

# Piper

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College Students  
help at Preschool



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE  
SAINT KENTIGERN  
COMMUNITY

# PRESCHOOL



# Grandparents

## We love our Grandparents!

There was a special week across all campuses in Term 4 when the schools and Preschool acknowledged the special role that Grandparents play in the lives of our children. They offer strength, guidance and love, with more to spare – and our children love them in return!

The Preschool was buzzing with excitement on the morning that their special visitors were due. Morning tea had been prepared in their honour and the children just couldn't wait for them to arrive! The occasion was a chance for the children to share quality time as they showed their grandparents all their favorite nooks and crannies at Preschool.

Director, Mrs Sue Nash explained to the visitors how honoured she feels to have responsibility for the 3 and 4 year-olds at Saint Kentigern. Even though they are only at Preschool for a relatively short time in their lives; it's a time when children are receptive to exploring new ideas and she has the opportunity to help instil the Saint Kentigern values of kindness, respect, friendship and love into their day to day living.

After enjoying a morning tea, the Grandparents were treated to songs from the youngsters along with a demonstration of their morning fitness routine. Mrs Nash explained that this daily routine helps to get rid of all of their 'jumping beans' after arriving in the morning!

As they prepared to leave, the Preschoolers gifted a poem complete with handprint as a precious keepsake of the morning.





## Off to the Zoo!

The October day dawned hot and sunny when 31 adults and 52 children boarded a double decker bus to head to the Auckland Zoological Gardens for a day of animal spotting. Morning tea under the band rotunda was a welcome start to build up energy before the children headed off on their adventure – it was going to be a long walk!

The gibbons were making a whole lot of noise as we headed that way and it was clear that they were very keen to show off their talents - much to the delight of the Preschoolers! There were so many animals to see: tigers, seals, penguins, hippos, orangutans, tortoises, lemurs, alligators and a walk through the New Zealand native bird enclosure where parrots flew around our heads! A major highlight was every child hand feeding the giraffe – and the surprise of his long blue tongue wrapping around their little hands as they fed him cabbage leaves or celery.



Lunch was a welcome relief from the sun as we headed back under cover. Who knew October could be so hot? With all the walking, the children really did have great appetites! With renewed energy we set off to explore some more, this time the elephants, lions, zebra, springboks, cheetahs, kiwis, wallabies, Tasmanian devil and flamingos, before heading back to the big corrugated iron elephant for a group photo.

The children were so well behaved and we had many comments from the public, in particular tourists from overseas, about how smart they all looked in their uniform and what great behaviour they showed! There were some very sleepy children on the way back to Preschool!



## Preschool has a Big Heart

The Preschool, like the Girls' School, have put their weight behind Sir Ray Avery's Life Pod Appeal to raise funds for infant incubators especially designed for Third World conditions. Sir Ray has a daughter at the Preschool and another at the Girls' School and is an avid supporter of Saint Kentigern.

The Preschool is aiming to raise enough for one LifePod, and has set the challenge to other schools to get behind the Kiwi inventor's cause. 'It's about children helping other little children, and it is great to teach them about the importance of giving,' said Preschool Director, Sue Nash. To kick start their fundraising appeal, the Preschool made an 'advertisement' when the children sat down to form a big heart with the photo appearing in the Weekend Herald.

More about Sir Ray's charity, Medicine Mondiale, and their global appeal can be read on page 38 in the Girls' School section. To read more detail about Sir Ray's work or to make a donation to the cause, visit: <https://mondialelifepod.com/>



## Athletics/Tabloid Sports Day

Off to the Boys' School we headed on the bus ready for our Preschool Athletics/Tabloid Sports Day.

The preschoolers loved being in the big, spacious gymnasium which was a perfect venue for all the activities we had planned. The children fuelled up on a pre-athletics snack of juice and biscuits before breaking into supervised groups for a day of skill and fun.

