

December Newsletter 2011



Nga Whetu News

Yee haa it is summer!!! We are adoring this beautiful weather and are making the most of it. Water play, paddock walks and enjoying the red ripe strawberries from our gardens are just some of the exciting events that have begun.

Our children are pretty clever! They know that the sun burns and they have adjusted back into the sunscreen routine along with their parents brilliantly. As we know there is more to it than just sun screening, so our children have been learning about 'Cody' the Sun Smart Turtle. The message is simple, **Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap**. Lorraine and the children created a sun dial (on the library wall) which says what the weather is today and what we need to do to be sun smart. Our children have to assess the weather and decide where to place the arrow on one of the three pictures. Its proving to be quite a popular way to get this important message across and it is working.

Check out our 'Friendship' wall display Aimee and the children put together with input from many of our friends at Country Kids to see how our previous focus has evolved.

Recently we have been working on our new planning and assessment, during our teacher meetings. This has given us the opportunity to discuss individual children's learning which is fantastic.

That is all from us for this year, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us in the Nga Whetu team.

Aimee, Lorraine and Nickie.



A huge Thank You to Becky and Shane Mickell, who have been sponsors for our Country Kids newsletter this year. We really appreciate your support:)

News from J4K

The end of term is in sight and there is huge enthusiasm with all things Christmas- with carols, stories and talk of Santa Parades.

The children have been so busy outside these last few days, with the big rain. In between showers there have lots of science experiments with water transference. Buckets bowls and pipes, bikes through puddles. Children and clothes through puddles. This learning is endless- as is the washing! Please bring spare clothes for our scientific weather!

We have been making Christmas decorations and enjoying cutting skills and decorating with glitter. Some unusual animal pictures may have come home. 'Noah's Other Ark', by Lynley Dodd, encourages children to think of unusual animal combinations.

What fun we all had with that..

There has been a strong interest in literacy skills, as the children write shopping lists and Christmas cards. There has also been a lot of interest in writing on the whiteboard- 'like a teacher'.

With so many children just about to leave for school- we want to wish them all the best as they move on.

The team at J4K want to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marg, Lindsay,
Margaret and Heather.

Piko Piko News

As you are all aware last month we farewelled Susan and celebrated her time here with us by having a flag parade. As a result of her leaving we have a new Piko Piko team who have been working to build a positive working relationship.

Over the last seven weeks we were fortunate enough to have Rebecca here on a teaching placement with us, luckily we will be able to still see Rebecca as she relieves at Country Kids.

- Musical instruments are a huge interest with our young children. They are enjoying the different sounds, shapes and generally just exploring the different types of instruments.
- Family/dramatic play is still used daily. The play has now evolved from child and doll to the children involving others into their play by making cups of tea and sometimes a slice of cake!
- Our group time songs at present are 'thumbkin' and 'if you are happy and you know it', sing these with your children at home to help build the links between our centre and home.
- We have welcomed a number of infants into our program which enables the toddlers to learn about how to care, nurture and about spatial awareness around infants.

Last but not lest we wish all our families a relaxing, safe and fun filled Christmas break.

Kelly, Tess and Kylie.B.

Please remember to...

Fill out a absence form if your child is going to be absent from Country Kids while the centre is open. For any questions or assistance with this please see Anne.

Pirates Show.

Thank you Mahana School for inviting the centre to their Pirate Show. It was amazing, fantastic and kept all the children and adults captivated for an hour. The conversations after were animated as the children recalled so many aspects of the entertainment.

A big thank you to all the children and their families who came and share the evening with us at our Family Christmas Picnic. It was an enjoyable evening for all. The \$ raised will go towards the teachers attending a conference during 2012-HOPEFULLY!

During 2012 the teachers will be working hard to fundraise enough funds to enable the teachers to attend a weekend conference. Please let us know if you have any ideas!!!

PLEASE bring back the CK spare clothes. With all of our wet play, we have run out of big boy shorts. Remember to stock up your child's bag with their own. Including a plastic bag for wet clothing. Thank you.

Country Kids closure date;

Friday 23rd December 2011, 12pm. Please be prompt with this pick up time as this allows the teachers to start their Christmas holidays with their families.

Country Kids reopen date;

Monday 23rd January 2012 8am..

Thank you to everyone for their support during 2011. it has been a big year with staff changes, practicum's, high roll numbers not to mention winning the rugby world cup! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

