



Dear Families/Whanau

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014 ☺

HAERE MAI, WELCOME

We are very happy to welcome Neve, Storm and Evie to the Playhouse family ☺

ERO (EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE)

Cynthia Manion and Graeme Tregoweth from ERO visited the centre earlier in the month as part of our scheduled 3 yearly review cycle. We look forward to receiving their finalised report in the next month or so ☺

CENTRE NEWS

We welcome Ruth to the Playhouse team ☺ Ruth has joined Lynnette, Alisi and Sam (when she returns from maternity leave in early April) in the Kiwi room and has settled in wonderfully ☺

Our student teachers will be back from this month completing their required hours in an ECE centre as part of their ECE degrees ☺ Tamsyn is now in her 2nd year, Debbie is in her 3rd year and Rita is due to complete her degree in July

Check out the updated 'Meet the Team' board in the foyer with all our smiling faces on it ☺

BABY NEWS!!



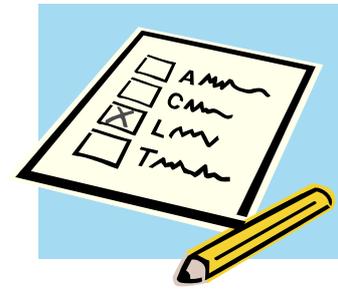
The pitter patter of tiny feet is back!! Huge congratulations to Jade and her husband James on the exciting news that they are expecting a baby boy in July!



PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all of you who completed our recent 'Curriculum and Planning' survey ☺ The results of these surveys help us to identify both our strengths and areas for further development and are a great way of getting valuable parent feedback

The winner of the survey draw for a \$50.00 Westfield gift voucher is Rebecca Nelson - Congratulations Rebecca!!



DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP

Just a reminder that children need to be escorted to and from their rooms by an adult at both ends of the day as we regard these as important times to share information about their day and to give/receive any messages

SPARE CLOTHING

We all love water play, especially on hot summer days so please make sure your child has sets of spare clothes in their bag - thanks ☺



OLD GREETING CARDS

If you have any old cards at home (that you are not sentimentally attached to) the Pukeko team would love to have them ☺

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, CONTACT NUMBERS OR EMAIL?

Please make sure you let us know asap if you change address, contact phone numbers or email- thanks!

OTHER PEOPLE COLLECTING CHILDREN

If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child from the centre on a day please let one of the teachers know and also make a note under of who will be collecting your child beneath their name on the sign in sheet. If this does not happen the team will not allow the child to leave until they have managed to contact you to confirm that this is okay



CAR PARK ETIQUETTE

Our Kiwi room babes sleep at all different times during the day and as the sleep room window faces the carpark it can be very disruptive if people are slamming doors, revving engines or talking loudly outside this window ☺ Please try to keep excess noise to a minimum when using this area of the car park - thank you!

PICNIC AT PLAYHOUSE

We will be having our annual 'Picnic at Playhouse' on Friday 14th March from 5.30pm -7.00pm here at the centre ☺ Everyone is invited to bring a picnic dinner and blanket and join other families and the Playhouse team in the garden for a fun, relaxed, social get-together. More details to follow



PARK VISIT - PUKEKO PICK UPS

If you are waiting for your child to return from the park in the afternoon the Pukeko team would really appreciate it if you could wait for them in the centre grounds/carpark. Standing on the footpath can be very distracting and cause your child to forget their road safety rules and run towards you - which is not ideal!!





KIWI ROOM NEWS



We welcome you all back to a wonderful new year in the Kiwi room.

Austin is starting his visits upstairs to the Pukeko room in preparation for his transition in a few weeks' time. We are also glad to welcome Neve and Storm to our room. They have both settled in well and are enjoying exploring all our activities and getting to know the other children.

You will have no doubt all met our new staff member - Ruth Brown. She has accepted the full time position in our room. The other new face in our room is Debbie Cordes. She is completing her 3rd year early childhood teaching degree and will be working here with us each week as she studies. She is presently working here till her studies resume. Already these two wonderful ladies have become firm favourites with the children and the Kiwi room is once again a buzzing hive of activity and fun!

My, how the children have grown over the past month or so! There is just so much talking and new words every day. We can see new friendships developing and the children love helping one another. The children now all know each other's parents and we love to watch as they interact with you all as you come into our room.

As we work with each child's emerging interests and focus on their learning dispositions, our month ahead is going to be full of exploration and discovery. Having fun under the sprinkler on a hot day is one of the children's favourite things to do, as well as becoming more confident in the outdoors - climbing, digging, learning to use different pieces of equipment.

Dramatic Play is also very popular at the moment. There is always someone in the little kitchen area, making a meal, or feeding the dolls. We are on the lookout for more real life accessories for this area to make it more interesting. If you have any utensils, plastic containers such as marmite jars, sauce bottles etc, or anything else that may be of interest to the children we would love to add it to the collection.

I know we always look busy, but we would love to talk to you about the way we are planning for the children. Any time you have a moment, come in and check out the wall displays and have a chat.





PUKEKO ROOM NEWS



Tēnā Koe and welcome to news from the Pukeko room.

We would like to say a big welcome to Evelyn who has joined us in the Pukeko room. Evelyn is making a few friends and is settling well! We would like to farewell William and Aiden Brophy who have been with us since they were babies and now will be leaving us for school. We wish you all the best!

We would like to thank our parents for sending us stories about their recent holidays and the children have drawn us lovely visual representations of their exciting experiences. This will be our current focus and we would like to revisit their holiday experiences in Playhouse. A special thank you to Adam (Jonas and Pearl's dad) and Hasley (Windsor's dad) for bringing in their tents and helping us to set them up. The children are having lots of happy hours revisiting their camping experiences. We are planning to have a 'beach day' in the centre.

Some of our older children visited the Blockhouse Bay community library as part of our transition to school programme. The children packed their own lunch boxes and travelled by public bus to the library. They enjoyed reading books, solving puzzles, they chose and issued books of their choice. By taking the children on a local excursion within the community it has given them a sense of belonging and understanding that they have a place within their community. We will continue with our visits to the local schools, parks and shops in our community.

We would like to thank Greg for our new light table. The children are exploring not only light but also colours, shapes and other concepts. They have made basic shapes of card and cellophane and are discovering ways to extend the light table. If you have any x-rays, animal x-rays and would like to share them with our children please feel free to bring them in. We would like to remind our new families to email family photographs for our whanau board. Our garden is looking beautiful and the children are enjoying the 'fruits of their labour'.

Last but not the least we would like to remind our whanau to take your child's portfolio home for a read and feel free to add new interest/stories.

We wish our Chinese families a very Happy and prosperous New Year!



From all the Playhouse Team ☺

Greg, Lynnette, Tiffany, Sandra, Sam, Nicola, Vanessa, Alisi, Molly, Jade, Rita, Ruth, Marlo, Debbie, Shiree, Tamsyn and Lupe