

For your diary



Term 1 - 2012

- ★ Discovery Group is 9am-10.30am Wednesdays, in the nursery
- ★ **Monday, 6th February**
Waitangi Day (centre closed)
- ★ **Wednesday, 22nd February**
Theme Day (check notice board for details)
- ★ **Friday, 27th April**
Whānau afternoon (details to follow)
- ★ **Friday, 6th April**
Good Friday (centre closed)
- ★ **Monday, 9th April**
Easter Monday (centre closed)
- ★ **Wednesday, 25th April**
ANZAC Day (centre closed)



Tamariki performing at the concert. Ka pai!



Oooh, a present from Santa!



Kayden's turn to receive a gift



Alana and Aaron float a ball in the water trough

Our Christmas party

The children had been practising for weeks and they had mastered their songs. They were all excited to perform for their family and whānau. The big day finally arrived and it was raining. So with all of the adults finding a place in the Kiwizone the children gathered together and began to sing. First we had the under twos performing *Kina Kina* and *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, complete with props, the older children did a great job of helping out their younger friends with these songs. Next the over twos sang a number of songs. They all sang as loud as they could and did some wonderful actions. The final song to be

sung was by the teachers who did an excellent job and amazed the children with their performance. After some words from Mike Clark we had a very special visitor, the children all got excited when Santa arrived and they gathered around close to see him. Santa began to hand out gifts and the children all waited patiently until their name was called. Once we all had been given a present from Santa we joined each other for a morning tea full of all kinds of yummy treats. Thank you to all who came and helped make our day such a success. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.





The Kiwicare Library

Kiwicare is delighted to have a dedicated library for all our staff and children to access. This library and resource area has been set up by our new librarian, Caroline Boggs. This service will help our children enjoy quality books on a wide range of topics as we will share the books around the different centres. Kiwicare knows that research supports that the number of books a child grows up with in their home (childcare) is related to how many years of education they will complete.

A recent study of more than 70,000 children across 27 countries revealed that children who grew up in homes with many books receive three years more schooling than children from bookless homes.

It also found that the number of books a child grows up with was more influential on the years of education they completed than their parents' education, occupation and class.

Children who grew up in homes (centre) with many books (500 or more) completed on average 14 years of education.

This is as great an advantage as having university-educated rather than unschooled parents, and twice the advantage of having a professional rather than an unskilled father.

The difference between a bookless home and one with a 500-book library is as great as the difference between having parents who are barely literate (three years of education) and having university-educated parents (15 or 16 years of education).

Books are important for children because of the insight they give into different experiences through a shared language regardless of their place or privilege.

No matter what a child's circumstances are, books are a door into other lives, other ways of being, other people's realities.

I see books and our smart boards as a crucial point of connection with the rest of the world and in that sense, for children, they are important.

Many of their memorable reading experiences occurred when they were a child.

This is because while books are informative and educational they are often funny as well, which is equally valuable.

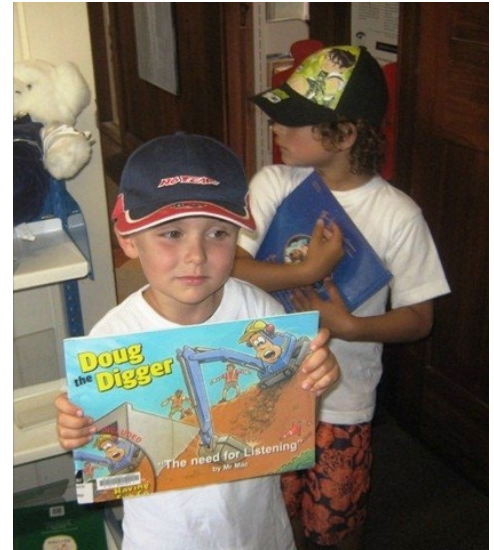
Event

We love the library

Trips to the library have become a weekly event especially for the four year old children. We have continued this throughout the holidays and included the OSCAR children.

The children are becoming familiar with the library and know where to head for the children's books. When they are there they get to read and look at many different books. This activity has provided opportunities for the children to find books related to their current interests and find information and answers to the many questions that are frequently asked.

When the many books have been chosen and checked out, weather permitting we stop at the park on the way back to Kiwicare. Our new Kiwicare T-shirts are great and what a treat to get one. Written by Donna Johnson



Theo chose *Doug the Digger*



We stopped at the park to read our library books

From the manager

As 2012 begins it is already promising to be an exciting year, full of new opportunities, new experiences and challenges.

This is definitely true for me as I have had a complete change of roles after spending the past ten years working for the Ministry of Justice running many national campaigns to becoming the Manager of Kiwicare Bay.

