



Welcome

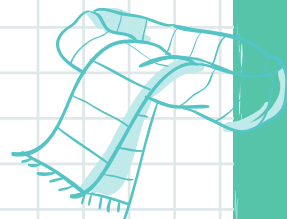
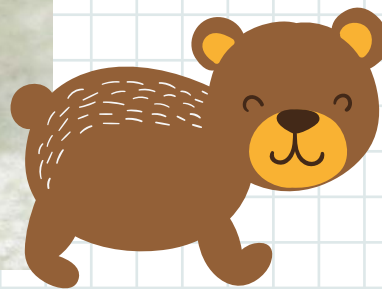
➡ WINTER ⬅

Tena Koutou Parents and Whanau

We are half way through the year and winter is upon us. We have definitely noticed the colder nights and the wetter days as we head into our winter months. Please be mindful of this and make sure you have packed plenty of spare clothes in your child's bag.

During the winter months we encourage the children to try and explore outside as much as possible. It helps to keep the bugs at bay and fresh air is always beneficial to the children's health and well-being. To support these aspects of our day, we require children to have warm clothes. Layering their outfits is helpful as they can take off some of the layers as the day warms up.

A raincoat and gumboots are also very helpful as it encourages playtime outside, with the right clothing. There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!



Contents

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome | 4 | Activities at our centre |
| 2 | Curriculum | 5 | What we've been doing |
| 3 | Special birthdays and teachers | 6 | Our mini Olympic |

Our current Learning curriculum



In the Infants and young toddlers room

We are exploring lots of areas around transportation and transporting objects. This provides the children with opportunities to engage socially, as well as supporting early language and aspects involved in play explorations. With lots of sensory opportunities, the children are developing the understanding of how their bodies work and it also challenges them to try new experiences and discover a great big world of adventure!

Preschool

We are continuing with aspects around exploring how to be kind, caring and considerate. We have now discovered a range of opportunities to engage socially with peers and putting our understanding and knowledge into practice within our community. Talking about and practising kindness in this way has also helped our pre-schoolers with settling in our new friends. It's wonderful to observe the kind-hearted nature of children and we make a point of praising the children when we witness it in action.

Our older children did some baking for us to take to our local retirement home. The children enjoyed this opportunity to further explore the concept of giving, as well as spending time with some of our beautiful senior

citizens. They were so well behaved that we were invited to come for more visits on a regular basis!

Construction play, as well as family play explorations is being encouraged and guided with our older pre-schoolers as it supports turn-taking as well as the understanding of working together as a team. This has provided lots of opportunities to build long-lasting friendships. Our younger pre-schoolers observe these interactions and imitate what they see.

We are also exploring lots of experiences to celebrate the Maori New Year (Matariki). Stars are being made and this has resulted in lots of questions around stars, space and planets.

Our transition for school children has been focusing on exploring the cultural aspects around Maori. These bicultural experiences have provided them with opportunities to understand a range of different cultures within our own centre. We have been singing Twinkle -Twinkle in Mandarin, Korean, Maori and English. Language explorations provide lots of opportunities for the children to understand the diversity within their community.

Our Teacher of the Month is *Melissa*



Melissa

A little bit about Melissa: Melissa started working at our Lighthouse Early Learning Centre in April 2016. Since then, Melissa has been warmly welcomed by our children in the preschool room. Along with seeing the children's beautiful smiley faces, the reason Melissa decided to become a teacher is because she adores children and is passionate about seeing their progress and development. Melissa works in the preschoolers room and said that she enjoys this age group because of their ability to really communicate and engage with various material and topics. She has also pointed out that they are very willing to not only learn, but to teach her lots too! Melissa is also pleased to be building strong relationships with the wonderful lighthouse parents. We are very proud to have Melissa as a part of our Lighthouse team!



A big Happy Birthday



to those who are turning 2 and 5 this Winter!



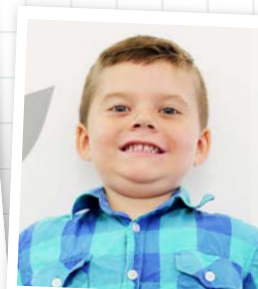
Austin



Jeanie



Nooran



Tyler



Roman

The ages of 2 and 5 are a big deal for the children at our centre. When a little one in our centre turns two, it means they graduating from the babies room and moving into our preschool. Turning 5 is also a big step as it means graduating from preschool! It's the beginning of becoming a 'big kid'.

We would like to wish Tyler Wilson a Happy 5th Birthday!

We wish you all the best for when you start school and we will miss you.

A Happy 2nd Birthday to Nooran Ateya, Jeanie Huang, Austin Tai and Roman Sharpe! We are delighted to welcome you into the preschool room and look forward to seeing you continue to grow and learn.

Activities at Our Centre



For Matariki we have been exploring aspects of the Maori culture. This started in exploring some stars and making our very own beautiful stars for our room. The children also made some replicas of traditional cloaks that Maori elders would wear. They then explored where Maori met – A Marae and also what some of the rules were. This tied in well with our kindness curriculum as it was built on treating each other kindly and respectfully.

We are continuing our Curriculum on Kindness and adding respectful interactions to it as we are looking at how to be kind to nature.



What we've been doing?



The visit to the Retirement village:

The extension group children went on a little trip to the local retirement village. We prepared for the trip by baking lots of yummy scones and iced some biscuits to make them look like poppies. We arrived just in time for morning tea and we were taken through to the lounge. There were a lot of people waiting to see us and we were quite comfortable with the audience awaiting us. We sang twinkle twinkle and baa baa black sheep and the older people really enjoyed the singing and clapped with delight at every song.

We offered all the people there some Yummy scones followed by a biscuit to commemorate Anzac. Just as we were getting ready to go, we were asked to sing the two songs again and we did so with great pride.



Our Mini Olympics



Winter conjures up images of snow-covered mountains, rainy days and snuggling up to a warm winter's fire with family and friends. However, this will not be the case in Rio de Janeiro on August the 5th – 21st as the world will see the beginning of the summer Olympics 2016. This exciting event has inspired us to have a wee Olympics of our own at our centre. This will take place on Thursday 11th August and we encourage the children to be in Olympic colours. So make sure your little one comes along dressed in their favourite colour from the Olympic rings and get ready to practice your fitness skills!

Among the activities will be boxing, basketball, soccer, novelty races, egg-spoon race, an obstacle course, sack races and other light-hearted competitions that will teach the children about this significant event while having loads of fun! We will even be having medals for our mini winners. The Olympics is a wonderful opportunity to get our Tamariki excited about sport, friendly competition, national pride and counting medals. The Olympic games can also be a way to learn more about our world and the



different cultures that make up our amazing world.

Want to carry on the learning at home? If you want some inspiration for how to re-inforce this learning at home, you can make ring shaped biscuits with your children and make Olympic crafts such as making medals and flags