



Avonhead Portobelo Autumn Newsletter 2020

What's been happening recently at Portobelo Avonhead?

Out and about in our community:

Welcome everyone to autumn 2020. This year we have settled back into the year by making the most of the amazing weather and getting out and about in our community. The preschool has done excursions to the local park for bug hunts, also to the fruit shop and to Avonhead School. [Where it was lovely to see all our old friends from preschool.] The nursery has also been enjoying getting out and about in the community.



Cultural Calendar Upcoming events 2020:

Here at Portobelo we value each child's individual culture and identity. Each year we create a cultural calendar to celebrate the diverse cultures that make up the Portobelo whānau. Last week we had a great time celebrating Holi and learning more about Indian culture. If you have a cultural event that is significant to your whānau, we would love to add this to our calendar, so please let us know. A full list of our upcoming events can be found on our parent notice boards.

Portobelo Staffing News

We are excited to have our wonderful new teacher Melissa join our preschool team. Melissa has many years of experience working in both preschool and nursery environments and is enjoying getting to know all the children and families. Melissa is working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the preschool room. Melissa is the mum of three children and knows a few families through our local play group. Melissa enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, also gardening, reading and baking.

We are saddened to let you know that Khuma has not returned to her teacher support role at Portobelo after her annual leave. Khuma has had a family situation in Nepal and is there to support her family. We wish Khuma and her family all the best for the future and hope she comes in to visit when she returns.

Recently we have had a lot of new families join our nursery. Amber has kindly had been working over in the nursery supporting the team with the tamariki and she is going to stay over that side playing, teaching and learning with the younger children. We will still see Amber in the preschool at the end of each day, and during the day the preschool children enjoy talking with Amber through the fence about their different adventures.

News from the Nursery ...

Welcome to autumn in the Portobelo Nursery...

This year has already had us celebrating a multitude of cultural celebrations. After celebrating Christmas and New Year, we dived straight into Chinese New Year. This celebration had us exploring the Year of the Rat. We created lanterns, explored tastes and textures from Chinese cuisine, and developed our understanding of different clothing and art colours during our experiences. Then last week we celebrated Holi- the Hindi festival of colours!

This year we have had a focus on making links between Portobelo and our community. For us, this means going on excursions to the park, library, fruit and vegetable shop, and so much more! It is amazing seeing the smiling faces of people in the community when they see us with the children in the prams with high-visibility jackets on, and of course the children love seeing all these new and familiar places. Who knew that spotting aeroplanes is even more exciting while out and about!

Within the Nursery environment there has been no shortage of amazement and wonder! We love collaborating and creating together through the use of 'mural' art creations, whether it be collecting sand and plants from outside and gluing them onto our big pictures or experimenting with our hands (and sometimes feet!) while creating amazing finger art, we are constantly finding ways to share ideas and space with one another.

This has also linked into our individual play as our children have taken creative freedom to explore their own interests. As we quietly observe our children in play, we have seen them feeding toy monkeys with pretend milk bottles, stack rocks for minutes at a time, and use child sized pots and pans as musical instruments. (What a great way to make sure our teachers and friends are awake!)

When you visit us next you might see us enjoying the last few days of our warm weather while splashing away in our paddling pool or enjoying the last of our fruit and vegetables that we have grown in our garden! Thank you again for allowing your children to be a part of these amazing experiences, bring on our next adventures!

Arohanui Heather, Rachel, Audrey and Amber





News from the Preschool ...

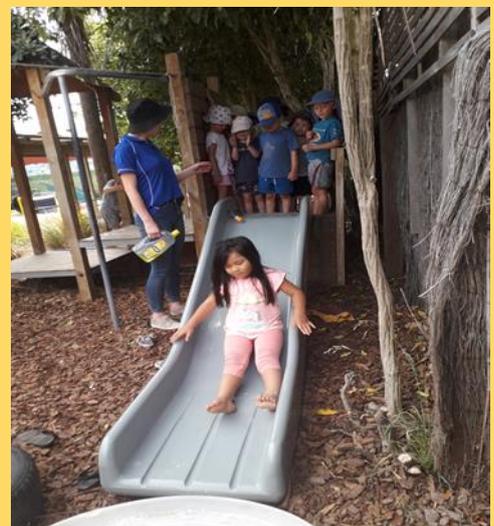
2020 is speeding along (March already!?) and for our preschool family it really has been a time of new beginnings and welcomes to the many new families who have begun at Portobelo, as well as new family members to our existing whānau!

The beginning of the year had a strong focus of summer holiday fun, as kaiako and tamariki collaborated to bring the holiday feeling to the preschool room. For us, this meant lots of trips to the park and local fruit and vege store, water slide fun and many baking experiences with summer fruit! As the school term began, kaiako began to recognise an emerging interest among our children - investigating bugs, insect and all living things within our backyard.

