

Piper

ISSUE 52 MAY 2014



Boys' School
Celtic Day



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
SAINT KENTIGERN
COMMUNITY



Where Am I From?

Our children and staff at Preschool represent 25 nationalities! The cultural mix is a strength of our programme and our children thrive on the friendships they build. Our recent 'Centre of Interest' on 'Where Am I From' saw a world map displayed with each child's photo represented under the countries where both their parents and they were born. Flags of each country and artwork of traditional costumes drawn by the children completed the wall. The children loved to look at the map and their photos.

After researching on the internet with the children about each country the preschoolers have come from, they have learnt so much about other cultures. This is a positive learning experience that is ongoing as new children join our Preschool.

TE WHARIKI

Belonging: Children gain an understanding and appreciation of themselves in their family and community. They are affirmed as individuals and know that their families and cultures have a place and are respected.



When I Grow Up I am Going to Be ...?

Our Preschoolers' imaginations are fantastic to see. Every day they have the impromptu opportunities to be involved with their friends in dramatic play. Many forms of props are included and their play evolves both inside and out. Pirates, doctors, fairies, mermaids, spacemen, Maori piupiu, Indian saris, police suits and more – the list is endless, always building their imaginations!

TE WHARIKI

Communication: Children experience an environment where their play is meaningful learning and the importance of spontaneous play is recognised. They develop confidence and a repertoire for dramatic and pretend play – with an expectation that this play can amuse, excite, delight, comfort and illuminate.



Scientific Journey – Hands on Learning

With swan plans well developed in the children's garden, this time of year sparks a passion and interest in caterpillars for our Preschoolers. They love to watch the drama unfold as the butterflies emerge and dry their wings ready for flight. Their obvious enjoyment led us on a journey to discover more – and there on the website of the 'Lepidoptera Society,' a very special Butterfly Garden was discovered! So off we went on two trips in the vans (with our car seats purchased by Girls' School P&F) to Saint Kentigern College to meet the 'Butterfly lady, English teacher, Xanthe Noble' and all her swan plants, caterpillars, chrysalises and monarch butterflies.

What a fantastic scientific discovery it was! We learnt all about butterflies, pests, their life cycles – in fact everything we would ever want to know. The children learnt so much and once they returned to Preschool, they informed all the children of their new discoveries. Xanthe kindly gave the children two hand crafted wooden monarchs to be displayed outside on our Preschool fence and some new small swan plants for our garden (especially grown by the horticulture students at College). Let the discoveries and passion continue along with the relationship between the Preschoolers and College students!

TE WHARIKI

Exploration: Children develop confidence in working with others to explore the environment and make sense of the social and physical world they live in.



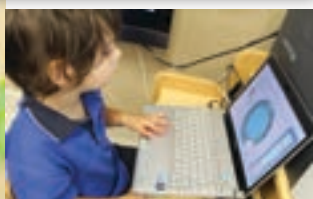
7

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Our children's fascination with caterpillars and butterflies led us on a fabulous story book adventure as we explored the much loved Eric Carle book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' The children competently retold the story through dramatic play and drama, magnetic stories and finger puppets. Amazing artwork was created by the children telling the full story in picture form on the wall. They continue to stand and admire their work – retelling the story from memory and visual clues.

TE WHARIKI

Communication: Children develop an appreciation and expectations that words and stories can excite, amuse and provide them with learning experiences. They gain skills and confidence with properties of materials used in creative and expressive arts.



This is How I Learn to Write

Casey the Caterpillar writing programme is a developmental pre-literacy curriculum that ensures children learn how to correctly hold a pencil enabling them to form all the shapes needed to write the letters of the alphabet. All children have the opportunity to be involved in this programme at their developmental level – moving through the shapes and onto letters at their own pace and time.

A Preschool workbook with the programme pre-prepared is worked on with the children and a staff member once a week – increasing as they are involved in our Transition to School programme.

The children love this opportunity and ask each day if it is their turn. Our pre-literacy focus at Preschool has ensured our children are given a head start and continue to be positive and inquisitive learners.

TE WHARIKI

Communication: Children have the opportunity to develop competence in and an understanding of familiarity with print and its uses by exploring, observing and practicing the use of print in activities that have meaning and purpose for them.



Girls Love Flora McDonald Day

Our Preschool girls had the opportunity to celebrate Flora McDonald Day with the Girls' School.

