

For your diary:



Term Three 2011

★ **Monday 1 August 2011:** FREE Playgroup Sessions begin in Green House. Call in to reception to register if you are interested in coming for a visit with your child.

★ **Friday 26 August 2011: 9.30am—1.30pm:** Pacific Safety and Unintentional Injury Prevention Forum (To be held in Dining Room at Tennessee Centre). Register your interest to attend at reception.

★ Photolife is booked Monday 26th and Friday 30th September for class and individual photos

★ **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



Performing the Makarena



We screen printed our own koru flags



Blue House performance



Mint House in rehearsal

Celebrating Maori Language Week

"Tōku reo, Tōku ohoho"
My language is my strength.

"Tena koutou e te whānau, Nga mihi mahana kia koutou katoa"
Welcome to you and all the families. This is a warm welcome.

The Māori Language Commission chose Manaakitanga for their theme this year.

Manaakitanga (*hospitality*) is a very important part of Māori custom and identity and is all about making people feel welcome and caring for families and friends.

Kiwicare Pre School is committed to this philosophy of welcoming children and their families from all walks of life and all beliefs, cultures and languages.

We are very fortunate to have teachers from many different nationalities working here with us. This week our Māori language expert Avalina Cook became our roaming teacher and took Māori mat times with all the tamariki (*children*) and kaiako (*teachers*).

Children learnt simple commands, greetings and phrases in te reo and enjoyed participating in making pendants from play dough, screen printing koru designs and flags, making headbands and practising items for our special Friday assembly. www.korero.maori.co.nz is a fantastic, interactive website and well worth visiting.

Written by Annie and Avalina





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.

Event

We had a dress up parade!



Everyone dressed up and paraded on our very own catwalk

On Friday 1st July we gathered in the dining room to sing happy birthday to the children who'd had birthdays in May and June. Our birthday celebration organiser Akemi always presents us with something special. Sometimes it is a play, a puppet show, or a cultural experience. This celebration was extra special because it coincided with Cultural Day. Teachers and children came dressed in their finery and after the birthday song we were treated to a fashion parade with our teachers as the models. A highlight was when children from each House joined the catwalk dressed in our new dress ups! Teachers have noticed that the dress up area is a very popular place to visit to make dramatic play choices since then. Written by Annie

From the manager

Driving to work on inorganic rubbish collection day, I saw something that made me laugh—a group of burly council workers gathered on the grass verge playing with some hula hoops as they waited for the truck. Tennessee teachers also had lots of fun at our last staff meeting making masks, wigs and glasses from fabric, pipe-cleaners and hat elastic. Dramatic, imaginative play and just having fun together whether we are grown-ups or children is a wonderful way to enhance social skills and develop problem solving skills. www.familyfun.go.com and www.fun.familyeducation.com have some great ideas for making those wet and wild winter weekends special without needing to leave the house. Written by Annie

Yellow House Nursery



On Wednesday 29th June, Yellow House toddlers took great delight in celebrating International Mud Day. It was a wet day so messy play came inside. Potting mix was tipped into the water trough. Then it was time to make some mud! Mud play offers unique, tactile experiences that are vital to the child's developing brain. As children run mud through fingers, scoop it into containers and pat it into pies, they develop eye-hand coordination and learn about cause and effect. Research shows that children who play in dirt develop strong immune systems which can pave the way for better health as adults. It is also great fun!
Written by Tessy

Green House Toddlers



Exploring the keyboard

Several Yellow House children have transitioned to our house recently and they have brought the Yellow House interest in music with them. The basket of musical instruments has been a popular place during exploratory play time and teachers have been extending this by encouraging the tamariki to sing, dance and play along to their favourite CDs.

We all enjoyed our mat times with Avalina during Māori Language Week who taught us an action song to perform at our special assembly. The day that the centre keyboard came to visit us was very exciting and the shakers we made using recycled materials have been well used. Written by Anne

Red House (2.5 to 4.5 years)

Red House celebrated Matariki and Māori Language week with singing and dancing, cooking and artwork.

We borrowed the screen printing kit from Orange House and children created koru designs on their own flags which we proudly waved at the Māori Language Week assembly.

Our celebrations have promoted an interest in music and movement and we have noticed children using blocks for microphones and beating rhythms on empty formula tins.

We have many creative activities planned around this theme. If there are any musicians among our parents who would like to share their talent with us, we would love to hear from you.

Written by Mohammed



Screen printing—let's see what it looks like!

Blue House (2.5 to 3.5 years)



Slicing practice

Baking Māori bread and steaming kumara were two of the most popular activities during Matariki month and Māori Language week. Tamariki were very interested in the process of preparing the bread dough and touching and tasting the ingredients. They took turns to mix the dough and were fascinated to discover that yeast had made the dough rise to twice its original size. The clear plastic steamer meant that that they could watch the kumara cooking and observe the steam creating water droplets inside the lid. Since then we have noticed many children role-playing cooking activities in the Family Corner. Our new chef outfits add a touch of reality!

Written by Usha

Important Reminders

- ★ We often make DVD's of our Friday singing assemblies. If you would like to purchase a copy, these are available for \$5. Put your order in at reception or ask your child's teacher.
- ★ To ensure the safety of your children, **please remember to shut the security gates and always accompany your children** when walking through the car park.
- ★ An **information pack and DVD is available for anyone interested in enrolling their child in our 5 year old house** when they reach their fifth birthday. Please feel free to speak to any of our Orange House teachers, or enquire at Reception.
- ★ Although the summer is now over, we like to take advantage of fine weather and provide opportunities for children to play outside. Please make sure that you **send your child with shoes** to wear outside and **warm clothing**.



The Red House rock band playing guitars

New Resources

- ★ New dress ups
- ★ Barbara Brann literacy resources
- ★ Storage containers
- ★ Family Corner resources
- ★ Art materials
- ★ Maths resources
- ★ Laminator
- ★ New readers and big books for 5 year olds



Steaming the kumara

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.

Mint House (3.5 to 4.5 years)



The news on Pepper Mint TV.

Show & Tell has become more exciting lately. Moses made a TV from a cardboard box and children who have something to share at mat time are invited to attach their names to the TV and are then interviewed by the teacher.

Children are learning how to interact with an audience, make comments, and ask and answer questions.

Another popular activity is the Look and Choose cards. These are cards with photos of the different activities available. Children are invited to choose an activity and make a statement about what they would like to do e.g. "I would like to play with the blocks." Written by Veena

Orange House (4.5 to 6 years)

Orange House children are taking the Kiwicare philosophy of "Healthy Bodies, Educated Minds" seriously. To warm up our bodies and prepare our minds for learning, we exercise daily to the fast and funky music of "The Wiggles" and Hi 5". Nitika, who takes aerobic classes after hours, has been demonstrating the correct techniques for stretching and warming up before exercise and cooling down afterwards.



Legs apart and balance...

On Fridays we use our dining room for PE and have lots of fun with aerobic sessions followed by team games and freestyle dancing. It is wonderful to see our children letting their imaginations run wild and choreograph original and creative dance moves! Parents are welcome to come and join the fun.

Written by Nitika

OSCAR (Up to 13 years)



Plotting the next move...

OSCAR children are continuing to enjoy playing with the new resources we bought last month. One afternoon the children discovered two big boxes in our resource room that hadn't been there the evening before.

Inside the boxes were giant-sized games of chess and drafts. Every day since we have been learning the rules of these games and playing together in pairs or teams.

Board games like these teach children to be clear thinkers, motivated learners and problem solvers. It also encourages them to take pride in their accomplishments and become graceful winners and losers.

Written by Evelyn

