

## Dates for your Diary

- Fathers Day - Sunday  
2nd September
- Grandparent's morning  
- Thursday 13th  
September 9-11am
- Father's Sausage Sizzle  
- Wednesday 7th  
November 5.30-7pm



## Important Messages

Please tell all our Dad's about our Father's evening on Wednesday 7th November

## Programme Highlights

### Visit from fire fighters

We had a special visit this month from the firemen at Remuera Fire Station. They came in their fire engine and shared with us some important information about what they do and how to keep ourselves safe when there is a fire.

The children were very excited to spend some time in the fire engine and see fireman Chris all dressed up ready to fight a fire. This visit has enabled us to make connections within our local community and to teach the children how to keep themselves safe, two important aspects of our kindergarten programme.

### Imaginations

We are continuing to support our children's creativity and imagination at kindergarten. This month we have extended this into our Wise

Owls programme and meeting times with the telling of group stories using our imaginations. With the aid of a few props the children have been creating stories and retelling these as a group. This has been great for our imaginations, oral literacy, listening and collaborative team work.

### Tikanga practices

The teachers have been reflecting on Tikanga practice and what this looks like at kindergarten. This supports our self review on our bicultural practice.

We have been discussing how children have been working collaboratively and how this reflects both the term '*ako*' and '*tuakana teina*'. The concept of *ako* describes a teaching and learning relationship, where the teacher is also learning from the child, where the

teachers' practices are informed by the latest research and are both deliberate and reflective. *Ako* is grounded on the principle of reciprocity and also recognises that the learner and whanau cannot be separated. The *tuakana teina* relationship, seen as an integral part of traditional Māori society, provides a model for buddy systems. An older or more expert *tuakana* (brother, sister or cousin) helps and guides a younger or less expert *teina* (originally a younger sibling or cousin). In a learning environment that recognises the value of *ako*, the *tuakana teina* roles may be reversed at any time.

We see lots of wonderful examples of *tuakana teina* at kindergarten every day with our older children supporting and guiding our younger children.

## Democracy in Early Childhood Empowering our Children

The children are why we are at kindergarten, this is their space. As teachers we want to ensure that all our children feel empowered throughout the day, that they feel that they can make a valid contribution and can confidently negotiate, problem solve, question and be advocates for themselves and others. These are all social skills that support them as democratic citizens.

Our curriculum, Te Whāriki, has four principles and one of those is called Empowerment/Whakamana, which shares that "In an empowering environment, children have agency to create and act on their own ideas, develop knowledge and skills in areas that interest them and, increasingly, to make decisions and judgments on matters that relate to them. Play and playfulness are valued and kaiako-initiated experiences are inviting and enjoyable."

You will start to see us referencing more of this concept here at kindergarten along with ways in which we are supporting our children as democratic citizens within our community.



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## CHILD'S VOICE

Immersing ourselves in the world of children every day means that we have the privilege of experiencing some magical moments that make us laugh.

While completing an Old MacDonald Had a Farm puzzle a teacher shared the following conversation with one of our children:

“What sound does a horse make?  
Neigh  
What sound does a cow make?  
Moo  
What sound does a sheep make?  
Baa, Baa, Baa  
What sound does a rabbit make?  
Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit!”

## Communication Corner

**Appropriate clothing to support play at kindy:** With a number of rainy days at kindergarten lately the children have been wanting to enjoy play experiences outside in the rain. Here at kindy we are not afraid of the rain and are happy to join the children for small amounts of time outside. Research shares how fantastic this is for our children. While we await the spring sunshine, we encourage parents to bring children to kindy with appropriate clothing to enjoy the rain, such as a rain jacket and gumboots. Please ensure they also have their regular shoes as gumboots are not appropriate for climbing and running in the playground.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** We hope that you all enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with Allanah and Beth discussing your child's progress at kindergarten. We enjoyed the opportunity to get additional insights into your children's lives and look forward to supporting them further with their learning and development at kindergarten.

**Professional Learning—Imaginations:** In August teachers attended a workshop run by Kimberley Crisp on supporting children's imaginations. As you are aware this has been something we have been supporting our children with over the last few months and we have been amazed to see and hear some of the ways in which the children are engaging with their magical minds. Kimberley shared some ideas on how we may be influencing the children with the resources and materials we are offering in our environment which has provoked some new ideas for our learning spaces so that they stay open for our children to interpret. She also reminded us of the importance of time, free play and loose parts/open ended materials for children.

**Professional Learning—Early Intervention:** In August we also had the opportunity to learn about some of the services that are available to teachers and families through the Ministry of Education and the 'early intervention' team. This learning was presented by Miss Jones, one of our previous teachers, in her new role within a local early intervention team. This is valuable knowledge for teachers and families when children need additional support with their learning.

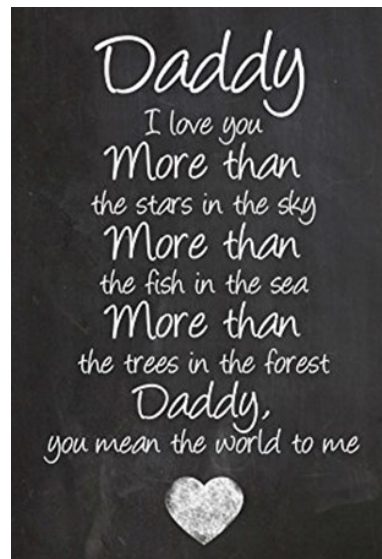
## Upcoming Events

### Grandparent's Morning—Thursday 13th September 9-11am:

All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten on Thursday 13th September from 9-11am. This is a lovely opportunity for the children to show these special family members all the wonderful things that they love to do at kindergarten and to share morning tea with us. Please let all of our wonderful grandparents know so that they can join us for this special morning.

### Father's Evening—Wednesday 7th November 5.30-7pm:

Our annual Father's sausage sizzle evening will be held on Wednesday 7th November. Children are invited to bring along their Dad or other significant male (Grandad, Uncle etc) for an evening of fun at kindergarten. This is a great opportunity for Dad's to see what their children love about their kindergarten and to meet other Dads. Sausages and drinks will be provided.



### Welcome

Eliana Josephson  
Ryder Wong  
Zaine Lee  
Emily Yeoman  
Gerald Corrick

### Farewell

Zoe Vialoux  
Lucas Quanzhang  
Zoe Schofield

We would love your feedback on our newsletter. Please email us at [stlukeskindy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stlukeskindy@xtra.co.nz).

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