

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



Pānui

Pipiri

Newsletter

June 2018

Early Learning Childcare Centre
11 Bledisloe Avenue

07 873 8732
027 773 8732

Preschool
59 Haerehuka Street

07 873 8739
027 773 8739

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Diary Dates



4th June: Queen's Birthday - **HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**
5th June: B4 School Checks - 4 year olds - Preschool
6th June: Mobile Ear Clinic
7th June: Fish'n'Chip Night - Early Learning Centre
12th June: PJ Day - Early Learning Centre
15th June: Matariki Celebrations Begin
6th 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.



B4 School Hearing & Vision checks

The vision/hearing technician from Waikids will be visiting the Preschool on Tuesday 5th June at 10am. Vicki Dixon will see four year old children who have not been seen for the above checks, or require re-checks from a previous visit. Parents will be notified of all outcomes from these checks and may be advised that their child requires a re-check or to seek further advice from another health professional. If you do not wish your child to be checked, or your child is currently under specialist care for their hearing or vision, please let us know.



Mobile Ear Clinic

The mobile ear clinic will be visiting Otorohanga on Wednesday 6th June. This is a Free Ear Clinic Service for children. They can help with glue ear assessment and management, grommet checks, wax/foreign body removal and treatment of discharging ears. They'll be at the Otorohanga Club Carpark from 9.15am to 2.30pm. For enquiries regarding this service, please contact 07 838 3565.



Lunch Box Day at Preschool

Preschool will be implementing a lunch box day once a week. The children will get to experience the process of making their own lunch. This will start from Monday 11th June. Please keep an eye out in your family pockets and on the whiteboard, for more information and dates when this will occur. There will also be a reminder on the Hopscotch Facebook page the day before lunchbox day.

Policies for review

The following policies are due to be reviewed: Accident, Child Health, Medicines & Pests & Vermin. Our policies are on our website, please take the time to read them and provide feedback to any of the staff. Thank you.

Warmer Clothing



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



Matariki Celebration Events

Please keep an eye out in your pockets for more information regarding this months events at both centres.

Family Updates

Early Learning Centre

We welcome Arama, Blake, Charlotte, Dayton, Dwayne, Kade, Kahlin, Luka, Romi & Thomas to the Early Learning Centre.

We farewell Ayva, Lucy & Xzavia who are moving up to the Preschool. We also say goodbye to Hunter who is leaving the area.

Preschool

We welcome Dawn and Elvie-Ella to Preschool.

We also welcome Ayva, Lucy & Xzavia from the Early Learning Centre.

We farewell Tommy who is off to continue his learning journey at school.



We also say goodbye to Jack who is leaving the area.

Staff Updates

- * We are very sorry to be saying farewell (but not yet goodbye) to Leanne who is leaving at the end of June. Leanne has been an amazing support teacher at Preschool, always willing to help out wherever she's needed and a valuable member of the team. Leanne will continue to be in the centre in the role of a reliever.
- * The good news is that Rhiley will be coming on board in Leanne's role. This will be a seamless transition as Rhiley has been a regular reliever for some time now. We're very happy for him to be joining the team permanently.
- * Congratulations to Annette who has achieved her Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching from the University of Otago!!

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 2018, Matariki, the Māori New Year, will start on 15 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.