



Making a Difference in Fiji

For the second year, Director of the Preschool, Sue Nash, joined the annual Service trip to Fiji with 40 boys from the Boys' School, four girls from Girls' School, their parents and accompanying staff.

Arriving at Nawaka District School and kindergarten in Nadi to the welcome of hundreds of children's voices calling out, 'BULA' and the 30 degree heat was, Sue said, 'Like arriving home.' From that point on, Sue got down to 11 days of working and building relationships with Nawaka Kindergarten staff and creating a new relationship with Vatutu Kindergarten. These connections are such a special part of service at Saint Kentigern.

As the 40 foot container full of resources from Saint Kentigern was being unloaded, the sheer appreciation and disbelief by the local community was heart-warming. Clothes and shoes for every child at the school and kindergarten, bras and undergarments for every female teacher and student at the school and in the village, through Project Uplift, a laptop and printer for both kindergarten Head Teachers, laminators for the kindergartens, new wooden seats and tables built under the trees for the school, robotics and Kinex in the classes, art supplies and resources, a new incinerator

constructed, painting of the Community Centre inside and out, medical supplies for the Dispensary and a massive new playground built - all within 11 days.

For Sue, the kindergarten children give meaning to the trip. Always smiling and so thrilled to see us - calling out as they saw the vans arriving and running along the fence line with the most enthusiastic welcome every day. They have so little but we are proud that we can make a small difference each time we go. Sue spent quality time helping to support and educate the staff in best practice of Early Childhood Education, showing them in a hands-on way how programmes can work with their children, and leaving behind resources to make their work more beneficial is so rewarding.

Our 'world of opportunity' gives these children and people of the Pacific even more opportunity than would ever be possible without the support and service that Saint Kentigern families and our wider community offer.

An amazing team of teachers drew strength from each other and the drive, determination and enthusiasm to give 100% over the full 11 days was rewarded with the most memorable feedback from the parents and students who attended. We look forward to 2018 and what we can achieve in being of service to others.

Mrs Sue Nash
Director of Preschool



Exploring Bones and Our Body

'How does our blood stay in our body?'

'Where does our food go?'

'How are our bones so strong to keep us standing up?'

'What would happen if we didn't eat healthy food?'

Our children are always full of questions! When one of our preschoolers arrived one day with a broken leg, it prompted a stream of questions about 'bones and our body.' With the interactive screen on for all to see, there was plenty of group IT research, asking Google for answers. However, we are also fortunate to have specialist parents in the medical field who were also ready with answers and we are grateful for the many resources about body parts, diagrams, books and resources that were made available to us!

We were particularly fortunate to receive a visit from a Dr John Perry (one of our Dads) in his hospital 'scrubs.' His visit prompted further fascination in anything 'medical' and it didn't take long for a Saint Kentigern Preschool Hospital to be set up with many little doctors and nurses on hand! Dramatic play, dress ups, stethoscopes, syringes, bandages and dolls in need of assistance led to fabulous learning by our children!



Arty Bones

With 'bones' the topic of the moment, the human skeleton became the ideal starting point to bring science to the art table. Exploring ephemeral and creative art helps to increase children's concentration and focus. Our preschoolers spend a lot of time in the creation of artwork using the wide variety of resources available. They develop a sense of enjoyment as they contribute to these activities and are learning to share materials and space with others, working alongside each other confidently. They learn that not all art is permanent, that they can create something that they don't keep but can appreciate for a moment in time or take a photo of. Their creative awareness and imagination increases through moving and manipulating the resources into different patterns. This could be clay, play dough or natural collage.

Farms are Smelly!

A trip to Mt Albert Grammar School to see their 'working farm' saw the children in their gumboots looking like real farmers! The smell of fresh air and the, um, not so fresh aroma of animals greeted us as we walked up the farm track to meet Farmer Harris. Soon it was off to watch the cows being milked, taking the milk in buckets to feed the calf, into the barn to watch Farmer Harris shear a sheep, back out to the farm to look at the chickens and sit on the tractor - what a great hands-on learning experience for our city children.



Freshly Hatched Eggs

An incubator with fertilised eggs arrived at Preschool and within three days we were welcoming eight fluffy chicks! Our children, staff and parents were absolutely fascinated with the entire process – especially as we were able to watch seven of them actually hatch out of their shells!

Daily checking on them, feeding them as they grew, moving them into their larger cage, taking them out to the garden and having lots of cuddles made for some very tame chicks. After 6 weeks, the children were very sad to see them leave, as they were taken by some of our children to join our former chicks and ducklings at Mt Albert Grammar School's working farm. The children were so excited to see how big our Easter chicks and ducklings had grown! It seemed like they still remembered us and were happy for cuddles!



Wonderful, Wiggly Worms

It was great learning about tiger worms and what they like to eat, holding the wriggling worms to inspect them closely with magnifying glasses, singing worm songs and then going outside to look at our own amazing worm farm.

Did you know?

- ① Worms that live in a 'worm farm' are called TIGER worms and they have real stripes.
- ② Their favourite food is old apple cores, paper and tissues, used tea bags, leafy green vegetables, egg shells and vacuum cleaner dust! They don't like cupcakes, sushi, bread, meat or oranges!
- ③ They do lots of poo and wees which is great for growing plants and vegetables.
- ④ We use our worms compost for our Preschool garden!



Winter Wonderland

The winter dump of snow at Preschool is eagerly awaited each year! The massive delivery of 5 tonnes of trucked-in snow brought smiles to the faces of the children and adults alike as a huge area of the sandpit was transformed into a winter playground. Gum boots, fleecy tops, woolly hats and gloves were the order of day as the youngsters discovered the delight of jumping, rolling and sliding in the snow. The hands-on winter fun brought yet another new dimension to the children's learning. As the sun took its toll and the snow began to melt, it became exactly the right consistency to throw snowballs!



You Can't Catch Me!

Little legs and a LONG way to run – but the achievement of all the children to finish our Cross Country is testament to the value of participation and resilience we are building in the children.

PRESCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Girls - 3-year olds

1st	Amber Qu
2nd	Jayda-Belle Gonzalez-Smith
3rd=	Kiki Strickett / Evie Reynolds

Boys - 3-year olds

1st	Tristan Darbyshire
2nd	Tom Fox
3rd	David McMillan

Girls - 4-year olds

1st	Vanessa Chen
2nd	Lucia Zhang
3rd	Alyssa Wray

Boys - 4-year olds

1st	Oscar Hunter
2nd	Neil Mackay
3rd	Louis Kwok



We Love Our Mums!

Although the weather was awful outside, the rain did not distract from the huge number of special ladies who came to spend the morning with us at Preschool. Mums, Nanas, Grandmas, Grannies and Aunties were all there!

There's nothing like sharing a cupcake made with love, especially when you can choose your own topping and someone special is there to help. Decorating continued in the atelier with a plentiful supply of paint in all shades of the rainbow, ready to be creatively painted onto ceramic hearts to take home.

Following morning tea, the children entertained with their favourite songs - much to the delight of our guests!

Let's Go Surfing Daddy!

A sunny morning dawned for our annual Father's Day at Preschool – perfect for a surf! A mechanical surfboard greeted our visitors – the children were excited about the prospect but we're not so sure about the Dads! But in the spirit of the day, they all gave it a go before enjoying spending quality time together with their child around the Preschool. We were surprised by a visit from Head of Saint Kentigern, Mr Hodge – we all made sure he showed his prowess on the surfboard!

