



Newsletter

November, 2018

Kia ora e te whānau, tēnā koutou katoa! Now we are at the end of spring and heading into summer soon. On a sunny day, the flowering shoots of the harakeke bush in our garden attracts tui birds to come for a visit.

** Greetings & Welcoming **

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Taika, Zoya, Margo, Zoe, Colton and their families that have newly joined the Kōwhai group. We also welcome Eva, Maia, Dominic and William who have recently turned two and moved to the bigger group from the Kōwhai room. We farewell Aleena and Malhar who have taken off for their school journeys recently. We also welcome Kaiako Melanie back from her maternity leave.

** Tui & Koru Group's Programme ~ Exploring Dinosaur **

A few months ago, our kaiako noticed that some tamariki have begun to incorporate miniature dinosaurs into their play. This was an extension of the previous interest in science and the general interest in animals at the time.

The teachers noticed that some tamariki were allocating each dinosaur to be the father, daughter and sister etc. Other tamariki were walking around with the miniature dinosaurs and making different sounds with them. Some tamariki have been matching the pairs of dinosaurs, exploring the early mathematical concept of pattern.

Children were not only exploring role play with the dinosaurs, but talking about how they became extinct. The team recorded some of the dialogue, revealing some of their fascinating theories. Toby said, "It's because of the meteor that hit the earth." Ico said, "There were volcano explosions and dinosaurs got killed and buried by the lava." To extend tamariki's interest and knowledge, our



The children are exploring dinosaurs by referring to the book.

kaiako had facilitated a dinosaur programme by providing a variety of learning experiences and resources.



Making Dinosaurs with recycled materials.

Throughout the programme, the children gained new knowledge about dinosaurs. We saw and heard tamariki discussing and debating information, for example names of dinosaurs

and distinguishing features, so they could share their knowledge with their peers. Some tamariki became more confident in speaking in front of a group because of the programme.



Going for a dinosaur hunt in the Botanical Garden.

There were many instances of new language and vocabulary being used during ngā tamariki's play, for example fossils, carnivores, herbivore, omnivores. Ngā tamariki could explain these words and discuss why a dinosaur was one or the other by looking at their teeth or back legs.



We are making dinosaur cookies.

It has been exciting for the kaiako to learn more about dinosaurs alongside the tamariki and we will continue to observe where this interest moves to next.

* Celebrating Diwali *

Namaste, dear Bright Star Whānau. On the 2nd November, we had a Diwali celebration that was full of fun and interesting activities. We felt so grateful to have had so many families involved and contributing to the event. A big thank to Neetu, Vijyeta, Kinjal, Aarti and Nutan for their contribution with food, traditional dress-ups, drawing Henna, and story-telling; and other parents who brought flowers in for the rangoli and participated in the activities.



Decorating rangoli with fresh flowers.



Decorating Diya lamp.

At Bright Star, we are so lucky to have whānau who come from different cultural backgrounds, which reflects the cultural diversity of the local community. We believe that acknowledging and celebrating diversity through our programme enables all children to learn together, and helps them develop a secure sense of who they are at an early age. Moreover, tamariki will develop appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills related to the respect and appreciation of different cultures and other differences which include race, ethnicity, religion etc. We greatly welcome all whānau from different cultures to contribute their knowledge and resources to our programme.



Drawing Henna.

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* Kōwhai Group *

The beginning of Kowhai group literacy programme has seen a lot of book reading, language development, singing and other exciting activities. As a part of our literacy programme, we have explored our local shops, where we looked at all of the signs and posters on display. The billboard for ice-cream outside the dairy saw a lot of interest, along with various displays inside New World. As the children all enjoy our books and posters about vehicles, we had a small visit to see a digger and truck working outside Bright Star. The children were invited to have a closer look at the digger and had the opportunity to hear some new words relating to the digger.



We are visiting the local community.

Through our messy play and art, the tamariki have used their fine motor skills and finger dexterity to make different markings such as lines, dots and shapes; as well as manipulating different textures. Our imaginative play has seen the tamariki building their social skills, along with their vocabulary. The stove area has sparked a lot of conversations using words such as "hot" and "cold", "on" and "off", "open" and "shut", and more; as well as the tamariki building relationships over a common interest.



We are doing baking.



We are enjoying messy play.



Let's have a tea party.

In the sandpit, we have been having conversations surrounding numeracy such as full and empty, half full, comparing sizes of containers, and lots of counting! We have also been discussing the different texture of the sand after it has been raining or sunny.

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* Reminders *

Please remember to sign your child in and out every day, and inform us of absences. This is very important information, especially in case of an emergency such as illness, natural disaster, fire evacuation, etc. Please remember to inform the centre by 9am if your child is going to be away on that day.

Please continue naming your child's clothing (including socks and sunhats). As we are expecting more warm sunny days coming, we will provide more messy play activities, so please put plenty of spare clothes in your child's bag.

* Waiata (song) *

E tu Kahikatea

E tu kahikatea Hei whakapae ururoa Awhi mai awhi atu Tatou tatou e	Stand like the kahikatea (tree) To brave the storms Embrace and receive We are one together
E tu kahikatoa Kare kau e hinga Awhi mai Awhi atu Tatou tatou e	Stand with vigour You will not fall Give and receive help We are one together
E tu Puriri Toha ra o peka Awhi mai Awhi atu Tatou tatou e (x2)	Stand like the Puriri And reach out your branches Embrace and receive We are one together (X2)