

April 2017

A big Happy Birthday this month to Toby (5), Isla W. (3) and Chelsey. We farewell Toby this month to George St normal school.



Highlights:

- We would like to warmly welcome Emilie aboard to the Flippers teaching team! Emilie has taken up our teacher aide position and will be here different times throughout the week. Emilie brings with her a wealth of knowledge about children, and coming from a French background, she is very fluent in speaking French, which the children love. Please feel free to say hello and make her feel welcome.
- At the beginning of the month some of the teina children went on a trip to the Dunedin farm park, where we got to meet lots of different animals such as; pigs, chickens, cows, ponies, rabbits and a goat. The children loved this outing to the farm park, going on the bus, getting up close with the different animals and jumping in puddles and mud in their gumboots. We hope to plan some more outings for the teina children again soon in the future.
- We have begun selling the 2017 Entertainment Book so please spread the word to your family and friends so we can buy some new resources for our Teina area.
- Some of the older tamariki have been on trips to the magic show at the meridan mall as part of the school holidays programme, and they also enjoyed playing at the hospital and Arthur St school playgrounds.
- We celebrated Easter through getting involved in lots of fun Easter experiences such as; making hot cross buns with our student teacher Jessie in her bread maker, doing an Easter egg hunt, doing Easter baking and making Easter crafts.

As we have limited spaces and a lot of people wanting to change hours, we just want to remind you that it is two weeks' notice if you are wanting to change your child's hours which gives Lizzy time to fit them in and roster teachers appropriately.

From time to time, you may notice that we have student teachers on placement with us at Flippers.

Over the upcoming month, we will have a 2nd year student from the Open Otago polytechnic named Katrina with us and we will also have our 3rd year student Jessie with us for three weeks.

What have the children been learning??

Tuakana:

The tamariki are still really interested in exploring bugs and insects within the environment and the tuakana teachers having been extending on this learning through thoughtful, planned learning experiences.

We have also been talking a lot about Anzac day during morning meetings and the significance of this day. The children have been having some in depth conversations around Anzac day and the war with the teachers, and they have been demonstrating high levels of empathy and understanding around this subject.

The tamariki have enjoyed exploring the significance of Anzac day, through a book called "The Anzac puppy", and they have enjoyed being involved in other Anzac day experiences such as making poppies, and baking Anzac biscuits.

The tuakana tamariki have also really enjoyed playing and interacting with the different media in the post office that the teachers recently set up to promote their ongoing interests in literacy, especially through the realms of writing. The tamariki have spent long periods of play in the post office, writing letters and posting them, adding stamps and some of the bush day children even posted some letters on their way to bush day a few weeks ago.

Teina:

The teina children are still really enjoying participating in group times and exploring a wide range of songs, stories, finger plays and ways in which they can use their bodies to be creative and expressive.

Within our group times, the teina teachers have been planning thoughtful learning experiences that promote the learning dispositions of; concentration, perseverance, working alongside others, and being creative. These learning experiences also promote the skills of; using our fine motor and manipulative skills, as well as promoting the learning of Literacy and Numeracy.

Some of the learning experiences that the tamariki have been getting involved in during their morning group times are; playing with the peg boards, (where the children have to use their fine motor and manipulative skills to pin the tiny pegs into the peg boards), learning to cut different materials with scissors such as play dough and straws, exploring different art media and the ways in which they can manipulate them to be creative and expressive such as; finger paint, using their fine motor skills to do "sticking" with stickers and exploring literacy, through sticking these stickers onto the letter of their names.

The teina children have also really enjoyed playing in the post office alongside the older children, where they love interacting with the different writing media, and sending and posting letters. They also love using the stamps, stickers and envelopes within their dramatic play of working in the post office.

Ra Ngahere:

We had an absolute ball playing in the 'creek' a few weeks back during a big rain downpour. The children decided to go for a dip..at first it was the tip of their boots, next it was up to their ankles and before long, it was up to some of our knees! The following week we went back to check the 'creek' and see if the water had disappeared, it had but there was a lot of mud, branches, etc blocking the drain so we decided to try and remove some of the build up so the drain would work correctly again! The tamariki worked hard, stacking branches on the side of the drain until we could see that the water would be able to flow through again and not create another blockage. Kai pai tamariki, thank you for taking care of the bush. We recently went on a walk down to the Meridian mall to see Jonathon Usher the magician. The children really enjoyed the show and sat wonderfully for the duration. We managed to climb back up the hill and went to Arthur street school for lunch and a play. It was a nice chance while the school children were on holidays to have a nosey around the school and see where some of ex tamariki go now!

Just a reminder that your child's bill is to be paid weekly. The accounts are put in the pockets for you on a Monday morning. If you cannot pay or have any questions please contact Lizzy to discuss further.

Just a wee reminder that your child's lunchbox needs to go on the trolley in the kitchen in the mornings. Also if your child has any food that needs heated or refrigerated, to also please place this in the red basket in the fridge, with your child's name on it.

Also remember to put a piece of fruit in the fruit bowl in the mornings, if your child his here for morning tea.

The benefits of sensory play...

You may have noticed at Flippers, that we love to get involved in lots of sensory and messy play! The teachers think thoughtfully about the sensory play experiences that they set up, and we try to ensure these experiences are culturally appropriate and align with our sustainability philosophy.

We like to use a variety of different materials in our sensory play such as; wheat, rice, paint, flour, water, sand and many more. When we integrate these materials into our sensory play, we aim to be sustainable with these resources by re -using them again and again, where we can. At Flippers, we have an open door policy, and we invite you at any time to discuss with us any concerns with us about our sensory play practices, as we are a highly reflective teaching team.

Some of the benefits of sensory play are;

"Sensory play enhances learning through hands-on activities that stimulate the child's senses. This is a great way for children to explore the world they live in! ... Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction."

Please remember our friendly staff are always here to talk to if you have any concerns or advice.

Kim, Lizzy, Lisa, Nikki, Chelsey,
Emilie and Jenny.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our families that have been sticking to our 'litter - less lunchboxes philosophy'.

Just a thought: We clean and recycle yoghurt pottles but the 'squeeze' style yoghurts cannot be recycled.