



## Playhouse News

June 2008

Message from our owners Chris and Greg Burt:

Thank you to those parents that participated in our recent **Parent Feedback Survey**.

Over the last two weeks we have also personally canvassed parents for their feedback by phone and in person.

In summary the feedback from you has been very valuable and this newsletter contains a lot of information about improvements that we have been working on and also improvements we will be making in the future as a direct result from your feedback.

We would also like to encourage you to come along to **our Parent's Evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July** at 6.30pm so that you can hear about these changes and talk with us directly.

One of the points of feedback that came through was what is **our role in the centre?**

We are involved very much behind the scenes in fortnightly management meetings with Amanda and monthly staff meetings. We are in constant phone contact with the centre during the day. For the short term future one of us will be in the centre every other day to help Amanda with some of the new changes we have in store. Please feel free to say hi and talk to us about anything related to the centre, or anything else.

We would like to draw your attention to two areas we have been working on over the last three months and will continue to work on. We have **two outside consultants employed** in the centre: One is Jan Corles from Hana Clannad working on professional development and currently focusing on the areas of behaviour management and programme planning. The other is David Spraggs from Learning and Professional Development who provides teacher registration training for four of our teachers.

As well as this good work we have many of our **teachers continue to gain knowledge through courses**. In the last five months, we have sent staff on:

- Educating Boys
- Conflict Resolution
- Leadership & Performance Management
- ECC Annual Conference (3 days)
- Marketing and Communications
- Respectful Relationships at work
- First Aid training
- Challenging Boys
- Behaviour Management Workshop
- Emergent Curriculum
- 

We also have three staff in their third and final year of their Early Childhood Education degrees.

Please feel free to ask our staff about courses they have been on. We will continue to make investment in this important area of training.

We'd also like to talk about coming changes to our **website** [www.playhousechildcare.co.nz](http://www.playhousechildcare.co.nz). Through your feedback we are

adding a **News and Feedback sections** to the current site. The news section will be updated with news and developments in the centre, as well as having the latest newsletter and the current menu. The Feedback section will be a form where parents can give feedback anonymously or not, that will go directly to Greg and Chris via email. We'd ask you to make use of these features – you might like to use the new feedback form to let us know any other suggestions you may have for our website or in general.

We'd like to talk also about **teacher to children ratios** in our centre. Government requires us to maintain certain ratios, and these are measured on a 15 minute basis through the day. The required ratios are 1 to 5 for under two's and 1 to 10 for over two's. As part of providing quality education for your children in our centre we do significantly better than this. All times during the day we make sure our ratios are AT LEAST 1 to 3 for under two's and 1 to 7 for over two's. As well as reporting these figures to the government every four months, the government audits these figures on a spot check basis – our last audit was at the end of last year.

Another of the items we have had feedback from you on is that the centre is looking a bit tired at the moment. We agree, and have the following **environment improvement** initiatives planned for the coming weeks.

- internal painting of chipped areas
- painting of external stairs
- new sand for sandpit
- new bark for back garden
- waterblasting
- cleaning of soft-fall area
- replace downstairs carpet

If there are any other areas that you think we could improve on please do not hesitate to give Greg a call on 021-719-573 or Chris on 021-311-037 or use our coming website feedback page.

We look forward to seeing you at the parent's evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm

We wish you well and appreciate your continued involvement in our centre.

Kind regards,

Greg Burt  
Chris Burt

All of a sudden we are into the middle of the year, just another six months to go. Time is really racing past.

### **PARENT'S NIGHT**

We have a parent's night planned for 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 6.30pm. Come along and experience what your child does throughout the day. You can play with the play dough, do a painting, play in the sand, build a garage, just as your little ones do throughout the day.

### **Staffing**

As many of you know, Theresa is moving to other pastures. She has chosen after six years to spread her wings. We are currently looking for just the right person to fill her spot. In the mean time, Amanda will be based out of the office and on the floor with the other teachers.

Amanda has the pleasure to announce the appointment of Ebony-Rose Andrews to the Administration position. She will be in the office 3 days a week and helping us out on the floor as required. Ebony has her 2 daughters, Tatyana-Rose and Ella enrolled with us and is really enjoying spending time with our team and her girls.

