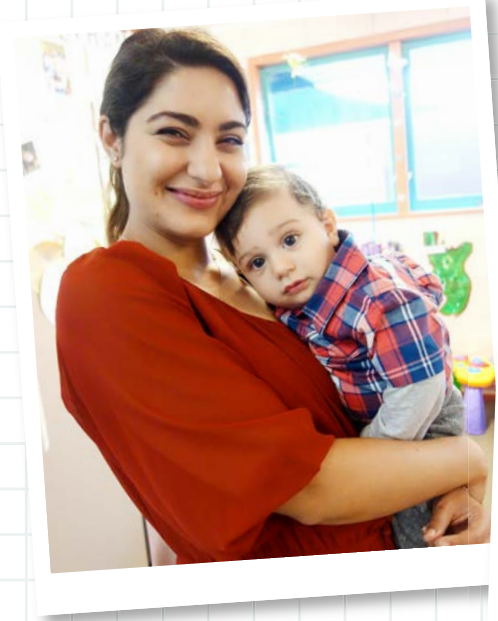




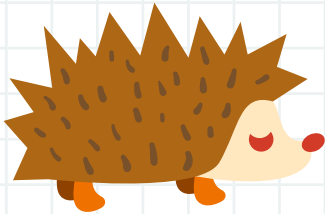
Welcome

➔ AUTUMN ➔



Dear parents,

We have had a lot going on in the last couple of months. Your children have been actively involved in creating an environment where play and learning can happen. We hope you enjoy reading about what we've been focusing on. Also, a big welcome to all the new parents and children, we are so excited to have you as a part of our Lighthouse family!



Contents



2-3 Activities at our centre:
Butterflies and Dinosaurs have led to some very exciting activities in our centre.

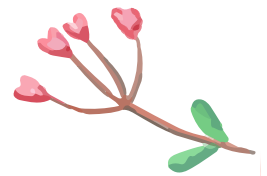
4 Curriculum
Our current focus has moved from sea creatures to storybooks.
Our New App
You may already be using it! Our newly developed system for communicating with you throughout the day is now live.

5-6 What we've been doing:
From creating dinosaurs to making Easter hats, we've been very busy!

7-8 What has Lighthouse been doing:
Children's Day
Thank you to everyone who attended Children's Day.



Activities at our centre



Butterflies

Recently, Lisa brought in some caterpillars for the children to handle and watch the cycle of the butterfly. It was a fascinating experience for the children as they watched the caterpillar turn into cocoon. Every day the children would go and check on the little green cocoon to see how it was changing. A popular game among the little ones was guessing and depicting when it would turn into a butterfly.

After two weeks the butterflies were out of their cocoons and drying their wings. The children were in awe as they got to handle the butterfly. This experience was not only heart warming to watch but the children were amazed throughout the whole process, right up to learning about why the butterfly had to stay upside until their wings were dry.

Activities at our centre



Dinosaurs

During a group discussion with the 4 year olds, Maxine approached a teacher with an idea. She communicated to the whole group of children that she would like to make a dinosaur. All the other children liked the idea and wanted to join in. However, we were unsure as to what type of dinosaur to make and how we would make it. This is when we further explored the topic.

The goals for this topic were for children to take some responsibility for their own learning as they learnt about

different dinosaurs. They investigated different methods on how to build a dinosaur of their choice and explored different materials that they could use. Children were encouraged to contribute their own strengths and interests to a variety of activities and used effective communication within group activities. This project was completed over the space of a few weeks and we were all very proud of the finished result! As a part of our dinosaur theme, we also created play areas of dinosaur gardens for the children to create their imaginative play. This often led to pretending that we were all paleontologists looking for dinosaur bones, which was a lot of fun.



Curriculum: Storybooks

This month we have been focusing on storybooks and the characters within stories. We started discussions by describing characters and what they look like as a group. We have slowly extended this as the 4 year olds have started to experience writing their own storybook. This allowed for the children to describe the characters in their head on paper with a creative and fun approach.

We have also been focusing on literacy and languages, as the children wanted to write a letter to the wider community about animal cruelty. This all tied in nicely with our recent activities and topic focuses around animals such as butterflies, dinosaurs, and sea creatures.

