

# **Bear Park Mt Eden Newsletter September 2011**

## **Staff News**

Danni has found out what she is having ..... a little boy. While Hollie, is still waiting to find out. Last time she went to find the sex of the baby he/she was not complying and was crossing his/her legs!

Sue-Ellen must have been feeling left out and she is also pregnant and suffering badly from the morning sickness that appears to be going on all day!

We welcome Larissa into our baby team this month. Larissa has previously worked with Infant and Toddlers at another Auckland centre and is enjoying getting to know our families. She is off to Thailand and Singapore in September for a fortnight...getting in a holiday before all the others go on maternity leave!

## **Parent Teacher Meetings**

These will be September/October, keep an eye out for the booking sheet on the whiteboard by the sign in sheet in the Infant Centre and on the door to the Preschool. For those of you that have not had one before they are an opportunity for you to sit down with your child's teacher for 15 minutes for an informal chat about any goals you may have, things you may wish us to work on, or just advise on things to do at home! It also gives our teachers a chance to update you on your child's progress and development within the Centre.

**Infants & Toddlers** 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Preschool Friday** 30<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

## **Christmas Closing**

This year we will be trialing opening a week earlier. At this stage we will close as per normal at midday on the 23rd December and will reopen 3 days earlier on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2012.

## **Early Closing for the Rugby World Cup Opening**

We have decided to close early at 4pm on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. The Auckland City Council has recommended business's close early in the CBD and for people, who can, to leave the central city area by 3:30 pm. This along with many schools in the area closing early, traffic diversion and street closures may make travelling to and from the centre difficult after lunchtime. Please make plans now for the collection of your child and a plan for how you can exit our street safely as traffic may build up.

## **Christmas Party & 25<sup>th</sup> Bear Park Birthday**

This year we are combining the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bear Park and Christmas into one big joint event at the Zoo. We have booked it for Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 5:30 – 10pm. All the Bear Parks will be there also along with entertainers, face painters and of course Santa! Make a note in your diary.

We are passing out our invitations to our birthday/Christmas party shortly. It comes with a magnet to remind you of the date. Mark it into your diary as you will not want to miss this!

## **ERO**

We are still awaiting the final report. The MOE make it public on their website and we put a hard copy on the parent noticeboard. We'll keep you informed.

## **Outdoor environment**

Both Infants and Toddlers and Preschool are thinking about their outdoor environments in preparation for the warmer months. We would like to know what you remember about the outdoors from your childhood. We want to ensure that our spaces create future memories for the children and while we have some thoughts already we really would like your input too.

According to Moore, an American professor who promotes the natural learning environment in the daily lives of children:

*“Children live through their senses. Sensory experiences link the child’s exterior world with their interior, hidden affective world. Since the natural environment is the principal source of sensory stimulation, freedom to explore and play with the outdoor environment through the senses in their own space and time is essential for healthy development...a rich open environment will continuously present alternative choices for creative engagement. A rigid bland environment will limit healthy growth and development of the individual or the group.”*

We would like to continue to develop our outside to be a space for adventure, imaginary play, for hiding, for relationship building as well as a space to run around. We value open ended, natural and recycled materials inside as they present different opportunities for different children at different times and stages of development and wish to continue more of this outside.

Keep an eye out in the foyer for a tree where we will be asking for your memories, thoughts and suggestions.

## **Positive Negatives**

They will be in the centre Wednesday 21st September to take individual child photos. They usually have the proofs back to us in a week to allow you to choose the best photo and framing options. Great Christmas presents. If your child is not normally in on a Wednesday you can book a time in the afternoon to bring your child in for a photo.

## **Lost Property**

We currently have enough unclaimed clothing to dress a small nation! Can you please check in the Infant centre and foyer for the Preschool for any of your child’s clothing. All unclaimed items are donated to the Salvation Army.

## **Possible Parent Evening**

Are you interested in growing and/or setting up a vege garden? If you are interested in attending a parent evening can you write your name on the form on the front door.

## **If**

We have a poem to share with you, which goes some way to explain what we, as educators believe in. At Bear Park we have a strong image of the child. We believe they are capable and competent from when they are born. Given the opportunity, they are able to surprise us with their ability to make sense of their world, create theories, build strong empathic relationships and above all able to be independent and achieve everyday tasks on their own.

### **If I can**

ask my own questions

try out my ideas,

experience what's around me,

share what I have;

### **If I have**

plenty of time for

my special place

a nourishing space,

things to transform;

### **If you'll be**

my patient friend,

trusted guide,

fellow investigator,

partner in learning;

### **Then I will**

explore the world,

discover my voice,

and tell you what I know

in a hundred languages