

Whenuakite Country Kids
Early Childhood Education Centre



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2011

WELCOME TO

Valo Gray, Ellie Davis and Bailey Fanshaw, we hope you really enjoy your time with us at Country Kids, we are looking forward to getting to know you all!

FAREWELL TO

Cullen Crowe, Awa Illingworth, Will Lockhart, Cole Andricksen-Parfitt, and Quinn Smith who are all turning 5. We hope you love school, and we will miss you all. Goodbye to Jet-lee and Pebbles MacDonald, we hope you love Australia, and we will miss you too!!

PROGRAMME

We are in the process of looking at and changing the way we do our planning in the O2's, we are looking at using the emergent curriculum which is a child lead style that looks at what the child's interests are and builds a programme around that plus we are all going to a Reggio Emillio Seminar on a Sunday in 2 weeks time which is about project based programmes in which the environment is the 3rd teacher, we are hoping to incorporate this into our planning programme as well. The children's interests at present are the Rugby world cup, so we have bought rugby outfits and rugby boots plus posters and flags and the children have been doing the haka! A group of children are interested in Running Races, obstacles courses and physical fitness, we have bought some equipment that can be used to make hurdles etc to support this interest, the children are loving it, we will be having a sports day next week. And we have had a fantasy dress up tea party because there are a group of children that are very interested in fantasy, dramatic, imaginative play.

Lots of our friends in the U2's are getting big and moving to the O2's so there has been a transition programme weekly which means the children who are moving up to the O2's come over to visit with either Kirsty or Megan for a morning. In the U2's they are still concentrating on providing stimulating experiences which provide the children with opportunities to explore their environment and learn. The Frogs are very popular and the children like to find bugs for them to eat, and love it when they come out of there cage to play with them (lucky frogs!!) We purchased some gemstones and the children are spending a lot of time sorting them, making patterns with them and filling them up into containers and tipping them out. There is also a lot of messy play happening with flour, slime and finger paint, plus the garden has been dug over and the children are spending a lot of time playing in it. They are enjoying the tactile experience that all theses mediums bring. Kirsty and Megan have started a parent Library at the entrance to the U2's, please feel free to use these books, they are also creating a healthy eating wall, so if you have any healthy recipes that your children love could you let them know.

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WHA CLUB

The children in Wha Club are doing a basic study on fossils and how they are made. Plus they have been listening to the phonics song and learning the sound of the first letter in their name. We have just arranged with the school to restart the school visits that used to happen on a Friday. Instead of just doing it on a Friday our plan is to do the visits Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays within a 3 weekly cycle so that all the 4 year old children get a chance to do them. (Wednesdays and Thursdays are the days that Delwyn takes Wha Club at Country Kids). The school visits consist of going to the Library and reading books and then going out to the playground to have a play, the visits will last 30-40 minutes.

Could you start saving yogurt pots, milk bottle lids, scrap wrapping paper, ribbon, or any other things that you think would be good for our art and collage area. We are also needing natural resources i.e. shells, wool, driftwood etc....THANK YOU

NAMED CLOTHING

Please remember to name your child's clothing, we constantly have an over flowing lost property basket of un-named clothing. This is now getting so large that we will be recycling it on a monthly basis, either giving it to charity, or using it as Country kids spare clothes, so please check it regularly.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ABSENCES

The school holidays start Friday 7th October the 4th term begins Tuesday 25th October. Please let Wendy know if your child will be absent from Country Kids over this time.

PET DAY

It is Whenuakite School Pet day on Monday the 3rd October - we will be taking the children over for a short visit at around 9:30 am.

AGM

We are having our Annual General Meeting on Thursday the 27th of October at 7pm at Country Kids; you are all are very welcome to join us at this meeting.

SUNHATS

After the school holidays we will be requiring the children to bring sunhats and could you please put sun block on the children's faces and arms before they come to Country Kids.

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THANK YOU

Louise Barker, Belinda Muir and Jane Hick have been wonderful members of our committee and are all retiring from their positions. We want to take the time to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to Country Kids and thank them very very much for their support. The committee is an essential part of our organisation and we really appreciate Louise, Jane and Belinda taking the time out of their busy lives to help us with the management of our Centre.

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.