

January 2017

This year we welcome some new friends and families to Flippers. Welcome to three Teina tamariki: Piper, Toby and Audrey and welcome to Leon who will be joining the Tuakana whānau.

Happy 1st birthday to Archie and Emma! (2)



At the end of last year, we said a sad farewell to Elias and his family as they set off for a new adventure in Tokyo, Japan. Elias has emailed telling us he is enjoying his new home and he likes riding the subway!

At the end of 2016 we said farewell to Chloe, who has moved to Wanaka with her family. We wish them all the best in another beautiful part of the South Island 😊

We congratulate Victoria and Marcus on their recent engagement!

FYI:

- ✓ We have been re-evaluating the environment and how we display children's learning. You may have noticed that the walls have been empty for the first few weeks back as we spend time gathering and collecting photographic evidence of learning from around Flippers. The teaching team have been spending time discussing what we think is important to display and how best to display the children's work, learning priorities, etc. 😊
- ✓ Jenny has been very busy repainting and refurbishing lots of different children's furniture and resources. It's starting to come back and it's looking fantastic!
- ✓ We have been planting some lovely plants in the garden outside to make it look more natural. It's starting to look full of life and the tamariki have enjoyed getting involved in the planting process.
- ✓ Chelsey has a 3rd year University student starting next week and Chris and Linsey will be back for the first half of the year.

- We have been on many walks and outings already this year and with swimming competitions on all last week, we made the most of it with a short trip next-door to watch some of the races. The tamariki love supporting different swimmers and cheering them on.
- We enjoyed a walk to Otago Museum to visit the Animal attic and for a bite to eat. The tamariki loved catching the bus back up the hill from the Octagon!
- We enjoyed a sunny warm walk to Arthur Street school playground with some Teina and Tuakana tamariki. The children enjoyed the more challenging climbing equipment and it was a wonderful way for them to take some more risks!
- We have had some different materials out such as coloured rice, ice play and different textured playdough. These are wonderful learning experiences that the Flippers tamariki enjoy! When we do these types of experiences we are developing gross motor skills, pre-penmanship, manipulation, scientific concepts and exploring texture and creativity.

What have the children been learning??

Tuakana:

We have been welcoming back all our friends from holiday and hearing about the fun things the children have been up to. Some examples:

"I went to the zoo and saw giraffes and a gorilla" - Corban

"I went to Queenstown"- Clara

"I stayed in a tent with Mum, Dad and Scott"- Brendan

"I played outside on a tramp and Grandad came!"- Isla L

We have been baking, cooking and creating many different things since we have arrived back for 2017. The children enjoyed watching Lisa make coffees and fluffies with her coffee machine so we set up "Café a la Flippers" ☺ it was very fancy!

The tamariki have also been busy helping the teachers make hummus, fruit smoothies and different types of mini muffins.

Teina:

We have been welcoming back the tamariki and hearing all the different adventures that they got up to over the break. The tamariki have been enjoying getting back into morning meetings and doing lots of singing and action songs together.

We have been baking a lot since we returned from the holiday break and the tamariki have enjoyed getting to be a part of the baking process (as well as eating the finished products!!) We baked some banana muffins and many of the Teina thoroughly enjoyed mashing up the bananas in the baking bowl and adding different ingredients.

We look forward to setting up different experiences for them as we observe their interests over the next few weeks. (Picture- Emma helps Jayda and Mila cut fruit)



Ra Ngahere:

We start bush day this week ☺

Reminders of what to bring:

- Warm clothing (even on a warm day, it can change drastically and we are often under the shelter of trees, it can make it cooler than expected!) Pack a warm hat and waterproof jacket all year long
- A full change of clothing for when we return, should your child need to change (they keep this back at centre)
- A suitable hearty and healthy lunch! We find the tamariki get extra hungry out there! Please pack fruit or vege for morning tea (we eat this out there for morning tea) and no hot food (we can't heat this)
- As little packaging as possible in lunch boxes (we encourage litter less lunch boxes as part of our philosophy)
- PLEASE PACK A DRINK BOTTLE WITH WATER ONLY

Please pay your accounts weekly, we accept; cash, cheque, eftpos or direct debit. Our account details are: 06 0901 0361284 000.

Please pay overdue accounts!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your account, please feel free to talk to Lizzy ☐

Don't forget to check up on your child's learning by checking out their profile book. They are in the book corner in a separate book shelf. If you cannot find it there their profile teacher might have it to stick in new stories.

Please remember that these books are your child's and you are welcome to add in any comments, stories or pictures at any time. And also take them home to show other family members.

Please make sure you remember to sign your child in and out on the sign in sheet

Stuck for lunch box ideas? Want to think of something a little different for the kids?

Cherry tomatoes • Boiled eggs • Cucumber sticks • Fruit kebabs • Meatballs • Chicken and apple meatballs • Sliced roasted meats • Falafel • Quiche slices • Sushi • Steamed dumplings • Edamame (boiled soy beans in pods) • Baby carrots, radish, green beans, celery, snow peas, fresh peas- with a side of hummus...

Lizzy and Kim are attending a course in Cromwell in February called 'Stepping up to leadership'. We look forward to implementing all the things they will take away from this course ☺

On behalf of Flippers, Nikki attended a meeting held by Department of conservation; "Town Belt Education Initiative". There are different schools involved in this such as Otago boys, Otago girls, St Hilda's and Arthur Street School as well the University of Otago. We were extremely lucky to be considered to be involved and look forward to teaming up with the other organizations and schools later in the year. The idea is that the older children will take charge of preservation and the younger tamariki will help with planting, etc and will learn to take charge and care for the bush environment ☺

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 'squeezie' style yoghurts cannot be recycled.

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

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