

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



**PANUI
PIPIRI**

**NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2015**

Early Learning Childcare Centre
11 Bledisloe Avenue

Preschool
59 Haerehuka Street

07 873 8732
027 773 8732

07 873 8739
027 773 8739

Charlotte Clapcott—Licensee—email: happy@hopscotch.kiwi

Diary Dates

1st June: **Hopscotch Closed**—Queens Birthday
2nd & 3rd June: ERO Visit—Preschool
17th June: Dress Up/Crazy Hair Day—Preschool
18th June: Matariki Celebrations Begin
22nd & 23rd June: ERO Visit—Early Learning Centre



Centre Planning



Our centre focus at the Early Learning Centre is currently on Matariki. We will be celebrating Matariki at Hopscotch during June. Take a look at our planning boards and our Pinterest page (www.pinterest.com/hopscotchelc) for different ways to celebrate.

Special Persons Morning at Preschool



On Friday morning, 15th May, we had approximately 20 friends and whanau join us for the morning. This was a great opportunity for everyone to share in the fun and learning that happens at Hopscotch Preschool. We also enjoyed a delicious morning tea whilst avoiding the torrential rain. Thank you for all the positive feedback that we received from our 'special persons'.

Education Review Office Visit—First Week of June

ERO will be visiting Hopscotch Preschool on 2nd and 3rd June, and the Early Learning Centre on 22nd and 23rd June. They will explore how well governance, management, leadership, partnership with parents and whanau, curriculum design and teaching practices are contributing to children's learning and wellbeing. ERO will talk to adults and children, look at documents and observe aspects of the programme. They are very interested in how we consult parents and whanau, and how we support you to participate in your child's learning. If you have time to talk with one of the ERO team whilst they are here, it would be greatly appreciated.

Policies for review

The following policies are due to be reviewed: Pest & Vermin, Accident, Medicines, and Child Health. Please take the time to read them and provide feedback to any of the staff.

Home for a horse!!



Does anyone have a paddock to graze a 5 year old horse please? Preferably in the Honikiwi area. Willing to pay weekly grazing fee. Please contact Kaysey on 021 177 9909.

Family Updates



Early Learning Centre

We welcome our new children: Dylan, Ilaisaane, Koen, Taimana, Meili, Samuel, Charlie, Myles and Skyla. And we say a sad farewell to Ruby – we hope you have fun in your new centre in Te Kuiti.

Preschool

We welcome our new children: Jacob and Monique, and farewell Junior and Lydia who are off to continue their learning journey at school.



Family Assistance, Student Loan Repayment, Child Support or Income Tax
At the Support House Thursday 21 May 1.30 pm – 3 pm
Phone (07) 873 7568 for an appointment.

Staff Updates

- Employee of the Month for May was Barb. Yay! Thank you for all your EXTRA work that you put into the centre and for being so amazingly flexible with yours—always available when we need you.
- Leonie is continuing with her Incredible Years course relating to promoting positive outcomes for our children.
- The Preschool have ongoing professional development for transition to school planning.

MATARIKI

Twinkling in the winter sky just before dawn, Matariki (the Pleiades) signals the Māori New Year.

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades.

Different tribes celebrated Matariki at different times. For some it was when Matariki rose in May/June. For others it was celebrated at the first new moon, or full moon, following the rising of Matariki. In the 21st century it is the new moon following the rising of Matariki that signals the New Year.

In 2015, Matariki, the Māori New Year, will start on 18 June.

Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata [ariki](#)) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

Cycles of life and death

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event – crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for singing, dancing and feasting.

Modern Matariki

Matariki, or Māori New Year celebrations were once popular, but stopped in the 1940s. In 2000, they were revived. Only a few people took part at first, but in just a few years thousands were honouring the 'New Zealand Thanksgiving'. A special feature of Matariki celebrations is the flying of kites – according to ancient custom they flutter close to the stars.