

# Bear Park Newsletter

June 2011

## 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 deposited in your green pockets (these are located along the corridor besides the reception desk), displayed on the front door or on the reception desk ... so please keep checking.



## Paper 4 Trees

Tying in nicely with our centre-wide recycling interest, we are pleased to announce that we are now part of the Paper 4 Trees carbon reduction programme.

This hugely successful programme initiative which began in 2001, rewards native trees to schools that recycle paper and cardboard and is now used in schools throughout New Zealand.

Each classroom now has their own 30l green recycle bin into which our children are encouraged to deposit used paper and cardboard.

*Did you know that for every tonne of paper and cardboard that is recycled:*

- 17 trees are saved
- 5000 litres of water are saved
- The equivalent of 2.52 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> are not released



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## Room News

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**Fantails**

A warm welcome to Stoik and Jordan who have recently joined us in the Fantails Room. We are also pleased to welcome Avon and Tina to the teaching team.

Our new investigation of 'what do I discover' is beginning to take form. The children are slowly discovering the world of leaves.

At this point in time we are beginning to see how the children are interacting with leaves. The leaves have been exciting and fresh, some children enjoy the texture of crunching leaves in their hands whilst others enjoy rubbing leaves against their face. We have spoken about the importance of how they discover through leaves - in terms of exploring texture, sound and communication and we'll see where this leads the children's investigation.

Please feel free to spend some time reading through our investigation book and wall documentation.

Minda, Avon & Tina



**Moreporks**

We would like to let all our parents/whanau know that Tina is leaving us from the Moreporks and will be joining the Fantails room for 3 months. She will be rejoining us in September with all our new Fantail children that will be transitioning.

Our investigation - *A Relationship with Light (an investigation using recycling materials)* has extended from using clear and opaque transparent materials to incorporating transparent blue. If you have any blue transparent resources available we would greatly appreciate you bringing these in to share with children.

We have been reflecting on what the children have been learning and where this investigation will lead to next. We believe through this investigation the children are building the foundations and tools to compare and identify the differences and similarities between shapes, size, colour, and texture. Underneath the surface this is not just about light or materials but rather giving the children the skills of our everyday experiences without always giving the children the answers.

Lastly we would really appreciate a family photo to display in our room as the children are able to link their family/whanau connections from home to their centre life.

Amanda & Teresa

P.S. Please make sure your child has enough warm clothes, which should all be **clearly named**. It would be really helpful for us to have in their baskets beanies, gumboots, shoes, jackets, jumpers, pants & spare socks.

## Room News (continued)

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Keas

Firstly, we would like to welcome all the new kea children, parents and whanau that have transitioned into our room this month; we look forward to getting to know you all.

The children are continuing to use the cultural materials, however they have now moved on to understanding how these particular resources are meant to be used. They show respect towards our resources, which was one of last month's main goals. An example of this is using the poi with Waiata in small groups and as individuals, instead of using them as a patu (beater). The learning present is evident due to a lot of role modeling and observing from the children. This learning is then going home and we are receiving such positive feedback from parents who are also asking us for lyrics to various songs that their children are incorporating at home (please feel free to continue asking for lyrics). This has given us confidence and motivation to take the investigation of Cultural Literacy even further.

Just a reminder, the weather is getting colder so please bring in a warm hat for your child and please ensure this is named, along with ALL other items of clothing, including socks. ☺

Tash, Amy & Ashleigh



Tuis

Wow! Halfway through the year already! What a terrific time we have had so far. We would like to welcome Natalie Henson and her family to Bear Park.

It is great to see our class goal of respect and responsibility being implemented within our focus and other areas of the curriculum.

The Tui children are still expressing an interest in "Who's hiding in the garden?" They have discovered changes in the garden with the different seasons, no more cicadas and butterflies; rather they are finding worms, slugs, snails, spiders and centipedes. They have been discovering these weird and wonderful life forms fascinating to investigate, gaining new theories and ideas to discuss with their peers. Our worm farm has been a popular research area as the children are aware of the abundance of 'creepy crawlies' residing in this habitat.

We have observed an emerging interest in literacy developing in our classroom. The Tui children are showing a passion for reading and writing, especially writing their name, which is leading to letter recognition. They have been highly enjoying reading books with their peers, both fiction and non-fiction and this has inspired their imaginations. Role playing has become a popular form of expressing themselves, especially the teacher's role for meeting times. The children have many positive female role models in the classroom; however we are lacking a male influence in the room. Dads, granddads, uncles etc. we would really love to have some male participation in our room and would really appreciate it if you could come and spend some time talking to the children about your jobs, interests, or even just to read a story to the children. If you are interested please talk to one of the Tui teachers to organize a suitable time that is convenient for everyone.

## Room News (continued)

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Exploring our cultural identity is an ongoing process in the Tui room; hence we always welcome input from our families/whānau. This could include knowledge of special traditions, holidays, music, foods, clothing etc.

**‘Māori Language Week’** is from 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011 with a theme of manaakitanga. In its broader sense this is the cultural concept around reciprocity of kindness, respect and humanity which links to our class goal.

Finally any spare plastic bags would be greatly appreciated and with the colder weather, could you please ensure that your child has enough named spare warm clothing.

Erika, Linda, Rose & Alana



**Kiwis**

A warm welcome to all the new children and families that have recently become a part of the Kiwi room. We are looking forward to extending our relationships with your child and your family.

Please feel free to talk to any of the Kiwi teachers about your child's learning or if you have any questions about the Kiwi room. We have information about the daily routine, food chart and room news related to the project, on the parent's board located on the right side of the door as you enter of room.

Our project book is located directly in front of the sofa, this is updated weekly and we invite you to look through the book with your child.

Please feel free to take your child's portfolio home to read and fill in any

parent's voice forms. A friendly request that the books are returned within a few days so we can continue to add more learning stories.

Over the past month, we have continued to explore our class project, **“An architectural journey through our natural world”**. The children have been incorporating recyclable materials in their plans for the bug houses; hence they have been on a hunt for recyclable materials and symbols. Our trip with our main protagonists to the recycling centre proved to be a great hands on experience. One of the materials that the children identified as a recyclable material was wood. We have taken this suggestion on board and have decided to offer more opportunities for the children to interact with this particular material. These children brought back a wealth of knowledge to share with their peers. We value small group learning experiences and hope to extend this opportunity to other children in the Kiwi room. We are looking at planning another trip to the Eden Recycling Centre at Mt Eden Bear Park in the near future.

If you have any expertise in the building or designing trade, or you're handy with a hammer and nails, we'd love to have your input in our project.

We have made contact with the Summerland Primary School vice principal, Blair Giles, to arrange small groups of the Kiwi children to visit new entrance classes. We endeavor to take one group of children each term to support a smooth transition to school irrespective of what primary school they will attend in the future. We will be familiarizing ourselves with the important features of the school, like the office, library and toilets, etc. We are planning to start with the children who are turning five in the next term and will continue with the rest of the class according to birthdates. If you have any specific ideas, as to how we can help your child successfully transition to school we would love to incorporate them in our programme.

Liz, Suchi & Jemima