



Newsletter

August 2023

Dates for your Diary

- Cultural day - Wednesday 9th August
- Parent teacher meetings - 14-16th August
- Grandparent's Day - Tuesday 19th September 9-11am



Important Messages

Please collect children's artwork

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

Programme Highlights

Sensory Play

We have been offering lots of sensory play opportunities at kindy and the children have been having SO much fun! We have enjoyed running our fingers through shaving foam, using pipettes and dyes to colour our foam. We have explored the properties of gloop and water beads, enjoyed fine coloured sand and brushes in our sand trays and experimented with different ways of melting ice.

Sensory play materials provide tactile experiences that can stimulate emotional well-being. This can be important for children's development as they learn about different textures and materials. Sensory activities provide opportunities for children to practice hand-eye

coordination, support fine motor development and experiment with mixing and creating patterns. At kindy we encourage experimentation and investigation with different materials as it allows children to devise theories about how things work. By using different resources children discover and develop different ways to be creative and expressive.

We will look forward to continuing to enjoy more sensory activities at kindy.

Loose Parts Play

We have continued to extend on opportunities for loose parts play at kindy. From our observations these resources are proactively engaged with when we move them around our learning spaces inviting children to use these

resources in different ways. They have particularly enjoyed using them in our sandpit and bark area, creating opportunities for child led play experiences supporting children's imaginative play, explorations and problem solving. We will continue to be mindful of using these resources in our environment set up.

Our Garden

During Matariki it is tradition for whanau to harvest their crops and share meals together. With this in mind, as part of our Matariki celebrations we harvested our lemons and broccoli. We have enjoyed making lemonade together and having broccoli with home-made cheese sauce for morning tea.

Matariki

Over the last few weeks we have been celebrating Matariki the Māori New Year. During mat times we have discussed the significance of this event in New Zealand. Matariki is the name of a star cluster and when it is visible in the night sky, it marks the change in season and the start of the first lunar cycle of the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar).

For our community, Matariki is a time for learning, but also

celebration and togetherness. This learning has engaged the children in lots of different activities including reading traditional stories together, creating star themed arts and crafts, making decorations, sensory play with our glittery play dough reflecting the night sky and singing waiata. The children have reflected on what they are proud of achieving throughout the year, their thoughts captured on stars displayed at kindy.

The highlight has been our Matariki disco, as our families came together for an evening of dancing, bubbles, face painting and laughter. We practised every day to showcase the Matariki Macarena and our amazing poi spinning. We enjoyed feasting on shared plates of food and connecting with our kindy community. Thank you to our families for joining our celebration.



130 Remuera Road
Remuera 1050

e-mail: admin@littletreehouse.co.nz
www.littletreehouse.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.

Two of our children were playing together outside. One of the children had been enthusiastically leading the conversation. Eventually the other children took a very big breathe and says 'when can I get a word in?'

Communication Corner

Children's art: Children's art is collated and filed daily in children's art folders found in the baskets at the front entrance. These creations are often important to children so we encourage parents to clear art folders regularly so you can share these creations with your child.

Lost property: We would like the support of parents in collecting excess clothing each day and naming clothing to make it easier for teachers to identifying clothing belonging to your child. Excess clothing can be found on the hooks in the foyer or in the lost property basket.

Professional learning: All teachers will be attending a professional learning programme called ENGAGE which supports the development of children's self regulation skills through play. People with strong self regulation skills make better decisions more often and are able to function more effectively in a wider range of situations, leading to more positive outcomes throughout life. Teachers will be attending workshops in August and September followed by follow up sessions throughout the rest of 2023. Whanau will have an opportunity to get involved too.

Emergency Drills: Our Emergency Response policy is reviewed annually and drills practiced regularly on a rotational basis. This month we have focused on our lockdown drill. The recent tragic events in the Auckland CBD are a reminder of the importance of practicing these drills and being prepared. A copy of our Emergency Response Policy is attached to this newsletter to provide further information on our emergency procedures.

Policies: Review of centre policies are carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Emergency Response Policy and Animal Care Policy with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

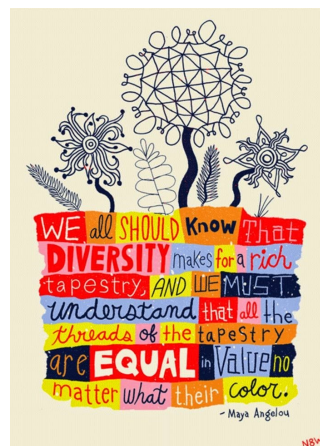
Greeting of the month: This month we are learning about the Danish greeting Godmorgen in support of Elise's culture. As we celebrate our cultures through our Cultural Day we will also share greetings from our children's cultures.

Upcoming Events

Cultural Day - Wednesday 9th August 2023: 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 the support of parents 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 - 14th to 16th August 2023: 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 a meeting time for each child.

Grandparents day - Tuesday 19th September 2023: All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten 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 book their diaries now!



Welcome

Madeleine Coe
Lachlan Liu

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Thorburn family on the arrival of a baby boy, Jack on 15th July 2023. A little brother for Lucia.