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SAINT KENTIGERN

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It's off to School we go!

For the children continuing onto our Saint Kentigern Schools, the 'Transition to School' programme for the full term before they start school is a major highlight. Whether on site at the Girls' School, or a trip in the School van with Preschool car seats to the Boys' School, the visits are entered into with great enthusiasm.

Both the girls and boys spend time in the class they will join when they start school, meeting the teacher and the children they will be with. Preschool staff are involved in the programme and spend time with the children experiencing reading, writing, maths, library, music, sports, art, assembly, Chapel Service – in fact anything that their class is doing, they do. Regular visits to both campuses while they are at Preschool ensures the opportunity to cement their place in the 'big school'.

Our 'Transition to School' programme has proved hugely successful and one that attracts many of our children to Preschool. Regular visits from the New Entrant teachers from both schools as well as Principals, Dr Hastie and Mr Cassie, all support our programme and make the children feel confident as they graduate to school.

Parents continually comment about how the first day of school only means a change of uniform as they start school as confident inquisitive learners after such a positive and seamless transition.

Sue Nash, Director

Can we be of Service?

Preschool is such a vibrant, busy and happy place that we have lots of students from the College, Girls' and Boys' Schools willing to help with the children.

Each year the Girls' School elect two Year 8 Preschool Leaders and Year 7 who come and spend regular time at Preschool helping the staff and working alongside the children as often as their school timetable allows. The Boys' School bring groups of Year 8 boys over as part of their Service awards – and it is amazing to see the way the Preschoolers 'play' with the big boys and how gentle and caring the school boys are. One of the boys said, 'I can't believe how cute they are – especially in the Saint Kentigern uniform – I wish the Preschool had been here when I was little!'

We have had some fantastic Year 10 students from the College over on a Thursday and Friday after school as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. The College boys who have assisted

have been outstanding and are a true testament to what being a Son of Kentigern truly means.

It is great to see all of the students gaining confidence, using initiative, being so friendly and willing and displaying all the Saint Kentigern Way and Values by their actions.





Sharing Matariki at Caughey Preston

As part of Matariki – Maori New Year - our Preschool children were invited to Caughey Preston Rest Home to sing some of our favourite Maori songs to the residents. Some of the children dressed in piupiu and headbands and all entered into the singing with great enthusiasm.

The highlight of the visit was spending time to meet the residents after the performance. The preschoolers were so confident and friendly, shaking their hands, giving them hugs and displaying amazing Saint Kentigern manners.

All the children really enjoy performing for the elderly and it has become a regular event, at least three times a year. A positive relationship has been built and the residents look forward to their special 'little Saint Kentigern people' coming along – and we enjoy giving them something special to enjoy!



Igloo building extravaganza

After a few years of holding the dream of building an igloo at Preschool out of milk bottles, Director of Preschool, Sue Nash's idea became a reality! As part of our Snow Adventure week, an igloo was built!

Over 440 milk bottles were collected from local cafes by the parents and staff over three weeks – all needing to be well washed and dried before Greg (Sue's husband) came to engineer the construction!

With extra hot glue guns borrowed from Boys' School and College, the children helped hand the milk bottles to Greg as he glued each bottle one by one before securing it to the base. Layer upon layer of bottles – all with matching lids began to grow as the sides started getting higher and higher. The children loved having turns inside it while it was being constructed. Greg was given lots of preschooler advice on how it should be built!

Clear milk bottles were added for layers of light before carefully moving the igloo to have the roof attached. More bottles were needed for the entrance and after a few days of construction – our Saint Kentigern Igloo was complete!

The excitement from the children (and teachers) when they got inside and saw the amazing construction was absolutely priceless!

It has been used not only outside for Snow Day but 6 weeks later it is still going strong with a shag pile mat inside and cushions for the children to enjoy reading books – up to 12 children at a time can fit in all snug and warm!

