

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



Pānui
Pipiri
Newsletter
June 2019

Early Learning Childcare Centre
11 Bledisloe Avenue

07 873 8732
027 773 8732

Preschool
59 Haerehuka Street

07 873 8739
027 773 8739

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

Diary Dates

3rd June: Queen's Birthday - **HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**
4th June: B4 School Checks - 4 year olds - Preschool
18th June: Mobile Ear Clinic
25th June: Matariki Celebrations Begin
5th 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.



Exciting Software Update

Hopscotch is about to upgrade our childcare administration software. This will mean some significant changes for our staff from next week so please be patient with us as we get our heads around the new system. The next step will be in August when we'll introduce a touch pad log in for all our families. We'll contact you closer to the time about how this will work and what you'll need to do to sign your children in and out. Later in the year we'll also be able to contact you through a txt messaging system. The new software will automate a lot of our data entry processes, thereby eliminating human error and making our communication with you a lot easier. We'll be able to easily manage enquiries and marketing, enrolments, waitlists, transitions, staffing, visitors, invoicing and all other aspects of day to day childcare administration.



B4 School Hearing & Vision checks

The vision/hearing technician from Waikids will be visiting the Preschool on Tuesday 4th 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 Tuesday 18th 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 12.30 to 3.00pm. For enquiries regarding this service, please contact 07 838 3565.

Policies for review

The following policies are due to be reviewed: Accident, Child Health, Medicines and 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 spare NAMED clothing.



Absences

If your child will be absent please ring, or text the centre with the reason included. A lot of children have been absent over the past month and there has been no contact with the centre. We have children on the waiting list every day needing places. Therefore your communication with this matter would be appreciated.

Our ERO visit at the ELC

We had a very constructive visit from the two Education Review Officers on 13th and 14th May. We're really happy with the feedback we were given and feel that Hopscotch has made some significant improvements since their last visit three years ago. Thank you to the parents who were approached for discussion. Your input helps to shape how ERO view our communication with you and your perception of Hopscotch as a whole. ERO's comments were very positive and we look forward to sharing their published report with you in a few weeks.

Family Updates

Early Learning Centre

We welcome Sebastian to the Early Learning Centre.

We say goodbye to Nico & Noah who are moving up to the Preschool.

Preschool

We welcome Flynn to Preschool.

We also welcome Beau, Nico, Noah & Paige from the Early Learning Centre.

We farewell Aiden and Herbert who are off to continue their learning journey at school.



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 2019, Matariki, the Māori New Year, will start on June 25th.

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.