



Newsletter

July 2015

Kia ora! Now we are half way through the year. During this season of winter, a variety activities have taken place at Bright Star, along with some exciting Wellington weather.

* Greetings & Welcoming*

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Christine in gaining her full teacher's registration, marking a new achievement in her teaching career.**

Secondly, we welcome Nathan and Alex who have transitioned to **the over 2's room. In the under 2's room we welcome Keaton, Aleena, Ryan, Te Kahui, and all their families.**

* Over 2's Programme — Pop Culture *

Our current programme, Pop Culture, and exploring the concept of community and the collective through the medium of super hero/fantasy play has now finished.

The children really enjoyed this particular interest and learnt a lot from exploring a variety of different concepts throughout the programme, from identities, social rules, baddies and goodies, to working as a team. The children also learnt more about what real life super heroes do within our community, such as the Police, to the Ambulance service, and the Fire service. The children also explored **Māori guardians as super heroes through exploring Māori legends and Mythology.**



Johnsonville Fire Brigade came to visit Bright Star.

We had a visit from the St John's Ambulance service, who came in to talk about what services they provide within the community. A parent, Robert, who is a police officer, also offered some of his time to talk to the children about how the Police look after our community, as real life heroes. It was a great opportunity for the children to learn about how organisations within the community help us.



We participated in the St John In-School programme.



The children are engaged in this role playing scenario of "Cow Boy and Ninja".

The children also explored their creativity to produce a number of props to support their role play as super heroes. A lot of their super hero play involved rescuing people. This encouraged participation and working within groups/ teams towards a common goal. The children **role played being 'Ninja Turtles' and 'Paw Patrol' as they carried out rescue scenarios.**

The team would like to thank those parents who contributed resources towards this current programme. We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that our current interest board is opposite the kitchen, and our bicultural board is just opposite the daily sign-in sheets. Please feel free to take a time to look at these boards.

* Koru Group *

Some parents have asked about what 'Koru group' is, as their children approach their 4th birthday. As part of our programme at Bright Star, the 4 to 5 year olds have investigation time every day from 12:00 till about 12.30. This is a time where they can explore their interests in more depth and carry out activities related to the current programme. Over the past month, the Koru group children have not only been exploring our programme in more depth, but also learning more about Matariki, Maori New Year. They have participated in a range of activities relating to Matariki.



Koru group time is also a time to learn more about the transition to school. We also have lunch box day for the Koru group every Friday, which is another type of school preparation for the 4 to 5 year old children. We also talk about what happens at school, and the children who do school visits often feedback to this group about what they experience at school visits.

* Matariki *

In June/July we had a variety of activities that took place at Bright Star and in our community in order to help us all celebrate **Māori** New Year.

Samin along with Rei, Masyn's dad, and some of the children painted a beautiful mural in our outdoor play area. It is an illustration of the story of Ranginui and Papatuanuku, and some of their sons such as Tane - God of the Forrest.

Some of us went to Te Papa to experience their Matariki exhibition, and some of us went to the Newlands Community Centre for a Matariki story time where the children learnt songs, listened to stories, and played games. Also, we would like to say a big thank-you to all the parents who brought in vegetable/s for the soup that the teachers and the children made together for Matariki celebrations. It was delicious and a great incentive for almost all our tamariki to eat their vegetables!

During these Matariki celebrations **and activities, the children's interest in Māori** mythology increased, and this led the teachers to offer more activities around this topic. We have been reading stories such as **How the Kiwi Lost it's Wings**, How Maui Slowed the Sun, In the Beginning, and much more. The



Koru Group children are soaking in all the information at Te Papa's Matariki exhibition.



Another group of children participated in the Newlands Community Centre's Matariki Story time.



Our children made a Taniwha! It is guarding our tamariki with its watchful eyes.

children also created an amazing Taniwha with the help of Samin, and also a beautiful cloak which the children excitedly contributed too. Please look around our centre and our boards to make **sure you don't miss the children's lovely work.**

* Making vegetable soup to share *

At Bright Star, we always encourage children to eat healthy and try out eating more vegetables. As part of our Matariki celebration, we requested parents to contribute some vegetables to make vegetable soup at the centre. One of the values of these Matariki celebrations is about sharing and caring for each other like a family would. This morning, Yen set up a table so that the children could help her to cut some vegetables to make the soup for our lunch. The children were so enthusiastic about this. At the end of this chopping and cutting activity, Yen also let the children taste some of the vegetables. Most of them loved it and they enjoyed eating it. Very few of the children disliked the different tastes, however it was still a valuable and good opportunity for them to try something new.



~ Self Review ~

We have completed our Learning Story self review. Thank you so much to all the parents who completed the surveys and contributed your valuable thoughts. This self review led the theme to consider the use of Story Park at Bright Star (an online learning story and communication programme), so you will be receiving updates on this too. We are currently reviewing our Programme Planning, and you may have already had a **conversation with your child's key teacher regarding this. Thank you for your time. The next self review topic we will be reviewing is children's school transition.**

The team are working hard to maintain a high quality learning environment for all the children involved. Please do feel free to talk to us about any contributions, suggestions, feedback, or queries you may have.

* Pukeko Group *

Firstly, we would like to welcome all our new children and their whānau to **the under 2's room. It has** been an enjoyable couple of months getting to know the new children and their whānau and forming relationships with them. The children have settled well and appear happy. They seem pleased to see their teachers and new friends when arriving in the mornings too. It has also been great to have whānau enjoying and spending time in our room, joining in our mat times and kai times, or just relaxing and interacting with the children. We all really enjoy your visits.



We can see the children have begun forming some good friendships/relationships with the teachers and other children. We will now be focusing our programme on relationships to continue fostering and strengthening these connections.

Wow! What great dividers/climbing equipment we now have. The children have really enjoyed climbing over the arches and making caves. These dividers help the teachers to create warm and inviting learning spaces for the children.



** Reminders **

As winter is here and we have been experiencing some very cold and wet days, we would like to remind parents to provide your children with woolly hats, jackets, and suitable footwear (gumboots), so that the children can enjoy some time outside when the weather allows.

Please continue naming your child's clothing and other precious items to ensure they go back home.

** Let's learn waiata together**

Mā is white

Whero is red

Kākāriki is green

Mangu is black, Pango is too

AEIOU

Kōwhai is yellow

Parauri is brown

Kikorangi is blue

Karakaraka is our orange

AEIOU