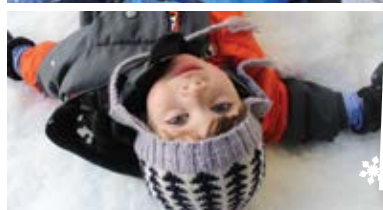


Snow Adventures

The children arrived one sunny, winter's morning to a very wintry scene. It had snowed! Well, to be precise, 6 tonnes of thick snow had arrived in two big trucks from Polar Ice Supplies earlier that morning. PLONK in our sandpit area! The snow was 'crunchy', 'salty', 'sticky', 'icey' and very cold!

Warm winter clothes for the snow were much needed – especially gloves! The children made snow angels lying in the snow, snowballs were tossed in the air; there were sled rides with helper, Harrison, and a very tiny snowman was built with carrots, blue button eyes and a Preschool beanie!

We all LOVED the snow and had so much fun – let's hope it snows again next year at Preschool!





Run, run as fast as you can...

The smiles on their faces said it all at the Preschool Cross Country held at the Boys' School. Nothing could stop the beaming smiles of the 3 and 4 year-olds as they ran across the finish line, whether they came in 1st, 2nd, 8th or 15th!

Joining together for the morning with the Year 1-3's from the Boys' and Girls' Schools, the Preschoolers ran separate races for their age groups across the top field in perfect conditions. With a little help from their teachers, and some boasting a more competitive spirit than others, all of Saint Kentigern's smallest members can be proud to have completed their course.

Congratulations to the following winners and to all 59 Preschoolers for taking part. Thank you also to the Junior School and for all the helpers who made it a successful day. September 17th saw the presentation of the certificates to our top 3 children for each age group at the Girls' School Chapel Service. There were lots of very excited children and exceptionally proud parents and grandparents sharing the service with us.

3 YEAR OLD GIRLS

1st Amelia Hardie
2nd Olivia Lidstone
3rd Bella Davies

3 YEAR OLD BOYS

1st Ben Robertson
2nd Sebastian Hartel
3rd Boston Chester

4 YEAR OLD GIRLS

1st Suri Zhong
2nd Isabella Lynn
3rd Elise Leport-Symonds

4 YEAR OLD BOYS

1st Oliver Goodfellow
2nd Ben Cleaver
3rd Freddy Abeysekera

Wild But Friendly!

It is not every day that the children arrive at Preschool to discover a wild menagerie of animals! There was much anticipation and just a touch of fear from those children who haven't had much experience with animals.

Sally from the Animal Crew was amazing as she explained about each animal and its habitat, what it ate and how to care for it! Everyone got fully involved and any child's fear was soon forgotten as they came to handle the animals in a safe setting.

It was a very eventful morning. Each child held a mouse before making a special mouse house for the 20 visiting mice to stay in during their time at Preschool, before holding guinea pigs and brushing them (as some were definitely having bad hair days!); touching the spikes on a bearded dragon; watching the blue tongued lizard eat worms with his very blue tongue; become a pirate with a rat on a shoulder; watch the chinchilla have a dust bath; hold the turtles and tortoises and finally be fascinated by the huge stick insect.

Amazing exploration was happening with some fantastic language from our children.

'Did you know a chinchilla comes from South America?' said Oscar.

'When a guinea pig is happy it purrs like a cat' said Suri.

'The bearded dragon comes from Australia and when it runs fast its spikes stand up by its neck' said Korbin.

'A blue tongued lizard's tongue is the same colour as a giraffe's tongue' said Oliver.



Bonjour Papa

Father's Day morning is always a much anticipated event and this year proved another successful occasion with well over 80 gentlemen of varying ages here to spend time with their child/grandchild before heading down to the Girl's School Drawing room for some entertainment.

There we were met by 'JP the French Clown.' The children were thrilled to be able to use their talents from learning French once a week at Preschool as they greeted JP, counted for him and told him the colours of his scarves all in French, while watching an amazing performance.

