



Little Orchard Preschool Newsletter



"Creating the next generation of Sir Edmund Hillary's"

July 2017

He mihi mahana kia koutou katoa, Warm Greetings extended to all.

Welcome to our families that have recently joined our Centre and a fond farewell to children who are ready for the next stage of their learning adventure into Primary School.

Funtastic Fun Days

At Little Orchard Preschool, we share the opportunities of extending the imaginations of our children and teachers with Funtastic Fridays. These celebrations are not done every week, but when we do have them, they fall on a Friday. Most recently we have celebrated the following:-

Princess Pirate Fun Day

It was lovely to see the children and teachers having such a fabulous time. We went on a treasure hunt, danced like princesses, completed tasks to be a safe pirate, took turns with face painting, giving our children the opportunity to feed their imaginations and explore different ideas.

Anti-Bullying Day

This was a great day to encourage children in a variety of learning activities that will help them to learn about "being respectful to one another, confidence building, turn taking and being an awesome friend. As a team, our teachers role model these awesome attributes with one another in our everyday preschool environment.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Tui room classroom who won 3rd prize in the World Oral Health Challenge, a health initiative from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board. Well done to everyone!

Matariki Celebrations

In and around the Centre the teachers are helping the tamariki to learn about Matariki. Matariki is about whanau, promoting Te Reo Maori, helping others who are less fortunate, learning about planting and sharing a new waiata.

We will be celebrating our **Matariki Concert on Wednesday the 26th of July from 10am.** Please come and support your children and stay for morning tea and join in our morning of fun activities promoting Matariki.

Whanau please bring a plate of food for our shared morning tea.



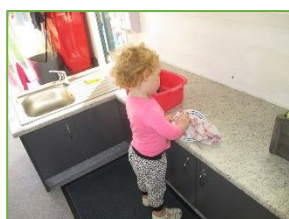
Now let's check out the amazing adventures our classrooms have been sharing?



Pounamu Room

The team have been supporting the tamariki by initiating new friendships, exploring in and around the classroom. We have seen the children extend themselves with crawling, enjoying being able to move freely, exploring outside in the playground environment with friends, observing the tuakana teina practise (sharing experiences between older/more experienced with the younger/less experienced). Many are learning how to walk, stand unaided, demonstrating our core value of **ADVENTURE**.

Meal times can be very messy, just because the children are sometimes trying new food that has been recently introduced to their diet.



Kea Room

Creativity is experimental where the children have been engrossed in a range of different creative activities which include paint, dye, collage, and messy play. The tamariki have enjoyed physical experiences through jiggle jam participation, dancing using poi to Maori music and participation in daily mat times.

The teachers encourage language development as children learn how to respect each other through different social settings and the spaces they share. Boundaries can be tested as children learn how to play alongside each other. This is a great step into learning about social abilities and relationship building.

Kia kaha tamariki ma ki te awhi tetahi ki tetahi (Helping each other by supporting one another).



The Patiki Room

The children enjoy exploring with the Montessori resources that are set up inside the Patiki classroom. Exploring with the binomial cube promotes simple mathematics, dexterity, matching, patience, problem solving skills and concentration.

The children have enjoyed experimenting with the soap grating technique. This supports our children's ability to be familiar with materials in a fun and innovative way, which can then be recycled in the washing up bowl. In the Patiki room we encourage transferring activities



where objects are transferred into containers from left to right, training our eyes to focus, using familiar tools that adults use and imitating how the tools can be used.

The children have shown interests in family play, playing with the dolls, demonstrating caring kind and gentle hands, soft soothing voices. This interest was initiated when Elijah's Mum Huriana brought in his little baby brother Psalms in to the classroom.

The painting easel on the deck is a favourite area for children to be seen, they try and paint what they notice is happening outside around them. Large motor skills are supported through an obstacle course, climbing bars and using the big dump trucks in the sand pit.

Atawhatia te whenua (nurture the environment).



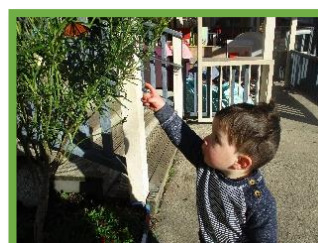
The Kowhai Room

Our Tamariki from the Kowhai room have been enjoying the great outdoors, within our fantastic playground. Playing outside gives your child the chance to explore the natural environment and have adventures. The children enjoy testing their physical limits by expressing themselves and building upon their self-confidence.

Our new friends who have recently transitioned from the Kea room have been enjoying exploring in the bigger playground since moving over to the Kowhai room as we have a larger space and freedom for big movements, such as running, jumping, kicking balls and throwing skills.

The children have been showing interest in learning to be creative, so the teachers have embraced their interests by implementing messy play, construction and drawing activities.

Did you know that it can be hard work being a toddler? If you think about it, their language is developing every day and sometimes your child may feel frustrated through lack of language and it is not uncommon to have small outbursts of anger, tears or hitting. During these times, we acknowledge how they are feeling, we encourage to the use of language and most times doing this process the child then moves on to another exciting activity.





The Pohutukawa Room

In the Pohutukawa Room, literacy is supported through the transition to School (Pakeke program), along with language and mat times in the writing area.

The Story Project is underway and the story of the month is “The Gobbling Tree“, a popular story that children chose. Learning possibilities includes creative experiences using different art mediums, shape knowledge, number recognition, letter knowledge, and developing children’s fine motor skills in writing mahi.

Working collaboratively supports children’s turn taking skills and is a natural boost for their confidence. The classroom is very colourful with a larger family play area for children to explore including a creative hair studio. The construction and transport areas are always a popular play area.

Outside of the classroom the children have been exploring their large motor skills on the play fort, and enthusiasm in the daily jiggle jam session. Actually, it is not uncommon to see parents participating alongside children and their teachers showcasing our core value of **WHANAU**. Kia mau te wehi, whanau ma nau mai haere mai (awesome please come family you are welcome to join us).

Ball games are enjoyed by the children including the fashionable game of tag. It is lovely to see the children playing alongside one another being respectful and having fun exploring in our big spacious playground.



The Tui Room

Kerry is a trained Montessori teacher who brings a wealth of knowledge and passion as the newly appointed Room Leader for the Tui room. Inside the classroom, the children explore the Montessori materials that are neatly displayed on the shelves and presentations on how to use the resources correctly by Kerry.

Exploration in cooking has been a highlight for the children as they are curious and wanting to try baking more and more.

Practical life is prevalent in and around the classroom, children learning to clean up after themselves, setting tables, wiping and clearing tables, sweeping, stacking the dishwasher



including washing the classroom windows. Did you know (Ka mohio koe) that the purpose and aim of Practical Life is to help the child gain control in the coordination of their movement, and help the child to gain independence and be an active part in society. Practical life exercises also aid the growth and development of the child's intellect and concentration and will in turn also help the child develop an orderly way of thinking.



General Information

Have you noticed how much lost property we have currently accumulated? Please check to see if your children has left anything behind.

Have your details changed? Please see our team in the office if your address or contact numbers have changed.

There are a number of our families and teachers battling winter illnesses at present. To assist with the prevention of spreading bugs, we would like to remind our whanau of our Child Health Policy which is displayed in our office foyer. Please do not be offended if we ask about the health of your child, we have their best interests at heart.

A reminder - 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 or send me an email.

Nga Mihi Harriet. (Centre Leader)

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Please come and have a look at what we are learning about in our Centre. (Whanau ma, nau mai haere ki te titiro)

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