

Portobelo Avonhead Preschool and Nursery Winter Newsletter 2019

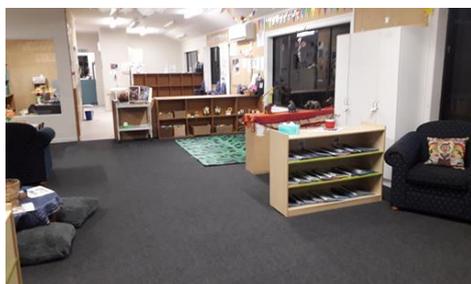
A note from Vanessa

Dear Parents and Whānau,

Welcome to our winter newsletter.

Firstly, a big thank you to all the parents, children and staff who have made me feel so welcome at Portobelo Avonhead. It has been lovely getting to know you all. I thought to start off this newsletter by telling you a little bit about myself as the new Centre Leader. I have worked in the early childhood sector, both preschool and nursery, for twenty years within the Christchurch area. I became a centre manager fifteen years ago and have enjoyed sharing my passion and knowledge and extending my teams. I have a huge interest in Reggio Emilia, providing children with experiences to extend their working theories about the world around them, and giving them a safe and natural learning environment where they can learn alongside their peers and teachers. I am looking forward to sharing my skills and knowledge with the team at Portobelo Avonhead to help grow the centre professionally. Utilising my experience within the Early Childhood sector I would like to grow Portobelo for the future with the teams focusing on educational based learning and building strong committed relationships with parents, children and teachers. I believe strongly in working in partnership with families and whānau to achieve the best for all tamariki.

Both our teams are committed to making changes for the future of Portobelo Avonhead. We have started achieving this by focusing on the preschool environment. During a weekend I and dedicated preschool teachers came in and changed the inside classroom setting by creating different inspirational spaces for the children to learn alongside their peers. This in return has created more calm and organised specific areas for the children, who can now be seen busily playing throughout the day. The children are really enjoying their new learning environment and using the new resources to extend their play. We can see the new construction area has been a huge hit with the children extending on their play with natural materials. As a team we have rearranged the teachers' office space and reorganised the resources within the centre so the teaching staff can access resources and equipment more easily for the children. We would love to hear about your feedback about the preschool inside space or things you would think would be beneficial I have left a questionnaire in the front foyer for you to fill in.



Both the preschool and nursery have been working together on a new internal evaluation review. Our focus is on looking at the centre daily operations. This will include reviewing our

centre philosophy, our centre vision and daily routines. The teachers have shared their own vision and values with the teams, then we have looked at how these align with Portobelo's vision and values. Over the next couple of months we will create a draft centre philosophy and vision, asking all families for feedback and consultation so please look out for a feedback form from the team leaders. We really value your opinion and vision for the centre moving forward.

I am excited for the future Portobelo and look forward to working with everyone. Please see me if you require any support or have any queries

Nga Mihi,

Vanessa Centre Leader

Staff Introductions and News

We have a few new faces to introduce and welcome to the Portobelo family.

Lana

We are delighted to have Lana back at Portobelo after her overseas adventures. Lana is the new team leader in the preschool and works daily from 9.00-5.30pm. Lana is excited to share her knowledge and experience with the preschool team. Lana enjoys travelling in her spare time.

Audrey

Audrey has joined the nursery team, working daily from 9am to 3pm. Audrey is in her third year of study and has worked in early childhood sector for several years in the under two area. Audrey has been associated with Portobelo Kaiapoi part time since 2009 and joined the Avonhead team in July. Audrey enjoys spending time with her family and gardening in her spare time.

Khuma

Khuma is originally from Nepal where she worked as a teacher for five years. Khuma moved with her family to Christchurch eleven years ago and has had experience working in a bilingual preschool for few years. Khuma works from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday in the preschool room. Khuma enjoys cooking, sewing and spending time with her family and wider Nepalese community.

Ella

Ella is originally from the Ukraine and came to New Zealand two years ago with her partner. Ella has a teacher support role in the preschool. Ella enjoys spending time exploring New Zealand and cooking.

Cara

Cara has started working at Portobelo on a Friday while she refreshes her ECE qualification. Cara has her own children, and has skills in running a kapahaka group, teaching and practising yoga, and is fluent in Te Reo.

Staff News

We are excited to announce that we have Amber Mears returning to Portobelo after her Canadian adventure with her partner. Amber previously worked as the nursery team leader and will be re-joining us on the 16th of September.

Sadly, we are fare welling Nakita on the 30th August to go on her overseas adventure in the UK with her partner. Nakita has worked at Portobelo for five years as a teacher and team leader. We wish Nakita all the best for her future adventures and look forward to seeing some photos of her English experiences. Amber will be acting team leader in the nursery and supporting the girls in the immediate time. Vanessa is currently interviewing a teacher for the team leader role in the nursery to start in October. Please look out for further information regarding this.