There was a wide variety of activities set up to challenge the youngsters in their running, jumping and throwing skills – all with an element of fun thrown in! The groups rotated through the hurdles, sack races, rubber javelin throwing, high jump, basketball, bean bag throw, soccer goals, cone and ball balance, hoop jump and rubber chicken toss. Yes, that was a rubber chicken toss... now a trademark piece of equipment at the Girls' School and Preschool athletics!

All the children participated so well, trying their best and cheering on their friends. There were plenty of parent helpers on hand to help us out and more on the side lines to give support. They seemed to enjoy it every bit as much as the children – some of them even joined in – and we thank them for being there.

Athletics Day is not quite the same if the children don't have a chance to see what their parents and teachers can do! The adult sack race was so much fun to watch and cheer – especially when some fell over!

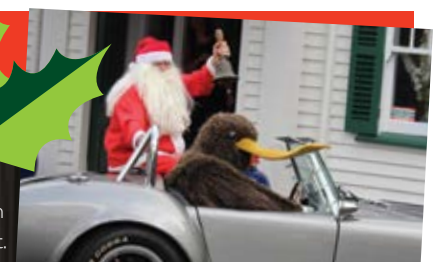


## Christmas Party

At the beginning of December, Preschool celebrated Christmas by putting on a great show of Christmas songs for their families in the Girls' School Hall; all wearing Santa hats in true Christmas spirit.

After the show it was back to Preschool for morning tea – but what was that noise? Santa's bell! He must have been able to hear the children's fabulous Christmas singing. The children hurried outside to see the man in the big red suit. No reindeer and sleigh for this Santa; he arrived in a Cobra Sports Car with a special guest driver... a kiwi!

All the children sat on Santa's knee for a photo and used beautiful Saint Kentigern manners to thank him for their present. Thank you Santa for joining our party; it was a fantastic way to share the Christmas cheer.



# Carol Services

Each year our Preschool children join with the Girls' and Boys' Schools for their annual Carol Services, after having lots of singing practice to make sure they are word perfect on the night.

The first service was with the Girls' School in St Mary's Church with its beautiful stained glass windows in the nave behind the young choristers. They sang 'Don't Tell Anyone,' the song chosen by the Girls' School for them to sing. They sang well and loved the chorus with the actions, growing in confidence as they sang.

The following week at the Boys' School Carol Service in the grandeur of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the children performed 'Five Little Christmas Trees' with the ten boys and girls who will be transitioning to school next year taking lead roles.

The carol services are really enjoyable Saint Kentigern community events and our Preschool families love the opportunity for their children to be involved. Our Preschoolers sang beautifully making their families and teachers very proud!



11



## A visit from author, Craig Smith

It is not every day a famous New Zealand songwriter and author comes to visit Preschool, so there was much excitement on the day when 'Wonky Donkey' award winning author, Craig Smith arrived! The 3 and 4 year olds, along with the Year 0-2 children from the Boys' and Girls' School, loved listening to Craig read his rhyme and song stories in the Hall.

Craig performed all of his children's books starting with his newly released 'Square Eyes.' The children enjoyed joining in on the actions and got fully involved with singing along – understanding that if they sit too long watching a screen -TV, computers or iPads - they will get square eyes like the panda in his latest book!

'Kaha the Kea' saw the arrival of a very large Kea from the South Island who danced and high fived the children (and adults) – much to the delight of the children – although we are not sure where our Director of Preschool, Sue Nash was at that time? Was she the Kea?

'My Daddy ate an Apple' saw much giggling from the children as the daddy zebra ate an apple with a green worm inside - and all the issues he had before ... it came out!

Many hilarious Craig Smith songs were included in the show before the all-time favourite, 'The Wonky Donkey' which set Craig Smith on his path to fame and saw all the children and adults singing along with some fabulous hee hawing!

Following the show, Craig came back to Preschool to have some photos with the children in our very own 'Craig Smith' room full of art the children had made of all his song characters. Craig and his partner, Margaret loved it so much that they asked us to send the large Wonky Donkey, Kaha, Zebra and Panda to them in Queenstown when we take it down – for them to display in their new (soon to arrive) baby's nursery!

