

# HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool  
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



**Pānui  
HAKHEA  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2014**

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## Diary Dates

5th December: Otorohanga Christmas Parade  
10th December: Children's Party for all Hopscotch families  
15th December: Santa visits Hopscotch  
16th December: End of Term 4  
19th December: Preschool visit to Beattie Home  
23rd December: Hopscotch closes at 2pm  
7th January: Hopscotch reopens at 8am  
2nd February: Term One starts



### January Holidays

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child will be absent during January. Remember that "20 hours ECE" will stop automatically after a continuous absence of more than three weeks—on any day that your child is booked. All fees will be charged when the "20 hours ECE" funding stops.



### Children's Christmas Party

**Wednesday 10th December:** We will be having our annual Hopscotch disco, which will include both centres at the **Early Learning Centre**. The party will start at 6pm, there will be soft drinks provided and a sausage sizzle available for \$1.00. Who will be able to guess the correct number of lollies in the jar this year?



### Otorohanga Christmas Parade

Hope you're all geared up for the Christmas Parade on Friday. Our float is going to look absolutely fabulous!!! We have a LARGE number of children requested to sit on our truck. We love your support and hope that we can all fit!!! We may need to have some children walk beside or perhaps you can give up the care of your child to another responsible adult on the float. Please turn up and we'll work it out on the night. 7pm behind the Thirsty Weta



### Water Play at Hopscotch

Now that Summer is officially here and the weather is becoming hot. We will be exploring with more water play. Could you please include a **NAMED** towel in your child's day bag and at least one change of clothing.

### Staff Updates

- \* Toni at the ELC has successfully completed her 2 year registration and is now a fully registered ECE Teacher.
- \* Gwen attended the first of a series of cluster meetings held by the MoE to support our Transition to School processes.
- \* Employee of the Month for November was Toni. Thank you for being so flexible with where you work, and helping out in all areas. You've adjusted so well into the Infants and are doing an amazing job—and yet we keep needing your support with the Toddlers. You're great !!!

### ELC Playground

Stage 2 of the playground upgrade is taking place over the Christmas Break. The existing black matting is going to be recovered with new matting and tiger turf. We are also going to shade sail that whole area. We hope to fill the old infants sandpit, and concrete that space for an additional shed. We will be finishing the vege garden with tiger turf.



### Santa's Visit

**Monday 15th December:** Santa will be visiting both Hopscotch centres. His sleigh is due at the Early Learning Centre at 10.00am and then at Preschool at 10.30 am. Please feel free to come along with your child to meet Santa. Santa will be giving a present to the Centres for the children to play with.



### A Date to Remember

Hopscotch will close at **2pm** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Your children will need to be collected by 2pm at the latest so that staff can carry out the annual clean-up jobs.

Hopscotch re-opens on **Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 8am.**



**Your account must be settled in full before Christmas. Failure to do so could result in losing your child's booking next year.**

Any LOST PROPERTY not claimed before Christmas will be used as spare clothing for Hopscotch or donated to the Op Shop.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We hope you all have a Happy Christmas and we look forward to lots of fun and laughter in 2015

# Enjoy the Summer ...SAFELY

You're on holiday at the beach or visiting friends with a pool. All it takes is one momentary lapse of concentration for your child to wander off.

In New Zealand most of us grow up around or near water. It's something we take for granted. While it's fun and familiar, every year around 10 children under the age of 5 drown—and lack of adult supervision is the common factor. Supervision, without any distractions, is the single most important precaution you can take to keep your kids safe around water.

Water Safety New Zealand encourages all parents to introduce children to water in a positive manner. Encouraging children to explore and learn from water promotes an understanding and appreciation of the dangers of water. Whether at home in the bath or paddling pool, at a pool or at the beach, it is important to introduce children to water in a relaxing way. We can help to ensure that they learn to behave safely and responsibly in and around water without ruining their enjoyment or instilling a fear of water.

Have a splashing good time in the water these holidays!!!!

