



Newsletter

March 2018

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Kia ora e te whānau, tēnā koutou katoa! We have been having some fabulous weather this summer with many days reaching the high 20's, combined with high humidity. This has meant that there has been lots of water play to help cool our tamariki tinana (children's bodies) and the "water bell" is rung several times during the day to encourage ngā tamariki to rehydrate while they play. We have also enjoyed fruit ice blocks and smoothies, made with ngā tamariki, as an additional way to encourage fluids.

* Greetings & Welcoming *

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new children and their families that have joined our Bright Star whānau. We also farewell Anusha, Kaylee, Evelyn, Ammu, Jet, and Maira who have took off for their school journey recently.

Previous 2's Programme — Ta Tātou Hapori /Community

In the last few months, our Tui and Koru groups have been exploring the topic of Ta Tātou Hapori (Community). This programme has covered the different curriculum areas like **art** (with the topic of "What I Want to Be When I Grow Up" etc.), **literacy** (such as books about the community and vocations and signs in the community), **mathematics** (maps, ratio, direction and signs etc.), and **active movement** (lots of walks in the local community, and digging in the sandpit).



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Parents and whānau have contributed to the programme, by sharing their expertise knowledge, such as Sam's mum who is a fire fighter and Emily's mum who is a police officer. They have brought their workmates in to talk to the tamariki.

The wider community has also been an active part of the programme. We have invited outside professionals such as Easy Swim and St John at School to come to Bright Star to talk to the children about water safety, road safety and community emergency services. Moreover, our tamariki explored the local community by having lots of walks to local schools, the library, the spice shop, the supermarket, the post office and the community centre.



Through the programme, our tamariki were able to make connections **between people, places and things** in their world, such as the relationship between Bright Star ~ Newlands community ~ wellington ~ New Zealand ~ and the globe, and the people who live in different parts of the world.

This programme has provoked the children's thinking and discussions, in which they asked in-depth questions to develop a further understanding and reasons for why a lot of the community workers do what they do. We also noticed how from their curiosity of the community workers, our tamariki formed ideas and ambitions on what they wanted to be when they grew up.

* Current Programme ~ Exploring Science *

Recently, the teaching team noticed some children have begun to explore different scientific facts through their play. A while back, the children were actively learning about and exploring different weather patterns and seasons, as well as carrying out various science experiments. So it is interesting to see them now revisiting their interest, and using their skills and knowledge to further explore our environment from a scientific perspective.

The children's interest has been reflected in their self-initiated activities. We have observed that scientific and discovery equipments are highly sought after by the children (e.g. scales, magnets and magnifying glasses). The children love to read different encyclopaedias, and to learn about the life cycle of the animals and how



to take care of our environment. Some children have requested the teachers to do more science experiments. Sometimes they even carry out their own ones. On one occasion, a group of children was trying to weigh different objects on a set of scales (rocks, leaves, water,



sand). They soon found out that smaller objects can be heavier than larger ones. Another day, some children were fascinated by their own shadows. They stood beneath the sunlight, and observed the changing shapes of their shadows as they slowly moved about.

A teacher-led volcano experiment also attracted almost every child's attention. The team has picked up some of the children's dialogue, revealing their working theories about how volcanos erupt. One child commented that volcano eruptions are caused by "a very hot earth". Other children commented "When a volcano erupts, the fire will come out like a big explosion" and "Lava is a very hot water". It is intriguing to see the children making sense of the world through a scientific lens.



To extend the children's interest and knowledge about science, our teaching team will implement a programme on this topic in the coming term.

* Celebrating Chinese New Year *

新年好 Xin nian hao! Happy Lunar/Chinese New Year! During mid of February, we have celebrated Chinese New Year through a lot of activities at Bright Star.

Linda told us a story of the 12 Chinese animal zodiac. We knew the Chinese zodiac or shengxiao ('born resembling'), is a repeating cycle of 12 years, with each year being represented by an animal and its reputed attributes. Traditionally these zodiac animals were used to date the years and 2018 is the year of the dog.

Samin helped the tamariki to make some Chinese paper lanterns. Everyone took turns to make their own. The children had the opportunity to watch a video about the origin of the Lunar New Year and the legend of why the New Year is celebrated. After that, we went out and had a dragon parade together. What a lovely time we had celebrating the Lunar New Year all together!



* Kowhai Group *

First, we would like to give a big welcome to Elias, Leith, Cassandra and their Whānau to our Kowhai room.

What wonderful summer weather we have had, which has allowed us to enjoy lots of outside activities. The children have had different types of water play, and explored new challenging equipment to climb and manipulate their bodies on.

Our programme of Imaginative Play has seen a lot of fantastic activities taking place with our tamariki, including tea parties, puppet shows, shopping, dolls and dress ups. During these activities, we saw the tamariki using scenarios they have observed around them when role



playing, such as stringing the pot, pouring and drinking, and being gentle to wrap and put the babies to sleep. Throughout this programme, children have the opportunities to develop verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and built their social skills in sharing and turn taking.

We will now be starting a new programme of Sensory Exploration, where we look forward to a lot of active exploration of the world around us. If you have any interesting stories of your child experiencing something with their senses, please feel free to share them with the teachers or on Story-park.



** Upcoming parent-teacher meetings **

This month, your child's key teacher will be talking to you about arranging a time to discuss your child's individual learning journey. This is an important time for teachers and parents, as it gives us all a little uninterrupted time to ensure that your child's learning, developmental, and cultural needs are met and extended.

The teachers also really enjoy putting your child's monthly learning story on Storypark, and we ask all our parents to kindly add comments as this really motivates our teachers. Sometimes we show the children these stories on the laptop and we read out their parents' comments. The children just love this. Thank you to all the parents who continue to comment regularly.

** Let's learn waiata together **

Incy Wincy Spider

Incy Wincy Spider climbed
Iti Witi Katipo

up the water spout.
ko kake korere wai.

Down came the rain
heke ana a te ua

and washed the spider out.
ngahoro a iti ki waho.

Out came the sunshine
Putā mai te ra

and dried up all the rain.
maroke ana te wai.

So Incy Wincy Spider
Ko Iti Witi Katipo

climbed up the spout again.
ka koke korere ano.



