

# The Rainbow ELC – November Newsletter

Nau mai tauti mai Rainbow whānau ....

Can you believe it? – It's November already! Which means that we are going to be having lots of lovely sunny days .... Which means that your children are going to get wet! .....

So – please pack spare clothing, togs, towel and a wet bag .... And for the sake of everyone's sanity – can you please name their clothes!

Speaking about clothes – there is a lovely pile at preschool that needs a home – please check to see if anything belongs at yours – after show weekend these will all be going.

A reminder of a few things (as seen on Educa)

Sunscreen – please smother your child in this before they come to preschool, we reapply around midday – but if your child requires it more often please let us know. Also, if they need a something other than what is on special at the supermarket please provide it and let us know.

Hats – if you don't want your child wearing one of our (regularly washed) hats, please provide one they will wear – again named.

## **Important Dates:**

Friday 20 December – is our last day for the year – we finish at 12 noon. This day is party day! – and cleaning day. Everyone is welcome and we really appreciate help from parents to clean things before we put them away for the year.

Tuesday 14 January 2020 – is our first day for the year – hours as per usual. In December there will be a form at reception for you to indicate your end/return dates. And a reminder that now is a good time to let me (Janet) know if you would like to change hours/days for 2020.

## **PARENT EVENING:**

This Tuesday 12 November @ 7 pm - is our School Transition information evening - especially of value for parents whose children are 4 and over, but everyone is welcome. Here at the Rainbow - check out the notice at reception.

## **HAPPY & SAD NEWS**

*Billie and So'o are having a baby ....*

(Just in case you didn't know) .... Which means that sometime next year Billie will be going on maternity leave. She is planning on coming back (Yippee), but will be taking at least 6 months off.

*Myrna's news ....*

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from Myrna explaining that she will be leaving us at the end of the year. She has been studying really hard this year, and will be moving to secondary school teaching .... Obviously we will miss her HEAPS – but we will be sending her off with lots of AROHA and best wishes for a successful transition to big kids school.

For those with children in the nursery – there are some changes happening – but don't worry – we are currently advertising for the RIGHT person to join us and trust that this will happen .... In the meantime Jill and I (and maybe another lovely preschool teacher) will be taking over the reins of the nursery. If you have any questions about the changes please ask me.

## DECEMBER FUN

We are keen to have a centre wide trip in December – most likely to a place with animals (cos we LOVE animals!). For this to happen we will be relying heavily on parent help – so, when you see the notice about it later in the month, please consider joining us on a fun adventure.

We will also be having a family evening closer to the end of the year .... Complete with bouncy castles and lots of fun. Once we set a date (it will be a Friday) we'll let you know!

## OUR ANIMALS

Baby chicks, lambs to feed and a rabbit hopping round the nursery – these along with our guinea pigs, budgies, ducks and big chickens and fish make for an exciting time interacting and caring for our pets .... We are hopeful that the goats that are being cared for elsewhere will join us soon – they are a little bit rascally at the moment so may need a bit more time to settle.

If at any stage you'd like to look after some of our pets (especially over the Christmas break) – please let us know .... You can also offer to clean their cages, buy them food and straw and provide us with more!

## EDUCA .....

A big thanks to all the parents who have signed up to receive your children's learning journals online .... And who have contributed comments and reflections on their learning ..... it is of huge benefit to us as your child's teachers to know about what learning happens at home, and how we see this reflected at preschool .... So do feel free to write HEAPS!

A reminder that apart from the teachers, the only people who can access your child's journal is you and those you have invited .... They are not available for public viewing.

You can also post your own photos and stories – which we also really enjoy seeing.

If you are unsure how do this – just ask for a demo!

- Just a wee incentive – I can see a report that shows who's looked at the journals, and who has added information – so no pressure!

ERO VISIT .... We do not have anything official back from the Education Review Office yet .... But our review went really well – hopefully before Christmas we will have the official report!

*Kahore ianei ahau I whakahau ki a koe? Kia kaha, kia maia; kua e wehi, kua hoki e pawera: no te mea kei a koe a Ihowa, tou Atua, i nga wahi katoa e haere ai koe.*

*Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or troubled, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

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E hoa ma aku hoa rangatira

Some things are harder to do than others and even though I knew this day was coming over a year ago, it is still so hard to write this.

As most of you know I have been studying this year. It was a hard decision to make as my passion for Early childhood education has not changed. Coupled with my passion for children, education, mental health and our changing society has led me to see how many children, especially in Canterbury, struggle to adjust in their teens with their mental health, especially after the quakes. This year I completed my Graduate Diploma in Secondary education and though I have resigned in blind faith, I know that God will take me to where He needs me to be.

Working at Rainbow is not a job. It is a pleasure and a privilege. Just like you, I started at the Rainbow as a mum over 13 years ago. With the love, support and encouragement of my rangatira I joined them as a relief kaiako in 2008, and a qualified kaiako in 2010. That same love, support, encouragement and lots of prayers were with me through this year.

Thank you for the privilege to be part of your children's education, your lives and all the high's and the lows of life. I treasure them all.

And just like our 5+ year olds it is now my turn to fly the nest.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard..."  
Winnie the Pooh

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki , koutou katoa, me te pokapū Rainbow.

Arohanui

Myrna