



# Lighthouse Learning Centre Newsletter

December – March 2015

Welcome back to school! The children returned to Lighthouse with heaps of stories to tell about the fun that they had during the festive season. We hope that this new year will be filled with many precious moments with your children and that you will enjoy watching them grow and develop as much as we do. ☺

## Events:

At Lighthouse we make our children aware of all the important and cultural events that happen in New Zealand and all around the world. In the past few months we had lots to celebrate. ☺

### Christmas Concert 2014

Thank you to all the parents who came to last year's Christmas concert. The children enjoyed preparing for the concert – they helped by painting the wise men's gifts, making the stable and the crib, and painting the nativity animals' ears. They had practised really hard for the event and even though the shyness settled in on the evening, they were all very brave singing on the stage. The highlight of course was when Santa arrived with all the presents!



### Waitangi Day

In February we celebrated Waitangi Day. During extension the children learned more about the reason for this holiday in simple terms – about living and working together as a team, and sharing like friends do. The younger friends helped us to paint and collage a beautiful poster for Waitangi Day. This was a big group effort and it was lovely to see how the older children taught the younger ones about Waitangi Day as they worked together on this poster.



### Valentine's Day at Marvon Down's Rest Home

For Valentine's Day we decided to share the love and joy by going to Marvon Down's Rest Home again. The children all helped to make special Valentine's cards and bake beautiful heart biscuits. The older children hopped in the van with Michelle and Marandi to hand out these special gifts and sing a few songs about love to the elderly at Marvon Down's Rest Home. They sincerely enjoyed the children's visit and felt appreciated on this special day. One grandpa said, "Can you feel the joy in my heart?"



### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a very important celebration in the Chinese culture. We celebrated the year of the Sheep / Goat at Lighthouse in various ways: Michelle made dumplings with the children, Stella made red pockets with them, and during extension we learned more about the importance of firecrackers and the

colour “red” during Chinese New Year. Stella was kind enough to bring traditional clothes to Lighthouse for dress-up. The children loved playing the drums and doing the lion dance in these beautiful dress up items.



### Water is important!

After hearing how many friends have fun at the beach and swimming pools during these warm months, we decided to learn more about water. We discussed



safety around the swimming pools and at the beach, we learned about the water cycle and where water is stored, why water is important for our bodies and in nature, and how we can

take care of the water supply that we have. During extension we worked in teams to do some



experiments with water as well – how interesting! We hope that our young friends will share their new water knowledge with everyone at home as well. ☺

### Learning Focus:

The learning focus over the past few months were mainly around teamwork, caring for others and the environment, appreciation for different cultures, sharing ideas and knowledge, and creating a sense of belonging for everyone at Lighthouse.

### Sad goodbyes

We are sad to say goodbye to a much loved teacher, Sam. The children made a special handprint card with pictures of the things they enjoyed most about Sam. They said thank you for “singing beautifully”, “spraying us with water”, “making gloop” and “face painting”. We handed her special card and gift to her on Friday, 13 February, after her farewell party.

All the best  
for your  
new  
adventures,  
Sam, we  
wish you  
only the best.  
☺



### Staff introductions

We are delighted to welcome Jess to our Lighthouse team. She has only been with us for a short time, but the children already enjoy her company.

Welcome to our team, Jess! ☺



### Did you know?

Did you know we have a primary caregiver policy? Each child has 1 dedicated teacher responsible for their general well-being, social, emotional needs and learning development.

If you have any questions regarding your child, your primary caregiver would love to hear from you.