



Newsletter

October 2016

Spring is finally here and we are enjoying the beautiful sun (when it's actually shining) and getting outdoors. As we embrace the warmer weather nga tamariki have enjoyed planting some snow peas, kale, lettuce and spinach, and getting involved in the gardening. As the year flies by we look forward to what summer has in store for us!

** Welcome **

Welcome to all our new children and their families. We are happy to have Grace, Alarice, Conor, Zachary, Alex Liu, and Carter and their families joining our Bright Star whānau. We also farewell Thanvi and Pia who have left for primary school, and also Timothy who will leave us at the end of the month.

Over 2's Programme — My Culture

Through celebrating matariki/Māori new-year, the children at Bright Star have developed a strong interest in Māori culture. After the celebration, the children started to extend their interest in learning other cultures. As Bright Star is a multicultural centre, our families come from places all over the world. Hence, the children were eager to learn about their own cultures as well as other cultures around them. This has resulted in many conversations between the children by talking about cultural topics. The children have done a lot of singing and dancing with traditional folk songs. Learning different languages and asking the teachers about the differences between cultures is also a regular occurrence.



In this programme 'My Culture', the Tikanga Māori value of Whanaungtanga (Family contribution) was strongly linked. Our whānau, kaiako, and tamariki worked in collaboration and contributed to our programme in different ways.

Literacy and numeracy: The teachers shared stories relating to different cultures around the world. We learnt numbers and greetings in different languages like Samoan, Filipino, Chinese, Hindi, and Turkish.

Music and Movement: In this programme we learnt songs in different languages, and performed cultural dances from different countries. Samin taught them a Hawaiian dance, Eser (Defne's mum) taught our children a traditional Turkish dance, Subha (Alex Len's mum) taught us a traditional Tamil dance- Bharatnatyam. We also performed the Chinese dragon parade.



Celebratory feast (Hakari): We have had many celebratory feasts here at Bright Star where parents shared different cuisines from their cultural origins. Eser (Defne's mum) made Turkish kebabs with our children, Xin hua (Miles' mum) helped our children prepare Chinese dumplings, Sandra (Nathan's mum) shared some South African snacks with our children, Kirsty (Kaylee's mum) brought in some South African dried meat called Biltong, and Alex's grandma taught our children to make Sri Lankan fish balls. Yen made Filipino Bibingka. Mel and Annie made Samoan bread (Panipopo) with our children, and Samin made Italian pizza and Indian kheer with our children. It was a great learning experience for our whānau, kaiako, and tamariki to taste different delicacies and learn different recipes from around the globe. We also learnt about healthy eating and nutrition along the way.



Arts and crafts: The children learnt about art forms like Indian henna, Turkish ebru painting, Hawaiian, and South African jewellery making, Chinese fans, and Filipino masks. Our parents Tanya (Ana's mum) and Tilisa (Jackson's mum) brought in their traditional family Tongan Tapa to share with our children.



As a result, kaiako and whānau worked collaboratively to provide various activities that enabled the children to expand their knowledge in different cultures. The children's understanding of diversity was greatly increased. They became more proud of their own cultural origins, which helped them to develop their self-esteem. The kaiako are looking forward to extending and expanding the children's knowledge on different cultures in the future.

** Pukeko Group **

We would like to welcome all our new children and their families to the Pukeko room, and look forward to working and exploring together.

We have really enjoyed our active movement programme over the past several months. Outdoors, nga tamariki have been busy climbing, riding bikes, pushing the trolleys, playing with the balls, and exploring

messy/water play. Inside we produced a lot of music and danced up a storm, moving and balancing our bodies to the rhythm. We enjoyed painting, using both our hands and feet to produce some beautiful art work! Our

crawlers have become walkers and masterful climbers and the older children have grown in body control and coordination. During this programme it has been awesome to see the older tamariki encouraging and helping the younger children to explore and gain confidence.



Over the next few weeks we will be observing the children in order to discover their current interests for our future programme planning.

Education Review Office visit

We are very pleased to inform you all that our visit from ERO went very smoothly and they had a lot of positive feedback for us. We will email the report to you as soon as we receive it and you will also be able to view this report on their website. They will return in three years time. Thank you to each and every one of you who have contributed and supported our Bright Star whānau and learning community.

Self-Review

The most recent self-review which was around the topic of literacy has been completed earlier than planned, and this is because we realised that we currently offer good quality literacy resources and activities to extend and build on children's love and learning in literacy. Thank you very much to all the parents who took the time to fill out the literacy surveys as part of this self-review, as parent feedback is one of the most important ways of measuring the quality of our work.

Our next self-review is going to revolve around teachers improving their overall teaching and learning assessment documentation in order to achieve consistency in learning stories and learning journeys, along with developing a robust appraisal system that aligns with the 12 standards from the teachers registration criteria. We would love to hear your contributions or suggestions in our self-reviews, so please come and talk to Mel at any time to have your say.

** Healthy Heart Journey**

Bright Star has now achieved the Healthy Heart Journey of Whānau award, and we endeavour to attain the highest award - Pā-Harakeke (Gold Standard). As part of the Healthy Heart Journey, we actively promote healthy eating and active physical movement. We support our tamariki to develop good knowledge about maintaining our heart and body health from an early age. We also hope that through our Healthy Heart Journey, the importance and information about healthy eating and active movement can be rippled to the wider community through our whānau and tamariki.

We have some resources about active movement and children's development in our office library; please feel free to borrow them if you would want to know more. If you have any ideas or observation from home, we would love to hear your input.

** Reminders**

As we move into the warmer months and finally get to feel the sun upon us, it is time for sunscreen and hats. We do apply sunscreen here several times a day but if your child needs special sunscreen, please bring one in. Due to the change in weather, we will be setting up more water play activities so please ensure that you put more spare clothes into your child's bag (naming all items ensures they return back home!). Please provide a hat for your child if you have not already done so, thank you.

Please remember to inform the centre by 9am if your child is going to be away on that day.

** Learning Waiata Together**

Kina Kina

Kina kina (sea urchin)

Wheke wheke (octopus)

Ika ika (fish)

Tuna tuna (tuna fish)

Pipi Pipi

Paua paua

Kaimoana E (sea food)

Yum Yum!