

For Your Diary:



Term Three 2011

- ★ **Friday 12th August** – Disco night (K1 and K2)
- ★ **Monday 24 October 2011:** Labour Day (centre closed)

Term Four 2011

- ★ **Sunday 25 December 2011:** Christmas Day (Observed on Tuesday 27 December 2011—centre closed)
- ★ **Monday 26 December 2011:** Boxing Day (centre closed)

School Holiday Programmes

- Monday 10 October 2011 to Friday 21 October 2011
- No later than Tuesday 20 December 2011 to between Monday 30 January 2012 and Tuesday 7 February 2012



Koru designs



Matariki stars



Dancing with poi



Listening to Māori legends

Celebrating Matariki

Matariki is a celebration of Māori New Year and has two meanings, both referring to a tiny constellation of stars; Mata Riki (Tiny Eyes) and Mata Ariki (Eyes of God). Matariki also means celebrating the unique place in which we live and giving respect to the land we live on. At Kiwicare we celebrate Matariki along with Māori Language week. Te reo Māori is a treasure to be shared and nurtured by all and our teachers try to incorporate te reo Māori into our

centres as much as possible. During our celebration of these special events the children enjoyed listening to Māori legends and learnt and sang new waiata. They also took part in creative activities such as making wakas, kites, stars and poi, making raku sticks, puti puti piu piu, head bands, Māori bread, and Matariki biscuits. During Matariki we also focused on our gardens and doing some new seasonal planting. Written by Rupinder Parmar

Support Office News...



Heather Anderson

CEO, Founder and Director of Kiwicare Pre School

Introducing the Blue Manifesto

The Paris UNESCO 2008 Forum was on *The Contribution of Early Childhood Education to a Sustainable Society*.

Kiwicare is well placed to link to this initiative. Education is humanity's best hope and most effective means to help the next generations understand the qualities and delicacy of our world.

The first years of education are where the foundation for lifelong learning and development is laid. If we can spark an interest in the Blue Manifesto concepts in our children it will help them enjoy what is ahead of them.

Look out for the Blue Manifesto in the Social Studies area in your centre.

In his book *Strategy For Sustainability*, Adam Werbach says "True sustainability has four co-equal components:

- Social (acting as though people matter)
- Economic (operating profitably)
- Environmental (protecting and restoring the ecosystem)
- Cultural (protecting and valuing cultural diversity)

To implement such a broad approach an analysis system such as STaR mapping might be useful.

This system creates strategies to understand that social change is constant, technological change is rapid and affects all forms of communication, and resources are not limitless.

Kiwicare's philosophies align with these concepts already as a leader in the early childhood profession.

Now with the implementation of our Virtues Project we can look at the possibility of each staff member thinking about their own personal sustainability project as a means of role modelling for our children and our centre.

If this is a topic you are interested in do let us know your ideas as we are in the thinking stage of this concept and would value all input .

My new personal assistant, Melissa Elamani, tel: 021321461 is the co-ordinator of this project so do call her or meet with her if you wish.

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From the Manager

Kiwicare Preschool's motto is 'Healthy Bodies, Educated Minds' and we want to encourage children to be as active as possible even in the colder months. We ask that you dress your child in warm winter clothes including hats, jackets and covered shoes so that the children can enjoy the outdoor environment whenever possible.

We also ask that you provide a spare set of clothes as well so that there are clean, dry clothes available in case your child gets wet or dirty. We appreciate your assistance so that we can continue to enjoy outdoor play throughout the year.

Written By Rupinder Parmar

Coronation

Nursery



Exploring the texture of mud

The Precious Pukekos had an awesome experience participating in 'International Mud Day' on the 29th of June. They experienced the texture of mud by manipulating it with their fingers. We varied the texture by adding flour to mud which they enjoyed squeezing, spreading, flipping and even tasting! Working with mud and flour gave our tamariki an experience which helped to stimulate their senses. The main idea behind 'International Mud Day' is to globally connect children with nature and to reduce the time spent in front of the television or computer.

Written by Donna Soloai

Toddlers

Our children have continued with their interest in cooking and healthy kai. They have been sprouting chick peas and growing vegetables, carrots, broccoli, coriander and beans. They have visited the local fruit and vegetable shop and supermarket to view and learn the fruit and vegetable names. During our celebration of Matariki the children learnt to make and use poi when singing and dancing. They made Māori fried bread and also learnt the names of various fruit and vegetables in te reo Māori.

Written by Marinelle Mistt



At the vege shop

Pre School



Making Parai Paraoa

Our tamariki have been learning the phonics of the alphabet, the numbers in te reo Māori, recognition of numbers and tracing and copying of numbers. They have enjoyed participating in science experiments involving dissolving salt and sugar in cold and warm water. Using the proACTIV board has been particularly exciting as they learned the phonics of the alphabet and drew on the board. The children continue to learn the days of the week and how to spell and write their names.

Written by Marinelle Mistt

Event

International Mud Day



Mud cake mixing

We celebrated the World Forum's International Mud Day on June 29, 2011. Parents, teachers, children and one elephant joined in the fun. What began as an exchange between the children of Nepal and Australia is now an idea shared throughout the world and aims to promote children's connection to nature. Although it was a rainy and wet day the children at Kiwicare enjoyed having the opportunity to engage in messy play. They explored all kinds of mud experiences by doing hand prints with mud and they experienced the texture of mud by manipulating it with their fingers, by splashing, squeezing, spreading, flipping and even tasting it. They also had the opportunity to bake a yummy mud cake. We look forward to celebrating Mud Day again next year! Written By Rupinder Parmar

Kenderdine and Wyllie

Nursery



Making shakes with sand

The Tiny Tuataras have been busy exploring their environment. We have noticed that they enjoy interacting with each other and are developing their social and language skills through these interactions. We have been stimulating their interests by providing them with a variety of learning experience such as sensory art experiences, creative arts, and music time. Although it is often raining at the moment, we always try to spend some time outside and the children love to explore the sandpit and the climbing equipment.

