



Newsletter

July 2023

Dates for your Diary

- Celebrating Matariki 3rd-14th July
- Matariki Disco - Friday 28th July 5.30-7pm
- Cultural day - Wednesday 9th August
- Parent teacher meetings - week beginning 21st and 28th August
- Grandparent day—Tuesday 19th September 9-11am



Important Messages

We will be welcoming two new permanent teachers in July.

Programme Highlights

Samoa culture

Samoa language week was a time to celebrate and reflect upon the rich Samoan culture in NZ. The children engaged in a number of creative projects such as making tapa cloths, painting Samoan patterns using stencils, creating a large textured bark cloth using different methods of printing and making decorative bands to put around their wrists and ankles and tuiga (traditional ceremonial crowns) for their heads. They also enjoyed watching traditional Samoan dances during music time, reading stories rich in Samoan language and culture and collected natural 'treasures' in atu (baskets) outside our fale (house).

Loose Parts

This month we have seen a strong interest in loose parts play and have supported this through providing lots of opportunities for using these resources in different areas

Living Eggs

A highlight of our year has been having our baby chicks at kindergarten. Through the Living Eggs Education Programme, we embarked on a journey to learn about the life cycle of chickens. The children become Kaitiaki (guardians) for the chickens over the next two weeks as we witnessed their birth and

within the kindergarten environment. 'Loose parts' is a term used for open ended materials that do not have one set purpose or use. They encourage spontaneous child led play experiences that allow them to explore and problem solve. This play supports children's learning and development by enhancing their cognitive skills, increasing opportunities for critical thinking, focus and engagement, and encouraging conversation and collaboration.

The children have involved these resources in a variety of play scenarios including within their imaginative play, making balancing platforms, building roads, ball runs, a teepee, and making body armour, binoculars and letters of the alphabet.

Science

Our Wise Owls have been focussing on chemistry and physics this term and have

looked after them.

As we explored what the children knew about chicks we talked about when and how they were going to be born, the incubator that kept them warm, how to look after them, whether they could fly and lots more related questions. In the second week the true

been engaging in lots of experiments as part of their science programme. There has been a high level of interest and excitement in this exploration so we have been providing opportunities to revisit these experiences within our daily programme with all children. We have made explosions using baking soda and vinegar, explored how clouds are formed, investigated the properties of ice and the concept of melting. We have learnt about electricity and explored the concept of force by learning about how magnets work and making balloon rockets.

Science experiments are a wonderful part of our curriculum supporting children with skills such as critical thinking, scientific inquiry, raising questions and making observations, predictions and conclusions about the world around them.

adventures began as the chicks were strong enough to spend time playing and having cuddles with the children. They joined us for mat times as we watched with interest, exploring more questions and ideas. The children were very gentle and empathetic towards the chicks and they were well looked after.



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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. During our time with the chickens the children shared:

'I just love the chicks because they are so tiny like me'

'The chicks are making a lot of noise today. I think they might need some fresh air!'

'They are chirping louder this time. I think they might be praying!'

Upcoming Events

Children's Matariki Disco - Friday 28th July 5.30pm-7pm: Our annual children's disco is a real favourite for our children and a fun night of celebration for all our families. All parent, children and siblings welcome. Please bring a plate to share for dinner.

Cultural Day - Wednesday 9th August 2023: We will be hosting our annual Cultural Day in August. Children have the opportunity to come to kindy dressed up in something from their culture or they can bring something into kindergarten that reflects their culture such as a traditional artefact or a cultural food to share for morning tea. All families are welcome to join us even if this is not your regular kindy day.

Parent Teacher Meetings - week beginning 21st and 28th August 2023: Each year we extend an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of their children at kindergarten. Meeting times are 15 minutes long and will be held in August. For those interested a booking schedule will be available at the beginning of August.

Grandparents day - Tuesday 19th September 2023 9-11am: We will be hosting our annual grandparent morning in September. Please pass on this date to all of our lovely grandparents so they can come and join us for a wonderful morning at kindergarten. All children welcome even if it is not your regular kindy day.

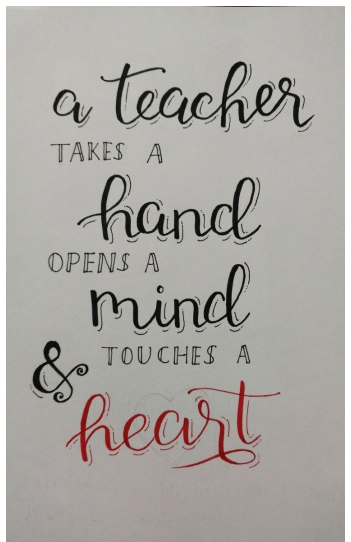
Communication Corner

Welcome: We are very pleased to be welcoming two new teachers to our teaching team in July. Julie Moore is a qualified teacher with a number of years of teaching experience in primary and early childhood. She is also a talented musician who alongside her husband established and ran a music school for 13 years. Julie will be joining us on 19th July four days a week on a Monday to Thursday. We will also be welcoming Heshika Gunasekera on 31st July full time. Heshika has 11 years teaching experience in New Zealand and Sri Lanka. We will look forward to getting to know our new teachers and utilising their individual strengths within our teaching team. Thank you to all of our parents for your patience as we have rebuilt a strong teaching team.

Emergency Management Information for Parents: On the recommendation of the Ministry of Education we maintain a document that provides information to parents about what happens if an emergency situation arises at kindergarten. This document is reviewed and updated annually and shared with our kindergarten community. This document has been provided with this newsletter. Full details of our emergency management procedures are contained in our Emergency Management Plan and relevant Health and Safety Policies which are reviewed regularly and are available for parents to review.

Policies: Review of centre policies are carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Body Washing, Hand Washing and Laundry Policies with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the month: The greeting of the month for July is the Tongan greeting of Mālo e lelei.



Welcome

Cruz Carter