

## For your diary



### Term 4 - 2011

- ★ **Playgroup** is 9am-10.30am  
Wednesdays, in the nursery
- ★ **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
Bay Christmas party
- ★ **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
School term ends. Kiwicare remains  
open throughout the summer  
holidays closing only on statutory  
holidays.
- ★ **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011**  
Christmas Day (Observed on  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011—  
centre closed)
- ★ **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2011**  
Boxing Day (centre closed)

### School holiday programmes

OSCAR holiday care begins Thursday,  
15<sup>th</sup> December. Runs Monday— Friday  
except for statutory holidays



Children inspect the building work with great interest



Wow, what a big delivery!



## We're having a makeover!

There have been exciting new changes happening here at Kiwicare Haruru Falls during the past few weeks.

One morning, much to the delight of the children, a huge truck with a crane arrived to drop off timber and hoist the upper playground steps over the fence from the nursery playground into the car park. The stairs have now found a home in the Kiwi Zone playground. The children have been fascinated watching the building process and there has been much discussion about what is coming next. The carpentry table has become a very popular place to gather to build and create. Kim and his building team have been busy extending the deck in the nursery playground. It looks great

now that it is finished and we are all looking forward to the other exciting outdoor and indoor alterations which have been planned. These alterations will provide our tamariki with further opportunities for sensory play and discovery learning. This project also coincides with the Kiwizone interest in gardening and the excavated soil will be put to good use in extending our vegetable garden area. Our older children are very keen to create a productive garden to keep our babies fed with vegetables we have grown ourselves. If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to discuss this with the staff. Written by Rachel Ashton



Khloe and Olivia hiding in the playhouse



**From Heather Anderson,**

**Kiwicare Pre School CEO**

At Kiwicare we treasure caring for your children and preparing them to really enjoy their futures.

The children in our centres today will inherit a vastly different world than the one we inhabit today. So how should we be preparing them for this unknown future? Given the current climate, one might expect these outcomes to be "hard skills" such as early proficiency in reading, writing and math. But business and education experts recommend five "soft" skills:

- **Social Intelligence** - "The ability to connect to others in a deep and direct way, to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions."
- **Creativity** - "In a world where change will only happen faster, workers who can creatively relate to new scenarios will be highly valued."
- **Cross-Cultural Competence** - "Workers of the future must be able to successfully communicate shared goals, priorities, and values in a way that transcends differences and helps foster a spirit of collaboration."
- **Resilience** - "Children need to encounter limits and hardships to learn how to persevere and solve problems by themselves."
- **Love of Nature** - "Finding solutions to environmental challenges will require the best minds and the best efforts of this and future generations."



**Bilingual parents**

*Maintain your home language*

Many people who make laws and know a lot about economics talk about languages as if each had a monetary value: On a global scale, the language currently with the highest economic value is English, with Spanish and Chinese gaining.

Why should people be encouraged to bring up their children in economically unimportant mother tongues? There are several reasons why all languages are equal candidates – the most important reason is the fundamental right each of us has to maintain our language and cultural identity.

Support Office  
44 Tennessee Ave  
Mangere East, Manukau 2024  
Phone 270 3979  
www.kiwicarepreschool.co.nz  
A division of Kiwi Sport Pre School Ltd

**Event**

**This is the way we brush our teeth**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Isabel from Ngati Hine Health came to visit our Kiwi Zone tamariki. We gathered in 2 groups for a dental care mat time. She began by showing us some pictures of healthy and unhealthy teeth and talked to us about the importance of brushing our teeth, eating healthy food and drinking lots of fresh water. We all laughed when she brought out a huge pair of teeth from her bag and began to brush

them. The best part came when the children were presented with a funky new tooth brush and practised brushing their teeth correctly. The children were all inspired by this visit and were eager to show off their new toothbrushes and toothpaste at home time. Check out [www.childshealth.org/kid](http://www.childshealth.org/kid) which is an excellent website. Written by Rachel Ashton



**We practised brushing our teeth**



**From the manager**

It is nearly Christmas again and we are getting ready for 2012. Our Christmas party and concert is planned for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December and you are welcome to come along. Santa is looking forward to visiting us and will be with us on that day. We would be grateful if you could donate a small gift for Santa's sack. Please indicate the age range and whether it is suitable for a boy/girl or either.

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and your children over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, I have had to return to Auckland for personal reasons and have stepped down from my role as manager.

Thank you for the warm Northland welcome you all gave to me. Rest assured Kiwicare Bay is in very safe hands with Bian Shiu and the wonderful Bay team. Written by Annie

# Nursery

## Piwakawaka Zone

This month we welcomed Jashantae, Blake and Teah to our Piwakawaka family. We have been taking advantage of the warm spring weather and spending time outside. The outdoor environment gives our tamariki lots of opportunities for sensory and discovery play as they explore the area in their own time and in their own way. The children were soon enjoying splashing, pouring, scooping and tasting. The fences and safe fall were all 'painted' with a liberal coat of water. These experiences also give us the opportunity to use descriptive words with the children and extend their vocabulary. [www.clever-toddler-activities.com/water-play.html](http://www.clever-toddler-activities.com/water-play.html) is a

very informative site with lots of water play ideas for kids. Written by Janet Jesen



