



Newsletter

June 2018

Dates for your Diary

- Matariki at Kindergarten - June
- Auckland City Mission 'One Can, Two Can' appeal 18-29th June



Important Messages

Children will start 'signing' in at kindy from week beginning 4th June

Beth Elliott will be away overseas for three weeks from Monday 25th June

Programme Highlights

Cool Glue Guns

Last month we added new tool into the children's carpentry space... some 'cool' glue guns!

Mr Sebastian had used these before and was very excited to introduce them to our children. We talked about how to be safe with these and what they could be used for. The children could not wait to have a go and have been busy building creations!

As a team we discussed where we would add the cool glue gun, reflecting upon what its purpose would be and how the children could use this to enhance their learning. We would like to work towards the children working on small projects and revisiting their work, so it is not just about creating something in one go. By doing this we are able to

support the children to extend on their ideas and revisit their learning in a really positive and meaningful way.

With our recent focus on imagination this tool is a wonderful way for teachers to support children's thinking to make creations from their imaginations come to life, moving from 2D into 3D. The glue opens up a range of different possibilities for children to explore. The New Zealand Curriculum states that "Adaptation and innovation are at the heart of technological practice" (pg 32), we believe this is true. By using cool glue guns in early childhood we are setting children up for life to be able to rethink and rework original designs and believe that they can invent worthwhile creations.



Mothers Night

On Monday 7th May we held our annual Mother's Night. This was a lovely opportunity for all our kindergarten Mother's to enjoy a glass of wine and night out with other kindergarten Mothers. The children decorated a lovely mug for their Mummy for Mothers Day.

Thank you to all our Mothers who were able to join us. We know that your time is precious and we are honoured that you spent it with us!

Celebrating 50 years - Kindergarten Family Disco

On Friday 25th May we all gathered as a kindergarten community to celebrate St Lukes Kindergarten 50th birthday with our annual kindergarten disco. We had a fun night of celebration with lots of disco music, dancing, bubbles, face painting, food and laughter. The children had a wonderful

time helping to plan this event, making the invitation and decorations.

During the evening we also revealed our kindergarten art project created using 50 strands of canvas decorated by our kindergarten families. A big thank you to Peata Larkin who generously completed this for us.

This was a special birthday for St Lukes Kindergarten and we are very thankful to all our families who came and celebrated with us.





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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.

Over lunch one day our children were talking about how old they were. One of our children announced that they were 1000 years old. He then laughed and said "No I'm really 4 years old but my Daddy is 1000 and then 100 and then 63 years old!"

Communication Corner

Neighbourly: Thank you to those parent's who took the time to write recommendations for us on Neighbourly. It was lovely to read so many lovely things that you enjoyed about St Lukes Kindergarten and we really appreciated your support. Congratulations to Rebecca Nalder who won our prize draw.

Professional Learning: Rachel Lennox and Rose Bloem attended professional learning in May on recognising and responding to signs of child abuse.

Beth Elliott attended a day of professional learning on Children's Wellbeing 'Mana Atua'. The course explored topics around mindfulness and what this can look like for both children and adults and practiced some ways to engage in this. The afternoon was spent practicing some yoga poses that are safe to share with our children. Supporting children to slow their bodies down, be aware of their bodies, how they move, balance, co-ordination, focus, stretching and being calm are all vital to children's learning.

Absence: Beth Elliott will be away for three weeks beginning Monday 25th June attending a friends wedding in Poland. Esther Hensby-Bennett will be working for Beth during this time.

Wise Owls visits to St Michaels Primary School:

We have been building a relationship with St Michaels School to support our children with transitioning into a primary school environment. We believe by visiting a primary classroom the children will gain an understanding of what this may look like and what will happen within the space. The visits are one hour long and when the children return to kindergarten they share their experience with our children at kindergarten. Through this process the children build a sense of confidence with getting ready for school and the transition into a classroom.

We have taken several children on visits to St Micheals, and these visits have been really successful. Children attend these visits with a teacher from the age of 4.5 years.

Children signing in each day

The teachers have been discussing how to enhance our classroom recently and you would have seen some new spaces and learning opportunities evolve. We have also been reflecting on ensuring we have print and image rich spaces for children to engage in multiple literacy experiences that support all our learners and the stages that they are at within their learning and development.

With this in mind we are going to be creating a 'sign in' space for children to sign themselves in each morning when they arrive at kindergarten. This will be replacing the stars on our rocket.

It has been shared that a child can become more independent in the classroom if they can find their own name independently upon arriving at kindy and this name recognition is related to early reading and writing skills. Accomplishment of name writing is a beginning step in developing awareness of the alphabetic principle (i.e. matching sounds with letters). Children learn that there is a difference between 'mark making' and 'letters' grouped together and that words and letters have meaning. It is difficult to tease apart the process of recognising one's name and writing one's name because these two distinct skills are built alongside each other. Developmentally, children will be able to recognise their name before they can write it.

It is really important that your child tries this on their own with the aid of their name shell and letter cards. Teachers are here to support both you and your child. We want our children to have a love of learning and this will come in their own time and within their own space, so there is no pressure to do this. As children's confidence builds this will naturally happen.



Welcome

Poppy Taggart
Ryder Murray

Farewell

Emma Huang

Family News

Congratulations to the Bean family on the arrival of a baby boy, Taika, on 18th May weighing 3.8kg.

Congratulations to the Firth family on the arrival of a baby girl on 25th May weighing 9lb 4oz.

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

JUNE 2018