

For your diary:



Term 4 - 2011

★ Wednesday 12th October

First of Wednesday and Friday visits by the Plunket nurse, thus providing more choice for families wanting to use the service.

Feel free to phone the Plunket coordinator, Julie Thurdon, 09 260 4032 if you have any questions.

★ Monday 24th October 2011

Labour Day (centre closed)

★ Friday 4th November

Next Whānau day. Times to be advised.

★ Monday and Tuesday 7th and 8th November

Visit from ARDS dental bus. If you would like to have your child assessed for their dental health, please ask at reception for a screening form.

★ Friday, 2nd December

End of year Christmas celebration. We will have holding a Christmas Teddy Bears picnic and games in Sutton Park across the road. We would love you to join us.

★ Sunday 25th December, 2011:

Christmas Day (Observed on Tuesday 27th December 2011 - centre closed)

★ Monday 26th December 2011:

Boxing Day (centre closed)

School holiday programmes :

★ Monday 10th October - Friday 21st October 2011

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



Doing the haka



Waving our flags on parade



All lined up and ready to go



What a big morning we've had!

Our Rugby World Cup parade

The build up to the Rugby World Cup has been very exciting for us all. It has been delightful to see how the community has entered into the spirit of the occasion. Vehicles decorated with flags make our car park a colourful place to be! On Thursday 8th September we held an All Nations World Cup parade and ball sports morning. Children from the Blue, Red, Mint and Orange House and their teachers spent time practising ball handling skills and participating in team games. Our babies and toddlers just enjoyed having hundreds of colourful little balls to play with. The day arrived and standing out from and above the crowd was our special guest Selesi Benwho represents the under 21's

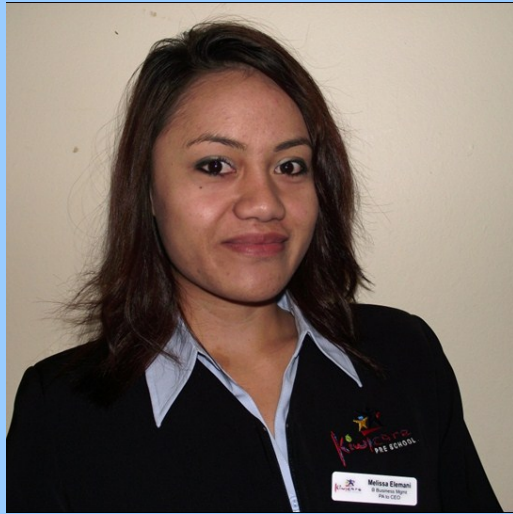
All Blacks. He shared with us how being involved in sport not only increases fitness, but is a positive way to develop team spirit with everyone working together to achieve a common goal. This very important life skill is one of the key values we teach and encourage in our children. After our House items, Selesi and Moses led a rousing haka with our very enthusiastic boys and their dads. Selesi led our parade around the car park and then it was time to go to our Houses for ball games. Check out the official Rugby World Cup website www.worldcup.com and click on **Kidzone Resources** for loads of free downloadable activities. Written by Annie



From the director...



Heather Anderson, founder, CEO and director of Kiwicare Pre School



I am delighted to announce the appointment of the new centre manager, Melissa Elemani, Bachelor of Business Management (pictured above).

Melissa's passion for education and her recognition of its crucial importance for societal development was fostered by her involvement running a village school in Samoa. Melissa believes that with each child's uniqueness comes an inbuilt desire to be expressive and creative and that high quality childcare enables children to reach their potential regardless of background.

Melissa has been my personal assistant for the past eight months and during that time has immersed herself in all aspects of Kiwicare's practice and management. This makes her the ideal person to take over the running of the Tennessee centre. In her spare time Melissa enjoys travel, fine art and history, and she has a keen interest in science particularly astrophysics and astronomy.

I would like to thank to Annie Brimblecombe for her sterling service at Kiwicare Tennessee and I am delighted that she is staying with Kiwicare as our centre manager at Paihia.

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A division of Kiwi Sport Pre School Ltd

Event

Playgroup



Making icing for the wedding cake

Special events take careful planning. Mint House was inspired by the magic of the royal wedding in April, and preparations have been underway for their own special event since then. Parents visiting Mint House may have noticed their planning wall and sensed the growing excitement. On Thursday 15th September, the children, parents and their teachers came in their finery ready to celebrate. After the official Māori welcome (*karanga*) led by Avalina, Moses the Master Of Ceremonies took over proceedings. Following the ceremony and the cutting of the cake, there was dancing and afterwards everyone gathered to share a delicious wedding feast. The children were given the opportunity to practise the social etiquette of how to behave appropriately in a formal setting. Written by Veena

From the manager

This year is flying by and the warmer spring weather is very welcome, especially with our children who really look forward to spending more time outdoors. Thank you to parents and whānau who have come along to our special events so far this year, we look forward to seeing you at our next Whānau day and special Christmas celebration.

After nearly 2 years here at Kiwicare Tennessee and 10 very enjoyable months as centre manager, I am relocating to our Kiwicare Centre in Paihia. I leave Kiwicare Tennessee in the very capable hands of Melissa Elemani.

