



## **Whenuakite Country Kids**

Early Childhood Education Centre

### APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

**WELCOME TO:** Quinn, Jack, LilyBelle, Odin, Kaia, Shanti, Maatai, Arihia, Austen and Kolbie to the O2's and Charlie, Issac and Tessa to the U2's. It's lovely to have you join us at Country Kids, we hope you make lots of friends and have lots of fun with us.

Welcome also to Wendy Kinzett, our new Office Administrator.

**FAREWELL TO:** Joel, Abygale, Dylan, Mannix and Harlan, who have moved on to other preschools. And to all our big 5 years olds who have gone off to school - Millique, Tony, Emma, Lily, Karter, Tegan and Chelsea. We will miss you all but hope that you LOVE school!!!

#### **PROGRAMME:**

As you can see from all the farewells and welcomes above, we have had a very busy few weeks saying goodbye to a lot of children and have had 14 new children start with us. This has been a busy time with a lot of focus being put into making sure the new children settle into Country kids and feel happy and comfortable with us here. In the Over 2's the children have been very busy learning about "beneath the sea". They have been very busy fishing with bamboo fishing rods in the sandpit, and in the dingy, a lot of fantastic fish have been caught on these expeditions!! There have also been some very successful diving trips done off the dingy with a lot of crayfish and sharks being caught 😊 Boats have been made out of walnut shells, there has been big discussions about rock pools and what lives under the sea, and there is a lot of beautiful art work displayed on this topic. They have also been focusing on Numeracy and Colours, the centre have purchased some new puzzles specifically focusing on numbers and colours which the children have been enjoying, and we have done science experiments with mixing colours and seeing what new colours can be made.

The Under 2's are focusing on Discovery and Expression, and at the moment the children are showing a lot of interest in Nursery Rhymes, singing and action songs they love to sing songs while swinging in the barrel swing, and have songs sung to them with puppets while eating their lunch, rainbows and colours have also been a specific interest of the children and they have been doing beautiful art work around this topic.

Bug Hunting has also been a favourite pass time with a lot of time spent looking under rocks for crickets and bugs (lucky crickets and bugs!!)

**FEES:**

Most families in the centre use the 20 hours free that is available for children 3 years and older, we would just like to remind you that with the 20 hours free there is a maximum of 6 hours each day allowed, so if you have your child enrolled for 7 hours per day (for example) you will be charged for 1 hour @ \$4.50 p/hr. There has been a bit of confusion over this lately. If you were unaware of this and would like adjust your child's hours to 6 a day please just let Wendy in the office know and she will help you.

WINZ - Many families are also eligible for a childcare subsidy from Work and Income NZ, please ask for information from the office on whether you would be eligible. WINZ is fairly generous with the income structure.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011. WCK is open throughout the holidays except on the public holidays; closed on Good Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Easter Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please let Wendy in the office know if your child/ren are away during the holidays.

**CLOSING OF CENTRE:**

We seem to be having a few more floods than usual. If flooding occurs overnight a decision will be made as early as possible in the morning as to whether the Centre is closed, a message will be placed on Country Kids answer phone saying that the centre is closed and if your child is enrolled for that day you will be phoned by either Helen or Wendy to say we are closed, both home phones and mobiles will be tried and if we can't get hold of you we will leave a message on your answer phone. If flooding occurs during the day we will ring from the centre and would require children to be picked up as soon as possible, on very rainy days please keep your phones with you and keep listening to radios etc to hear updates on the weather and flooding situation. If you are unsure please just ring the centre as either we will be here or a message will have been placed on the phone for you. Failing that, phone Helen on 021 874 438.

We have got a lovely lot of new equipment being brought for the centre at present, which is very exciting, it's lovely to see how much the children appreciate the new toys and how it encourages and stimulates their play.

*In partnership with families / whanau we strive to develop healthy and well adjusted children with skills that will benefit them now and for the rest of their lives.*