



## Values are so Important

When a child starts Saint Kentigern Preschool, their educational journey has just begun.

In their early years, the importance of a strong educational Preschool programme is crucial, supported by our Values programme that is such an important part of a Saint Kentigern education. From the time children start with us at Preschool, we 'walk the talk' of our Values.

### **LOVE - Showing they are a loving person**

The children are encouraged to display their love through thoughtful acts – as a big buddy to new children, helping each other, sharing resources and ideas, taking turns, using kind words, giving support, praise or encouragement to their friends.

### **INTEGRITY - The children understand right from wrong and take responsibility**

Honesty is greatly valued, and the children are always encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. They readily show concern for others, ensure play is fair, unbiased and that no one is excluded.

### **RESPECT - We encourage the children to treat people as they like to be treated**

We explain our feelings and the importance of listening to the opinion of others, and following Preschool routines so that everyone can feel safe and secure in the programme. Children wait for their friends before eating, take turns to pass the food, and clear their plates away. The children are encouraged to respect each other for who they are, regardless of race, gender or ability.

### **EXCELLENCE - We expect appropriate behaviour and they rise to this expectation**

Our preschoolers are given opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to excel and are given support to reach their developmental potential. We encourage them to try new activities, giving it their best – a new art activity, running cross country and finishing, learning to float on their back, writing their name correctly, trying a science experiment or learning new maths skills.

### **SERVICE - The children understand the importance of giving and helping others**

By feeding the pets at Preschool, tidying up after themselves, holding a wig day to raise money for Child Cancer, adding red to our uniform and donating to Cure Kids Red Nose Day, collating clothing and educational supplies to support our Saint Kentigern Fiji Service trip, singing at Retirement Villages to bring joy to the elderly - all

help our children understand how they can make a positive difference for others.

### **FAITH - Our Presbyterian belief is our foundation**

Our faith programme is supported by the weekly Values programme with Reverend Hardie. The children love him telling stories from the Bible and how we live the values.

### **LEADERSHIP - 4-year-old children are buddies to our younger children**

Just as within school, our oldest children help our younger ones to settle, showing them our routines and caring for them. In our Transition to School programme, children lead by example and model appropriate behaviour.

### **COMPASSION - Showing concern for each other is paramount at Preschool**

Holding a friend's hand, sitting with a quiet child and showing care. Learning about caring for others through projects such as collecting pyjamas for Starship Hospital children, visiting them and appreciating children with different needs.

### **CHALLENGE - The children thrive on challenges**

The more we expect our preschooler to achieve, the more they try. We ensure they try their best and give it their utmost, as the challenge to achieve will give them pride in their efforts.

### **RESILIENCE - Children learn it is not always possible to be the best at everything**

A positive attitude to learning with hard work is more rewarding than just being given something. We are helping the children to learn the value of not giving up and trying their best.

### **RESPONSIBILITY - we expect our children to take responsibility for themselves and their belongings**

Walking in, carrying their own bags, putting it in their lockers, independent toileting, self-help skills such as putting on their own shoes or learning to dress themselves after swimming.

### **TRUST - the children and parents put trust in their teachers**

It is important that children and their parents know that staff are supportive, caring, honest, compassionate, loving and give them the best possible start. An open-door policy means that the trust between staff and parents is high, knowing they can visit and speak with us honestly and be responded to both professionally and personally, as we walk the talk.

As teachers, we give the youngest children in our Saint Kentigern family the understanding and opportunity to experience The Saint Kentigern Way. It is pleasing to see the children leaving Preschool and moving onto school with the Saint Kentigern Values embedded – values that set them up for life.

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**Mrs Sue Nash**  
Preschool Director



# And the World is One

It was great to see so many of our Preschool families supporting our singing at the Girls' School Carol service, held at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The theme of this year's service was 'Peace' and the children sang 'The world is one on Christmas morning.'

Once again, the preschoolers sat respectfully throughout the service, enjoying Reverend Hardie's stories and listening to the carols. It was a wonderful opportunity to further foster the important links between Preschool and the School, and to be a part of the wider Saint Kentigern community events.



# Christmas Cheer

Taking the children to sing at two Retirement Villages - Epsom and the newly opened, Rawhiti - was a highlight for the elderly residents. To see their smiles and tears of joy from the children's Christmas cheer was heart-warming.

The Preschool looks for opportunities to be of service to others and we encourage our children to be thoughtful, act in a caring way and make a positive difference to our community. The Saint Kentigern Way inspires our children to develop confidence and humility - built on a core set of values - Love, Integrity, Respect, Excellence and Service - that shape our shared expectations about the way we work and play together.



# Santa's Got Nobbly Knees!

How do we know? It was so hot on the day of our Preschool Party that he arrived in shorts and jandals - it must be a Kiwi Christmas!

