

For your diary



Term 4 - 2011

- ★ Playgroup is 9am-10.30am
Wednesdays, in the nursery
- ★ **Tuesday 6th December 2011**
Children's Christmas party
- ★ **Wednesday 21st December**
Christmas party
- ★ **Sunday 25th December 2011**
Christmas Day (Observed on
Tuesday 27 December 2011—centre
closed)
- ★ **Monday 26th December, 2011**
Boxing Day (centre closed)

School holiday programmes

- No later than Tuesday 20th
December, 2011 to between Monday
30th January, 2012 and Tuesday 7th
February, 2012



Look at our driftwood



Wow, what is that?!



The beach is full of interesting things to find



Sammy demonstrates how to fillet a fish

Our trip to the sea shore!

On Wednesday 19th October the OSCAR children and some of the four year olds went on a trip to Ti Beach to explore the sea shore. This was planned to extend the children's current interest in sea life. We took along some plastic bags and containers to collect specimens from the beach. The children found lots of interesting things: drift wood, a variety of different types of seaweed, pretty shells, a sea sponge, some bones and even a starfish skeleton. While we were collecting our specimens, two parachutes glided down and landed on the beach beside us. This was a very exciting

experience. We discussed some of the recreational activities people liked to do at the beach. The children suggested swimming, kayaking, having picnics and walking dogs. Then we had a talk about what the beach looked and sounded like. The children talked about the crashing waves and the whistling wind. When we had filled our bags we had a play at the park before heading back to the centre to examine our treasure more closely. For some great ideas to extend this interest, check out www.first-school.ws and choose Sea Shore Activities.

Written by Paula Knightly



Sunday, 22nd October, 2011, was a night for New Zealanders to remember—the night our mighty All Blacks won the Rugby World Cup right here in Auckland.

Mike Clark and I were lucky enough to be there in person and witness the amazing triumph over adversity—a reminder to us all to face up to what is thrown at us and trust our ability to manage and succeed. Our day started at 4pm getting dressed up in black-coloured gear and catching a very crowded train to Eden Park. Everyone was in a carnival mood and dressed to support their team, whether or not their team was in the final.

All the seats were taken however a French fan stood up and gave me his seat. I said thanks and also said It still did not mean I would support his team. Everyone laughed. This was typical of the happy mood.

At the game you could be face painted for free, or pick up a sign to wave. Houses around the park had tents with people offering food and Kiwi music was playing—lots of *Poi E*, *Loyal* and *Pokarekare Ana*. Other houses were decorated in French colours and a local pizza parlour had been trimmed to a French theme and was fully occupied by Les Bleus supporters.

Everywhere you looked there were security people police and volunteers. We heard former All Black John Kirwan, who has lived and played in France, speak and he correctly predicted a low-scoring game. All the same, I predicted a score of 32-15 in favour of the All Blacks and Mike chose 24-12.

We loved seeing the NZ Army Band play on the field and Hayley Westerna's beautiful singing. The national anthems were very emotional. I have never heard a New Zealand crowd sing with such passion. Then of course the fabulous V then advancement by the French team to our Haka. The game kept you on the edge of the seat the whole time with the All Blacks playing such a gruelling match yet holding nerve to attain victory with reserves playing a crucial part. The man next to me (not Mike) really enjoyed singing along even though he was Australian, another indicator of the wonderful atmosphere.

Finally the train trip back into the city again with some young people from the Waikato who saw Donald as the hero of the event and again all the New Zealand songs and even a haka. Even at 1am the city was pumping with black-dressed fans. I am so lucky to have been part of it all.

Congratulations All Blacks!

Event

Baking gingerbread cookies

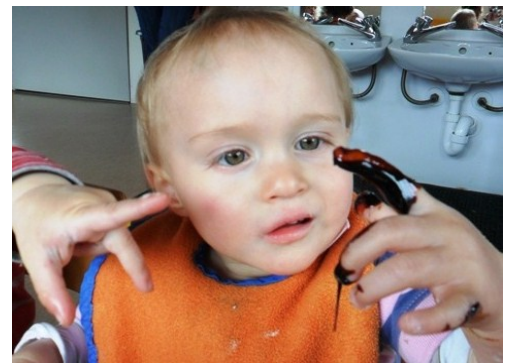


Samantha stirs the dough and Aaron enjoys the golden syrup

Our little ones thrive on sensory play. Lately many of the children have been interested in mixing and stirring ingredients from play dough to special "treats" from the sandpit. One day recently the children were invited to make gingerbread cookies. First we examined the ingredients. There was honey, molasses, golden syrup, brown sugar, cinnamon and ginger. Everyone had the opportunity to touch, smell and taste by dipping a straw into each ingredient and having a tiny taste. Molasses was the least favourite but honey was the most popular choice. After taking turns mixing the dough, we spread margarine on the baking trays and plonked blobs of dough onto the trays! After our fruit at afternoon tea, the children enjoyed eating their cookies. Written by Mary-Pat Ross



Henry samples the gingerbread



Sienna explores molasses!



Scarlett measures the baking powder



Liam adds golden syrup—bottle and all!

From the manager

On Friday 15th October, I packed my car, watched the removal men load the truck and set off to Paihia to begin my new position as Manager of this wonderful centre.

I have enjoyed getting to know your children, and meeting and spending time with parents and whānau members. Sometimes I may be required to be on the floor, however you are always welcome to make a time to chat with me. Please feel free to phone or email or ask your child's teacher if you would like to make a time for this.