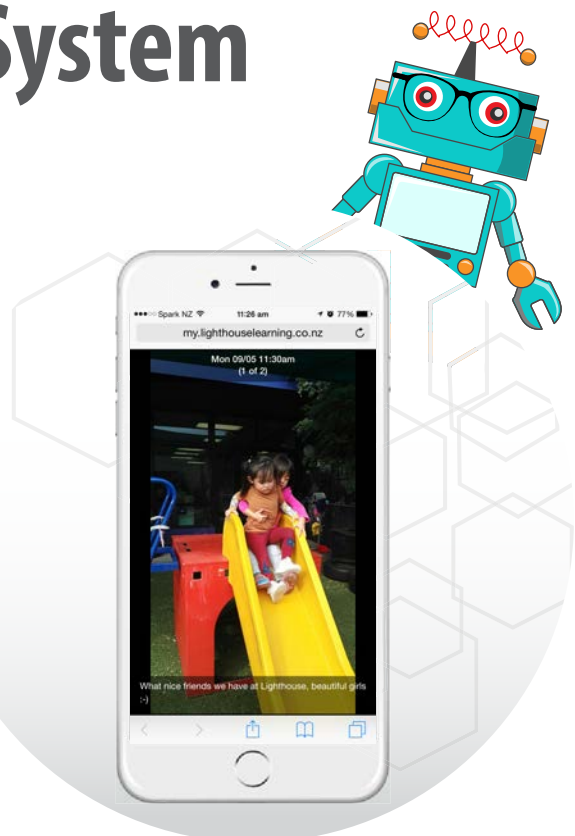


It has also recently been sign language week. During this week, we had our lovely teacher Winnie teach us how to sign language. Our children are very excited as we are slowly learning how to sign to songs. We are eager to see where this theme is going to lead us.

Our New APP Communications System

Dear Families,

Over the last few months we've been busy building a new communications system for our centre, which is now live! This system will allow us to keep you informed of your child's day, their learning journey and all the wonderful news and events that are happening in our centre. The newly built parent communications system is purpose built for our center's family. You may have already started receiving text messages with links to "special moments" for your child during the day as it happens. If you prefer to receive these by email instead, please let us know. Over the next few weeks we will be progressively rolling out more parts of the system and we will keep you updated as this happens. If you have any feedback about the system or if you spot any bugs, we would love to hear from you (We have some chocolate for the first person to spot a bug). This system has been built for you and we want to make sure it works for all our families. Our children have such great days at the centre and we can't wait to share all the wonderful learning, friendships and fun they are having throughout the days with you!



What we've been doing



Mother's Night:

To celebrate our wonderful mothers we hosted a Mother's Night. We had nail polish and hairpieces out for the children to do their nails and make their hair look pretty. We also prepared some yummy snacks and drinks for our lovely mums to enjoy. There were smiles all round as we fellowshiped and ate together. The happiness in the children's eyes was so beautiful to see as they made their mum feel special.



Easter Excitement:

The year has been hopping by, as we just celebrated Easter! In the weeks before Easter, our centre has been preparing for the Easter bunnies arrival. We made Easter bonnet hats with all sorts of different crafts for the children to choose from. The children loved the opportunity to get creative and make something that they could be very proud of. The children also enjoyed making their Easter baskets for the Easter egg hunt. Upon completion, the next excitement was the anticipation of the Easter Bunny's arrival!



What we've been doing



Kelly Tarlton's trip:

We had planned this trip to Kelly Tarlton's as an extension to our under the sea theme. We took two groups of children on the outing. Both groups were really well behaved and loved the exciting learning environment. The penguins were most of the children's favourites as they walked up to the glass to greet us.

The children also got to experience touching a starfish. Some of them overcame their fear of the starfish once they realised it was quite an exciting experience. They all thought it was going to be smooth, but in actual fact it was quite rough.

We then moved on to the watching the stingrays swim by and smile at us. The mesmerising look in the children's faces brought a smile to the teachers and parents faces, as they absorbed all of the fascinating facts about the big and small animals in the sea.



The experience of feeling like we were under the sea as we stood on the conveyer belt and went round the aquarium was incredible. The children observed the sharks slowly swimming by, and we all tried spotting the eels and turtles. We ended our day at the park eating our lunch together and playing on the equipment. Playing soccer was also one of our highlights of the day and left for some very sleepy and satisfied children for the ride home.

What has Lighthouse Been Doing: Children's Day



WOW! Children's Day 2016 was our third Children's Day and we think it was our biggest and best yet. The event took place over two days, Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April at the ASB Showgrounds, and to see you all having such a great time with your families showed us that we accomplished all that we intended to.

On both days, the atmosphere was overflowing with joy and happiness. Families were lining up an hour prior to the event starting and once we opened those doors, there was nothing quite like witnessing the gasps of excitement and wide eyes of the children as they entered Children's Day. The happiness was infectious.

There was an abundance of things to do, many of the families headed straight for the free candy floss and popcorn because let's be honest, you really can't go past it. In terms of entertainment, Children's Day had performances from a magician, various dancing schools,



lion dancing, and Mainly Music were doing regular music sessions.

We even had a visit from the very-popular Sid from Ice Age, who was giving out plenty of cuddles and high-fives. The petting zoo was (as always) a favourite among the little





ones. As they patted, nuzzled and fed the little animals.

From the bouncy castles and mini jeeps, to the ferris wheel and giant inflatable slides, AND all the rides in between – there certainly wasn't a shortage of attractions. Children even had the chance to decorate their own cookies with a little help from Elsa and Auna from Frozen.

Among the entertainment for parents was of course the variety of stalls Children's Day facilitated, majority of which had special deals exclusive for Children's Day. There were delectable treats, a huge range of toys, resources, and

childrens wear. Almost anything child-related you could think of was available at Children's Day.

There was also free face painting which allowed the children to run wild with their imaginations! Thank you to everyone who attended our event, we truly hope you had a wonderful time with your family.