Tartan accessories – sashes, kilts and ribbons – were added to their uniform as they marched 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 with the highlight watching the Highland dancing and singing Scottish songs!

TE WHARIKI

Contribution: Children experience a learning environment where they are given opportunities to experience respect for cultures other than their own.



Haggis or Shortbread at Celtic Day

The Preschool boys boarded a mini bus and headed to the Boys' School to march in the parade. Our boys all wore a tartan sash and some even had on tartan kilts, hats and vests and looked very 'Scottish'. The Pipes and Drums were very loud as the parade marched around the school field in front of all the mums, dads and visitors before heading into the 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!

TE WHARIKI

Contribution: Children experience and develop positive judgements on other people's ethnic group and culture.



'The haggis meat was so yummy – it smelled a bit funny and had yucky skin on it but I wanted more for my dinner,'
Said one 4 year old!

'My shortbread was more yummy – the haggis smelt yicky!'
Said a 3 year old!



Bus, Boat, Beach

It was a great adventure for the preschoolers when they set out on a trip to Devonport for the day. Departing Preschool on a bright blue bendy bus, they headed for the Quay Street Ferry Terminal downtown. The Ferry Terminal was very busy and there were plenty of boats to watch as they waited for Preschool Director, Sue, to pay for 75 ferry tickets before they could board the ferry to Devonport!

On the ferry the children lined the windows watching the busy Waitemata Harbour. They saw yachts, other ferries, kayakers, speed boats and were excited to even spot a police boat! At Devonport they headed to the playground for morning tea and once refuelled, they were able to choose to play in the playground or on the beach. It was very windy day and the tide was high making great waves to splash in on the water's edge. Sand castles were built, and decorated with discoveries of sea kelp, shells and drift wood.

Drizzle set in at lunchtime but not enough to dampen spirits and after once last play of games and a stop for an ice block treat, a group of tired children and adults took the journey in reverse to Preschool.

TE WHARIKI –

Exploration: Children develop a perception of themselves as "explorers" – competent, confident learners who make discoveries.

Belonging: Children develop an understanding of the links between Preschool and the wider community – with interest and pleasure in discovering an unfamiliar world where the images, objects, smells and sounds are different from home.



Exploring our Pets

Preschool has a small menagerie of animals that the children love to care for and observe. For many this is an opportunity to be close to an animal as they don't have pets at home. 'Squirt the Turtle' is the favourite – the children feed him every day and love to watch him have some 'free time' out of his tank in our garden!

'Will and Kate,' our budgies happily sing along to the music and their cheeping is often louder than the children. Watching our tadpoles evolve into frogs was a highlight of the term and the children loved to spend time catching live insects, flies and cicadas for the frogs to eat. An amazing learning experience was watching a frog eat a whole live cicada! Goldfish make up the pet area and are a relaxing way for the children to spend some time watching them as they cruise around their tank. The children take turns to help staff clean out the pets' tanks and cages as well as feeding them.

TE WHARIKI

Belonging: Children develop skills in caring for the environment and animals – helping others with the care of it in a fun and safe way. Confidence that they can participate without fear from harm.

Exploration: Children gain respect and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the living and non-living environment.



Fishy Prints

Our Centre of Interest on our 'Preschool Pets' saw not only amazing artwork created by the children but a scientific experience of 'Fish prints.' Some children went to Remuera Fisheries and the shopkeeper kindly gave the children a flounder to bring back to Preschool. After much hilarity touching and smelling the flounder and learning all about where they live, why their mouth is underneath their bodies and many more interesting questions, the art started! After donning art aprons they rolled paint onto the fish before taking amazing prints of it. The mouth, scales and fins were clearly visible as they had much delight in taking many prints off the fish.

TE WHARIKI

Communication: Children develop skill and confidence with the process of art and craft – such as print making, painting and constructing.

Exploration: Children develop the confidence to choose and experiment with materials and to explore actively with all their senses.



A Visitor Hops In

Easter came and the excitement of the Easter Bunny arriving with Easter eggs was met with great joy! The children all sang their favourite Easter song for their visitor – 'Mr Bunny came hopping along' before they set off on a special Easter egg hunt. The children had made baskets with bunny ears and footprints for their collection and after a hug from their long-eared friend, a chocolate rabbit from him finished off an exciting morning.

TE WHARIKI

Belonging: Children have an awareness of connections between events and experiences within and beyond the Preschool setting.

Communication: Children experience an environment that they experience the stories of their own and others cultures.

