



# Newsletter

November, 2012

## Nau mai haere mai

### Haere mai...and happy transitioning!

A warm welcome to the new children and their families at Bright Star: Molly Harris and Carlos Teu who are joining the Teina Under 2's area, and Carter Lewis who is joining the Over 2's room!

Ally has started school and she is doing great! Well done to Danielle Furneaux, Olivia Coutts and Phoenix McFarlane who have recently turned two and joined the over 2's area!

### Programme

In our previous news letter, we mentioned the parent survey that we sent out. The team have read over your feedback and reflected on the answers.

#### > Communication

The team wanted to know what medium was the most effective way for our families to communicate with us on a daily basis. On reflection, we thought it would be a great idea to set up an email address and make this available to you, as another means of communication. The teacher looking after your child's profile book will be happy to communicate with you about your child's day via a short email if you request this. This will not replace face to face communication during the beginning and end of the day.

#### > Workshop

We asked what you would like to see covered in the workshop we were planning. We have postponed the workshop until next year, as we wanted to conduct parent meetings to talk with you about your child and your goals for them. Some of your replies asked for a workshop on toilet training and behaviour management. These are both very important areas and it may be possible to arrange a workshop in the future where we can get an expert in to talk to you about these topics.

#### > Grouping

Some families wanted to know what the Koru and Tui groups were. These were names that the staff came up with in the middle of the year to separate the children by age (The Tui group children are aged from 2 to nearly 4 and the Koru group children are aged from nearly 4 to 5 years).



We did this so that we could have times during the day where we did more in-depth teaching with the Tui group or the Koru group, due to their different developmental needs. Very young toddlers, transitioning from the Under 2's area, can come into the Tui group and settle into a new environment with friends that they know already. It is also important for these young toddlers to develop trusting relationships with teachers in a small group, instead of going straight into a large group. These group times are about 20 minutes

long and also allow the groups to explore more age appropriate materials.

Our vision for the Koru group is that it is a time in which the children can explore their own interests in more depth. It is a time for investigation, sustained discussion and exploration. The children can consolidate all their learning. Our space projects took place during Koru group time. We also explore concepts about the natural world and are currently exploring the Koru group's interest in volcanoes.

### > Transition to School:

For Koru group children transitioning to school, group time is a part of the day where we can also work on early literacy and numeracy, if that is what they are currently interested in exploring. However, literacy and numeracy



The Koru group children are playing a counting game.

are embedded in everything we do (for example, our sign-in tree, alphabet games, numeracy games, baking and so on). The teachers are supporting your child to become confident and competent life-long learners.

We are also supporting your child to be confident in making new friends and to take responsibility for caring for the environment and looking after others.



The Koru group children are investigating of solar eclipse.

Other important areas of the programme are:

- Developing self help skills
- Learning to enjoy a wide range of healthy foods
- Contributing to centre and class discussions
- Formal instructional practices
- Being able to follow instructions and sit on a mat
- Following directions and rules
- And becoming independent



The koru group children are shopping for their baking activity.



Regular baking activities are part of our programme.

Thank you for your continuing interest in your child's education and we welcome feed-back on our programme.

Kia ora,

Teaching team at Bright Star