



# Newsletter

Jan, 2014

The team at Bright Star would like to welcome back all the families and wish you all a happy new year. We hope you had a restful Christmas break.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Amber to the over two room from the under two room, along with Thanvi and Emily, who are both new to the centre whānau.

## Christmas Party

2013 has been such an awesome year with the Christmas party as a great occasion to round it off together. The children had been busy decorating the centre and practicing some Christmas carols and waiata to perform at Bright Star's Christmas party. The children sang five songs and then enthusiastically danced to the chicken dance. A big thumbs up for a super performance everyone. After such a terrific performance, we all enjoyed the delicious and healthy food that parents and whānau had brought with them. Another highlight of the event was Zappo and his magic show. The centre was filled with joyful laughter from Zappo's magic tricks, his hilarious stories, and jokes.



The children are attracted by Zappo's magic tricks, his hilarious stories, and jokes.

The team at Bright Star would like to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support and your contribution which made this event so very special.

## Programme and Current Interests

Towards the end of last year, the team noticed that the children were investigating motion and refining their working theories about how different objects move. The team provided a number of different activities to foster and extend this focus.

We have added this focus to our current interest board and there are photos on the display board, capturing 'motion' in action. These photos are accompanied by a variety of different learning stories, documenting what the children have learnt about motion and force so far. The photos also show the different curriculum areas in which the interest is occurring. Next time you come into the centre, please take some time to have a look at the board and if you have any questions, feel free to ask the teachers.



The children explored motion and rotation by spinning the pingpong balls in the swirling pool.

As the team and children settle back into routines, the staff have been observing what your child's current interests are. Some children may still be continuing to investigate their interests from last year and some children may have developed new interests, sparked by their holidays. Your child's key teacher will let you know over the next month what interests they have observed your child exploring and talk with you about any goals and aspirations you may have for your child over the next term.



Part of our curriculum is creating links with our community. Today we ventured to the local playground, where the children extended their interest in active movement.

It would be great if you have any holiday pictures or stories you would like to share or write down, as children love to be able to come back to the centre and share what they have been up to over the break, with their friends and teachers.

## Transitioning to school

The team would like to say goodbye to Aditi, Caitlin, Josie, Keegan and Oscar who have all started primary school. We wish them all the best on this next part of their learning journey.

"Creating a positive experience for a child transitioning to school is paramount. This is the next step in a child's life" (Dockett and Perry 2001). It is an important milestone. At Bright Star we are here to support parents and their children in the transition process. We work with families to make sure they are informed and comfortable with the transition process. We also ensure that the necessary information is provided to parents about all the local schools in the area. A teacher has visited each school and has introduced themselves to the principle, in order to foster a partnership between the school and our centre.

The team also take children who will be starting school for a walk to the school to show them where it is and also use Koru group time to talk to them about what happens at school and answer any questions they may have. It is a great time for the older children to also explore any curriculum areas that interest them in more depth. If you have any questions about the transition process please ask your key teacher or Linda.

## Pukeko group programme

Currently our under 2 children are showing an interest in manipulating their bodies and motion. In the outdoors environment, our children are enjoying climbing, balancing and riding bikes and cars. The children have been practicing manipulating their body onto the slide, and now they can all use the slide unaided. Indoors they are enjoying learning yoga and new action songs. Singing and books are still a favourite activity of the children.



A child investigates her interest in motion, by pushing the wheel around.

## Reminders

Could you please provide, if you haven't already, a named sun hat for your child. We provide sunscreen lotion, but if you would like to use your own, please bring it in, thank you! There will be days when the weather will be warmer and the teachers would like to provide water play and messy play for the children, so it would be great if you could continue to provide enough changes of clothes for these occasions.

We look forward to a great year.

**Nga mihi,**

**Teaching team at Bright Star**