

Portobelo Avonhead Preschool and Nursery

Newsletter Summer 2018



News from the Nursery ...

Kia ora and welcome to 2018! This year has already brought with it some beautiful weather that has enabled us to get out and about in our community. The nursery team and children have recently been establishing relationship with Parkstone retirement village as we visit and get to know the residents. The children have enjoyed sharing books and stories alongside the older residents of the village and their smiles and laughter were returned by the village residents as they also enjoyed these special moments with the tamariki. It's a special thing to bring young and old together in this way.

We have also been making good use of our local Riccarton library as we borrow books and contribute to songs and story times. Whānau, we are always looking for extra adult support on our excursions, so if you could spare a hour or two (usually on a Friday but we can be flexible), please let the nursery staff know. We would love to have more people joining us on our outings. Check out our new safety vests for our children!



Recently in the nursery we have also implemented a shared fruit bowl. Our idea is to encourage healthy eating from a young age through taste testing a variety of different fruits and vegetables. We would appreciate any fruit or vegetable contributions you are able to make to our shared bowl.

Our up-coming focus project has stemmed from the introduction of the fruit bowl, and children's interest in the different foods they have been trying. Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about what 'well-being' means and how we can support the physical emotional wellbeing of our tamariki in a variety of ways, such as developing confidence, independence and positive attitudes towards self-help and self-care skills relating to food preparation, healthy eating and drinking, hygiene, toileting, resting, sleeping, washing and dressing.

To help keep our children safe from the harsh rays of the sun, we have put sunscreen next to the sign-in chart for you to apply to your child on arrival if you forgot before leaving home. And please send appropriate clothing for the weather, such as rain jackets and gumboots on these rainy summer days; because life is not about not getting wet, it's about learning to dance in the rain!

Amber, Leigh, Nakita and Michelle

News from the Preschool ...

January's 'Summer Fun' focus has been enjoyed by all in the Preschool as we celebrate the warmer weather. We have learnt about sun safety and the importance of applying sun block, wearing hats and playing in the shade. With the hot temperatures we've been having we've also been encouraging ngā tamariki to drink lots of water to keep their bodies well hydrated.

It's a great time to be outdoors and connecting with Papatuanuku (the Earth mother) as we explore our natural environment, promoting respect, curiosity and care for the living world around us. Some of our special highlights in the Preschool:

- Water play has been a hit as we scoop, tip and splash in the sand pit, water trough and lazy river. This supports children to develop learning strategies such as trial and error, guessing and problem solving in playful ways, as we grow our understanding of the properties of water. It's also a wonderful opportunity to have fun and cool off, especially playing in the sprinkler!



- Our swan plants have sustained ngā tamariki's interest as we observe the life cycle of Monarch butterflies, metamorphosing from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Through this fascination we have been able to link our emerging literacy and mathematical skills as we measure the size of the caterpillars and discuss their growth – plus of course, hearing one of our favourite stories 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' many, many times!



Our current project focus is 'Moving to Learn' as we recognise that as young children, many of our learners learn best through actively moving. We have responded by planning a rich programme of movement-based learning experiences that promote their balance, coordination, gross and fine motor skills. This includes dancing, obstacle courses, climbing, running, ball games, yoga and more! If any of our whānau have any dance, gymnastics or sports experience that you would like to come in and share with us please talk to one of the teachers to set up a time to come in.

Alice, Emma, Tash, Angela, Peter and Patrick

Welcome & farewell – haere mai, haere rā ...

Welcome to the Nursery: Harry, Piper, Yuvaan, Connor, Jamie and Jae'l.

Welcome to the Preschool: Tangaroa, Tamahae, Lainey, Ayan, Bentley, Scarlett, Esmēe, Seven also William and Samantha (joining us from the Nursery).

Farewell to our Preschool Graduates: Cooper, Rori, Leah, Axl, Cathy, and Doyul.
You take our best Portobelo wishes with you to school,
the next exciting step in your learning journey....

Special Events . . .

Over the last few weeks we have been celebrating Chinese New Year in ways that are meaningful to our young tamariki. We would like to thank all the parents/whānau who were involved in making this event so meaningful. Further celebrations are Holi (in early March) and the Commonwealth Games. We would love your involvement, so if you have a something you could share/teach our children we would love to hear from you.



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 **0273618181** and the Preschool Number is **0274556990**. Also, we update our Facebook page regularly with photos of our children's learning, so you can keep other family members 'in the loop'. This is also where we post up to date information about the centre in the event of an emergency, so 'like' us now!