On 6th of September Kimberley will going on maternity leave, we wish Kimberley and her husband all the best with their wee boy and look forward to some new baby cuddles and photos of the wee bundle of joy.

Emma is also travelling overseas to Europe to work as a nanny. Emma's last day will be the 13th of September, we wish Emma all the best for her future adventures.

The management team are currently recruiting some new teachers to join the Portobelo team There is a huge shortage of early childhood teachers within the ECE sector and we appreciate your support and understanding at this time. Please know that it is a huge priority to recruit the right people - passionate and dedicated teachers who will fit with the centre vision and values.

Preschool News

Kia ora whānau, isn't time flying by! July and August have brought an exciting time within the Portobelo Preschool as we have spent the time to rebuild our relationships among teachers and families, teachers and children, and between the teachers also as we re-establish a firm base and facilitate a teaching and learning space and philosophy that is meaningful to us and our tamariki!

In light of this, it has been exciting to have our 'Transition to School' programme come to life.

The new name for the programme is Club 5 as we give our older children opportunities to extend their knowledge, revisit learning, gain a sense of empowerment through responsibility and extended learning and experience what school life will be like. Chelsea has taken on this responsibility and she plans a programme for our older children by providing them with daily experiences. Chelsea has made connections with our local primary schools. Avonhead, Russley and Riccarton, and is arranging once-a-term visits with the new entrants' teachers.

The children recently went for a visit to Avonhead school new entrants' classroom, they had lots of fun exploring the environment, joining in with the daily curriculum and got to meet some old friends from Portobelo.



We have recognised a lot of common learning interests amongst our children recently, including construction play, imaginary play, and an engagement in our natural world. With this in mind, we have facilitated a child-led learning focus called 'Discovering our Wider World' as our children naturally engage in their social, physical and material environments. We have begun documenting this spontaneous and planned learning on our walls, come and have a look at our discoveries and investigations.

Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions to extend the children's learning.

Thank you for all your support and contributions

From Lana, Chelsea, Kimberley, Vanessa and Khuma

Nursery News

Kia ora whānau!



What's been happening?

The children have really been showing us how caring they are lately, even starting to show empathy for one another when they are hurt or sad, checking to see if they are ok and what they can do to help. We have also been making the most out of our dolls, which helps children to copy what they see role modelled in their environment.

The children are still really interested in sensory and messy play, which is our next group focus for the next few months. This gives our tamariki the opportunity to learn through their '5' senses (Touch, Taste, Sound, Sight and Smell). We are trying



lot of new interesting recipes and ingredients, experimenting what we can do with them and what new elements we can add. As teachers we are always open to ideas, so if your child loves something at home that you think we could try here, let us know.



We have been doing a lot of 'cause and effect' activities, trying things out with questions such as "I wonder what happens when I do this"? The children are also showing their curiosity and

trying new things or old things in new ways, becoming proud of their achievements and celebrating these.

Story times are becoming an all-time favourite with "Maranga Mai" a book about animals and the sounds they make, and "Kia Ora, you Can Be a Kiwi Too" being two of our most played CD stories. We are also discovering new books every day, with the children reading more books with one another helping to foster those relationships.

Group times are also times to learn new things. New action songs and rhymes and new stories for us to all join in!

Learning to understand and say new words happens naturally with the repetition of these songs, rhymes and stories, with children learning alongside their peers for encouragement.

Reminders

Please remember to write your child's name on food that is stored in the fridge.

Fruit bowl, please feel free to bring in a piece of fruit for our bowl, for our tamariki to share and enjoy together!



Upcoming events on our Cultural Celebrations Calendar

- **Special Men in our Lives 29th August 9.45- 10.30am-** This year we will be holding a special morning tea to celebrate the men in our lives. We look forward to seeing you all there!
- **Māori Language Week 9-15th September –** the theme this year is 'Kia kaha te reo Māori – Let's make Māori language strong'

The 'Change of enrolled hours' form is now on our website www.bestpreschools.co.nz. If you need to change your child's booking, you can download the form, complete it and scan it through to Vanessa(Centre Leader) at avonheadportobelo@xtra.co.nz. Please remember that requests must be made at least a week in advance, so we can change our rostered staffing to ensure we meet legal requirements.

Welcomes & farewells – haere mai, haere rā

Welcome to the Nursery: Ben, Jordan, Bailey and Max

Welcome to the Preschool: Ariana, Piper, Elana ,Arieya and Haotian

Farewell to our Preschool Graduates: Lucas, Max , Roserleigh and Camilla . You all take our best Portobelo wishes with you to school, the next exciting step in your learning journey.

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 **@PortobeloPreschools**