Yellow House Nursery

Kiwicare embraces the Magda Gerber philosophy in our approach to caring for babies and toddlers. Magda developed a philosophy for infant care based on respect that empowers parents and caregivers to 'do less and enjoy more' as infants learn to move, play and grow as self-confident individuals. Yellow House teachers recognise that everyone in their care is unique, and communicates in their own way. We enjoy watching our little ones reaching milestones at their own pace. Even our youngest babies respond positively when we communicate with them. It is delightful to see our older transitioning children joining in at our

mat times and communicating with gestures, words and simple phrases as they interact with us.

Written by Tessa



Green House Toddlers

During the past few weeks, our Green House tamariki have been learning to be hosts and hostesses. Each Monday and Wednesday morning between 9.30-11.00am we welcome our play group parents and children. Many of our visitors come regularly, so we are enjoying making new friends. One of the highlights is our mat time. Teacher Evelyn arrives with her lovely smile and guitar and we enjoy listening to a story and singing our favourite songs. Jack In The Box is 'top of the pops' at present and even a slight hint that this might be the next song, will see our toddlers heads down, hands over eyes and bottoms up ready to start. What a delightful age this is! Written by Faaliliu



Playgroup mums made our skirts

Red House (2.5 to 4.5 years)

Red House children have been learning about an important event celebrated by another culture. This year Ramadan ran from 31st July - 31st August according to the lunar calendar. The festival of Eid marks the end of Ramadan with a celebratory feast after seeing the new moon in the sky. Eid focuses on the virtue of charity and giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. The children enjoyed listening to and acting out traditional stories and participating in art activities. Under Mohammed's supervision, our Muslim boys recited a verse from the Koran and demonstrated to the children how Muslims pray. The other children found this experience fascinating and this gave them an insight into Islamic practices.

Written by Mohammed



All dressed up for Eid

Blue House (2.5 to 3.5 years)



Our wonderful hāngi feast

The Rugby World Cup has ignited a spirit of celebration in Blue House. We were all excited to discover that we had an under 21's potential full All Black in one of our families (see *the article on the cover page of this month's newsletter!*). We talked about the importance of eating healthy food and drinking lots of water to keep fit and active. Tamariki were intrigued when one day we invited them to the sand pit and pretended to prepare a hāngi. The children were encouraged to take turns to dig the pit and put in the stones. This method of cooking which is familiar in many Pacific cultures is also known as *lovo* in Fiji and *uma* in Samoa. Written by Usha

Important reminders

- ★ We often make DVDs 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.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Remember to **name all your children's clothing**, including socks. This is such a help when we are trying to find your child's clothes or shoes.
- ★ Spring weather is sometimes a little unsettled, so it is a good idea to **send a change of light and warm clothes** to suit the possible changes of temperature.
- ★ Our car park is a very busy place, especially at drop off and pick up times. **For your child's safety**, please remember to use the footpaths when escorting your children to or from the car and train them to treat the car park as a road.
- ★ Always **remember to buckle your child into a recommended child car safety seat**. Adult seat belts are not designed to give protection for children and the safest place for your child to travel is in the back seat.
- ★ We have available a **Cheap Eats** recipe book, which has some delicious and easily prepared meal ideas. This booklet is published by the Heart Foundation and is available free of charge. Ask at reception if you would like a copy.

New resources

- ★ 2 delightful dinosaur rocking horses in the Green House
- ★ A new playhouse for the Blue House playground
- ★ Lots of balls of different sizes
- ★ 2 parachutes
- ★ Sun hats
- ★ Picture books
- ★ New dress ups
- ★ Art materials

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

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>

Mint House (3.5 to 4.5 years)



Indian prince and princess

The Mint House teachers and children went all out decorating their environment in preparation for their big celebration day. They made paper flowers and garlands, painted pictures and took ballroom dance classes. Closer to the day, the children became involved in preparing the feast. Groups of children helped their teachers prepare Chaklis (Muruuku) an Indian snack made from rice flour, stuffed rotis (parathas), seviyan (Kheer), laddoos and mini cupcakes. Another group worked with Avalina to bake the wedding cake and many hands went up when it was time to decorate it with icing! Others learnt how to make bread stuffing which was served with the hāngi style lunch. We have noticed that the kitchen equipment in the family play area is being well utilized recently. Written by Veena

Orange House (4.5 to 6 years)

This month our interest was on the Rugby World Cup and the celebrations surrounding this event. We discussed the game of rugby, the nations participating and even made our own cup. We found out that many of us originate from the countries being represented. A matching game using flags and the t-shirts of the participating teams was popular and our tamariki and their parents were encouraged to vote for their favourite team. We began training for our own rugby match in the Orange House. Children on the team learnt about being good team members, and playing fair. We moved the playground equipment to give more space for ball games. It is great to see them come in huffing and puffing after a good run around. Written by Nell



Our Webb Ellis cup

OSCAR (Up to 13 years)



Lots of clothes need to go home to their owners

The third term has flown by and now the holidays are here again! Our holiday programme will see us out and about with ice-skating, art and crafts, table tennis, the movies and much more. There are limited spaces and it is essential to secure your child's place early. We have a number of unclaimed and unnamed clothing items which belong to our OSCAR kids but we have been getting questioning looks when asking who they belong to. It may pay to have a look in our lost property the next time you come to pick up your child. Named clothing has a much better chance of finding its way home and will save you money in the long run!

Written by Evelyn

