



Newsletter

February 2013

Nau mai haere mai

Haere mai...and happy transitioning!

Welcome back to a new year. We can't believe that the Centre has been open for a whole year! The teachers and children are settling back into routines and we are all enjoying being back.

A warm welcome to the new children and their families at Bright Star: Timothy, Alice, Taliah, Aarav and Harkirat. Welcome back to Emma who has stayed home with her new baby sister for more than two months!

Olivia has started school and she is loving it. We are sad to say goodbye to Levi's family who has moved out of the community. Well done to Maya, Rohan and Lachlan who have recently turned two and joined the over 2's area!

Programme

We are all looking forward to getting back into some great learning and investigating some emerging interests. The teachers have spent the last few weeks observing the children to see what their current interests are.

We completed the space rocket project last year and the volcano project came to a natural conclusion, with the children's interests moving on to different areas.

Last year the team noticed that some children were showing an interest in gardening. Over the summer, while we were all on holiday, Andrew built a new wooden path around the big tree. Helping also to extend some of the children's current interest in gardening, Andrew divided some of the outside area into small sections, creating

wooden planter boxes so the children can plant vegetables in.

We have noticed that the key players in this particular mini project at present are the Koru group children. We have planted spinach, carrots, peas and beans in the corner of the outside garden near the sandpit. These are the vegetables that the children chose to grow themselves.



Playing "train" around the big tree.

The teachers will continue to watch to see how this mini project develops. If you have a vegetable patch at home, bring in a photo so we can talk about the plants that your child is helping to grow at home! They feel a strong sense of empowerment and responsibility in developing their garden. Parents have also been contributing by taking photos of their garden and telling us what they are growing at home.

Our mini gardening project also connects with our Healthy Heart Award programme for ECE centres that Linda explained in more detail in a memo, which you received earlier. The gardening project will also help us become more self sufficient as a centre and develop sustainability practices.



Guess who is measuring the bean stalks.

Reminders

Please remember to bring in changes of clothing for your child, as they explore water play in the warmer weather.

We are still in the process of expanding our family tree. If you have not seen your family photo up there, bring one in and we will put it up for you. Having a photo up on the family tree helps with the settling in process and children often go up to the tree and show us the photos of their family.

Tēnā rāwā atu koe

The Teaching Team at Bright Star