



Portobelo Avonhead Newsletter

What's been happening recently at Portobelo Avonhead?

Out and about in our community:

The children recently went on an excursion to the library, to extend their interest in planes. The tamariki brought back a variety of books on planes, helicopters and airports. This has led to continued research on air transport, extending their knowledge alongside their peers.



Upcoming events 2019:

Portobelo preschool and Nursery Christmas Party

Thursday 19th of December

5.00pm -6.30pm



Please come and celebrate with the Portobelo family for a Christmas concert and time shared together. Please bring along Kai for our picnic and enjoy a sausage sizzle as we have a BBQ, we will be having a special Christmas visitor

We look forward to seeing you all there

Christmas and New Year Holiday Fun

For those children attending through the Christmas and New Year period the teachers will be organising holiday fun activities, each day the children will have something fun and exciting to experience

News from the Nursery ...

Our Nursery has been a bustling hive of learning! Currently our children have developed a strong interest in 'Relationships'. These are relationships not only with their peers, but also with themselves, their Nursery environment, nature, and the wider community. Over the last few weeks we have been creating experiences that allow the children to develop their understanding of how these relationships guide their play and interactions, and how they are able to foster and grow the bonds that they have with people, places, and things.

Tactile and messy play have been experiences that highlight the relationship that children have with the world around them. Our children have discovered not only how they can manipulate playdough, or pour water from a container, but through observing their friends around them, they have learnt other ways that children use the same experience and how others react differently from themselves. This observation of others has influenced our children to explore their physical abilities. We have loved watching our children persevere over obstacles, their determination is astounding, nothing can stop them...not even huge foam blocks! Watch this space for children practising their first steps.....!

Nature plays a huge role in our Nursery routine; we keep our outdoor environment open as much as possible which allows children to have autonomy over their interests and how their day flows. We have been focusing on supporting our children to care for our natural environment. This has involved the children planting seeds, caring for plants and weeding the garden! We have seen the children's interest in our whole outdoor environment change as they see the developing garden that they have cared for. It will not be long before we are eating the fresh tomatoes and beetroot that we have grown!

Arohanui Heather, Rachel and Audrey



News from the Preschool ...

Is it the end of year all ready?! The last two months have brought a lot of activity into our preschool environment. With pleasure we have seen the arrival of our new amazing teachers Edwina and Margaret, who have both brought wonderful ideas and warmth into our room – welcome! Our relationships have therefore been at the forefront as we find our rhythm as a preschool and allow our tamariki the time to form reciprocal, trusting bonds with the new adults in their lives. With Edwina’s many years of working within a primary school environment, she has lots of engaging and thoughtful ideas to take on for our Club 4 – a daily group time focused on extending our older children as they build on their working theories and become researchers and investigators of their own learning and play.

These group times are largely based on our tamariki’s interests and therefore the most recent focus project has been; all things airplanes! This project began by asking the tamariki what they would like to know and learn about airplanes (“How do they fly?”, “What colours are they?” and “Where do they go?”) and through these group times, kaiako and tamariki have been working together as they make these discoveries. From here, we have had trips to the library to learn more about planes, learnt which paper airplane goes the furthest, and the different ways we can measure length and speed. We recognise that our children learn best when engaged and excited about what they are learning and as our group times carry on, we will continue to take the children’s lead and be guided by them. Teaching and learning through partnership and connection 😊 Happy holidays everybody, may everyone have the chance to relax, and be spoilt with love by those around you.

Arohanui Lana, Amber, Edwina, Chelsea, Margaret and Khuma





Contacting us...

Just a reminder of our Nursery and Preschool cell phone numbers, so that you can text us to let us know if your child is going to be absent for the day, if you want to check on how your child's day is going, or for any other non-urgent messages. Our Nursery number is **027 361 8181** and the Preschool number is **027 455 6990**. We also update our Facebook page regularly with photos of our children's learning, so you can keep other family members 'in the loop'. This is where we post up to date information about the centre in the event of an emergency, so 'like' us on FB now!

Welcome and Farewells

Welcome to the Nursery: Brendon, Elisa and Poppy

Welcome to the Preschool: Maisie, Elly and Lusi

Farewell to our Preschool Graduates: Elijah, Finley, Thomas, William, Lachlan, Maisie B and Toby. You all take our best Portobelo wishes with you to school, the next exciting step in your learning journey.

Upcoming events/parent and Whānau Notices:

Children's Christmas party 19th of December

Holiday fun 23rd of December to 6th January

Dear Parents and Whanau,

Please find below Christmas and New Year operational hours

Monday 23rd December and Tuesday 24th December: 8.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday 25th December and Thursday 26th December: Closed

Friday 27th December: 8.00am-4.00pm

Monday 30th December and Tuesday 31st December: 8.00am -4.00pm

Wednesday 1st January and Thursday 2nd January: Closed

Friday 3rd January: 8.00am -4.00pm

Monday 6th January onwards: 7.30am -5.30pm (Normal hours)

The 'Change of enrolled hours' www.bestpreschools.co.nz. If you can download the form, Vanessa (Centre Leader) at remember that requests must we can change our rostered staffing to ensure we meet legal requirements.



form is now on our website you need to change your child's booking, complete it and scan it through to avonheadportobelo@xtra.co.nz. Please be made at least a week in advance, so

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME MEANS SUMMER IS JUST ABOUT HERE! The sun is becoming much stronger and is out for longer, so it's time for those summer reminders.

SUNSCREEN- Portobelo provides sunscreen ready for the summer and will begin to use it from the first week of October. As part of our policy around sun safety, we ask that children arrive at Portobelo with sunscreen already applied. We will reapply to exposed skin at regular intervals throughout the day.

HATS- Children will need to have a suitable named sunhat with them each day. Styles that cover the face, neck and ears are most suitable. A tie or elastic strap can help keep hats on for children who are reluctant to wear one.

We encourage children to look after their own belongings and a hat box will be provided to take care of the hats that don't go home every day.

From the Directors – Lyn and Ian

Meri kirihimite – Merry Christmas!



Another year has rushed by! We are happy to have such a skilled and dedicated team on board in our Preschool and Nursery, led by Vanessa, who is a very able and committed leader. Everyone is looking forward to a great year in 2020.

Thanks to all our Portobelo community for being part of our whānau and working together to make Portobelo a fun place to grow, learn, play, share, and make friends together.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

A note from Fleur Milne Professional Leader...

Kia ora whānau,

My name is Fleur Milne and I am excited to be joining the Portobelo team in the role of Principal Leader.

I have worked within the Early Childhood sector for ten years in a variety of roles from a teacher-in-training to a Centre Manager. Prior to becoming an Early Childhood Teacher, I worked within the Social Services sector.

I am passionate about the early years and am an advocate for high quality, intentional early childhood education for all children. I feel privileged to be able to support all of the teachers at Portobelo as they provide the absolute best for your children and your whānau. I have really enjoyed getting to know the Portobelo team over the past weeks and can see their amazing passion for, and commitment to, ensuring every child at Portobelo is respected, nurtured, challenged, and delighted in.

On a personal level, I have two daughters. Maisie is three and spends three days a week in the preschool and Poppy is one, she spends three days a week in the nursery. As a Mum I have been delighted with the care and support both my girls have been given during their transition to Portobelo and I am excited to see them develop relationships with their teachers and your children.

I am excited to get to know you and your children better.

Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy this special time with your whānau.

