

Dear Parents and Whanau

## Matariki Night



I would like to thank those parents and extended whanau who attended our annual Matariki event. Every year it seems to get better and better. We love having everyone come together and enjoy the traditions we are establishing for the event; Our hot soups and home made bread, coming together around our fire in the discovery garden, presenting the children's work, waiata and our whanau photo booth. Its always such a wonderful time to be together, where our team can continue to strengthen the relationships we have with our whanau and where families can get to know one and other. We were really lucky with the weather on the night. The Preschool also took an awesome trip into town to look at the Matariki Po at the water front which was a great opportunity to give extra context to all we have been learning about the seven stars of Matariki, being able to see, and touch the carvings which have been designed to represent each star.



## School Holidays Fun

It is school holiday time again and we are looking forward to another fun and exciting school holiday programme which will run from the 8th July through until the 19th of July. Please keep an eye out on the doors as you arrive to see what is happening for the week. The programme will also be available on Educa so you can check what's coming up. If you would like your child to attend any of the holiday programme days that they are not booked please confirm the extra day with the office. We have lots of fun days planned like Crazy hair day, campfire day and Winter wonderland day just to name a few.

## Policy Review

We are constantly seeking to improve our practices. As part of our review into strengthening planning, assessment and evaluation for children's individual learning we are working towards having a stronger parent voice to guide the planning and support teachers to incorporate parent aspirations into what we are planning for with children. Recently I posted our Parent aspiration Policy on educa and welcomed any feedback or suggestion to support our policy review. It would be great if you could take ten minutes to read it and send me an email with any ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning or what you would like to see included in our policy. We really value your input and use this information to continue to improve what we do and to provide a service that truly meets the needs of our families.

## Some Changes for Explorers

As many of you may be aware Jackie will be finishing up with us on the 5th July to go on Maternity Leave until early 2020. We were all really excited to meet her new wee man and will get to see loads of her each week as she drops Neo into preschool. Choiwee and Kate from Preschool are going to move over to Explorers to job share and cover Jackie's leave. Kate did a 5 week practicum in Preschool and we loved having her so much we had to keep her. Unfortunately Lauren is also finishing up as team leader in Explorers at the end of July. Lauren has been with us for nearly 3 years and is moving on to a different role outside of ECE, Lauren has always been passionate about supporting vulnerable families and leave us to work for Family Start, an organization which provides in-home support for parents of at risk children in areas like learning and development, behavior, nutrition, budgeting, support services and communication. We know this will be both a challenging and rewarding role for Lauren and we wish her all the best and thank her for all she has contributed to The Village over the past 3 years. We are currently looking for an equally as awesome person to replace her.

We are also delighted to welcome Marie back as a relief teacher—she missed us too much after 3 weeks away is back part of The Village Team, and to welcome Catherine back to the Preschool team. Catherine worked with us as a support worker through the Ministry of Special Education, helping some of our children with Autism. She is now joining us as a registered teacher in the Preschool 3 days a week.

The final few changes we have going on are with Tots, as many of our Babies have moved through to Explorers Rebekah has decided to move with them, so she will swap with Kush who has been working in both Tots and Explorers so Kushla will now work full time in Tots and Rebekah will work across the two rooms. This will be a smooth transition as both ladies have spent lots of time in both rooms, and know the children in each area really well.



## Healthy Heart Certificate

We are currently working towards getting level 1 of our Healthy Heart Certificate, this involved developing a healthy eating policy and a physical activity policy, creating a weekly menu which meets the healthy heart criteria and evidencing that we provide a programme which promotes healthy eating and physical activity. We will keep you informed as we begin introducing aspects of this on our journey to being a healthy heart centre. If you have any questions about it feel free to chat to Sue.

## Work and Income Delays

As I'm sure many of you are aware Work and Income are experiencing massive delays. A few things you can do to speed up the process of applying for a subsidy or making changes to one are; as you drop forms off have the front page date stamped and return it to me in the Office, Check your MyMSD daily for updates and requests for additional information as sometimes needing to provide additional information can add weeks to the processing time. Phone regularly to check the status of your application, has it been received? Is it in the queue for processing? Is the additional info required? And finally keep me in the loop please.

## Tots



We would like to welcome Emma, Rosaleigh, Mia and their families to The Village. All of the teachers are looking forward to getting to know you all better and see what adventures we can go on together. Luca, Sophia and Kyra-Lee have made transition the Explorers Room and are settling in well. We love seeing what they are up to over the fence. We know they will all enjoy taking on new challenges and going on lots of adventures with their new friends. The Tots tamariki have been enjoying exploring lots of different avenues. We have been exploring science concepts through baking and making gloop. Painting has also been at the forefront of our day, enjoying getting messy and mixing paints together to see what colours we can create. The weather has also been a little bit wetter so the children enjoyed finding the one and only puddle available to explore.



