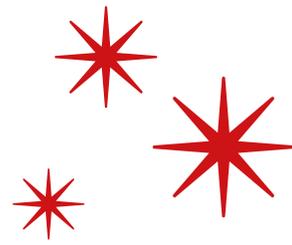


# Bringing Joy to Others



Each year, our children love to go and spread some Christmas cheer by visiting Retirement Villages and singing to the residents. This year was no exception with a visit to Epsom Retirement Village and Grace Joel. Proudly wearing their Santa hats, the children sang their Christmas songs at the top of their voices. 'Santa wear your shorts' was a favourite as the residents clapped along! The smiles and genuine appreciation on their faces made it all worthwhile.



## Carol Service

How can anyone not smile when the stage comes to life with 50 preschoolers singing? Our Preschoolers attended the Girls' and Boys' School Carol Services, both held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral this year.

'You make the whole world smile with your little button nose' was the song of choice at the Girls' School Carol Service. As the song progressed, the children's actions and singing to each verse became more and more animated! It put a smile on everyone's faces as the children left the stage.

A week later, it was time to perform at the Boys' School Carol Service. Reverend Hardie had chosen his favourite children's Christmas song, 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.' The Cathedral was filled to overflowing with more than 2000 people watching but that did not deter our Preschoolers! In

full voice, with our transition boys proudly wearing Rudolph antlers and noses, the children and staff exploded into an upbeat rendition of 'Rudolph!' A massive round of applause saw the Preschoolers smiles on display for all to see as they returned to their mat.



# Santa comes to Preschool

Who said 3 and 4 year olds wouldn't be able to learn and remember more than 10 songs, with words and actions? They hadn't counted on our Preschoolers! At the annual Christmas party, the 60 children gave a fantastic concert, singing their hearts out on stage for family, friends and invited guests.

After enjoying a special party lunch back at Preschool, the ringing of a bell saw all the children rush to the fence and squeal with delight as Santa arrived - by Jeep! He told the youngsters that he knew where to come as he'd heard their amazing voices singing! Each child had a turn to sit on Santa's knee for a photo and to receive a present. As he left, Santa told the children that their Christmas artwork was the best that he had ever seen and he is looking forward to coming back next year.



# Red Nose Day

The importance of caring for others less fortunate than ourselves is something that the Preschool instils in the children. Every year they focus on organisations that help others and this year, top of our list was 'Cure Kids' for their Red Nose Appeal.

With the children adding red to their uniforms and bringing a donation, the Preschool managed to raise \$815.00. Cure Kids Ambassador, Eva came to collect the money and the children entertained with a fantastic rendition of 'You make the whole world smile', a song written for the Red Nose Appeal.



# Diwali

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights was celebrated at Preschool. Traditional Indian dress, saris, boys' tunics and dresses were brought into Preschool by our families to share with the children. Our children loved the opportunity to dance to Bollywood music, as well as have their hands painted with henna. A very special art display was made by the children, replicating ways that Indian families may decorate their houses. It is great to see the children experiencing learning opportunities from other cultures, which has also included Matariki and Chinese New Year, in reflection of Auckland, our multicultural city.



# Buzz Buzz Buzz

The Preschool students received a visit from Sara the 'Bee Lady' during 'National Bee Month.' She arrived dressed as an apiarist (beekeeper) and talked to the children about the importance that bees play in the life cycle for humans to survive. She brought a living bee hive with her, which allowed the children to watch through the glass to see the bees at work. They were also able to hear the 'buzz' by putting their ears against the glass.

The children sat engrossed listening to Sara before they headed off to make their own beeswax candle to take home. What an amazing scientific learning and



# Butterfly Creek

A massive dinosaur with claws and teeth greeted the Preschool students, staff and parents, as they arrived at Butterfly Creek for a day of learning and fun. The Dinosaur Kingdom was a major highlight with life-size dinosaurs, eggs, a 'Dino Dig' sandpit with huge fossils, amazing facts and a flying Pterodactyl. The Butterfly House was very hot and humid, but the children were fascinated by the butterflies flying around them and landing on their clothes.

They then ventured onto Bugs Galore, which had real life cockroaches, wetas, spiders and everything 'creepy crawlly,' which saw many adults cringing but the children loved it! Thankfully, they were well enclosed in glass terrariums! Next on the list was the Buttermilk Farm - an interactive, hands-on farm experience. The children could cuddle guinea pigs and rabbits, hand feed goats and sheep - but nothing was as cute though as our own Preschool pigs and lamb!



# Norman, our sheep

It's not every day children arrive at Preschool to find a 5-day old lamb named Norman! After the success of having piglets onsite, the opportunity to have a lamb for a few weeks was met with much excitement.

The Carnegie family picked up the orphan lamb from a farm in Rotorua and the Preschool was happy to be the 'day time nanny' with Norman going home each night with the family. Lambs are not as smart as pigs when it comes toilet training, so nappies were daily attire for Norman!

The children loved taking him for walks on his lead, hand feeding him his bottle and having him become part of the Preschool family. Eventually, toilet requirements and the need to eat lots of real grass saw us farewell Norman, but what a great learning opportunity for our children.



# Grandparents' Morning

The Preschool was buzzing with excitement on the morning our treasured grandparents came from far and wide to spend the morning with us! Morning tea had been prepared 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 around their place of learning.

Our visitors really enjoyed the children's performance of some of their favourite songs and watching their fitness routine. Donations of almost \$800 worth of books were kindly donated by the grandparents to the Preschool - what lucky children! A special gift of 'Grandparent Pills' (jellybeans) with a poem rounded off a fabulous morning.



## Run, Jump, Hop, Throw

So many events were on offer at the Tabloid Sports Day held in the Jubilee Sports Centre at the Boys' School. Hurdles, high jump, basketball hoops, chicken toss, javelin throw, sack race, egg and spoon events were all entered with huge amounts of enthusiasm! With lots of parent and teacher encouragement, the children didn't want to stop!

As the morning came to an end, the children did their weekly Yoga session on their special, individual Yoga mats. This is a great opportunity for the children to slow down, concentrate and gain control of their breathing and body. The focus and movements needed for the children to do the body shapes, helps with their midline and mindfulness.

## I can Cut!

Daily opportunities for the children to have access to scissors through all areas of art activities ensure scissor skills are developed at a young age. Learning to hold the scissors with the correct grip, opening and closing the scissors, and being able to rotate the scissors around shapes to cut them out are all part of the learning process.

Cutting and scissor skills are a developmental skill that come once children have the strength in their hands to hold the scissors. Initial snips, followed by longer more controlled cuts, lead to greater competence.

Our children love to use scissors and as part of the process, through a series of photos, their progress is documented in their portfolios, with larger shapes leading to smaller shapes as their skills develop. It is fabulous witnessing the stages the children go through and watching their sense of achievement.

