



Piper

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A Special
ANZAC
Service



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
SAINT KENTIGERN
COMMUNITY

PRESCHOOL

ANZAC

How amazing it has been to see the Preschool children so interested and involved in their learning about Anzac Day and what it means to New Zealanders.

Making their own wreaths, handprint poppies, water colour poppy fields, crayon melted poppies, collaged soldiers and salt ceramic poppies on canvas; the art that they created was fantastic for children so young.

Anzac biscuits were made by the children. maths and language concepts were included as they measured the ingredients, discussed the recipe, cooked the biscuits – before the best part – eating them for afternoon tea! The children renamed them 'army biscuits'!

Lisa brought in her partner's army uniform and the boys especially loved trying it on! They looked hilarious in the huge jacket – but so proud.

Our Preschool families were thrilled to be involved in the dawn Anzac Service at the Boys' School with a large number of preschoolers braving the very early start to attend. Sue was very proud of Olivia Lidstone and Boston Chester who presented the wreath on behalf of the Preschool - they stood beautifully up the front during the service. This was a highlight and a fabulous way to close off a very special Anzac week.



Exploring Science

Preschoolers are naturally curious about the world around them and at Preschool we make sure the children have plenty of opportunity to explore, discover and draw conclusions about how things work. Our Centre of Interest on 'Exploring Science' was a great few weeks of exploration, experiments and new experiences for the children.

Young children, just like scientists, need to practise the process skills of predicting, observing, classifying, hypothesizing, experimenting and communicating. They need opportunities to reflect on their findings, how they reached them, and how the findings compare to their previous ideas and the ideas of others. In this way, children are encouraged to develop the attitude of a scientist—that is, curiosity and the desire to challenge theories and share new ideas.

The children researched on the internet for new science experiments and even brought new ideas in from home for us to try at Preschool. Soon we were busy with colour mixing, dancing milk, volcanic explosions, crystal growing, invisible ink, disappearing eggs, floating and sinking and a visit to the Girls' School Science lab to see how 'real' science experiments happen at the 'big school'.

An important part of the children's exploration is telling others what they see, what they think, and what it makes them wonder about. The preschoolers were given lots of opportunities to talk about what they observed and to compare their observations with others. It's activities such as these that also help increase their descriptive vocabulary. Words such as sink, float, crunchy, soft, wet, dry, fast, slow, heavy, light, rough, smooth, hot, and cold are the sort of words the children begin with and build on as they gain a better understanding of their world.



Here a Chick, there a Chick!

When the children returned to Preschool after their Easter break, they were welcomed by three baby chicks. Sue's brother, Dean had delivered them from the farm at the Easter Show. At only five days old, they were cute, yellow and fluffy!

Isaac was fascinated as he held them for the very first time. This is Isaac's description of the chicks - 'The chickens toes and claws are rough and sharp. Their bodies are warm and fluffy. They make a 'cheep cheep'. They are going to grow into hens and lay eggs.'

It was great to see the children showing care and concern for the chicks – feeding them each day, watching them as they had time outside in the sun – before taking them back inside to their house with straw and a heat lamp to keep them warm.

We are looking forward to hearing about their progress as they grow into free range hens at Jonelle's house in the Ardmore countryside – and we are excited about the prospect of eggs in the future!



We Love Swimming!

Terms 1 and 4 see 80% of our children taking up the swimming lessons on offer at Preschool. Our swimming programme is constantly gaining strength with over 500 lessons per summer term! Eight of our Preschool staff have trained as swimming instructors and we have a further two doing their training over the winter.

From learning to blow bubbles, to floating front and back and then onto arm strokes, the children have thrived on this opportunity. With them already having the confidence and trust in their teachers before entering the pool, any stress is alleviated. In fact, they ask every day in summer if they can go swimming! It is a great extra-curricular activity which means their parents have one less thing to fit into busy weekends – and the children love doing it at Preschool.

Highlights have been children who were initially reluctant to get into the water who are now doing full arm strokes and kicking, diving to the bottom of the pool to pick up swim rings and encouraging their friends to do swimming lessons!

The success of the swimming programme means the children leave for school with more confidence to undertake swimming at school PE lessons.



Spider Tamers

'Look – I see a spider in the web,' calls out Olivia – and soon there are a group of children with their magnifying glasses all looking as close as they were brave enough to see the spider.

'Spiders have eight legs and lots of eyes,' says Finn, 'but I can't see all their eyes with my eyes – there are too many.'

Our children were intrigued with researching and inquiring about spiders – after finding many spiders in our outdoor area. Fantastic artwork was created over the week, research on the internet gave us new knowledge about different species of spiders and the still life pencil drawings of spiders by some of the 4 year olds were amazing. What fabulous spider tamers we have!



Walking with Dinosaurs

The Preschool was recently overtaken with dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes – a big T-Rex with claws, a Pterodactyl hanging from the roof and many more oversized 3D prehistoric dinosaurs drawn and created by the children were displayed around the Preschool walls.

The children undertook an in-depth study on dinosaurs after many of the children went to the live show of Walking with Dinosaurs. With their imaginations sparked it was amazing how open to learning the children were and how creative they were in their artistic interpretations.

'Did you know that a person who studies dinosaurs is called a paleontologist?' said Hugo.

'I have found a fossil from a stegosaurus,' said Alexandra.

'A diplodocus is a plant eater but a T-Rex eats other dinosaurs because they are meat eaters,' said Sebastian.



Tartan Treasures at Celtic Day

In March, the Preschool boys boarded a mini bus and headed to the Boys' School for the annual Celtic Day celebrations. The boys all wore a tartan sash and some even had on tartan kilts, hats and vests. They watched the Kapahaka group perform before following behind the pipe band with Mr Cassie and the Trust Board for the parade. It was such a long way for little legs! The bag pipes were very loud as the parade marched around the school field in front of all the mums, dads, and visitors before heading into the Jubilee Sports Centre. The boys sat beautifully for assembly listening to all the speeches and watching the Head Boy recite the 'Ode to the Haggis.' When offered some haggis, the boys didn't hold back ...but others preferred the shortbread!



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Flora MacDonald would be proud!

Dressed in tartan accessories and sashes, our Preschool girls had the opportunity to celebrate Flora MacDonald Day with the Girls' School, marching proudly behind the Pipes and Drums following the 'big girls.' Our

Preschool boys cheered the girls on as they smiled and waved! The girls marched around the school before heading into the Hall for the ceremony and to sing Scottish songs! Our Transition girls spent the morning with the activities at the Girls' School – making Scottish pancakes and owl badges were a highlight. What great marching from our girls - Flora MacDonald from Scotland would have been proud!



Easter Bunny hops in!

On the first day of April, Dr Hastie spotted a visitor on her lawn paying a call on the Girls' School rabbit. Quietly the Preschool children crept around to Flopsy Mopsy's enclosure - aha, Easter Bunny we found you! Mr Bunny whispered that he had hidden Easter eggs back at Preschool and so the children set off to find three eggs each - one pink, one gold and one green. Each of the children then had a turn to sit on the Bunny's lap for a photo.

