

Te Akonga Early Learning Centre Newsletter

October
2019



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Key Dates

- ◆ Fairies & Heroes Day - Thursday 31st October
- ◆ World Kindness Day Celebration - Monday 11th November
- ◆ Painting Bee - Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November
- ◆ Centre Christmas Party - Thursday 19th December @ 3pm

Dear Parents & Caregivers

A lot has happened since our last newsletter so let us catch you up... On behalf of everyone at our centre, we would like to send a BIG Te Akonga welcome to our newest friends and their whānau:

Welcome to Pitau

Ataahua Skipper, Elijah Bignell, Reggie Allen, Julian Anderson, Kowhai Roberts, Sylvie Gordon, Margo Whitford and Amelia Hudson.

Welcome to Koru

Kael Montreal, Hunter Evans, Mason Mills, Aileena Kiesanowski, Toby Parore, Leo Gordon, Peyton Foster and Mac Whitford. We are also welcoming back Leighton Whare to our Koru whānau.

Transitions

Several tamariki have transitioned from Pitau (our infant and toddler space) to Koru (our over 2 space) including: Chelsea-Rose Anderson, Jack Geck, Tallulah Jones, James Beattie, Harper Stacey and Aysha Gundogdu. We are very pleased to see how well they have all settled into their new learning space.

Farewells

We've said farewell to Chris Baker and Sam Redmond who have both headed off to big school. Paerata School is so lucky to receive these two beautiful boys. We also wish to farewell Enoch and Declan who have moved to new parts of our beautiful country. We wish them well as they begin their new adventures.

Te Akonga Whānau

It's lovely to have so many new friends at our centre. Altogether we have 66 tamariki from 52 whānau. #feelinglucky



Tessa Mead
Our New Teacher
In Pitau



Angelique Van Leeuwen Hietveld
our new relief
teacher



Renē Strydom
our new relief
teacher



Jordan Mills
our new relief
teacher

Staff News

Pitau - Team Pitau has welcomed Tessa Mead and her baby boy Reggie into the Pitau whānau. Earlier this year Tessa graduated from the Open Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. Congratulations Tessa and welcome to our Te Akonga whānau.

Koru - Team Koru is missing Patricia who has taken some leave from our centre. We wish her well and look forward to her return. We are pleased to share that Krista Payne will be joining Team Koru on Wednesday 30th October. Krista is a qualified, certificated teacher, coming to team Koru with the addition of an Early Intervention qualification. She was a past parent of our centre and we are very pleased to be welcoming her home. Krista will join the roster on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In the meantime, please see the current roster of staff below:

Staff Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Admin & Kitchen	Nikki Vanessa Amy	Nikki Vanessa Gloria	Nikki Vanessa Gloria	Nikki Vanessa Amy	Nikki Vanessa Amy
Opening 8 - 9am	Petty Sonya Tracy	Wendy Sonya Tracy	Petty Sonya Tessa	Jo Petty Tracy	Petty Sonya Angelique
Team Pitau 9 - 3pm	Jo Karen Sonya Alle	Jo Karen Sonya Alle	Jo Karen Sonya Tessa	Jo Karen Sonya Alle	Jo Karen Sonya Tessa
Team Koru 9 - 3pm	Erin Wendy Petty Tracy Tessa Mary Alice Angelique	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Tracy Renē	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Mary Alice Angelique	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Tracy Renē	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Mary Alice Angelique
Closing 3 - 5.30	Wendy Amy Tracy	Jo Petty Tracy	Robyn Waipouri Tessa	Karen Amy Tracy	Jo Amy Petty

The names in **BOLD** are the staff members in charge of our service delivery, during those hours of the day. Please feel supported to speak with them or our Centre Manager (Nikki) as needed 😊

Staff News Continued

New Relievers - We have enjoyed hosting Angelique Van Leeuwen Hietveld as a student teacher in Koru and now welcome her into our relieving pool along with Renē Strydom, Jordan Mills and Tamsin De Lange. We know you will join us in making them feel very welcome at our place.

Student Teachers - Grace Payne has begun her ECE training and we are pleased to support her at our centre from 8.45 - 3.15pm every Wednesday in Koru. We are also pleased to host Sophie Hyland from The Playhouse as she completes her 4 week practicum in Koru. Sophie's practicum ends on Friday 11th October and she will be missed when she returns to The Playhouse.



