



Little Orchard Pre School Newsletter



“Creating the next generation of Sir Edmund Hillarys”

Kia Ora, Hello

We have been very busy in and around our Centre and would like to welcome all our new children as well as settling children transitioning into their new classrooms. To our whanau, tamariki and our teaching team fantastic work. Tau ke o koutou mahi !! To all our Pakeke (older) children who have started their Primary school journey, we wish you well.

Thank you to all who attended our annual family fun night on the 3rd of March. I'm confident that you enjoyed a delicious meal with us and your child had a fabulous time playing alongside their friends in our Centre. As the weather has been warmer lately it is lovely to see that the children have been promoting SunSmart initiatives throughout our Centre as part of our Centre's accreditation from the Cancer Society.

The team in the Centre have enjoyed promoting “**Funtastic Fridays**” where the children are immersed in fun theme days such as Camp out fun day, Luau Aloha fun day, a wet and wild fun day, Dream Chaser fun day and St Patrick's Day.

The children and team have been having some amazing adventures in and around our Centre. Tino rawe ngā rā mo te parekareka.





The Tui and Pohutukawa rooms celebrated our Seaweed Excursion to the Port Ohope Boat Ramp on February the 28th. REAP had set up fantastic learning activities to help support our children's learning and development about sea life, shellfish along the shore line.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our whanau helpers who shared the day with us.



Now let see the amazing adventures our classrooms have been doing?

Pounamu Room

The team have been supporting the younger children with their physical skills. The children have been adventurous in learning to walk, balance and take chances in extending their own development with the support of their teachers.

Meal times have been experimental where the younger children are learning self-help skills and want to feed themselves. We have a few small babies who are also learning to trust our team and enjoying their bright and colourful learning environment. Teachers are Jamie, Rachel and Jordan





The Kea Room

The Children have been experiencing wonderful water exploration in the playground and in our Centre pool. Water is so tranquil and self-soothing so the younger children have been engrossed in lots of water play experiences. Turn taking and new friendship have been evident in children recently transitioned into the Kea room from the Pounamu room.

Storytelling and reading is an interest area where the children are often seen sitting and reading books, however mealtimes or eating outside on the picnic table is such a fun time for the children including good self-help skills.



The Kowhai Room

We have been engaged in a variety of activities that encourage construction using an assortment of building resources such as blocks, magnetic blocks, showcasing great turn taking skills and team work.

Relationships and friendship building help the tamariki to gain a sense of belonging in the Kowhai room, especially if they have recently transitioned into the classroom. Our early childhood curriculum encourages “children and their families to experience an environment where their emotional well-being is nurtured” (Te Whaariki).

Outside the children enjoy exploring their physical abilities in the playground and loving water exploration. Please see Gillian and her team if you have any questions regarding your child's learning and development in the Kowhai room.



The Patiki Room



The Patiki room would like to welcome our new friends who have just started in our classroom. The tamariki have been enjoying lots of water play adventures, under the sprinkler, the water trough, and showering in the sand pit.

To help our parents understand what Montessori is, we would like to share and encourage your own understanding of Montessori.

Practical life: Ethan discovers the process of food preparation, by making fruit kebabs, Armeet role models for others “folding” caring for oneself, and the classroom environment. Kiana demonstrates using a dust pan and brush sweeping up the sand off the water trough, developing her sense of order in knowing and understanding that everything has a place – putting the sand back into the sand pit as well how to care for the environment.

Mathematics: Kiana using the abacus demonstrates early interest in numeracy and numbers, using a simple apparatus supports early counting linking symbols with quantity. Kyzah masters the pouring technique. We will continue to support children guided by the Montessori philosophy and also share with our whanau.



The Pohutukawa Room

In the Pohutukawa Room literacy has come alive, the children have been creating their own books filled with printing, writing and drawing their own illustrations about their knowledge demonstrating what excites them when at home or special events and their ever-evolving interests of the living world around them.

In the construction zone our master builders are becoming bolder and bigger, their designs and constructions of tackling new challenges both in height and the ever-changing modifications they make to their special creations.

The science area is attracting a lot of children's interests, the teachers have been encouraging their knowledge about different parts of a flower, gardening knowledge and the light table is a new science resource that was created by our talented teacher Mere and is highly used by the children.

Outside of the classroom the children have been exploring their large motor skills on the balancing beams, obstacle course, sand play and water play.



The children from the Pohutukawa and the Tui room enjoyed an adventure at Ohiwa as part of a learning initiative from REAP, in recognition of Sea week and being able to actively explore along the sea shore.



Tui Room

In the Tui room, we have been creating amazing adventures for the tamariki. The children have been learning about respect for our environment, caring for our gardens, plants, butterflies, frogs, birds and learning resources.

Inside the classroom, the children have been enjoying our new improved creativity area which is well resourced with pens, felts, pencils, glue and collage materials to empower the children's creative minds.

The Tui room and the Pohutukawa rooms have been participating in the World Oral health challenge a health initiative from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board. The tamariki have been learning to make healthy food choices, dental hygiene, being able to identify different fruit and vegetables that give our bodies good nutritional health benefits, and keeping our bodies physically strong.

The Tui room embraces Dr Maria Montessori's pedagogy, which is founded on the perception of Peace. *"By preparing the environment and allowing the child the freedom to develop according to nature, and they will work towards a central aim and develop a love for all things and then we will get a society for cohesion"* (Montessori, M. (1992).





To our Parents and caregivers come and have a look at what we are doing

(So Whanau ma, nau mai haere ki te titiro)

Parents

Please name all your child's belongings so we can return them to you when they get misplaced.

Reminder that we have an open door policy, if you would like a chat, please feel free to pop in and see us. Alternatively, you may wish to share your ideas in our suggestion box in the sign-in foyer; we will follow up all suggestions.

Thanks Harriet. (Centre Leader)

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Don't forget to check out our Little Orchard Preschool Facebook page where we share our celebrations and achievements.