What a fabulous morning! 54 excited, bright-eyed preschoolers took to the stage at the Girls' School, in front of an audience of almost 250 parents, grandparents, invited guests - and Santa! The annual Christmas concert was their moment to shine and shine they did! With each of the successive eleven songs, a new group of boys and girls came to the front to lead. Yes, our three and four-year olds remembered the words and actions to eleven songs, and what's more, one was sung entirely in French!

Back at Preschool for a picnic lunch, Santa made his entrance again - this time wearing his 'formals' - long pants and black boots! The children were delighted to visit him in his grotto to receive a gift. There were smiles all round!





# Monarch Butterfly Investigation

Our 'Children's Garden' was looking magnificent but missing something - butterflies! So it was off to the Garden Centre for some new swan plants in the hope that we can attract monarchs to the garden.

Preparing the soil, digging the holes, planting the swan plants, watering them and researching about monarch butterfly life cycles saw the children learn about health and safety with the plants. As the plants are toxic, the children learnt all about not touching them - we look at them with our hands behind our backs and appreciating them for the important role they play in ensuring our garden has monarch butterflies. The children are great at watering them and adding stakes as they grow taller. Now we're waiting for the butterflies to arrive!

# Slippery Eels

Rescued from a pond being cleaned in Kumeu, we took the chance to briefly foster a big eel and seven baby eels at Preschool. Into a trough outside for the big one, while the babies went into a tank indoors.

After 4 weeks of learning about eels - how they move, what they eat and how they breathe - it was time to return 'Fraser,' the big eel to the stream (as he thought is was fun to escape at night and venture around the carpark!) We took him down to Martyn Wilson Field and as soon as he smelt the fresh water he slithered down the bank and was off! Meanwhile, the baby eels are growing fast and like to be hand fed their blood worms by the children. Not long before they too will be released back to nature!



# Wearable Arts Show

A collaboration between the Preschool and the Year 5 girls at the Girls' School resulted in a fabulous 'Under the Sea' Wearable Arts Show - the costumes all made from recycled products! The girls and the preschoolers took a combined trip to Kelly Tarlton's to view the sea life close up for inspiration, and then it was down to work. In pairs, the Year 5 girls planned and created a costume, ensuring it was a good fit for their preschool model. Over the term, the girls visited regularly to measure their buddy, try the costume on, make lots of changes to make it fit and even having to start again when the original idea would not work! The day arrived for all the Preschool girls to be on stage with their school buddy and in costume. Wow! What a fantastic show!

Read more about the show on page 19.



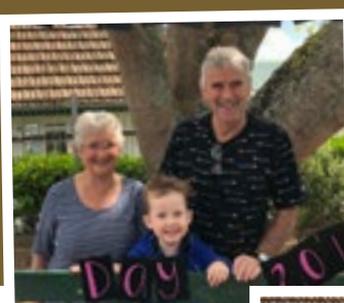
# A Morning of Sport

The preschoolers had a fabulous morning at the Boys' School for their cross-country and tabloid sports events. We were really pleased to see so many family members and friends come along to show their support as the races got underway. Beginning with the cross country, the 3 and 4-year-old boys and girls raced with enthusiasm and great determination.

After the morning tea break, the entourage of supporters made their way to the Jubilee Sports Centre to start the tabloid sports. Sack races, discus throws, ball jumps, football kicks, shot puts, mini hurdles, chicken throws, and egg and spoon races were entered with great hilarity.



PRESCHOOL CHAMPIONS	
<b>3 year old Girls</b>	
1st	Sisi Liu
2nd	Hilary Shek
3rd	Rosie Jarvis
<b>3 year old Boys</b>	
1st	Harrison Sheldon
2nd	Harry Smith
3rd	Adam Huang
<b>4 year old Girls</b>	
1st	Kayla Robertson
2nd	Evie Reynolds
3rd	Olivia Mace
<b>4 year old Boys</b>	
1st	Robert Nash
2nd	Jayden Huang
3rd	Alex Shaw



# Grandparents' Day

- 'My Grandad has a shiny head - because he is bald.'
- 'Grandma has lots of wrinkles by her eyes - because she smiles so much.'
- 'My Great Opa is in heaven and at night he smiles at us like a big star.'
- 'Grandads legs are a bit old and wobbly.'
- 'My Pop turns his hearing aid off when he doesn't want to listen to my Nan.'

The Preschool was full of smiles when our preschoolers welcomed their grandparents to spend an activity-filled morning. Director, Sue Nash welcomed the visitors, drawing their attention to the children's quotes displayed on the walls - there was much to chuckle about! The children delighted our visitors with a few of their favourite songs before eagerly showing their special visitors around.

After a big morning of fun, play, food and laughter, Mrs Nash said they were welcome to come any day of the year not just Grandparents' Day - which was met with a huge round of applause!