Tamsin De Lange
Our New Reliever



Grace Payne our
current student
teacher



Sophie Hyland our
current student
teacher

Gentle Reminders



No Nuts Please

We have several tamariki who are allergic to nuts and two of them have now been prescribed with epipens, to help them if they have an anaphylactic reaction to nuts. Because nuts could put precious lives at risk, we are asking everyone **not to bring any nuts or nut products to preschool**. This includes raw nuts, peanut butter and nutella. If these items are sent to pre-school, they will be removed from lunchboxes and returned with a reminder notice at the end of the day. We are sorry for any inconvenience and thank you in advance for helping us to keep everyone safe at our place. We remain an egg free centre also.

Wet Bags Please

Every day it is possible that your child will get their clothes wet and/or dirty. When this happens, we would like to change their clothes and return them to you. For this purpose, can you please send a named wetbag to preschool each day. This ensures that we are not putting wet or dirty clothes straight into your child's bag. You can purchase a cute, lightweight wetbag from reception for \$4 and support Reid who has recently returned from life changing surgery. We are so pleased to continue supporting Reid's journey. To learn more about it please check out Reid's Facebook Page: Steps For Reid.



**Wetbags for wet
and dirty clothes**

Whittakers Chocolates



Gentle Reminders Continued

Summer is Coming - Sunblock, Hats and 3 x Change of Clothes Needed Everyday

As we head into the warmer months we would like to remind our parents to please apply sunblock to your children, prior to their arrival. On sunny days, staff apply sunblock at 12.30pm. If your child can only use a particular brand of sunscreen, please leave a bottle of your preferred sunblock at our centre, with your child's name on it. We would also really appreciate a named sun hat and 3 changes of clothes every day, to cater for the sunny weather and waterplay that often accompanies sunny days.

Fruit For Morning Tea Please

Our tamariki enjoy a shared fruit platter every day for morning tea but lately there has not been enough fruit to share. Could we please remind everyone to place one piece of fruit into the fruit bowl each morning.

Korowai Raffle



Fundraising News

Personalised Artwork Fundraiser



Thank you all so much for supporting our recent Whittakers Chocolate Fundraiser. Together we have raised \$2160 which will be used to purchase paint for our next working bee. We hope you can save the date - **Saturday 16th November** and come on down to help us paint the internal walls of Pitau and Koru.

Thank you also, to the many families who bought a ticket in our Korowai raffle. Funds raised were used to purchase a beautiful purple and white korowai for our centre. This korowai will be used for graduations and other special occasions.

Plans are in place to create artwork for personalized calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats and sketch pads. A flyer will be sent home this month with prices and an invitation to order for Christmas.

Oxford Pie Fundraiser



Our final fundraiser for the year will be the sale of Oxford Pies to stock up the freezer for summer. Oxford Pies are a new fundraiser for our centre and we look forward to seeing how they go. We understand they are delicious and who doesn't love a good pie 😊 More information about each of these fundraisers will be sent home throughout the next few months.

Farewell gift
from the
Redmond whānau



We're on the Web!



www.teakonga.co.nz

We're on
Facebook!



Te Akonga Early
Learning Centre



Upcoming Events

New Website Coming

We are excited to be working with one of our parents - Katie Clarke and her company KC Marketing, to design a new, mobile friendly website for our centre. We are now selecting some of our best photos for the website. If you would not like your child to feature on our website, please let us know, we'd be happy to oblige.

Fairies and Heroes Dress Up Day - Tuesday 31st October

To tie in with Halloween Fever, we have planned a fairy, princess and hero, dress up day here at our centre. On this day our staff and tamariki are encouraged to dress up as a fairy, princess or super hero. It's a free, fun opportunity for the day ☺

World Kindness Day - Monday 11th November

It's world kindness day on Monday 11th November and we are currently planning a special way we can share some kindness with our community. More information about this day will be sent home a little closer to the time.

Painting Bee - Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November

Thanks to everyone's fabulous chocolate sales, we have enough money to purchase some paint to update our interior walls. We're going for a nice, clean, white wall look, much like the white walls in our reception area. Now all we need are some helpers!!! That's where you come in. On Friday evening, we'll be moving furniture, sugar soaping and masking up in preparation for painting. On Saturday we'll be painting the walls and ceilings in Pitau and Koru (if we can get enough help). There are 3 ways whānau can help us with this mammoth task:

1. Gift a few hours of time on Friday evening, the 15th November
2. Gift as much time as possible on Saturday 16th November
3. Providing morning tea and lunch for the painting crew on Saturday.

A roster of helpers will be put up in reception along with a list of painting bits n pieces we may need. We would really appreciate every family helping out in some way. This is going to be a biggie but we think the results will be amazing and well worth the effort. Please book these dates in your calendar and come on down to help us. Many hands will make light work ☺