The surprise, as JP got some of the fathers up to be part of his show, was priceless! There were some very quiet dads as they tried very hard to sit and not be spotted to be the next target up front! From juggling balls to balancing acts, dancing with skirts, glasses and funny hats on – the fathers all got into the swing of it with great enthusiasm and even displayed some hidden talents!

A BBQ lunch for everyone was well received before the children gave their Dads a personalised handprint with quotes about 'Why I love my Dad' and a Saint Kentigern keyring or pen. Trying to get the fathers to leave the fun of Preschool to return to work proved a bit of a challenge!

An amazingly popular day for all...

'I love my Dad because he snuggles me into my bed at night and gives me kisses'.

'I love my Dad because he drops me to Preschool'.

'I love my Dad because he makes me laugh and is quite clever!'

'I love my Dad because he fixes things and is brave'.





Shark Teeth, Fish and Penguin Encounters

Kelly Tarlton's was the destination for 60 excited children in support of our amazing Centre of Interest, 'Underwater World and Antarctica.' An underwater puppet show by the education officer started the morning where we learnt all about where fish live and the rocky shore and sang lots of fishy songs!

Exploration of the rocky shore exhibit revealed octopus, sea dragons, piranhas and sea horses and an encounter with a stingray. They had a close up view of the amazing, waddling penguins and their icy world as they dived and squawked at each other and then entered the underwater tunnel to watch schools of snapper, very large sharks and many more fish swim over the top of us.

Such an exciting morning, where we consolidated so much of our previous learning and gained even more knowledge. The artwork that has been created is phenomenal from such young children and looks great displayed in our atelier room.



Mini Mungo Adventures

After a trip in the Saint Kentigern van to Mungo's Uniform Shop at the College, 100 little Saint Kentigern bears were purchased to sell to the Preschool children. However, one of the staff had an idea about letting the children have a turn to take one home for the weekend and then tell us about their time with the bear. This idea grew until our bear was called 'Mini Mungo' (being the smallest children in the Saint Kentigern community yet keeping with the history of Mungo) and he was off on adventures with the children.

Mini Mungo has travelled the world with the children, posing for photos everywhere! From Auckland Sky Tower to Spain, Waikiki to the Dead Sea, Fiji and Ruapehu, Rotorua to Sydney, Queenstown and New York, India and Kuala Lumpur, Brisbane and Taupo and many more – Mini Mungo has been on some amazing adventures!

Each child brings in photos of their trip with Mini Mungo and a description of his travels, ready to be put into our growing book about 'Mini Mungos Adventures' for everyone to read and enjoy.



The Saint Kentigern Way with Reverend Hardie



The importance of the Saint Kentigern Way and Our Values are reinforced throughout the Preschool programme each day. The children are encouraged to show kindness, friendship,

respect and compassion with their friends and teachers.

Our Preschool children display these values in their play and can be heard saying, 'That's not the Saint Kentigern Way – we need to all play nicely.'

'I am nice to my friends – that's the Saint Kentigern Way' says Charlotte

'Did you know that when I went to the service at Easter time – I told Mummy not to be worried about Jesus dying because I learnt from Reverend Hardie that Jesus rose again on the 3rd day – so it is okay,' said Chloe

'We have to listen to our teachers and big people – because that is what we do at Saint Kentigern' said Elliot.

'I like saying my Preschool grace when I go to my Grandma and Grandad's house' said Korbin.

Grace is also said by all the children before lunch... 'For our family, friends and food – we say thank you'

Each Monday afternoon our day is highlighted with our weekly visit from Reverend Hardie. The children's faces light up as he tells a story from the Bible and relates it to a real life situation in a fun and child friendly way. Songs are sung and he even brings his guitar to entertain us all.

The children love finishing their time with Reverend Hardie with his special prayer of putting their fingers together before reciting 'Prayer is talking to God - Prayer is listening to God – Amen'. It is great to see the children acting the Saint Kentigern Way at such a young age and imparting the true Values that Saint Kentigern truly stands for:

