

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



**PĀNUI
PIPIRI**

**NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2017**

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Diary Dates



23rd June: Shared Matariki Kai Day - Early Learning Centre
25th June: Matariki Celebrations Begin
28th June: Fish'n'Chip night - Early Learning Centre
29th June: Pyjama Party - Early Learning Centre
7th July: Term Two Ends

Special Persons at Hopscotch

A big thanks to all the special people who attended the "special persons" morning/afternoon at both centres. We loved having you here sharing your time with us.

Preschool Planning

Our current focus centres around developing the childrens sense of belonging in our centre, our community, in Aotearoa and within their own unique culture. This focus will provide the children with the opportunity to become increasingly capable of making connections between people, places and things in their world. Also the children will develop their knowledge & understanding of how to take care of these environments.

Infants Planning

Our current centre focus is all about art—we are aiming to get the children involved in different textures, products and materials.

Toddlers Planning

The current focus is about Matariki. The staff and children will be celebrating and embracing Matariki to the best of their knowledge, along with learning new waiata and activities.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent, please advise the centre every day of their absence either by phone or txt. All phone numbers are on the front of this newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Warmer Clothing

Now that the weather is turning cooler, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately with plenty of warm spare NAMED clothing.



Policies for review

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



'Shared Matariki Kai Day' at Early Learning Centre.

Please keep an eye out in your pockets for more information regarding this day.



Toys at Preschool

Please do not bring toys from home to Preschool. We have a well resourced centre and offer experiences that are designed with specific learning outcomes in mind. We aim to make all our resources purposeful, appropriate for all tamariki and in line with our philosophy. Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any queries please see a teacher.

Family Updates

Early Learning Centre

We welcome Arav, Devansh, Henry, Orlah and Raghav. We farewell Rex and Zoe who are moving up to the Preschool. We also say goodbye to Graham and Waylon.



Preschool

We welcome Eli, Maia, Olive and Saksham. We also welcome Rex and Zoe from the Early Learning Centre.

We say goodbye to our friends Honor & Skyla who are off to continue their learning journey at school.



Staff Updates

- * Due to other commitments we have recently lost some of our relieving staff but we're pleased to let you know that we now have on board, Fiona, Rhiley, Ashleigh and Toni. Please make yourselves known to our new relievers when you're in the centre and I'm sure they'll get to know you all by name in due course!
- * After ten amazing years, Michelle will be leaving the Early Learning Centre on 7th July. Michelle started out as Infant Supervisor before becoming Centre Supervisor. In her current role, she is now your welcoming face at the door but still continues to work regularly with the children on the floor. Thank you Michelle for all your input over the past 10 years. You will be missed by the teachers, parents and children alike and we wish you all the very best in whatever you choose to do in sunny Piopio!

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 2017, Matariki, the Māori New Year, will start on 25 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.