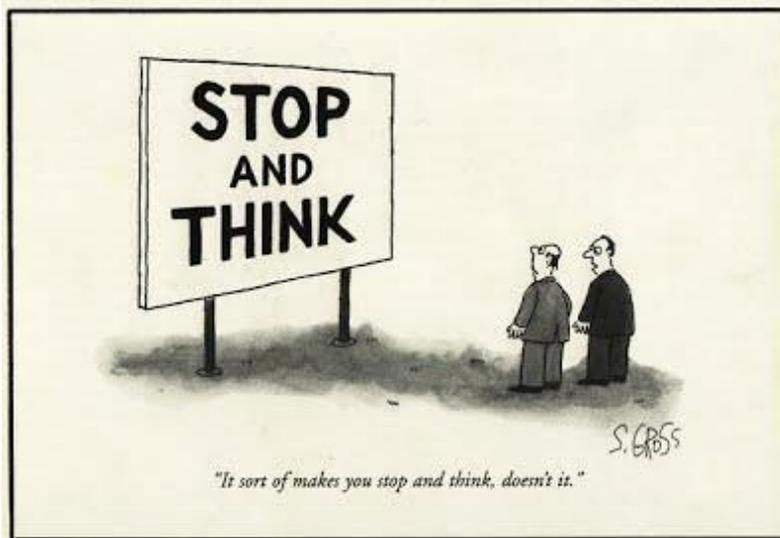
A note from Dr Sandy, Portobelo's Professional Leader...

Warm summer greetings to you all.

2018 began with a bang for our teachers as we revised our Portobelo Philosophy Statement. This important statement guides our thinking about teaching and learning in all our centres, making it clear what it is we value. The discussion around this document is always rich and passionate, because our teachers understand that the statement we finish with guides all those 'in-the-moment' decisions we make throughout every day. There are so many possible ways to do things in education, but all our theories and professional knowledge about how children develop and flourish 'play out' in the little moments that children experience throughout each day in our centres. So it is important to take the time to stop, think, and converse, to ensure we are all in the same waka paddling towards the same goals for our children, and that the goals we have decided on really do matter here.



We would like to involve you, our Portobelo whānau, in this conversation. Below are the 10 points that we value most in our thinking about teaching and learning for our children:



- The power of play
- Learning how to learn
- Self-control for success
- Being friends and making friends
- Safe risks
- Green time, not screen time
- Teaching and learning together
- Home away from home with kiwi backyard
- He tangata, he tangata, he tangata
- Creating citizens of the world

Some of these points may seem a little unclear. That's because we want people to be curious about what they mean and engage in the conversation with us. For example, 'He tangata, he tangata, he tangata' is about the importance of people and relationships in all we do. The Nursery team have given you a glimpse of one way they put this into action, through developing relationships with our elderly friends at Parkstone.

So please accept our invitation and talk with our Centre Leaders, Team Leaders and teaching team members about any of these points and what they mean for your children. In our next whānau survey (early May) we will be asking you directly for your thoughts about these points, how much they matter to you, and how well we are doing in bringing these values to life for our tamariki.

From the Directors



It has been a great start to the year, and we are so happy to have such amazing teams and children at Portobelo. 😊

Recently ex tropical cyclone Gita put us on high alert, and a wakeful night was spent, listening to the radio, checking weather radars, and looking out for any Civil Defence and Ministry of Education updates. We were glad to avoid the worst of the wind and rain, and have our centres open as usual. This did remind us though of the importance of Facebook for communicating quickly with our families – the final decision was not made until 5.30am on the day!

People 'liking' our message was a good way for us to track who had seen it – thank you so much for this, and if you haven't yet linked with us on Facebook, please consider doing this. To find us, type "@PortobeloPreschools" in the Facebook search box. If you 'like' and 'follow' us, you will be alerted to any events that may affect our opening hours [such as cyclone Gita]. You will also be able to see the information, updates and great photos about the learning and fun happening across all four of our Portobelo centres.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Portobelo will be selling the Entertainment Book this year – both the digital and coupon book versions. It's a great way to support Portobelo, so please keep this in mind and tell your friends! More information will be coming in April.

Finally, thanks to all our Portobelo community for making Portobelo such a fun place to grow, learn, play, share, and make friends together.

Kia pai tō rā (Have a great day)

Lyn and Ian