



PLAYHOUSE NEWSLETTER

February 2013



Dear Families/Whanau

First newsletter for the year and it's the end of February already!! We have had a really busy start to the year with lots of new families joining us over the past few weeks and everyone is settling in beautifully ☺ We are loving this gorgeous weather and are making the most of our awesome big backyard on these long, hot summer days!!

HAERE MAI, WELCOME

We are very happy to welcome Pearl, Daniel, Leonardo, Joshua, Téa, Toby, Fynn, Gia, Isabelle, Stephen, Tyler, Cameron, Isabella and Giovahni to the Playhouse family ☺

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Huge '**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**' wishes this month to:

Cameron (16th) and Jake (25th) who are both turning the big number 2!!

Chantay (14th) and Madison (27th) who will be turning the magical number 4!!



CENTRE NEWS

You may have noticed that we have had a bit of a reshuffle and Lynnette has joined the Kiwi room team to help out with all their new additions ☺

Tracey will be away on holiday from 11th - 15th February and Lynnette away from 25th Feb - 1st March ☺

We have a new reliever this month - Harriet ☺ Harriet has recently moved here from the UK where she worked in a nursery and is currently nannying for a nearby family a few days per week.

Our student teachers, Jade, Rita and Michelle all start back at Uni at the end of the month and we are looking forward to seeing their smiling faces at the centre once again! We also have a new student teacher, Tamsyn, joining us ☺ In the meantime Suranji is currently away on practicum at another centre and Jade has jetted off to Miami on her honeymoon (yes, we are all very jealous!!) - they will both be back from 25th Feb ☺

ATTENDANCE SHEET/BOOKED TIMES

Just a reminder to all parents that the attendance sheet needs the time of arrival and exit recorded and signed as well as scanned every day. If you are unsure how to scan your child in just ask any staff member ☺

Also, please do not drop your child off before or pick them up after their booked times as we use these booked times to determine our ratios and teaching hours for the day. This is especially important if you are on the 'School Day' fees as these are for set hours only (8.30-3.30 or 9.00-4.00). "School Day" children are not to arrive at the centre before the start or leave after their booked times or full day fees will be charged. If you need to extend your hours please talk to Tiffany ☺

PLASTIC BAGS

We are always in need of supermarket plastic bags for wet clothes etc - if you have any spare at home we would love to have them!



NITS/HEAD LICE

We have discovered a couple of cases of nits at the centre and we really want to make sure that these do are eradicated asap!! Please check your child's hair for any signs of these tiny bugs or their eggs - the teachers will also keep an eye out for any scratching etc. Any child with headlice **MUST** be treated with an appropriate product and have their hair thoroughly combed with a nit comb before returning to the centre. If you require any further information on what to look for etc feel free to ask one of the team ☺





KIWI ROOM NEWS



Kia Ora,

We hope everyone has had a very relaxing start to the year and enjoyed spending time with all their loved ones. We can't believe it's nearly March already!

You have probably noticed lots of new faces in the Kiwi room, including Lynnette who is going to be spending some time downstairs with us. We would like to welcome Pearl, Toby, Isabelle, Tea, Fynn, Stephen, Tyler, Isabella, and Lynnette!

We say a fond farewell to Dillan and Leo who have happily joined the Pukeko room over the Christmas break. They have settled in well and will be joined by Jake later this month.

With this summer month proving a scorcher, we have been trying different ways for our Kiwi's to cool down. Water play has been a favourite but we have also tried frozen jellies as a way of cooling down the senses. This turned out to be a success with the children so we created different 'platters' with arranged sweet and sour foods to explore. We definitely found out their favourites...and the ones that didn't make the cut.

For our smaller Kiwi's we got to explore new textures with them using shaving foam, sand, sawdust and paint using their hands. This helps hand-eye coordination skills and allows them to learn more about their environment.

With so many children joining our Kiwi room, the team are focusing on getting to know each new child and their family. By observing their play, supporting them as they settle in the Kiwi room and giving the occasional reassuring cuddle it gives the children a sense of belonging. The older children love taking on a nurturing role and help the younger children - a great experience for becoming a big brother or sister!

Just a friendly reminder, if you could please put sun block on your child before they arrive at Playhouse so they are all ready to start the day as our little Kiwi's love to go straight out to play in the sunshine. Also if everyone can please make sure that there are extra sets of clothes for the children to explore lots of water play, messy play and other fun outdoor activities. Thank you!





PUKEKO ROOM NEWS

Kia Ora and welcome to news from the Pukeko room

We have welcomed Daniel, Joshua, Leonardo, Gia and Cameron to the Pukeko room and they have settled in really well! Giovahni will also be joining us in the next couple of weeks and Jake has begun his transition to upstairs from the Kiwi room ☺

Our Pukeko children are enjoying the warm weather and we have had lots of water play! The children love playing under the new sprinkler, the hose, with water bombs and sometimes we fill the little pool so that our younger children can splash around. Another favourite outdoor activity is carpentry - we are in need of milk bottle tops, scraps of vinyl fabric, soft and untreated wood and other such items for our exciting carpentry experience - if you have anything at home/work that may be suitable we would love to put it to good use!



Another firm favourite are the trains and tracks and we have recently purchased some more engines and carriages which has further fuelled imaginations and led to hours of fun!

This month the Pukeko room are celebrating "Chinese New Year" and welcoming the year of the Snake. We would like to thank Bella's mum Winnie for lending us some Chinese decorations and also for bringing in dumplings to share - they were really yummy!! If you would like to see more new year celebrations you can visit the lantern festival that is held each year in Albert Park - it is a fun (and busy) night out and the lanterns are amazing!! For more details visit <http://www.aucklandnz.com/lantern>.



Have you seen the big fish tank in our room? Inside are 2 tadpoles who are already developing legs!! This is all very exciting - make sure you check out their progress with your child each morning and watch them grow and develop into frogs ☺ (Thanks to Tracey for lending us her big tank!)

UPDATE: One of our tadpoles is now a FROG!!



ONE LAST THING

A message from the Pukeko team - Please do not just wait in the foyer and send older siblings to drop off/collect younger ones from upstairs. It is important for us to use these times at the beginning/end of the day to catch up on how things are going, pass on messages, and let you know about your child's day ☺ Thanks!!

From all the Playhouse Team ☺

Greg, Lynnette, Tiffany, Sandra, Tracey, Sam, Nicola, Maria, Vanessa, Alisi, Molly, Suranji, Jade, Harriet, Michelle, Rita and Tamsyn