

Little Orchard Douglas Street.

February 2016.



Kia Ora, He mihi mahana kia koutou katoa. Hello warm greetings to you all.

Welcome back to another fun filled year, jam packed with exciting learning opportunities.

A huge welcome to our new families joining us this year, Aria, Dallas Collier, Ethan and Louie, Hakuene, Kyan, Kyzah, Leo and Finn, Perseus, Rareka, Shayla, Azalea, Charlie, Eban, Hannah and Holly, Nevaeh, Te Rongonui, Tessa-J and Hazel-Harmony and Marlo.

We also welcome Shani back from parental leave along with her little girl Aria.

Good luck and farewell to those families moving on to their next exciting adventure:

Dezaiah, Emma and Joel, Kaley, Cameron Harvey, Ethan, Jack, Jehrae, Laylani, Liam, Sariah, Summer and Te Aumangea.

To celebrate Sea Week on Tuesday the 2nd of March we will be taking the Tui and Pohutukawa Room children on a bus trip to Ohiwa Harbour, to take part in an amazing day organised by Reap. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about how to care for our ocean. If you think you can help, all parent support would be greatly appreciated.

Some important things to remember: It is still very hot out there so please remember a named hat and a change of clothing for your child. Children must wear clothing that covers their shoulders please, no spaghetti straps or singlet type tops. Children swimming must have a rash shirt and towel please. With all our water and mud play, we would suggest at least two changes of clothes for your child each day.

Let's take a look around the centre and see what has happened already in 2016.

Doug the Digger visited our preschool, and what an amazing day we had. Each child got to sit on the digger and even learn how to operate the controls. We learnt about safety around heavy machinery and got to climb all the way up into the big truck. With the road works going on outside the centre, our children have shown a huge interest in the machinery, and of course the big digger was a huge hit.

Due to weather conditions, our family fun night will now take place on the 18th of March. If you are unable to attend you can get a refund from the office. It is an awesome night to share with our families and we hope to see you there. The theme is pirates and pirate princesses, so feel free to dress up.



Kea and Pounamu Rooms.



This month in the Kea and Pounamu rooms we have welcomed 9 new children ranging in age from 6 months to 18 months. We are getting to know the children and their whanau and building positive trusting relationships. We are enjoying this wonderful warm weather and taking every opportunity to enjoy water play and the swimming pool.

One of our new purchases has been a water trough which has proved to be a huge success with the children from both classes. Kea Room children are still showing a huge interest in gardening and are enjoying picking and eating the pea and carrots. We have also found some interesting creatures in our gardens and have loved finding out more about them.

Jamie, Rachel, Gillian, Lorraine and Aimee.

Kowhai Room.



Our children are extending their interest in arts and crafts at the moment, and we are enjoying many exciting activities such as painting, finger painting, collage, cutting and pasting, and using pencils and crayons. All these help to develop fine motor skills and concentration. It also builds on social skills as children learn turn taking, listening to and helping others.

Our programme in the Kowhai room involves children learning a colour, number, shape and letter each week, these are displayed on the board outside our room. We also spend as much time as possible in our wonderful outside environment enjoying the gardens and the creatures we discover, and of course exploring with water, in the pool, sandpit and water trough.

Allie, Rachelle, Mere and Michelle.

Patiki Room.



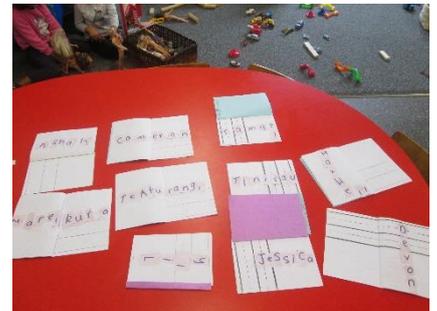
The children in Patiki Room are very excited to see Carol back after her month long visit to India, where her oldest daughter celebrated her marriage.

Patiki room have been following the story of “The Hungry Caterpillar”. Making collage butterflies and retelling the story using hand puppets. Children have been watching our chrysalis on the swan plant very closely for any sign of a butterfly and we are definitely learning patience. The knobless cylinders have also been very popular with the new children to Patiki Room, they enable the children to learn about balance and building, as well as creating patterns and designs.

Children experienced a surprise visit when one of our Team members husband’s (a policeman) called in for a visit and put on his lights and siren which was exciting. This lead to lots of conversations about what other vehicles which have lights and sirens. Children have been developing a very caring attitude towards each other and are very eager to help if someone gets hurt with a cold cloth, reassuring words and a cuddle.

Carol, Rhonda and Marama.

Pohutukawa Room.



We have been supporting our new children who have transitioned or are new to the centre, to gain their sense of belonging. We are focusing on building relationships. The children have been enjoying the wonderful sunny days with lots of amazing learning experiences centred around water, such as our swimming with confidence programme, water play in the sandpit and the water slide on our lovely grassy hill.

Literacy and numeracy development has also been popular as is a wide range of puzzles which helps develop problem solving and persistence. The children love the Pohutukawa Dairy that is set up in our room, lots of role playing as shop keepers and customers, helping children to become competent learners in a fun environment.

And of course the old favourites, construction and transport which have been further enhanced with our visit with Doug the Digger. These opportunities are helping children make connections with home and within the community.

Please see photos of our room overleaf.

Harriet, Amrita, Melissa and Nikita.

Tui Room.



We have had a very busy month with tamariki going off to school and new tamariki joining us. An exciting time for all as they start their new adventures.

Tamariki are enjoying the pool, even when it rains! There is no such thing as bad weather to our tamariki. Tamariki are enjoying the camp site and tents and we have heard some wonderful stories of tamariki and whanau camping experiences over the summer break.

Using recycled pipes and spouting we have learnt about gravity and the flow of water. We continue with normal routines such as feeding the worms and frogs and caring for our environment.

Next week we will be focusing on sea creatures, which will tie in with our four-year-old visit to Kelly Tarlton's in November and our coming excursion for Sea Week. We will learn all about the amazing creatures that inhabit our oceans, and also how to help keep our ocean environment safe and healthy.

Please share your whanau experiences of the ocean, camping and anything else with us.

Trish, Sharon and Natelle.

More news...

We will be holding our combined excursion with McGarvey Road Centre at the River Edge Park Miniature Railways. You will have seen the notice that has come out this week about this fun event that will be held on Wednesday the 9th of March. Parent helpers would be greatly appreciated so please put your name down if you are available to assist.

Our 4-year-old sleep over at Kelly Tarlton's is booked for the 12th of November 2016. We will get more information out to you next few week, and establish a fundraising committee. We would appreciate as many parent helpers as we can to form the committee. The more great ideas for fundraising, the easier and more fun it will be for us all.

To start the fundraising going, we have a raffle at the office for petrol vouchers. Please look out for the tickets when you next come in.

On another note..... Are you "tech savvy" and have some time to help us create and publish a bi-monthly combined Little Orchard Preschool newsletter? If this sounds like a project that would appeal to you, please email monique@lops.co.nz for further information.

Just a reminder, if you have any concerns, or news you would like to share, stop in and see me in the office, give me a call on 3085 222 or email me on teena@lops.co.nz.

We always like to share what is happening with our whanau.

Thanks Teena. (Centre Leader) ☺

Remember to check out our Little Orchard facebook page to share our celebrations and achievements.