How are you?" and the emotions to use in response.

The children are also developing their confidence as we continue to learn "5 Little speckled frogs"

New Zealand Sign Language Week 2020 will be held from 21st - 27th September

Courtney, Brooke, Jenni & Jan



## Transition to School

As we head towards the end of 2020 we have many children turning five!

Here are a few things to start thinking about:

\* contact your local school to let them know your child/ren will be attending.

\* fill out an enrolment form.

\* please let Lorraine and your key teacher know your leaving date.

\* Go visit the school on the weekend and have a play in the playground.

## MAHI TAHI

We are continuing our Mahi Tahi group meeting on a Monday and Wednesday. We will be changing these days in Term Four so other children can be part of our group. This group is 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.

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

Please feel free to have a chat if you have any questions.

Have a spectacular September.

Transition to School Team

Jess & Kerry

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## Atawhai News

It's Spring! Can you believe it!!! We've certainly been lucky enough to have some lovely spring days already which is so good to see.

The children have been telling us all about their daffodils and other pretty flowers which have sprung from the ground, and even admiring the ones down our driveway through the fence.

While the weather is starting to warm up, it can still be pretty chilly in the mornings so layers of clothing work well for children to remove and adjust as they need to.

Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on emotions, particularly with our older Tui group children. Helping them to understand and recognise what they, and their friends, are feeling, and why they might feel that way. Through doing this we are helping to lay the foundations for solid relationships,

social skills, and understanding of social cues.

We also celebrated Pasifika week early in August – this was such a fun week which all the children enjoyed being involved in. I am sure some of their many wonderful creations made their way into your homes, if not you can check out our wall display with turtles, seashells, and jellyfish.

As always if you have any questions or concerns just ask any of us, we are more than happy to help.

The Atawhai team

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## Building Progress

Week 1 going well...

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