

Bear Park Newsletter

August 2011

Important Dates

- ◆ Rugby World Cup competition entries due Thursday 8th Sept
- ◆ Individual & Class Photos Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th Sept
- ◆ Bear Park's 25th Birthday Party Friday 2nd Dec

Haere mai, welcome

A warm welcome to the many new families who have joined us since the last edition of our newsletter. This newsletter aims to keep you up-to-date with centre news. Other important information will, from time to time, be displayed on the front door or on the reception desk ... so please keep checking.

Parent Evening

Thanks to all those parents who joined us on Friday night for our Rugby World Cup quiz night. In a hotly contested competition Fiji managed to hold off a late charge from Samoa to take the honours. Unfortunately New Zealand came in a lowly 5th...hopefully not an omen for the main event!

Education Review Office

We have received the draft report following our recent review and as we would expect, it was extremely good. Within the next 3 weeks the final report should be with us and we look forward to sharing some of the positive things that were said about our centre.

We'd also like to take this opportunity of thanking those parents who took the time out of their busy days to speak with the review officers...your kind comments were greatly appreciated.

Rugby World Cup Comp.

We invite all families to enter our RWC competition. All you need do is pick the winning team and margin of victory for each of the pool games. Whilst a degree of rugby knowledge could be beneficial don't let this put you off...have a go...it's free to enter and you could walk away with a basket full of goodies.

Entry forms are on the reception desk and need to be returned by Thursday 8th September.

Christmas

Yes, it's almost Christmas! Well, not quite, but we have just announced our Christmas closing dates to allow everyone to plan for the festive season.

Up until Thursday 22nd December it's business as usual then...

Fri 23 rd Dec	Close 12.00pm
Mon 26 th Dec	Closed (Stat Day)
Tue 27 th Dec	Closed (Stat Day)
Wed 28 th Dec	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Thu 29 th Dec	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Fri 30 th Dec	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Mon 2 nd Jan	Closed (Stat Day)
Tue 3 rd Jan	Closed (Stat Day)
Wed 4 th Jan	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Thu 5 th Jan	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Fri 6 th Jan	OPEN 8.00 - 4.30
Mon 9 th Jan	Closed (Teacher Only Day)
Tue 10 th Jan	OPEN Normal Hrs from this date on

Please note there will be **no charge** to parents who choose not to have their children attend from Monday December 26th to Monday January 9th (inclusive). For those who wish their children to attend fees will apply.

To enable us to plan our staffing over this time we will be asking all parents to confirm if their child will be attending between these dates. Forms for this will be made available in October.

Car Seats

It has been noticed that some parents either do not have car seats or are not using them. We strongly urge all parents to use them. **The law states for children under 5 years of age an approved child restraint must be used.**

The centre has been kindly donated a number of car seats which we are more than happy for parents to use. Please see a member of staff if you would like to borrow one.



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Bear Park's 25th Birthday Party

This year Bear Park celebrates its 25th birthday and what better way to celebrate than a family picnic at Auckland Zoo.

On Friday 2nd December from 5.30pm the Zoo will be open exclusively for Bear Park and it promises to be a great night of fun, activities and live performances located throughout the Zoo.

Invitations will be handed out shortly.

Christmas Party

We have decided this year to combine our Christmas Party with Bear Park's 25th Birthday Party. We look forward to celebrating both occasions with you on Friday 2nd December.



Class & Individual Photos

Our usual photographer will be with us on Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th September.

For those children who don't normally attend on these days we will advise you nearer the time of when we will be doing the class photos. The individual photos can be scheduled for the same time.

For those families new to Bear Park there is no obligation to purchase the photos, however in the past they have proved very popular as the children are photographed naturally, at play, rather than in a studio.

Chalk

One of our suppliers, Modern Teaching Aids, has developed a fundraising initiative which offers families the opportunity to purchase quality toys and gifts at competitive prices.

The fundraising programme is called **Chalk** and is simple to participate in. You choose the toys and gifts from the catalogue you wish to purchase, complete the order form in the centre of the catalogue and return it to us, together with your payment.

We will then consolidate the orders and forward these to Modern Teaching Aids, who will package and individually label each order and deliver them to us for you to collect.

We will then receive a voucher for 20% of the total value of all orders, which we can use to purchase educational materials.

Catalogues are available from reception and orders should be returned by Friday 23rd September.

Room News



Fantails

Our young children are settling in well and getting more physically active and involved in their investigation. We believe that their developing mobility will assist them to determine their own actions and make their own choices about what resources they wish to investigate (MOE, 1996).

The children are taking an interest in discovering the world around them and this will enable them to take a more active role in discovering what wonders are waiting to be found. We have also observed that the children's curiosity is a prime motivator for encouraging them to explore the environment, whilst testing and extending their large motor skills by crawling and pulling themselves up on the furniture. The teaching team is looking forward to sharing and observing their journeys as the children gain increasing control over their bodies!