You are doing a great job Ella-Jane

# Toddlers and Pre School

## Kea Zone

A group of our older children have been making transitioning visits downstairs this month. They have been getting to know the children

We're in the playhouse



and teachers downstairs and getting familiar with the events and routines. We will miss them, but we know they will learn lots in Kiwi Zone. We all love playing outside and when our tamariki are not climbing on the equipment, zooming down the slide or playing with the balls and bikes they have been enjoying watching the drama of Kim and Andy building our new deck. Henry loves to inspect the tools and there was great excitement the day the Carters truck arrived with wood for our new deck and hoisted our back steps over into the car park. Written by Janet Jesen

## Kiwi Zone

It began when a centipede was found in the playground. This exciting discovery inspired discussion about what other mini beasts were living in our environment. We searched the net and introduced the children to a Sparkle Box resource about insects. This led us to talk about gardens and so our new interest in gardening evolved. We already had some vegetable plants in our garden and everyone was curious to find out what bugs and insects could be living there. We found spiders, worms, a huhu bug and a cicada. We've planted sunflower seeds and will follow their growth on a bar graph. A group of our older children went shopping for vegetable seeds to plant. Check out

[www.bestgardening.com](http://www.bestgardening.com) for great ideas on gardening for kids. Written by Donna Johnson



What a long, wiggly worm!

# Important reminders

Please remember :

- ★ **gumboots are great**, warm and easy to put on and off.
- ★ to **talk to the teachers** if you are concerned about anything.
- ★ We have lots of **unnamed, unclaimed clothing**. Please make sure that you have a look as we will be disposing of unclaimed items at the end of the year.
- ★ We apply **sunscreen** during the day, but for your child's safety, we recommend that you apply the first coat before you bring your child.
- ★ We have a small supply of Kiwicare sun hats to use in emergencies, but would prefer if could send your child with a brimmed and **clearly named sunhat**.
- ★ Children often ask if they can bring a **favourite toy** to school. To avoid these being lost or broken, please explain to your child that personal toys are **best left at home** and any item that comes home from Kiwicare needs to be returned the next day.



Jashantae really enjoys water play

## New resources

- ★ Storage containers for the nursery
- ★ Gardening tools, watering cans and a seedling house
- ★ New chairs for the nursery
- ★ Puzzles

Khloe, Olivia and Sammy on the big box



## School Readiness



*From Dr Relinde Tap,  
Research & Development Manager,  
Kiwicare Pre School*

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

Many people think of school readiness in terms of academic skills such as reading, writing or mathematics. However, being ready for school includes many other skills, too. A child's social competency skills and emotional intelligence are just as important as they support the academic skills of your child. The social competency and emotional intelligence characteristics which often come up in discussions regarding school readiness are:

**Self-help skills** Children need to be secure, confident and independent and have self help skills such as being able to go to the toilet alone, being able to dress themselves and put on shoes. Specific skills such as being able to use pencils, scissors or staplers are also important.

**Language development** Children need to be able to speak confidently, possess a good vocabulary, have had exposure to books and exhibit pre-reading skills and a desire to read.

**Health** The child needs to be in good health and has also acquired certain physical skills (see the Barbara Brann chart in our centres for more information on this). They need to be able to cope with personal hygiene.

**Social competence** This is a very important part of school readiness. Children need to be able to make friends by introducing themselves to others, ask questions and find out what the other person is interested in. They also need to be able to cooperate with others as a lot of learning in today's world is about group learning. They need to have assertiveness skills and be able to say "no" as well as be able to make amends when they have made a mistake. The child accepts and respects authority, can follow instructions and can sit still and listen. Children also need problem-solving skills and to be able to ask for support when needed.

**Emotional intelligence** Children need to learn to distinguish which specific emotion they are feeling (e.g. I am lonely, happy, sad, angry, frustrated, worried or nervous) and to know how to regulate their emotions. For example, how to deal with loneliness by making friends or how to take deep breaths when nervous.

Children also learn to understand that other people may see the world differently from them and how to "put themselves in their shoes".

When children learn to distinguish different feelings in themselves they will also be able to "read" the emotions of other people better.

## Transition to school

We have a large group of four year olds, many of whom have been with us since they were babies and toddlers. It has been great to follow their progress as they reach each developmental stage. Several children have recently transitioned to school and we are encouraged by the positive feedback we get from their receiving teachers about how well prepared they are. Apart from the daily literacy and numeracy sessions, the children have been enjoying taking part in the gardening project, playing with our new construction resources and designing and building at the carpentry table. These types of activities give children opportunities



**Mechanics fixing the vehicles**



## OSCAR

Term 4 has whizzed by and we are preparing for the Christmas holidays. Term 4 ends on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. To enrol your child for OSCAR holiday care, please talk to Michelle and she will give you the information you require. Our preschoolers always look forward to seeing the OSCAR children arrive and it is great to see them mixing and mingling. We often notice them helping our little ones and engaging with them in their play. It would be really helpful if you could phone the office on 09 402 7324 if you have made other arrangements for your child, or if

they will not be attending school that day. Written by Annie



**OSCAR teamwork in the sandpit**

