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## TERM 1 2010 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back it has been a long lovely holiday for us all. We have had plenty of time to catch up with things around the house and garden and of course it's the perfect time for morning coffee with friends and family but now that is all over and we are back into it. Happy New Year we hope 2010 will be a good one for you and your family.

### LAST YEAR

Well we went out with a bang... what a fabulous Christmas Nativity and a fabulous party. The weather played its part... we were blessed with sun for both these events. There were about two hundred adults and children at the Nativity and about a hundred at the party. We rely heavily on it being dry and it was yippee for that. After the party the teachers gathered around the Christmas tree which was heaving with presents. We sat for about half an hour un-wrapping all those wonderful gifts. WOW what a spoiled bunch we are. We each took home about 30 presents!! Thank you so much for all the gifts we were truly overwhelmed. As if that wasn't enough we then went to The Windross Restaurant in Cockle Bay for a sumptuous meal, it was delicious, then off home to unwind from a very busy year.

### WELCOME

We have many new children and families joining us this year and of course 60 or so families returning for another year. Kia ora and welcome to you all. If this is your first association with Trinity Kindy we are sure you and your children are going to love being part of this kindergarten.

### WHO ARE WE?

We have an open door policy and work as a team. We try our best to avoid hierarchy and treat each other as equals all playing an important part in the life and education of your child.

Lesley, Tania, Lynette, Debbie and Yolanda work daily with your children.

These highly talented teachers are the back bone of the kindy. They are the ones you see all the time out there with the children doing what they love best which is teaching. They bring out the best in your children, striving everyday to provide challenging and stimulating activities which interest them. They know their jobs inside out and back to front and are individually and as a team the best teachers I have ever worked with.

Then of course there is Jill the manager and the licensee. She is responsible for just about everything else and has the most important job which is making the tea and coffee for the teachers.

We can all help you with queries about your child but sometimes will refer you to someone that can better answer your question. Please always ask and we will do our best to help.

## **DATES TERM 1 2010**

Dad's Fish and Chip night: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Easter Dress Up Day: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Excursion: Date to be finalised

Term Closes Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April

## **TERM 2**

Advanced notice is given that kindy will be closed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The teachers will be attending the Early Childhood Council Conference in Christchurch. Fees will not be charged for this day

## **NEW NEWS SYSTEM**

Children that attend MWF have a turn to do News. Your child will get a slip of paper inviting them to bring something in to talk about. The slip is self explanatory but to make the system work we need your co-operation. On the blue shelf inside the teaching room you will see four white plastic containers. They are numbered 1. 2. 3. 4. Three are for 'waiting to be done' news the other is for news that has been 'done and waiting to go home'. When your child receives a news slip please bring in the 'news' with the slip attached so we know what belongs to whom, put it in one of the plastic containers only one item per container please. If all three containers are full please wait until there is an empty one. You may have to take it home and wait for another day. When your child has had his/her turn please collect it from the 'done' container. If your child does not want to participate that is ok. As we have a lot of children all wanting to do news so we limit it to one turn per child per term.

## **BACK GARDEN**

The Back Garden make over is complete and during the break the grass was able to recover although not fully. The vegetables are growing like wild fire. We have been in and out harvesting the crops!! We still have lots of things we would like for the garden, bird table, bird bath, bird box as well as the usual development which will take place alongside the kindy programme. If you have not had a look please feel free to do so.

## **TRUSTEES**

Trinity Kindergarten is administered by what is officially known as Howick Pakuranga Methodist Early Childhood Trust and is more commonly known as the Kindergarten Trust. The members for 2010 are:

1. Jacq White...treasurer (existing)
2. Julie Low...secretary (existing)
3. Rachel Bray... parent (new)
4. Femke Castles...parent (new)
5. Brett Marson...parent (new)
6. Maree Cutler...parent (new)
7. Norris Smith... Trinity Church rep (returning member)
8. Peter Mumby...Trinity Church rep (existing)
9. Jill Oliver...kindy manager/licensee (existing)

Reverend Prince Devanandan Minister of Trinity Church is a not a trust member as such but is invaluable as our link between the kindy and the Church. We enjoy a wonderful relationship made stronger by Princes' genuine interest and support of the kindergarten.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we will be having our AGM where we will confirm these members as wishing to serve on the Trust in 2010 and we will elect a chairperson.