I am really enjoying getting to know your children and look

forward to meeting you all and working together with you.

I am happy to be a part of such an awesome team.

I admire the specialist skills that are continuously displayed by the staff. Bian, Centre Manager from Auckland, has done an amazing job and could be here for some time yet as she has promised to train me! I appreciate her willingness to share her knowledge. Written by Liz Owen

Nursery

Piwakawaka Zone

What a wonderful summer we have been having in the nursery. The children have all been making the most of the sunny weather and we have been spending most of our time outside playing and exploring. A number of children have been challenging themselves on the climbing frame and the slides and it is great to see their confidence growing as they persevere and

persist at the challenges they have set for themselves. We have been exploring with our senses a lot this summer and water play and messy play have been a big part of our programme. The children have been scooping, tasting, feeling, and splashing the water and learning all sorts of things as they play and explore. By nursery team



Kiwi Zone

Here at Kiwicare in the Kiwi zone it has been all about summer fun! We have introduced the children to ice, bubbles, water and colours. The children have enjoyed the water play and it has been a great opportunity for the teachers to introduce new learning opportunities as the children are so engaged. We have been using the water trough to mix colours, to create and blow bubbles and also to test and melt ice. The children have made their own ice cubes using water and freezing the toy animals and dinosaurs in with it. They really enjoy watching the ice melt and having races to see whose dinosaur escapes the ice first. This activity provides wonderful literacy learning opportunities, encourages the children to talk about what they see and we have the opportunity to introduce them to lots of new words. Written by Rachel Ashton



Kaitlin and Vaughan enjoying water play



Important reminders

Please remember :

- ★ to keep **special toys at home** to prevent loss or damage
- ★ **gumboots are great**, warm and easy to put on and off
- ★ to always supply a sun hats
- ★ to check through **lost property** boxes
- ★ to **talk to the teachers** if you are concerned about anything



OSCAR children joined pre-schoolers to build a volcano in the sandpit



Look at the car we built!



Using the electronic pen to draw

Feature of the month...



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

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

Books, books, books...

Reading to your child every day is a wonderful way to spend some time with your child as well as to support them in an enjoyable way in their learning. Snuggling up with your child and reading them stories helps them develop a positive attitude towards books and builds a sense of closeness between adult and child.

However, although reading books is a great and fun way to spend some time with your child, it also has wider implications for your child's learning. As discussed on the Ministry of Education Lead website (see reference link below), books are a cornerstone of today's curriculum in schools and universities and children who develop positive attitudes towards books find learning to read an easier process than children who haven't developed an interest in books and reading. This positive attitude towards reading and books will also support your child in life-long learning which is increasingly important in today's fast changing world.

Books enable children to experience stories and symbols of their own and other cultures and help children develop many different skills especially more in-depth language and communication skills as well as sparking children's imagination. A fun way of supporting your child's learning while reading is by asking them simple open-ended questions such as "What do you think will happen next?", "How do you think they feel?", "What do you think they will do next?". These types of questions will help your child to place themselves in other children and people's shoes, supports them in predicting what may happen next and it will also encourage them to problem solve. Books are therefore an enjoyable way to support your child's learning not only for reading, but also for learning in all its forms.

<http://www.lead.ece.govt.nz/ServiceTypes/Playgroups/PlayIdeas/BooksLanguageAndMusic/Books.aspx>



Transition to school

During the school holidays the four year old children have been practising literacy and numeracy skills through exploration of their environment, free play, books and participation in art and craft activities. Social skills are also being developed through co-operative play, competition and communication. The warmer weather has allowed us to spend a lot of time outdoors and the children have been developing scientific understandings by observing the many insects inhabiting our garden. We have been visiting the library each week as a group and the children are developing a great appreciation of books. They are learning that

books are fun and also a great source of information when we want to find out about something. Non-fiction books have been a popular choice and the children are being skilled at finding meaning through studying illustrations and photographs. Written by Paula Knightly



OSCAR

It is school holidays and we have several OSCAR children with us during the day. The older children have been engaging in a variety of interesting construction activities. Liam and Bailey designed and created a racing car with our new construction resources. Jesse, Cara and Leah enjoyed building a volcano in the sandpit. They used baking soda, vinegar and food colouring to make lava and did an insightful job of explaining the chemical reaction to the younger children. Some of these older children have enjoyed trips to the library and park and have been a great help to the teachers by guiding and modeling appropriate behaviour. The OSCAR children have integrated well into the programme and have been fantastic role models. We wish them all the very best with their studies at school this year.



Written by Paula Knightly

