

# AUGUST 19

We're already half way through the winter and it really hasn't been that bad. We've had some lovely sunny days which enabled us to be outside enjoying the fresh air.



## ERO VISIT

As you know we had ERO (Education Review Office) visit us last month to see how we are progressing? They were really pleased with what they saw, heard and observed. We will share their report with you all when we receive it.

## AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Thank you to all who came to the meeting. We have attached the Chairperson's report for you to read. If you would like to see a copy of the financials please see Clare or Lou. We said goodbye from the Board of Trustees to Sarah Grenfell. Our Board members this year are Charlotte Butler, Sian Jenkins, Karyn Scollay, Nicolle Hughes, Brandon Heslop and Cat Mulligan.



## STAFFING

Our 2 lovely new teachers Alexe and Kristina have settled into the team really well and the children love them. If you have been away over the school holidays and not been introduced to them please let us know.

This month we have a few things happening but hopefully this won't disrupt things too much:

Alexe will be away on holiday for 4 weeks (back 9<sup>th</sup> Sept).

Kristina will be on her home placement here from 12<sup>th</sup> August for 5 weeks.

Melissa will also be doing her home placement here from 26<sup>th</sup> for 4 weeks and will be in 5 days each week instead of 3.



## WAITING LIST

We are currently running a waiting list for both our preschool and nursery. Due to the number of families already waiting for spaces, we may not be able to cater for your child care needs straight away. We are implementing a fee payable when you want to guarantee a space at a particular date in the future. Please see Clare or Lou if you wish to be placed on the waiting list or want more information. We will provide the full details soon.

## IN THE NURSERY THIS MONTH.....

Group togetherness has been a big focus in the Nursery this month.

We have had lots of tamariki interested in mat times, singing songs or reading books alongside their peers. This is a great time for our little people to learn how to learn with and alongside others and to initiate and enjoy relationships with each other. Bubbles, group art and messy play experiences and kai time are other things we have been enjoying together this month.





Often children will initiate a group sing-a-long by beginning some actions to one of our favourite songs or heading to the cupboard where our special finger puppets and magnetic songs are kept, asking to have them out. It is fantastic to see tamariki leading their own learning and following their own interests like this! If you would like a paper copy of the lyrics to some of our favourite songs – sing out! ☺



We have also observed lots of physical development from our littlest of friends! It always amazes us how the tamariki naturally develop the muscles and co-ordination they need to move and learn, if we give them the space and time to navigate their bodies with minimal aide and interruption from us. In fact, the less we help our pepi, the better their muscles can form optimally. Have a look at our print out in the Nursery entrance regarding natural spine positions.

This month we have also noticed a keen interest in self-help skills. With many of our pepi enjoying exploring their kai using spoons and bowls. They are just loving exploring the different textures and tastes.

It looks like August is shaping up to be a cold month. Please send plenty of warm layers to Nursery with your

child – we try and get outside, even for a little while, every day – whatever the weather.

Ngā manaakitanga/best wishes from your Nursery Team,

Mel, Janice, Netty, Sara, Pietta, Kate and Chelsey

### **PRESCHOOL HAS BEEN SO BUSY.....**

July has been an inspiring month for our tamariki with many planned and spontaneous experiences to challenge their thinking. Child initiated mat times have seen many tamariki lead their own board stories, songs and stories. These experiences develop their understanding of sequencing in stories whilst being directors of their own learning.

Sport experiences such as rugby, soccer and cricket have featured for many older tamariki who have scaffolded their skills with the younger ones.

We celebrated Matariki with an array of experiences throughout the month from numerous stories and legends being retold, to songs being sung and we also created artwork for tamariki to revisit their learning.

Carpentry and construction has seen many tamariki involve themselves in various ways. Tamariki have learnt the safety rules required for carpentry and applied this to their wonderful creations.

Our school holiday programme theme was involving the community and we were fortunate to offer tamariki a range of community based experiences to provide them with an understanding of the roles these members have. During week one we went to the library for arts and crafts, Darfield Veterinary Clinic, had Kirwee Bees and Darfield Police visit us followed by a movie and pyjama day. Week two saw us go to McHugh's Forest, have a camping day, go to the Air Force Museum and Darfield Primary School playground, had an ambulance visit and popped along to the Fat Beagle for fluffies.





Different science experiments have provoked tamariki minds with experiences such as dye changing the colour of flowers, baking soda frozen with water to create fizziness when mixed with vinegar and creation of colours when mixed with other colours.



Transition visits have seen tamariki visit from the nursery to the preschool, combined trip to Almond Park as well as visits to Sheffield and Darfield Primary Schools in the community van.

We are looking forward to next month where we will continue extending nga tamariki as they have fun whilst playing and learning.

Haere ra, The Preschool Team; Samm, Abby, Ariana, Melissa, Leigh, Kara, Kylie, Kristina and Alexe.

### UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please let us know if you have changed your email address, phone numbers or emergency contacts.

### BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

We would like to wish the following tamariki a very Happy August Birthday to...

- Jade Bower (1)
- Anna George (5)
- Tamati Rangi (5)
- Lachlan Dennis (5)
- Cooper Riches-Churstain (3)
- Chelsea Van Leeuwen (4)



This month we say goodbye to Tamati and Lachie who are both off to school, we wish them well on their next adventure.

### PROFILE BOOKS & EDUCA

Profile books are always available for you to take home and share with other family members. Feel free to add photos to Educa of any adventures you had over the holidays as we'd love to see them and talk about them with your child. These will be printed to put into the profile books. They provide a talking point for the children about familiar things. We will put our stories onto Educa each month and then they will be printed too. Remember to check



out the Educa noticeboards for daily photos and information.

### JACK N JILL PHOTOS

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September is our annual photo fundraiser. Spaces are being booked up fast so if you would like to book a spot click on the link below....

<http://jacknjillcanterbury.co.nz/schedule.php?id=11023>

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

We still have a few Entertainment Books in the office if you would like one. If you'd like to order one click on the link below or see Lou.

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/9a27754>

### LATE PICKUPS and ABSENCES

Please remember if you are going to be late picking up your child or if they are going to be away you can phone **03 318 8836** or email [darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz](mailto:darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz) or text **027 594 8423** thank you ☺

**\*\*If you do not let us know you are going to be late picking up your child, you will be charged a late fee of 1 a minute. \*\***



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are starting to look at the Christmas Holiday break and will let you know ASAP what days we will be closed.



Some important dates for you to remember....

**Jack n Jill Photos – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

**Clothes Swap evening – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Labour Day – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Closed**

**Canterbury Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Closed**

*Have a great month / Mā te wā*

**CLARE AND THE TEAM**



Don't forget to like our Darfield Preschool & Nursery Facebook page. This is where we post news, important reminders and even closures due to snow etc. so please go and like the page and keep informed. We will of course still send out newsletters, emails and put important messages on our answer machine if needed.

Phone: **03 318 8836**

Mobile: **027 594 8423** (text only)

Email: [darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz](mailto:darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz)

Website: <http://darfieldpreschool.co.nz/>



## Did you know.....

### A Child's Brain on Music





