



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Families of Bear Park Preschool,

It's wonderful to see that Spring has finally arrived and brought with it the warmer weather. Of course, this also means that Christmas is just around the corner and we have some important dates for you to pencil into your diaries.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

15 & 16 Nov
Parent and Teacher Meetings

24 Nov
Parents Committee Meeting

10 Dec
Bear Park Christmas Party

23 Dec
Bear Park closes for Christmas

11 Jan 2011
Bear Park Reopens

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Mon 15 Nov & Tues 16 Nov

9am-4pm

These meetings offer an opportunity to meet with Jen and one of your child's teachers to discuss their interests and development both at Bear Park and at home. It is a wonderful time to share information about your child, and we encourage you to let us know of your hopes and aspirations for your child during their time at Bear Park.

We will place a timetable for these meetings by the front door so that you can select a time slot that suits you. We look forward to meeting with as many parents as possible over these two days.

Christmas Closing Dates

Bear Park will be closing for Christmas on

Thursday 23 December
at **12pm** lunchtime

and will reopen on

Tuesday 11 January 2011
at the normal time of 7.30am.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 10 December

Starting at approx. 4pm

This will be a fun-filled evening with a variety of entertainment, including an amazing facepainter, a performance by Fairy Violet and her Pirate friend, and as always the children will be performing their favourite Christmas songs for you all.

We welcome you to join us from 4pm and encourage you to bring along a picnic dinner to have during the events.

Holiday Leave Notice

If you intend to take extra leave over Christmas (or at anytime throughout the year), we ask you to notify us of this by filling out a Holiday Leave Notice. This written notification assists our Office Administrator in ensuring your invoices are accurate.

As Bear Park does not charge fees during the time we are closed for Christmas, any extended leave taken either side of this period would need to be for a minimum of two weeks in order to qualify for the 50% Holiday Fee Discount.

Parent Committee Meeting

Our next Parent Committee Meeting is being held on Wednesday 24 November.

A copy of the agenda for this meeting and details of your Parent Committee Representatives can be found on the Parent Noticeboard just outside the front door. If you would like to comment on any aspects on the agenda or have another topic you would like raised at this meeting, please share your thoughts and ideas with Jen or any of the Parent Committee Representatives. They will be happy to share these at the meeting on your behalf.

STAFF NEWS

With Shelly heading off on Maternity Leave, Jen has now stepped into the role of Centre Supervisor. Having taught at Bear Park Patey St previously for a number of years, Jen then moved to Bear Park Dilworth Ave to gain leadership experience as a Room Co-ordinator. We were very excited when after just 12 months Jen accepted the opportunity to return to Patey St to take over from Shelly as Centre Supervisor. It is great to have her back with us and we are looking forward to

working with her in this new position.

Many of you will remember H-J, but for those who have joined us more recently, H-J was the Assistant Supervisor and much-loved teacher in the Kiwi Room until going on maternity leave in July. We are excited to be able to inform you that H-J has given birth to a healthy baby girl, Imogen Grace May, born on 2 November.

We gladly welcomed Pauline back from Practicum last week and she

has quickly settled back in, excited to be back teaching in the Kiwi Room with Jen.

On 15 November we will be joined by a new teacher in the Tui Room. Rick has been studying with Amanda for the past 3 years and comes to us with years of experience in early childhood education. We look forward to having him as part of the team.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to discuss these with Jen.

Congratulations! Congratulations! Congratulations!

Congratulations to Amanda and Pauline who complete their Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) this month. They will both be working full-time as soon as their last assignments are handed in.

Mel is also with us full-time now, having previously worked 4 days per week whilst completing the first semester to upgrade her qualification from a Diploma of ECE to a Bachelor of Education.

Sun Hats

With the warmer weather finally here, we are now implementing our Sun Policy again. We ask for your support by ensuring your child brings their own **named** sun hat to Bear Park. Whilst we also provide sunblock at the centre and ensure this is applied regularly throughout the day, we also recommend that you apply a layer before leaving home each morning to ensure your child is well protected.

