



Newsletter

August 2018

Dates for your Diary

- Parent / Teacher Meetings 27th-30th August
- Grandparents day - Thursday 13th September 9-11am



Important Messages

Book your parent teacher meeting time

Please tell all our special grandparents about Grandparent morning at kindy

Programme Highlights

Harvesting our Garden

Continuing our celebration of Matariki at kindergarten the children have had a lovely time exploring all the treasures within our garden and harvesting all the lovely winter vegetables that were ready for picking. We had a good crop of carrots, lettuce, herbs and even a lemon from the lemon tree with cauliflowers being monitored on a daily basis as they grow. The children took responsibility for cleaning our vegetables and enjoyed eating our wonderful lettuce wraps filled with grated carrot for morning tea.

With room for new plants the children have planted more yummy vegetables for us to care for and grow.

Social Competence

On a day to day basis at kindergarten teachers are nurturing children's social and emotional well-being and

supporting them to become more successful with using their communication skills to appropriately navigate social situations within the context of play. This is a very important part of our curriculum and enables our children to relate to others in ways that enrich and extend their learning.

An important part of supporting children's social development is providing a learning environment that is calm and unhurried to allow time for teachers to work alongside children and support their interactions with others. On a daily basis we are building children's confidence in relating to others, initiating conversations, taking turns, asking questions, respecting the views and opinions of others, caring for our younger children, becoming independent problem solvers and negotiating desired

outcomes with others. This competence supports dispositions such as resilience, persevering with a task and showing empathy for others.

In a practical sense these skills are being developed through everyday social interactions with children and teachers, support with providing appropriate language in social situations, role modelling positive interactions, discussions about feelings and the use of puppets and role play at mat times. It is important that children learn to identify and analyse different options to overcome problems and develop the language necessary to communicate their needs, feelings and ideas with others to solve conflicts. When children can solve their own problems they can feel empowered and confident socially which ultimately enhances their self-esteem.

Resilience

Resilience is the ability to cope and thrive in the face of negative events, challenges or adversity. Key attributes of resilience in children include social competence, a sense of agency or responsibility, attachment to family, to kindy and to learning, optimism and

positive self-esteem.

When children are resilient, they are braver, more curious, more adaptable, and more able to extend their reach into the world. The great news is that resilience is something that can be nurtured in all children. One of our roles as teachers is to

build resilience and we do this by building a child's sense of belonging at kindergarten, valuing their contribution to the kindergarten community, respecting their views and opinions, fostering a positive self-image and supporting social competence.



130 Remuera Road
Remuera 1050
Phone: 520 0114

e-mail: stlukeskindy@xtra.co.nz

www.stlukeskindergarten.co.nz

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.

On the departure of one of our new 5 year olds the teachers were informed that "I am going to school soon and you will miss me!"

Communication Corner

- **Bastille Day:** St Lukes Kindergarten supported this years Bastille Day in Remuera by hosting the art and craft activities in the new children's area. This community event was very well attended, especially before the rain arrived, and we had lots of happy children enjoying our cool glue guns, drawing and chalk boards. Thank you to those parents who supported us by helping at this community event.
- **Our Kindergarten Library:** Children who attend kindergarten on a Friday have the opportunity to choose a book from our kindergarten library to take home and share with their families for the week. Each child has their very own book bag and is expected to take responsibility for looking after and returning their library book. This is consistent with experiences that children will have at school and therefore supports our children's transition to school. This is also a great opportunity for promoting a love of literacy in children.
- **Parent Aspirations:** We have taken our parents aspirations from our 'Who are you' form that is completed on enrolment and displayed these, along with a copy of our philosophy, on one of our documentation boards in our art space. Your aspirations as parents are important to developing our learning community so we wanted to acknowledge and share these as a community.
- **Professional Learning:** Sebastian attended the Nathan Wallis evening on brain development for 2-7 year olds which was also attended by all staff late last year. It was great to hear that a few of our parents attended also. Sebastian and Karen also completed or updated their First Aid certificates this month.
- **Footwear:** To support our discussions with our children about keeping themselves safe at kindergarten we would like to request that children are sent to kindergarten in appropriate footwear for climbing on our outdoor equipment. Children can easily slip on this equipment when wearing slippers or gumboots. Sneakers are the best option. Thank you for your support in maintaining a safe kindergarten environment.

Upcoming Events

Parent / Teacher Meetings: Parent / Teacher meetings will be held during the last week of August. If you would like to make a time to meet with Beth and Allanah to discuss your child's progress at kindergarten then please select a meeting time on our meeting booking sheet available in the foyer at kindergarten. If these dates don't suit you then please let us know as we are happy to schedule a more suitable time outside of these scheduled meeting times.

Grandparent's Morning: All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten on Thursday 14th 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 book this special morning into their diaries.



Farewells

Maddy Whittaker

Welcome

Kora Nausbaum
Lucas Quanzhang
Da Vin Lee

Family News

Congratulations to the McAllister family on the arrival of a baby girl, Aurella Giuliana, on 6th July 2018, weighing 3.76kg

We would love your feedback on our newsletter. Please email us at stlukeskindy@xtra.co.nz.

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