Following our children's lead, trips were had to the local park with magnifying glasses to source local insects, as well as providing opportunities for our children to answer their own enquiries; what do bugs eat? What is the difference between the insects? Where do they live? Club Four have especially used many research tools such as sourcing informative books, and creating their own investigations as they laid fruit outside to see which insects were attracted to what foods (our children had creative hypothesises and ideas before this is carried out!).

These first few months have brought many exciting learning experiences, and we are excited to see where our learning continues to take us! 😊

Arohanui Lana, Chelsea, Edwina, Margaret and Melissa.





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**. 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!

Welcomes & farewells – haere mai, haere rā ...

Welcome to the Nursery: Harper, Nikau, Ian and Evleen

Welcome to the Preschool: Charlie, Thomas, Pang Len and Lusi

Farewell to our Preschool Graduate: Carter You all take our best Portobelo wishes with you to school, the next exciting step in your learning journey.

A Big Congratulations to the Henderson, Brown, Harris and Roughan families on there new additions, we hope you are enjoying those new-born cuddles.



Notes from Lyn Eder – Owner/Service Provider

COVID 19

These are unsettling times with the rapidly developing situation with the coronavirus Covid 19.

We are very lucky to live in NZ, where we are a little more isolated, and we now have self-isolation procedures in place for people entering NZ from anywhere [except the Pacific Islands]. We also are in a first world country with first class health systems, where there are good procedures in place for this pandemic.

We have not yet had community transmission of the virus in NZ, but it has reached the South Island, via a tourist to Queenstown, and we need to continue to be vigilant with our hygiene measures.

Children are the least likely to catch this coronavirus, which is a blessing for our smallest Portobelo members, but we still need to be taking measures to protect them, their elderly relatives and contacts, and of course ourselves.

PLEASE do not bring your child to Portobelo if they are unwell.

Call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any symptoms and have been to any overseas or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19.

Follow Ministry of Health/government instructions re self-isolation.

A reminder from the MOH:

COVID-19, like the flu, can be spread from person to person. When a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or talks, they may spread droplets containing the virus a short distance, which quickly settle on surrounding surfaces.

You may get infected by the virus if you touch those surfaces or objects and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes.

That's why it's really important to use good hygiene, regularly wash and thoroughly dry your hands, and use good cough etiquette.

Prevention – how to protect yourself and others

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Avoid personal contact, such as kissing, sharing cups or food with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.

Ngā mihi,

LC Eder RGON, RM, ADN, Cert Adult Tch, Plunket Cert

ERO

Recently we had ERO (the Education Review Office) visit as part of their regular cycle of review. ERO is an independent, external evaluation agency that undertakes reviews of schools and early childhood services throughout New Zealand.

ERO reviews are intended to focus on outcomes for children and the purpose of each review is to:

- improve quality of education for children in early childhood centres (and schools)
- provide information to parents, communities and the Government

The Portobelo team - Principal Leader, Centre Leader, Team Leaders, Teachers and Educators all contribute a lot of energy, skills and time every day to provide a high quality learning environment for your children – I am proud of them as a team and as individuals.

I am also very grateful for you, the parents, caregivers and families, as I am very much aware that such a positive learning environment is not possible without the support, strong relationships and contributions from you all.

I look forward to sharing our results once we have them.

A note from Fleur, Portobelo's Professional Leader...

Kia ora whānau,

With the chill of the last few mornings I think we can safely say we are welcoming in Autumn and fare welling summer. And what a wonderful summer it has been here at Portobelo! If you follow our Facebook page you will have noticed the teachers and children have been spending a lot of time gardening, harvesting and cooking over the past weeks, as well as visiting our local fruit and vege store. The teaching teams have been providing multiple experiences for children ensuring they have the opportunity to get their hands in the dirt, care for our vege garden, fruit trees and grape vines, and grow their skills in the kitchen.

Gardening with young children provides opportunities for children to develop their fine and gross motor skills, extend their language repertoire, explore early mathematical concepts, experience a range of sensory stimulations and causes children to theorise about the world around them.

Gardening also teaches children about the seasons and rhythms of life. It teaches children that good things do take time and there is a process for everything. While waiting for that strawberry to ripen is a challenge at times, and it is so tempting to pick it early, the joy of discovering the exact moment of perfection is well worth the wait. The process of gardening causes children to persevere and goes against the idea that we can have everything we want right when we want it.

I have been doing some research into 'Hurry Sickness' lately and have been caused to critique myself in how often I get stuck in the spiral of 'go,go,go'. I know I fall into the trap of always thinking about what's next or how I can complete a task more efficiently. While there is a time and place for hurry, for children the greatest moments of wonder (and therefore learning) happen when the pace is slow, there is no set goal or task, the sensory stimulation is rich and there is ample opportunity for exploration. The slowness and unstructuredness of planting, harvesting, and cooking together provides the perfect environment for moments of wonder.

Here at Portobelo we are committed to creating, capturing and extending the moments of wonder for children. It has been a joy to see the teach teams doing this through embracing gardening and cooking together.