Written by Rajinder Kaur

Toddlers

This month we have been exploring music and movement and the tamariki have been busy practising for our upcoming mid-year Christmas concert. Our music teacher Anne is playing guitar and teaching us lots of Samoan and Māori songs. The tamariki made their own guitars to use during singing time and they are also really enjoying doing actions and moving their bodies to the rhythm. For our Matariki celebration we made beautiful stars and koru designs and we also celebrated Samoan language week and International Mud Day.

Written by Mamta Singh



Let's do kani kani

Wyllie OSCAR

As usual we have had a fun filled and action packed holiday programme so far with the children enjoying a range of outings such as ten pin bowling, going to the movies, exploring the park and creative activities such as making medieval masks and an arts day at The Hub.

We are really looking forward to next week activities which include a visit to MOTAT and going to see the King Arthur play.

Written by Viv Manukau

Important Reminders

- ★ Please use the **allocated car parks** when you are picking and dropping off your child and **do not park across car parks or block other cars** from entering or exiting the car park.
- ★ **Please Name your children's belongings** to avoid misplacement.
- ★ **Sign in and sign out** your children every day for correct time.
- ★ If your child needs medicine always **bring your child's prescribed medicine**.
- ★ Please remember to **pay your fees one week in advance**.
- ★ Please **close all gates and doors** behind you for safety.
- ★ **Two weeks' notice** is required for any cancellation of enrolment.
- ★ Don't forget to **advise the Office of any change** of address or contact phone numbers.



Look at my mud hand print



Mud day gloop play

Feature of the Month...



From Donna Wrack, Kiwicare Pre School's Deputy CEO

If you have any enquiries please email: donnawrack@kiwicarepreschool.co.nz

Science for Children

Preschool children are like little scientists – they are curious about the world around them. Every day is a new exploration for knowledge and growth. They want to know why clouds move and how spiders make webs and how a tiny seed can make a giant sunflower or why it rains. These ideas are all science and nature-related themes that are appropriate for the early childhood education curriculum.

In active science programmes at Kiwicare Pre School, children make choices, voice opinions and perform various investigations. Children demonstrate their interests, understandings, and emerging skills through their conversations; their questions; their actions; and the work they produce, such as constructions, drawings or writings. Through exploration and discussion, preschool children learn that science is part of their lives – and that it's a lot of fun!

Teachers ask open ended questions, such as:

- "What do you think might happen ...?"
- "Why do you think that happened ...?"
- "What do you see happening ...?"

Teachers invite children to observe something and describe what they see, encourage children to explore with all their senses: taste, touch, hearing, sight, and smell; and encourage children to think about possible explanations for themselves rather than just giving the answers. Preschool children find science in trips to the park and the playground, water and sand play, making fruit salad, rolling toys down a ramp, and building with blocks. Science is based on curiosity, and teachers reinforce children's inherent curiosity through plenty of discussion.

Young children may not be able to process the information completely and are satisfied with very simple and basic answers but exposing them to these concepts will build the foundation for a deeper understanding of science in the world as they grow and mature. Being aware of insects and plants and weather and animals is the first building block of knowledge upon which more building blocks will be stacked. Knowledge comes in baby steps as children mature and their cognitive abilities grow.

Pre Schools

Kenderdine 3& 4 (2.5 to 4.5 years)



We went to the train station

The children's interest in various modes of transport has been extended through books, craft, painting, posters, playing transportation games and through exploring the internet. They were also involved in construction and have made trucks, aeroplanes, boats and rocket ships using a variety of resources like cardboard boxes, wood pieces, paper towel tubes and plastic lids. We went for a walk through old Papatoetoe and visited the train station. This experience widened the children's knowledge about different sorts of vehicles, road rules, the traffic system and road safety. Written by Maya Nair

Wyllie 3 (2.5 to 3.5 years)



We went to the fish shop. So many fish to choose from!

The children enjoyed having a movie day recently where they watched the educational dvd 'Be Turtle Safe' in our Wyllie 3 mini cinema. They enjoyed eating the popcorn and singing along with cartoon dog Stan, who tells kids what they need to do during an earthquake. We also visited a fish market where the children saw a range of different fish up close. There has since been much discussion about fish and other sea creatures and we look forward to finding out more about different sea creatures over the coming month. Written by Daisy Xu

Wyllie 4 (3.5 to 4.5 years)

During the past month we have continued to learn about healthy eating. We invited a dental nurse to visit our centre and talk to the children how to take care of their teeth and the effect of sugar on teeth.

As this interest continues to thrive, we intend to look closely at science concepts relating to healthy eating. The children have also celebrated international Mud Day and Māori language week, where they learnt kapa haka and te reo Māori phrases. Written by Rata Drum



We had a visit from the dental nurse

Wyllie 5 School (4.5 to 6 years)



Looking for high-frequency words

This month there have been some fantastic learning opportunities for the children within their interest in construction. The Wyllie 5 playground was renovated and many new resources added outside for the extension of the children's interest and skills. The children have also been busy exploring the natural world through science experiments based on static electricity, solubility and taste. They are continuing to learn their high frequency words during literacy times, while in numeracy they are collating data and making simple graphs. Written by Selwyn Prasad