Room News (continued)

We also have been continuing to provide the provocation of edible leaves such as broccoli, celery, parsley, leek and mint. We have observed that the children are practicing their freedom of choice as they are choosing to move between the leaves and other learning experiences. This demonstrates that they have the ability to make decisions, choose their own materials, and resolve their own problems.

As teachers we strive to be more creative and resourceful in the way we present this provocation as this could support the children to discover new strategies for exploring the edible leaves, thereby extending their ideas from their oral investigation.

Fantail parents are encouraged to participate with this investigation by bringing some edible leaves from home for the children to interact and investigate with further.

Minda, Avon & Tina



Moreporks

THANK YOU!! To Marian who attended our parent evening on Friday 26th August. We hope you enjoyed your night with us and we look forward to many more!

Our investigation - A relationship with light (an investigation using recycling materials) continues both on the OHP and light box as the children have been working together, collaborating their theories and ideas in group learning experiences. If you have any questions or enquiries about this investigation please come and talk to your teachers.

We ask that you please make sure your child has enough warm clothes, which should be all clearly named. It would be really helpful for us to have in their baskets...beanies, gumboots, shoes, jackets, jumpers, pants, spare socks and nappies. If in doubt please ask the teachers if your child has enough nappies in our bathroom.

As spring is approaching we would like to start taking groups of children on various trips relating to their interests and learning in the centre. If anyone has any ideas or can offer us their workplace or connections this would GREATLY appreciated!!

Amanda and Teresa



Keas

We are preparing a class trip to extend on the children's understanding of the Maori culture by visiting a Kapa Haka group and watching them perform. If anyone knows of any Local school Kapa haka groups, please feel free to come and talk to us about it as we would appreciate any help or information.

We would like to welcome our new parents and children into the Kea room. We look forward to getting to know you all and forming strong partnerships. On the other hand we would like to say Ka kite ano! to some of our Kea children who are now part of the Tui room!

Thank you to those parents who attended the parents evening, it was a lot of fun and we enjoyed spending time with you. Also thank you for naming the children's belongings, it has helped us a lot in regards to our lost property.

Tash, Amy & Ashleigh



Tuis

Welcome to all our new Tui children and their families/whanau. Our 'Who's hiding in the garden' focus is still going strong. The Tui children have been enjoying following the journey of the changes in the garden along with the changes in the seasons. Spring is here and we are waiting in anticipation to see how this affects the life in the garden.

Room News (continued)

Through the winter months the Tui children's main research subjects have consisted of spiders, snails, worms and slugs. Our worm farm has been a particularly popular research site and provoked many investigations. If any parents or children find some creepy crawlies around home, they are most welcome to bring them in to share, study and then release.

Meanwhile, indoors the Tui children have been very busy using our vast range of visual arts resources to represent their theories and knowledge of these unusual life forms. The children have produced some amazing creations through the use of clay, natural resources and paints which are proudly displayed around our room.

We are currently organising a trip to the Auckland Museum (The Weird and Wonderful Exhibit) to further inspire the children and assist them with extending their current ideas and knowledge base.

Our class goal of respect and responsibility has been implemented within our focus, linking to manaaki whenua - caring for our land and the creatures upon it.

The Tui children are still enjoying taking turns with our pukapuka (book) kete and our cultural kete, having the opportunity to bring items from home to share with their peers. This is fostered by their interest in literacy and exploring our cultural identity.

We would also like to thank the parents who attended our Rugby World Cup Quiz Night. A great time was had by all!!

Lastly, please take the time to read our daily diaries, weekly and monthly evaluations that are on display around the room. It will assist you in discovering joining us in our learning journey.

Erika, Linda, Rose & Alana



Kiwis

Welcome to our new Kiwi Families. Please feel free to ask how your child is settling into our room. We'd love to hear about any interests your child has to support their learning and belonging.

Thank you to all the family members who joined us for the Gruffalo stage show, we hope you enjoyed the show. The children really liked the characters and are still been talking about the show.

By now all the parents/caregivers will have received a personalised letter outlining the recyclable materials the Kiwis would like to create their collaborative bug house with. Thank you to all those families who have brought in items to support this project. The children take great pride in sharing these special materials with their friends. We would also like to thank Steve Scott (Joshua and Ben's dad) for kindly building the exterior frame of the wooden bug house. The Kiwi children are now taking their next step forward towards decorating the interior of this bug house. Let's hope that their DIY project will be over before our little bug friends start visiting us in the summer.

Recognising their names and being able to write their names is one of the things that we try and achieve with our children before they start school. To make this an interesting activity, we are constantly trying to introduce new methods to the children. We now have all the children's photos with blank writing space in a basket on the table next to the entrance door. Please encourage your children to sign in and put their photo on the door.

Ka kite for now and looking forward to a beautiful and warm summer.

Suchi, Liz & Jemima