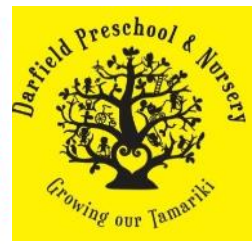


DPN NEWS



Darfield Preschool and Nursery

Nursery News

Kia Ora Whanau and Families,

Throughout November we have been continuing to explore and enjoy communication, our group learning focus. We do this naturally through reading books, singing songs, using puppets and dolls, creating a language rich environment, body language and facial expressions and using home languages. This has been supporting tamariki with their developing relationships with each other and we are noticing empathy and kindness everywhere. Finding each other toys to play with, enjoying play alongside each other and helping with hats or drink bottles.

We are spending more and more time in the vegetable garden, planting seeds and plants and enjoying their growth and production. This is a great place to practice those social and communication skills as well as develop working theories about how the world works and how we can have a role in looking after it.

In my personal teaching journey, I have been exploring how children develop resilience. One of the ways we can support children with this is to help them to solve problems. So instead of jumping in and doing something for a child, if we take a moment to pause and ask them if they have an idea of how to solve the problem then over time, they will have a higher level of resilience. For example, when two children want the same ball, we could say "oh, you both want to play with this ball" and give them a moment to contemplate. More often than not one will disappear to find two balls so they can have one each. This not only helps resilience but empathy too, understanding the other person's point of view.

As we enter into December, we will be preparing for Christmas with some art activities and lots more water play so remember to pack lots of spare labelled clothes!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and please send us some snaps of your adventures on Educa.

Ka kite ano,

Sara, Pietta, Nicola, Kari, Janice, Tash and Hannah



December 2023

03 318 8836
027 594 8423
text absences

"Our Vision....

*"To grow our
tamariki to be
positive,
resilient
community
members
who embrace
a love of
learning."*

DON'T FORGET

We close at 3pm on Friday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30am.

There will be no charge over the closure. We just ask you to all relax, recharge your batteries and come back in 2024 refreshed and ready to go!!

Please let us know if you will be away at all through January. If your child is away without notification you will be charged at \$7/ hour. Please be considerate so we can plan for our days.

Preschool News

Kia ora whānau,

Wow, December all already. We had a wonderful month of November. The weather was reasonably good and we got to spend a lot of time outside. The children have had many great learning experiences throughout the month. Chamberlain contracting came to visit to mow and bail the grass in our paddock and next door. The children love to watch the big machinery go around and around.

With the warmer weather, the children have enjoyed many different types of water play. These all end in the same outcome with very wet children. Please remember to send a lot of spare clothes and underwear in your children's bags each day so that when they do get wet they have something to change into.

We have been doing a lot of baking with the children and Christmas seems to have started early with Christmas cookies and such being made and decorated.

Over the next month or two you will see some changes in the playground. Our wonderful landscaper Marc will be coming and going as he makes changes to the sandpit, puts a wooden border around the swings, and builds a shed down the back. He will be doing a lot of his work over the 2-week Christmas break but will also be here on the odd day. The children loved his visit last week when he had the little yellow digger in the playground. We look forward to a busy couple of weeks before we break for two weeks over Christmas.

The Elf has returned for Christmas so keep an eye out for his escapades each day.



Ingredients

- 1 packet Betty Crocker mud cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup dark chocolate buttons
- 12 jumbo marshmallows
- white writing icing
- dark chocolate writing icing
- red writing icing
- 12 pretzel

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Place white patty cases into a muffin tin and prepare the Betty Crocker cake mix (with the oil, eggs and water) according to the packet instructions.

Bake for 20 minutes and remove from the oven. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

Melt the dark chocolate buttons in the microwave until they reach the desired consistency. Dip them in the chocolate before placing one on top of each of the cooled cupcakes.

Use the white writing icing to create two eyes on top of the marshmallow once the chocolate is set. Once the white icing has set draw on two pupils using the dark chocolate icing and a red nose.

Using a little more of the dark chocolate writing icing stick half a pretzel on top to represent antlers.



Reminder:

We are having our Christmas party on the 8th of December 5.30-7.30.

We will have a visit from the big man, bouncy castle and sausages. A lovely excuse to catch up and have some fun together.

Reminder::

We have noticed that a lot of the tamariki have large appetites and often do not have enough in their boxes to satisfy them throughout the day. We have been using emergency crackers from our stash but cannot keep this up so if you know your child has a large appetite can you please pack some extra kai or we could store some crackers in our pantry for these instances .



Happy December Birthday to...

Lyna (5) Lucy (5)
Georgia P (5), Ivar (5) Lily R (4)
Henry (4) Levi (4) Josie (4)
Alby (3)



DISCOVER

EASIER CHILDCARE ADMINISTRATION

Please remember to sign in on the tablet for drop offs and pick ups.

It makes it very difficult to anticipate the days numbers when a lot of children are here but not signed in.

Keeping our children safe online.

Clare recently attended the talk with Rob Cope around on line safety for our children. He talked about parents starting with younger children so it sets a precedent going forward when children become more susceptible to on line pressures. He suggested parents educate themselves on the dangers of being online, how to make it less scary and reconnecting as a family. He suggests the use of filters on the devices and modems, time limits to usage, no devices in bedrooms or bathrooms, sticking to the age limits on apps and setting a good example by allocating these boundaries for ourselves.

His website is <https://www.ourkidsonline.info/>

Always be aware of what your children are watching and how easy it is to access inappropriate material. They may not be looking for it but if it comes up it can be very harmful.

Reminder

- Please ensure that over the summer period to have shoulders covered (no shoe string singlets please). We also do not want caps as we have bucket hats provided.

Did you know that it is great to have a spare change of clothes for you child in their bags? This is not only for the odd accidents that can happen but also for general messy play or weather related play. Can you please ensure you include socks and underpants as well please.

Bigger wet bags have been ordered if you require these for purchase from the office.



Children's attendance.....

Remember – Sign IN on your way OUT and Sign OUT on your way IN. Or as Jane says Do it when you have no child with you!!!!

Although it may seem that the few minutes are insignificant it can have a major effect on our legal ratios and consequently the funding we receive from the Ministry of Education, (this could be up to \$50,000 a year!!!!) as the child is counted within a whole 15 minute period. **This has continued to be an issue over the last month so our fee structure and late fees will be changing in the new year. If sticking to your exact hours proves difficult then please talk to me about changing your booked hours.**

Board of Trustees

We are very pleased to confirm that we are now the proud owners of 8 square metres of land along our boundary with Pemberton Drive. This means that we can now use the “secret” gate without fear of repercussions. We will have a celebration and official opening of the gate in the New year .

Wet wipes and sun screen donations are always welcome.



Reminder that we are closed for the Christmas period. **From 3pm on the 22/12 until 7.30am 8/1/24. (no charge).**



New wet bags available for purchase by the office for \$10.



There is A LOT of lost property currently accumulating outside the front entrance. Please have a look through when you pass to see if anything belongs to your child/ren.



Label your things please!

Please remember to label/name your items— not just clothing. Teachers are very clever, but still find it difficult to recognise over 100 children's clothes. <https://www.stuckonyou.nz/affiliate/fundraiser/DARFIELDPRESCHOOL>



Reminder:

Please ensure you are checking your child/rens art folder for new pieces that have been added to take home.