### **Staff News**

Amanda and Sarah graduated last month with their Bachelor of Education and have embarked on the Teacher Registration programme with Tui and Lorraine under the guidance of David Spraggs from LaPD. David visits us monthly and is in constant contact with our Provisionally Registered teachers to provide them with the full support for becoming Fully Registered teachers.

Sandra and Olivia are beginning the third year of studies at their respected colleges and are looking forward to this with anticipation and enjoyment.

Tracey is in her final term at NZCA and working hard on Wednesdays to complete her Diploma of Teaching.

Andrea, Jaimey, and Jenna are working through their first year and are loving the opportunity to work with your children and develop their skills at the same time.

### **Green Bay High School Students.**

We have the pleasure of hosting 5 students from Green Bay High School on the Gateway Programme. This programme enables the students to gain practical experience and have regular opportunities to make links between classroom learning and the reality of caring for and educating young children. We have Natasha with us on Tuesday morning, Autumn and Claire on a Wednesday, Victoria on a Thursday and Sarah and Jade on a Friday. Our teachers are enjoying the opportunity to introduce these budding young minds to the joys of Early Childhood Education and to share some of their experiences with them.



### **Upstairs News**

The focus for the Upstairs children this month is developing an interest in music. They are loving the introduction of Tanya Batt's Dance Upon a Time and the drama that is involved in the stories. Ask your child about being play dough and dancing around the floor or being a puppet and moving on strings.

We are still working on a transportation topic with many of our children loving trains, planes and automobiles.



### **Downstairs News**

The downstairs focus has been on recycling. The children and teachers have been reusing containers for other jobs such as shaker milk bottles, paint scrapers and many other ingenious tools.



### **Preschool News**

Best of luck to all those preschoolers heading off to school this month. We would like to welcome Reef to the Preschool Room and hope he has a lot of fun and learning time.

We are continuing on our growth spurt, we are growing carrots now and loving the results from the hair that is growing out of the top. We are also working in the garden. We have been pruning the jasmine and creating new space for our gardens.

The preschoolers have been working towards positive conflict resolution. You may notice more discussion arising around conflict and problem solving at home. This has been a positive process for all our preschoolers.

## **General Admin News**

### ***Parent Survey***

Thank you to all who have returned the survey forms. The response was awesome and we have started to focus on ideas raised by the parents. We will keep you informed with progress through our “Weekly Happenings” report on the website – [www.playhousechildcare.co.nz](http://www.playhousechildcare.co.nz).



### ***Signing In and Out***

It is imperative that sign in your child in the morning and out in the afternoon. We have noticed that several parents are repeat offenders at this and we don't mean to go on but this is a Ministry of Education requirement and if we were to have an emergency, we could miss your child if they have not been signed in.



### ***Clothes***

We must reinforce to you the naming your child's clothing is very important as it helps us in getting the right clothes back to the right child, thus alleviating any confusion and embarrassment for everyone.

As we are following the New Zealand Curriculum, we are enjoying more messy play and art outside in the playground. All the children love this and often get involved before they are able to get an apron on. Although we endeavour to get an apron on all children, we occasionally miss one or two. This is why we encourage you to send your children to Playhouse in comfortable, non-special clothing with a few changes in their bag.

### **Downstairs Toilet**

Please help us in not using the downstairs toilet as a thoroughfare. We have put a sign up on the door to discourage this and also installed an easy swimming pool type lock on the gate outside on the deck. Please use this option to pass through to the garden.

### **Professional Development**

Our professional development programme has been underway since the beginning of the year. We are currently working with Jan Corles from Hanah Glannad on developing our programme. Jan has been focusing for the beginning of the year on Behaviour Management and we have progressed well through this with positive resolution for some of our behavioural issues. Jan has

moved us onto the environment, which will continue to focus our behavioural management skills in developing the environment.

### **Resources**

Also could we please ask for you to save your small and large yoghurt containers for us to use in our collage and box construction area. They would be greatly appreciated.

Have a great Day  
From the Playhouse Team