Flopsy

Once again we are looking for a holiday home for Flopsy over the Christmas break. He comes well prepared with everything he needs for his holiday away. If you would like to care for Flopsy over Christmas, please see Jen for more information.

Updates from each of the rooms...

Kea Group

This month in the Kea room we have been busy exploring the natural resources we recently sourced from our garden. With the warmer weather we have been spending lots more time in our outdoor environment. The children have been encouraged to bring nature's treasures they have found outdoors into the indoor environment. Our room is now full of areas where the children can further explore the properties of these materials.

Our room has been full of Autumn leaves, which were sourced from our beautiful garden a month ago. The children have observed the change in the form of a dried leaf as they have used different strategies to crush and pulverize to manipulate their form. Through these experiences the children have been learning about the textual and sensorial properties of a leaf and how easy or difficult it can be to manipulate them. After transforming the leaves and breaking them down, exploring how they smell, feel and sound we posed the question to the children "What shall we do with the leaves now?" When Shanaiya suggested we stick them back on the trees, the rest of the group agreed with her empathetic suggestion. We have now begun experimenting with a variety of strategies for sticking them back on the trees, so far using small twigs to attach our pulverized leaves to as a trial for then working out how to 'stick' the leaves back on the tree.

Along with the scientific investigation of the properties of nature, the Kea group are hypothesising, testing theories and working collaboratively to find a solution to their problem. We look forward to keeping you informed of their progress.

Kiwi Group

The Kiwis have been solving many problems in our quest to create 3D trees. "How does a tree stand up tall and straight?". They have been using wire, wood, and glue to test their theories. We searched everywhere for clues that could help us understand how real trees stand up. We had headed outside into the warm sunshine to investigate and saw that the real tree burrowed deep underground. We came to the conclusion that if we created a hole in the wood to place the wire inside then we had a stable ground, just like the real trees.

We were getting to be on the right track but we realised we would need to talk to someone 'in the know' and conference called Jono to give us some more information. The children posed the question to him and he gave us the perfect solution, we need a drill. We have now created a strong tree that stands up straight and the children are in the process of attaching branches and leaves.

During this process the children have been working together on a mutual project of interest. It was a question the children were determined to find the answer to and it has been great to see them working together to test a variety of ideas.



Tui Group

What a busy time we have been enjoying in the Tui room. Sadly we farewelled many of our friends as they began their new journey at school, and also Pauline who is now in the Kiwi room. However, we have welcomed many new friends into the Tui room, and eagerly await the arrival of Rick our new Tui teacher.

This month we saw the close of our "Little House" investigation after more than a year of exploring different learning concepts. Please come and have a look at the renovated house with your child and look through our investigation book which will be able to explain the processes they went through to complete this together.

The children continue to explore the 'Language of Birds' and are currently working towards creating a symbolic language for the birds of the Bear Park garden. This has been a great opportunity to explore the concept of language with the investigation now moving towards emergent literacy with the exploration of symbols that can be understood by others. We plan to utilise this opportunity to start introducing symbols that incorporate words, building on the children's understanding of letters and words as symbols that can be read by others.



The Tui children working together to paint the little house.



Mihos' example of possible bird language for the garden.

We are also going to introduce a Sign-in Book for the Tui group to encourage more of an interest in writing their own names. This will be located in the hallway outside the Tui room and we encourage you to spend time each morning supporting your child as they sign in. Above the Sign-in Book will be their name tags which they can use to guide them in the process of writing their name. We will encourage the Tui children to locate their own name and ask that you support them in doing this also. Once they have signed in they can then take their name tag and place it on their locker for the day.

By incorporating more literacy into our daily routines through meaningful experiences such as these, we aim to ignite more of an interest in emergent literacy amongst the group. We are excited to support them through this journey and look forward to enhancing our literacy rich environment in the Tui room.