

## For your diary



### Term 4 - 2011

- ★ Playgroup is 9am-10.30am  
Wednesdays, in the nursery
- ★ **Monday 24th October, 2011**  
Labour Day (centre closed)
- ★ **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

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



We are ready to go on a treasure hunt!



We've found the treasure!



What a beautiful pirate



All dressed up and ready to go!

## We had a Pirate Day

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2011 we celebrated "Pirate Day" as part of the children's current interest in sea life. All of the teachers and children showed their enthusiasm by dressing up as pirates. We had a mermaid and a pirate princess as well as some parents who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to spend the morning with us. When the children arrived they marveled at each others' costumes and got into character by acting out their favourite pirate scenes. After face painting and some pirate songs Maureen prepared us a special morning tea of pirate snacks which we enjoyed on the grass

outside together. We then started our highly anticipated treasure hunt. The children worked together in groups to follow the instructions on the treasure map which eventually led us to the sandpit. After much digging we found an ice cream container buried deep in the sand. In it we found a note that led us to look under the couch. Hooray! Under the couch was the treasure box filled with doubloons, sweets and jewels! The children spent the rest of the day talking about the treasure they had found and pretending to look for more treasure in the sandpit.

Written by Samantha Harper

## Support Office news from...



Heather Anderson  
CEO, Founder and Director of Kiwicare  
Pre School



I am delighted to introduce the new manager of Kiwicare Bay, Annie Brimblecombe (pictured above).

Annie is a vastly knowledgeable and experienced educationalist who has extensive management and teaching experience gained in many settings.

Annie has a passion for early literacy and believes it is the key to educational progress and achievement in all other curriculum areas, in social development and essential communication and relationship skills.

Annie seeks to promote teaching in innovative and creative ways using colourful and stimulating environments, often incorporating music and art as a context to enhance literacy and numeracy skills.

In her leisure time Annie plays the piano and baroque recorder, enjoys arts and crafts, cooking and entertaining and writing children's stories.

Annie comes to us from Kiwicare Tennessee where she cared for 250 children in her role as centre manager.

While Annie transfers from Kiwicare in Auckland to Kiwicare Bay, Frances Kelly does the reverse and is moving to Kiwicare Avondale. On parents' behalf I would like to thank Frances for her sterling service to our Bay children and parents and welcome her to Kiwicare Auckland.

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A division of Kiwi Sport Pre School Ltd

## Event

### We have a new easel!

This month a big box arrived at Kiwicare for the nursery. We opened it up and inside was a new art easel. With a lot of patience the children watched Janet put the easel together and then they all had a turn at doing a drawing on the easel. Mary-Pat took the children for an art session using the easel a few days later. They all took turns to paint on the easel, talking about the coloured paints they were using and looking at each others' work. Once the art work was completed and hung up to dry the children very proudly pointed it out to their parents when they were picked up. What great artists we have here at Kiwicare!

Written by Janet Jesen



Stella gets busy painting



Meike has a turn at painting. Wow, Meike, good brush control!

## From the manager

Some of you may know that I will be working at Kiwicare in Auckland, and I would like to say it has been a delight working with you and your children. Thank you all for your kindness and support over my three years at Kiwicare the Bay.

My replacement will be Annie Brimblecombe who is the current centre manager for Kiwicare Tennessee. Annie is a qualified teacher and brings a wealth of teaching experience and skills to our wonderful team at Haruru Falls. The team is looking forward to working with her.

# Nursery

## Piwakawaka Zone

This month we have welcomed Charlize, Mieke, Hailey, Sienna and their families to the Piwakawaka group. We have also celebrated a number of birthdays in the Piwakawaka group this month. The children have interests that include posting/sorting, noise play and exploring with their senses. They have enjoyed messy play activities as well as exploring their environment using all of their senses. We have explored shaving foam and gloop, shredded paper and paint. Any experience where the children can learn about new substances is of interest to them at the moment. We will continue to provide new sensory exploration activities for the children as they discover the world around them and their abilities as little explorers. Written by Janet Jesen



What are these tickly things?

