

**A big Happy Birthday this month to Tama (2) Eleanor (4) Lisa (30) and Alexie (5) who we farewell to Arthur Street School.**



- This month Jenny and Michael have celebrated owning Flippers for 10 years! We congratulate them on this awesome achievement and hope there are many more years to come.
- Our Otago Polytechnic students Chris and Lindsey will have their final day with us next Wednesday. We have welcomed Bethany also from the Otago Polytechnic who will be with us until the end of the year and she is already a hit with the children!
- 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.
- We are heading off on a farm trip with some of the Teina children this week. We are planning on going in all weather so please pack a jacket and a drink bottle with your child's lunch.
- Victoria will be having her last day with us on Tuesday 4th March to head off on maternity leave, but will still be popping in all the time to keep in touch with the children.
- Thanks to all those families that are posting positive comments and promoting Flippers on the mums and bubs page and other social media sites.
- Just a reminder to be mindful of where you are parking because the parking metre people have been out and about a lot lately.
- A huge congratulations to Nikki and Joe who snuck away to Wanaka this month and eloped! It sounds like it was a very special day and we are all so happy for the both of them.

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.

We would like to welcome Jenny back onto the teaching team, she will be taking over Victoria's maternity leave. We are also in the process of hiring a teacher aide to cover extra hours so watch this space for our new staff member!

# What have the children been learning??

## Tuakana:

This month we have begun a new inquiry based topic on bugs. Our children have been showing a huge interest in bugs that they find out in the playground for a long time now, so we thought it would be valuable to support this interest.

We have begun by trying to find out what the children already know about bugs before seeing what direction we will take this project in. We have been reading bug books, going on bug hunts and doing a range of bug artwork to get conversations flowing about the children's prior knowledge.

Once we have decided on which direction this topic will take we would like to really take the learning deeper and have the children flesh out their ideas and see what different paths it takes us on.

## Teina:

The children have still been showing great enjoyment at the group times we have after morning tea. Every day they come and sit down waiting eagerly to hear what songs, games or stories we will be doing. We have noticed they are beginning to be able to focus for long periods of time which is a very good skill for their age. They are also learning to contribute in a group as they request what they want to do in front of their peers.

Baby play is back in full force amongst our young friends, with all the baby dolls in hot demand! We have continued to support the children to show empathy and compassion to their babies as well as the practical skills of bathing, dressing and feeding their babies.

## Ra Ngahere:

With a real mix of weather lately the children have been trying their hardest to find the muddiest spots possible and doing their best to get their entire outfit covered in mud! It seems like the muddier they get the better the day has been!

Reminder:

- Always pack extra clothing layers
- A full change of clothing for when we return, should your child need to change (they keep this back at centre)
- Please pack fruit or veggie 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

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 all the children's art work done here at Flippers is filed into our art box to be collected and taken home. The art box is situated on the shelf in the art corner and you are welcome to have a look at any time. Feel free to also ask a staff member if you can't find it.

We will be closed the 14th and 17th of April to observe good Friday and Easter Monday. We hope you all have a nice family break and enjoy a chocolate treat : )

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.

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.