

Whenuakite Country Kids
Early Childhood Education Centre



MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER 2011

WELCOME TO

Mateo, Isobel, Caelen, Rhiannon and Alexis in the Over 2's;
Reef, Levi, MacKenzie, Addison, Kiwa and Skye in the Under 2's;
its lovely to have you at Country Kids and we hope you enjoy your time with us!! ☺

FAREWELL TO

Isabella Taylor- Isabella and her Family have moved on to another Farm.

PROGRAMME

As always we are having a very busy and productive time at Country Kids, the Over 2's are Focusing on the changing seasons, Transport and Road safety and Matariki, which is the Maori New Year. With all our persimmon and lovely coloured persimmon leaves, and the cooler weather, it's a great opportunity to talk about the changing seasons and to see what happens in our environment as seasons change. There is a lot of interest in cars and trucks and diggers and aeroplanes etc in the centre at present, so the staff are using this opportunity to look at Transport in more depth, we are making cars in the collage area, building big roads and rivers in the sandpits with all our trucks and diggers, we have purchased some great new puzzles and books that reflect this interest and the children are loving these. They have looked at the space shuttle going into space on the internet and made their own big space ship. It was also the Maori New Year (Matariki) on the 4th June. Matariki is the name of a constellation of stars that only show once a year and the new year begins with the first new moon after the constellation shows, so we have been very busy making a black room with lots of sparkly stars in it, and on Friday the 3rd of April we had Tariana and Nikoras Dad (Tai Davis) coming in to make poi with us and teach us a song to sing with our poi, and we made soup and bread and had shared Kai together. Please have a look at our room, it has lots of information about Matariki and what it is and means.

The Under 2's have had 3 of their big children go over to the Over 2's and the changeover has meant that there are a number of new little people starting in the U2's, so the programme has been focused on getting to know these children and what their interests are, helping them settle and getting to know their families. The staffs are also changing the environment back to meet the needs of the younger children that are starting. Outside the children are loving the persimmon forest and have been going out for walks to see all the birds that are in the trees and picking and eating the yummy persimmon. The older children can tell the difference between the fantail and the tui, and recognise the tui's song. They are also doing alot of messy play with finger paint, painting and lots of sand and water. Inside the children are enjoying the new books the centre purchased and the staff have created an area for all the new cars and trucks and blocks as this is very popular with the children at present.

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CENTRE TRIP

We are in the process of arranging a bus Trip to the Cooks Beach Fire station on Wednesday the 22nd June, and are hoping to go on a ride across on the ferry and back on the way to the fire station. This will tie in with the Transport interest that we have in both the Over 2's and Under2's. A permission slip will come out in the next week or so, and we will need 9 adults to help us with supervision.

ROLL START AND FINISH TIMES

The start and finish times that you have for your children are important. We do our Staff Rosters and Teacher to Child ratios around the numbers that are here at the beginning and end of each day. It isn't a problem at all if you arrive later than your start time or pick up your child earlier than end time. But it does get tricky for us if you arrive earlier than you should or are late picking up your child, as between 8-9 am and 3-4pm we only have the staff necessary for the amount of children here. If your start and end times aren't working for your family please come and see Helen or Wendy as we can adjust them.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to Tai for coming in and helping us with Matariki, your knowledge is invaluable and the children loved making the poi, sitting in the dark Matariki room with their glow sticks and learning their new song with you. We appreciate the time you had to take out of your day to make it happen.
Thank you to Louise for doing some gardening and sweeping the entrance area....it looks much better!!
Thank you Belinda for coming in and taking us through our fire drill, your expertise certainly helped us.

FEES

If people are interested in WINZ subsidies the Thames Office comes to Whitianga every Monday and Thursday. To make an appointment you would need to fax Thames 07 868 3897 in advance to make an appointment.
You are welcome to use the centre fax if you don't have one at home.

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BREAK

The centre will be **closed** on **Monday 18th** of July
for our midyear break,
Re-opening on **Monday 25th** July.

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.