## Explorers

Explorers have welcomed some new families into their room as well as our tots graduates, Oliver, Maiah and Elise are seeming like they have always been here and are getting stuck into the programme. The children have been busy trying out different ways to be creative through art. We have seen lots of creative masterpieces and emerging skills, like cutting and pencil grip—these are so important for literacy development. Baking and cooking continues to be a huge interest and a great opportunity to take responsibility, try new foods and learn key concepts around science and math. With the colder weather we still get out as much as possible but have been finding that we are spending a lot more time inside enjoying things like blocks and books together.



## Preschool

It's been a busy term at Preschool. As always we have been making the most of getting out into the community on the bus and over to the community garden. We have been really interested in the fire pit lately, and have been developing skills for being at the fire safely. It's such an important life skill for children to get opportunities to assess and manage risk. The busy boys have been working together with the large outdoor loose parts. It's great to see the communication, planning and negotiating skills which are required to create the elaborate ideas they have really been refining. The boys have been having some real success executing their ideas. We love loose parts, large and small!! If you would like to know how you could help us with collecting loose parts please talk to Pip or refer to the poster on the wall in Preschool (remember it takes a Village). Construction has extended past the loose parts into blocks and carpentry also where we have been challenging ourselves with and building on the perseverance to turn their ideas into reality.



**Claire Hesketh & the Team at The Village**



## **Policy on Parent Needs and Aspirations**

At The Village Childcare we recognise that parents/guardians and whanau have needs and aspirations for their children. We believe that it is essential for families to be given the opportunity to express these needs and aspirations in an atmosphere of respect and support. When both teachers and parents work in partnership strengthening bonds between home and the centre, a flow of information occurs that will support and enhance the learning and development of the child.

### **Rationale:**

The Village Childcare acknowledges the fundamental role that parents/guardians and whanau play in the education and care of their children. Parents/guardians and whanau can provide centre staff with a unique insight into their own child. Teachers at The Village need to be aware of what parents believe and what special needs and aspirations they have for their children.

### **Procedure:**

The Village acknowledges that parents/guardians or whanau have needs and aspirations for their children. These needs and aspirations for a child may include all aspects of their views on:-

- how the child is treated
- what the child does or is encouraged to do
- what knowledge or skills the child gains
- how the behaviour of the child is managed
- how the child relates to others
- eating, dietary and sleeping habits
- religious or cultural practices and languages
- other associated aspects in the relationship between the child, family and the centre

The Village will provide an opportunity at the time of enrolment for parents/guardians and whanau to communicate any special needs and aspirations they have for their child. These may be in terms of their care, education, behaviour management or other matters associated with the service provided by The Village. Where practical this information will be recorded and kept within the child's file and communicated to (or available to) those staff who will be working with the child.

The Village will provide other opportunities, while the child is at The Village (such as communication notebooks, parent's voice sheets, questionnaires, interviews, formal and informal discussions, enrolment up-dates) for parents/guardians and whanau to communicate any changes for further special needs they may have for their child.

The teaching staff, where practical, will consider this information when analysing their needs, planning or considering any individual needs or strategies or responses related to the child, or in reporting to families.

The Village will ensure that other practices and policies used by the centre take the principles of this policy into account and do not conflict with this policy.

Whilst this policy is to ‘acknowledge’ the needs and aspirations of families, it does not mean to always accept or agree, the teaching staff will take account of these views. The Village is obliged to balance these views against professional knowledge and experience, practicalities or group care/education, the centre’s philosophy, social norms and legal imperatives.

The Village will develop methods and systems (through interviews, surveys, questionnaires) that will include opportunities for the parents/guardians and whanau to record/express their level of satisfaction with the way in which the centre is meeting the needs and aspirations they have for their child and opportunities to record/express any suggestions that may improve this level of satisfaction.

**Reference and Key Text:**

Licensing Criteria 2008, Curriculum Standard, and Working with Others documentation required:

A process for providing formal and informal opportunities for parents to:

- C12:** Communicate with adults providing education and care about their child, and share specific evidence of the child’s learning; and be involved in decision making concerning their child’s learning.
- C13:** A record of information and guidance sought from agencies and/or services.

Introduction Date: .....

Review Date: .....

Signed: .....