



Newsletter

July 2018

Kia ora e te whānau, tēnā koutou katoa! Wellington's typical winter is here now. It is amazing that Tawhirimatea (Guardian of the weather) sometimes treasures us with sunshine, storm and hailing all within a day. This has triggered our tamariki and kaiako's passion in learning te reo and Māori myths about weather.

* Greetings & Welcoming *

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sophie, Caura and their families that have newly joined the Kōwhai group. We also welcome Mason who has recently turned two and has moved to the bigger group from the Kōwhai room. We farewell Alex Len who has taken off for his school journey recently, and we wish all the best for the Len family who has been part of the Bright Star whānau for the last 6 years.

* Tui & Koru Group's Programme ~ Literacy *

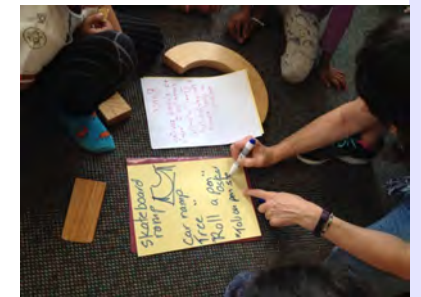
Ngā tamariki were introduced to many scientific concepts and a wide range of scientific language in our last programme, Natural Science. In this programme, we recorded data as a way to 'see' a record of the experiments and to represent what we had been doing. These recordings also included numbers and concepts, for example, speed - fast, slow, and faster.

1

Ngā tamariki showed interest in representing their work. For example, making sure that the data was recorded. They experimented filling in charts/tallies while doing experiments. We have also observed ngā tamariki's increasing interest in books of variety, especially with the topics of science and technology. Ngā tamariki frequently repeat phrases from the books as we read them and in their free play.

In the coming few months, our programme will focus on literacy. We will include numerical literacy in this programme because numbers are used in everyday activities, at home, in the community and in the Centre.

Te Whāriki Communication strand emphasises the importance of ngā tamariki having the opportunity to "enjoy hearing stories and retelling and creating them/he kōrero paki"; "recognising print symbols and concepts and using them with enjoyment, meaning and purpose / he kōrero tuhituhi", and "recognising mathematical symbols and concepts and using them with enjoyment, meaning and purpose / kōrero pāngarau" (p. 25). We are looking forward to see what new learning will bring to our learning community through this literacy programme.



Ngā tamariki is observing how data is recorded during their ramp and speed experiment.

1

* Celebrating Matariki *

During the month of June, we have been celebrating Matariki here at Bright Star. Matariki is the rising of a star cluster (Pleiades or the Seven Sisters), which represents the Māori New Year! Matariki traditionally symbolised a time for fertility, remembrance and celebration as Māori gave thanks to the year gone by and welcomed the new beginnings of the year to come. Matariki is one of the biggest festivals celebrated by Māori and New Zealanders.

We implemented a programme that involved tamariki and their whānau in the celebration, while learning about the Māori culture and te reo. We held a whānau night where parents and tamariki shared kai, enjoyed music and waiata, and experimented with Māori craft making. We have also participated in the Newlands Community Centre's Matariki Story Time, where our tamariki performed waiata confidently on the stage. Our creative tamariki and kaiako also acted out a drama story of Tanemahuta—the Guardian of the Forest together.



* Kōwhai Group *

Kia ora whānau. We would like to welcome Sophie, Caura and their whānau in to our room; and farewell Mason as he moves to the over two's.

In the month of June, we have been celebrating Matariki. We have read a number of books to learn more about Matariki and how it is celebrated. We all enjoyed sponge painting our stars to decorate our room, and making Māori bread for everyone to enjoy. Bright Star had a Matariki celebration evening and we all shared vegetable soup and a disco. It was wonderful that so many of our parents could attend and have the opportunity to meet the other whānau in our room.

Our current programme is sensory exploration. We have been exploring different activities involving different textures to touch, different smells and tasting food. Through our explorations the tamariki have produced beautiful artwork, yummy food and built friendships. The tamariki also had the opportunity to make a Filipino dessert called "puto" with Dora, which they all enjoyed making and tasting.

We would like to remind parents to pack plenty of changes of clothes for their child—a warm jacket and woolly hat especially. Please also name your child's clothes.



** Matariki Waiata (song) **

Sing this Matariki waiata with your tamariki and learn the names of the seven Matariki stars.

Ngā Tamariki o Matariki

Waiti, Waitā, Waipunarangi,

Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Ururangi e

Koinei ngā tamariki o Matariki

(These are the children of Matariki)

Ngā whetū e pīataata i te rangi e

(The bright stars that shine in the sky)

Ngā whetū e pīataata i te rangi e

(The bright stars that shine in the sky)