



Newsletter

August 2021

Dates for your Diary

- Cultural day - Thursday 12th August
- Parent teacher meetings - week beginning 16th and 23rd August
- Wonderful worms - Tuesday 7th September
- Grandparent's Day - Wednesday 15th September

Programme Highlights

Matariki
We have been learning about Matariki, the Maori New Year and its traditions. We have explored Maori legends and values and learnt new waiata (songs). We enjoyed a variety of art and craft activities including star painting, salt painting, making stars from sticks and flax weaving.

Tamariki have reflected on their year, sharing what they are proud of achieving which has been captured and added to our collection of stars displayed at kindy. We have planted seedlings and showed kaitianga towards caring for plants, vegetables and a special chrysalis found by Ms Bloem. The highlight of our celebrations was our Matariki disco where our kindergarten community came together for an evening of celebration, sharing music

and kai together. We have celebrated a number of children leaving to begin their school journey using our special korowai cloaks that the children made during Matariki last year. A Korowai is a traditional cloak which is used by Maori for special ceremonies representing prestige and honour. Traditionally made from the feathers of native NZ birds, the children created their own bright iridescent feathers using oil pastels and inks.

Exploring light
This month we have enjoyed our new light table. Children are naturally drawn to the gentle glow of the light table and when exploring its opportunities they are encouraged to notice the subtle details as the light provokes colours, textures and physical properties of

materials they may not otherwise see. Children focus for longer periods of time when engaged on a lighted surface as this adds a sense of curiosity to their experience. We have used a multitude of resources and will continue to extend on these experiences over the coming weeks.

Composting
As we continue our review of sustainability we have introduced the children to the concept of composting and will be incorporating learning on composting into our programme over the next term. The children really embraced our learning on recycling and we are excited to continue exploring sustainability at kindergarten with our focus on composting. If any families have any prior experience they can share please let us know.



Sustainability

A parent survey completed in June 2021 confirmed that all families valued sustainability as an important or very important issue. Common sustainability practices used at home included recycling (97%), upcycling through donating or repurposing (77%), making recyclable and biodegradable product choices (73%) and choosing reusable rather than

disposable products (70%). Families shared that they were most interested in us supporting the following sustainability practices at kindy – recycling, making reusable product choices, composting reducing waste with reference to wastage of food, energy, paper and paper towels. Sustainability practices that families would like their

children to learn about at kindergarten most included recycling and upcycling and identifying things that can be recycled or reused, composting, gardening and teaching them about minimising waste. As we progress through this self review we will reflect on this feedback and incorporate this into the outcomes of our review.

Important Messages

Please name children's clothing and check the lost property basket for unclaimed items



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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.

One of our children informed Ms Bloem that "At home I have poo juice". Ms Bloem enquired whether she was meaning prune juice when she replied "Yes, it's poo juice".

Upcoming Events

Cultural Day—Thursday 12th August 2021: Our annual Cultural Day celebrates our children's diverse cultures. This is an opportunity for children to come to kindy wearing something from their culture and to bring something into kindergarten to share from their culture. We would love parent support so if you have a cultural song, dance, food dish or traditional craft activity that you can share with us please talk to one of our teaching team. Children who do not attend kindy on a Wednesday are welcome to come along with a parent or caregiver and share the morning with us too. Parents and siblings welcome from 9-11am.

Parent Teacher Meetings—week beginning 16th and 23rd August 2021: If you would like to make a time to meet with Rachel and Allanah to discuss your child's progress at kindergarten then please select a meeting time on our meeting booking sheet available at the entrance to the kindergarten. If you have more than one child please book two booking times. If these dates do not suit you then please let us know as we are happy to schedule a time outside of these scheduled meeting times.

Wonderful Worms—Tuesday 7th September 2021: We will be hosting Sarah from Little Ferns to provide a fun, interactive education session for the children all about worms. They will learn about looking after worms, what they like to eat and get the opportunity to hold some tiger worms.

Grandparents day—Wednesday 15th September 2021: All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten on Wednesday 15th 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.

Communication Corner

Absence: We experienced unusually higher levels of absence in July and extend our appreciation to families for their support in keeping children at home when they were unwell and for notifying us of absences. Illness has now reduced to normal winter levels and your ongoing support over winter by keeping children at home when they are unwell is appreciated.

Professional learning: Mrs Dudley commenced the incredible years programme for teachers in July. This is a 6 day programme supporting building social and emotional competency in children. This supports our recent centre wide review of social and emotional competency. Miss Camille is completing professional learning on biculturalism to support building her knowledge of Maori heritage, culture and values.

Naming clothing and lost property: The winter months brings an increase in the layers of clothing worn by children and an increase in the volume of clothing left by children on the stairs and on the hooks in the foyer. We would like the support of parents in collecting excess clothing each day and naming clothing to make it easier for teacher to identifying clothing belonging to your child. There is currently high levels of loss property so if you are missing any items of clothing please check the loss property basket.

Student teacher: We have a new student teacher, Ruth Whelan, who will be spending time with us on a Wednesday morning for the next year. Ruth is enrolled in the NZ Certificate of Early Childhood Education and Care level 4 programme and her work experience will form part of this course of study.

Greeting of the month: This month we are learning about the Cook Island greeting kia orana. As we celebrate our cultures through our Cultural Day we will also share greetings from our children's cultures.



Farewell

James Fraser
Luca Boldarin
Angus McChesney
Mila Claudatos
Hee Won Kim
Ju Won Kim
Connor Van Oijen

Welcome

Felix Oliver
Lucy Ellis
Mèrida Strong
Luciana Herron
Jake Lee
Ariana Vivanco-Coutts

Congratulations

to the Liu family and big brother Tristan on the birth of Lachlan on Saturday 17th July