



Newsletter

Spring 2013

Spring has sprung! We were off to a rainy start, but have had some lovely sunny days. We're all looking forward to the warmer days to come. What's been happening at the Centre?

Welcome & Farewell

The team would like to welcome Ellyson, Prithvi, Brennan and their families to Bright Star, along with Sophia (Pia) who has just turned two and will be in the over two's room.

This month we say goodbye to Caitlin and Atticus-Chase, who are off to school. We wish them all the best with their learning journey. We also said farewell to Jahzel and Taliah last month, who have moved away from the area.

Programme and Current Interests

This is our 3rd newsletter of the year, and the Centre has been a hub of activity in the last few months. The children have been as busy as bees, exploring pirates, knights and animals. The teachers took notice of these interests through their planning meetings and observations, and have been coming up with exciting activities to encourage the children!



Are you pretending to be Captain Hook?

We have incorporated pirates and knights in a lot of dramatic play. The children have been able to create their own armour, as well as hooks and pirate hats. They have also been exploring knights and pirates through literacy learning. We have been reading many stories set in the medieval times, and played games such as Pirates' Alphabet Hunt and Matching Words. The children have also been constructing their own castles! We have explored concepts of ICT with the children. They have been given many opportunities to view pictures of castles, knights, horses, carriages and princesses on the computer.



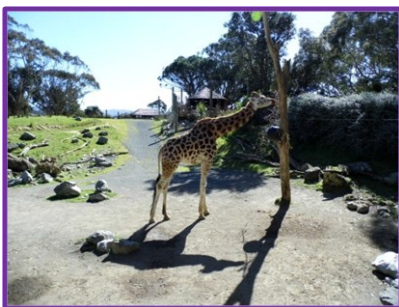
We are busy making armour with recycling materials.

The teachers invited Chris (Ally and Danielle's dad) to come into Bright Star to share his passion for knights and medieval times. We want to extend a big special thank-you to Chris, as the children were able to put on and experience the knight gear that he brought in! What



amazing armour. The children were so excited and absolutely loved and enjoyed this special surprise. It has helped further the children's interest significantly and Bright Star really appreciated this whānau involvement and contribution!





The quiet giraffe is our favourite animal.

With the Tui group, our main focus was on animals, and we were able to cater for this interest in a variety of ways, from dramatic play and pretending to be animals, to puppetry and music and movement, face painting, literacy, and a

lot of visual

aids too. Following this, we recently planned a trip to the zoo to help extend all the children's interest in animals. This was also a great success and we say a big thank you to the parents who helped so much on the trip.



We are very lucky to see the lioness having a sun bath on a rock.



The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round...

The toddlers' interest (Pukeko Group) over the last couple of months has been in transportation. Our placement in the community has meant we have a bus stop next to our fence,

lots of cars and trucks passing and we are also on the flight path for the airport which means lots of planes passing over us. The new resources of trucks and ride-on's have also added to their interest.



Alex is experimenting the concept of speed by rolling a car down the slide repeatedly.

Christmas break

Where has the year gone? Christmas is fast approaching. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the centre will be closed from the 23rd December to the 6th January, open for normal hours.

Please let us know at an early stage if you are planning to have a Christmas vacation, as this will help us placing the staff more efficiently.

Reminders

As we slowly but steadily approach sunnier and warmer days, we remind you all to please start looking out for suitable sun hats (with your child's name written on it) and sun screen for your child so that we are prepared to enjoy warmer weather activities which include playing outdoors. A 'Cancer Society' approved sunscreen will be provided by Bright Star; however if your child uses a specific sun screen, could you please provide this with your child's name on it.

ERO Report

The Education Review Office came to visit us for a few days in May, and we have received a very positive report. Thank you all for your support. Our first [ERO report](#) is now published on their website.

Nga mihi,

Teaching team at Bright Star