## 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

## New resources

- ★ Easel for nursery
- ★ Lots of pirate dress-up gear
- ★ Lovely new modelling clay

# Toddlers and Pre School

## Kea Zone



Scarlett inspects a worm in the garden

With the warmer weather Keas have been outside looking under logs and mats, to see what we could see. Oooh! We saw brown wriggly worms and a strange orange flat worm that changed its shape. The discovery of worms brought mixed reactions! Samantha was happy to look from a distance. Drazon explored what it felt like on the palm of his hand while Scarlett squealed with delight as they wriggled in the mud. Another activity that Keas are exploring is making play dough. Everyone took a turn to stir the ingredients and shake in the gold glitter. Mary-Pat poured in the hot water and stirred it. When it was still warm they took turns feeling how warm it was. We all liked how the colour turned out - spring green with gold flecks! Written by Mary-Pat Ross



Daisies for Yuktha's hair



## Kiwi Zone



The children's interest in pets has evolved; they went from fishing on the boat to pirates! The girls and the boys have been right into this interest. We learned a new song and have been reading stories about pirates to find out all the interesting things about them. The children have been role playing on the boat and dressing up in the family room. It has been a great opportunity to sit and talk with them to develop literacy as they are so involved in the conversation. We have been using the promethean board to look at pictures of different pirates so the children got some great ideas for the pirate dress up day! "Ahoy me hearties!" Written by Rachel Ashton



Ahoy my hearties!

## 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](mailto:relindetap@kiwicarepreschool.co.nz)*

### Language and numeracy

In my feature in last month's newsletter I discussed the importance to educational success of extending your child's vocabulary through words, words and more words.

The importance of this was stressed again this week when our teachers attended Numicon workshops on numeracy presented by Margi Leech.

Numeracy and the concepts surrounding it are very abstract and children need to have these presented to them in a wide variety of ways with extensive language attached to the learning so that numeracy becomes part of their everyday thinking.

While doing numeracy activities with children, such as the Numicon programme we use at Kiwicare or during games you play at home such as number lotto's or counting food items such as apples, it is important that we as adults encourage a language rich environment which includes questions to encourage our children's numeracy thinking skills.

These questions can be very simple such as 'How many apples are there?', 'Are there enough for all of us?' to more elaborate questions in relation to numeracy such as "How many more weeks do you need to save your pocket money to buy that?"

Asking children questions, rather than giving the answers, supports children in learning to estimate, for example, which is an important part of numeracy.

And as your children grow you can add more and more concepts relating to numeracy which help them to understand the world of numeracy.

These words can include concepts such as "less, more", "too many, too few", "before, after", "enough, not enough" as well as words such as "count, arrange, find and match" which are words your child's teacher will use with them when working with them on numeracy skills and they are important words for their on-going learning as well as their everyday life.

Please ask your child's teachers to talk to you about the Numicon programme and other numeracy activities they do in their centres and feel free to ask for more information from them regarding how you can support this at home.

Below are two websites which may help you too.

The Numicon website also has activities for you to use at home for free.

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

## Transition to school



Can we catch a mermaid?

In September in TTS we have been exploring our current interest in sea life through science, literacy and art activities. We have been researching sea life on the internet. This has involved discussing what types of creatures we would like to find out about and watching video clips of these creatures in the wild. The boys enjoyed learning about sharks while the girls wanted to see some mermaids. We have also researched the killer whale, stingrays and octopus. These sessions have generated a lot of discussion among the children. We have also been reading some poems about sea life and we immersed ourselves in the descriptive language and used our imaginations to create mental pictures to go with the poems. Following the pirate dress up day all the children contributed to writing our own story about pirates and then we had fun doing illustrations.

Written by Paula Knightly



## OSCAR



Jack and Devon doing homework with Jae



Riley studies the space pictures

The OSCAR children love using the promethean board on wet days. Here you see Jack, Riley and Jarrod getting very excited at the possibilities. Despite good-natured groans of 'homework', the children also enjoy bringing out their books to show us how well they read. They spend time with the four year olds and show them how to utilize the resources that Kiwicare has to offer.