If you wish to speak to any of these people please let me know and I will give you their contact details. All parents are welcome to attend, if you would like to do so please let Jill know so that I can make sure we have enough chairs etc.

## **FEES**

Your fee envelope is in your child's 'pocket'. Please collect it and check your child fees. If there is an error in calculations please let me know so that I can correct it. There are a few rules around fees.

- We do not operate a 20<sup>th</sup> of the month policy.
- Please pay in advance at all times and in one lump sum if at all possible.
- Only use the internet payment option for full fee payment not partial payments.
- Always use the official kindy envelope.
- Always return the envelope when paying by internet banking. I need it for our records.
- There is no reduction for odd sick days here and there. If your child is sick we still have to operate the kindy so please do not deduct sick days from fees. This rule applies to everyone. If your child is absent for a full week then you pay half the regular fee due. This is stated clearly on the envelope but if you feel you have an exemption from the rule please see Jill first
- If you go on holiday you must pay half the regular fee for each week you are away. Your child's place will be held open until you return. If you decide not to pay the holding fee we will remove your child from the role and fill the vacancy with another child.
- Please pay in full before the last day of kindy. Although I asked for this to happen many times last term I had to come into work on Saturday after kindy closed to process fees which were not paid until the last day.
- If you are experiencing difficulty in paying your fees please talk to Jill. We will always do our best to help.

## **NEW BABY**

Welcome to the world Sage Warmington. Sage made his presence felt a few weeks earlier than expected and threw family plans into disarray but that's babies for you. Congratulations Lee and Ken, a new son and new baby brother for Jordan and Robin.

## **KINDY BIRTHDAY**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> the kindy will have been in operation for 10 years. I (Jill) have been here since day one. We started with 10 families one of which was Tania Scarborough our teacher. Her son Devon along with a few others helped cut the ribbon to the gate on our official opening day. Those years have flown by and now it is time to arrange our tenth birthday party. I will keep you informed of the date, time and plans. We hope to have you and lots of the old children and families celebrate with us.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

Your child needs to be sun blocked before coming to kindy. Ensure they wear a hat, and please always pack a change of clothes. No glad wrap, yogurt, lollies, sweets, jelly or other messy food, including roll up's. No home toys, baby drinking bottles or dummies. Only water to drink not juice or those cardboard box drinks. We sound like to food police but we are required by the Ministry of Education to encourage healthy eating. So your co-operation is very much appreciated. Thank you.

## **SWAN PLANTS**

In the entrance to the kindy we have a flower bed. In the bed we try to grow Swan Plants. Swan plants are poisonous....the following is taken from [poisonpreventions.co.nz](http://poisonpreventions.co.nz)

Swan plants (*Asclepias* spp.) are toxic, and swallowing even a small amount could be a problem. Ingestion of the plant material can affect the heart, breathing, central nervous system and the stomach. Young children generally do not regard the plant material as attractive to eat, although they may find the pods (swans) fascinating.

Often the chrysalis of the monarch may be ingested as they look similar to lollies. There is no poisoning concern with children eating the chrysalis.

## **Is It Ok To Have Swan Plants In Child Care Centres Or In Homes With Young Children?**

Because of the educational benefits of teaching children about the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly, swan plants are not on the Landcare Research list of plants that should not be grown or tolerated in New Zealand preschool centres.

Therefore, although it is a toxic plant, Swan plants can be grown in child care centres or homes with small children, providing supervisors are aware of the toxic nature of the plant, and take all necessary precautions to prevent poisoning from occurring.

### **What can I do to minimize a child ingesting swan plant?**

- Supervise children at all times when they are around the swan plant
- Encourage children to enjoy the swan plant and butterflies without eating them
- Grow swan plants in a container that can be removed to an area inaccessible to children when not being used.
- Alternatively fence the swan plant off, so it is unreachable to children without adult help
- Another option is to place the swan plant in an open-topped bird cage so that the butterflies can get in and out, but children's hands can not get in.

We consider this area where we grow swan plants to be ideal because the children cannot access this area without teachers or parent supervision so please supervise your child at all times around the swan plants. Thank you

### **RISING STARS**

Yolanda is kicking off RS this term. At the time of writing this newsletter/email I don't know what the topic will be but I bet it will be excellent. Breaking news 'it's all about art '. Nice and gentle to get us back into the swing of things

Well that's all enough to digest for now.

Kind regards,  
The Trinity Teaching Team,  
Jill, Lynette, Tania, Debbie, Yolanda and Lesley