The exciting news is that the renovations we have been looking forward to in the front playground and the upstairs classroom, are scheduled to begin in November. Written by Annie Brimblecombe

Nursery

Piwakawaka Zone

This month we welcomed Cade, Ngarino, Khloe, and Archie, to the Piwakawaka group. We have been exploring with our senses this month including our sense of touch and sound. We have been experimenting with sounds using a number of objects, from our metal tea set to tin drums. The children always get involved in making sounds and use their whole body as they bang and crash and make lots of noise. The children often watch one another and mimic each other by copying movements and noises and laughing together as they listen to the sounds that they make. We will continue this exploration of sound as well as using our other senses to explore the world around us.

Written By Janet Jesen



Charlize tries out the drum

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 substitute beanies for sun hats
- ★ to check through **lost property** boxes
- ★ to **talk to the teachers** if you are concerned about anything

New resources

- ★ 2 new three wheeler bikes
- ★ Two newly-painted climbing boxes in the Kiwis' playground- Thank you to Kim

Toddlers and Pre School

Kea Zone



Sienna shapes clay into a kea

Continuing our fascination in sensory play our Keas enjoyed mixing, tasting and baking gingerbread cookies. Then Stella and Samantha, Tia and her mum Anna who were visiting, helped us cut shapes out of dough and sprinkled over 100's and 1,000's for decoration. Other sensory play has seen the Keas explore the nature of clay, pushing and pulling it. Henry and Sienna mixed some leaves with their clay models. After touching the clay, Mary-Pat asked, "Hey I wonder what happens to clay when we mix water with it?" This was met with enthusiasm by the Keas and they found out what happens! We used words like slimy and slippery and "Oooee!" We had fun cleaning up with more water and brushes. Ka Pai! Written by Mary-Pat Ross



Alana tries out a biscuit tin drum

Kiwi Zone

This month the main focus of interest in the Kiwizone has continued to be about pirates and playing in our boat. The children have been using the fishing rods in the boat and have been "catching" fish. The children then discussed what species of fish they had caught. We may have a few experienced fishermen here as they seem to know a lot about fish. One day Sammy brought in a real fish and showed the children how to filet it. The children enjoyed poking and touching it and looking inside the fish. After that we cooked the fish fillets and the children had the opportunity to have a taste for afternoon tea. They all thought it was pretty scrumptious!

Written by Rachel Ashton



Wow, look at the insides of this fish!



Ella-Jane "plays" the tea set

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

Helping Your Child with Pre-Reading Skills

Barbara Morris, in an article on ChildForum, discusses the importance of simple activities that parents and children can do at home together to support their child acquire pre-reading skills. Many parents believe that the most important part of reading is phonics as this was often the way they were taught to read. However, as the Education Review Office (ERO) recently indicated, children often do not have the necessary pre-literacy skills to equip them with a smooth process to fluent reading. Both Barbara Morris and the ERO report show the importance of the many different experiences children need to have and its link to language which are an essential part of learning to read. These necessary pre-reading skills involve lots of experiences to talk about.

Learning to love stories by being read to from birth is a great way to increase your child's pre-reading skills as not only do they have fun, but they build knowledge and vocabulary, and learn concepts surrounding print. For example, English print is scanned from left to right across the page and we can show this by reading aloud while pointing our finger at the words that we are reading. Of course other languages may not be read like that and we can point that out too.

Reading aloud will also give your child phonic awareness (the knowledge of sound) without being associated with letters at this stage. Phonic awareness can be developed through reading rhymes or by playing games using rhyming words. Alphabetic knowledge is also important and you can teach this to your child in a fun way by starting with the letters in their name and extending this by pointing out other things which begin with the same letter such words on food packets food packets, street signs and words on buildings. 'I spy' games are also a great way to do this: "I spy with my little eye something beginning with 'b' then point to the ball. Or "Wayne, I spy a letter on the Weetbix box which is the same as the first letter of your name".

For more information about pre-reading skills please talk to your child's teacher. The following web sites may also be helpful.

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports/Literacy-in-Early-Childhood-Services-Teaching-and-Learning-February-2011>

<http://www.readwithbarb.co.nz/>

<http://www.lead.ece.govt.nz/EducateHome/learning/exploringPractice/Literacy/>

[LiteracyAsSocialPracticeInECE.aspx](http://www.LiteracyAsSocialPracticeInECE.aspx)

Transition to school

During term time, our four year olds enjoyed spending group time in their mini outdoor classroom with Paula. We have been playing letter lotto and matching games. Our tamariki are getting better at recognizing the letters and they are developing an understanding that letters represent different sounds in language. The older children have been discovering that when they join 2 groups of objects the number gets bigger and when we take objects away from a group, the number gets smaller. One day we played this game using raisins and that was extra fun! During the holidays we had a break from TTS and the four year olds were invited to join in with what the OSCAR children were doing.

Written by Paula Knightly



We like working outside

OSCAR

The OSCAR holiday programme children had a great time over the term three holidays exploring construction and deconstruction. They worked on projects such as taking apart an old heater, vacuum cleaner, video and DVD using screw drivers, put together a robot and helped Allison assemble our 2 new bikes. One day Allison arrived with some flax and they all tried their hands at weaving an arm bracelet. Time in the playground was lots more fun for our Kiwis with their big brothers and sisters helping to look after them. The last term is a short one, so it won't be long before holidays come around again.



We picked apart electrical equipment to see how it worked

