

The James St Preschool
5 James St
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008



The James St Junior School
156 Main Road
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008

www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz

November 2008

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Grace Binfield	Jesse Blake
Jessica Broderick	Zara Gamble
Keira Gillespie	Alistair Gorton
Francesca Macready	Finn McCaw
Ava McCrory	Harrison Randall
Meila Stevenson	Harvey Watts
Daniel Willcox	

FARWELL TO:

Hannah Brookes	Sheridan Brookes
Genevieve Furniss	Cameron Harvey
Archer Oliver	Cass Robertson
Lucy Rule	Josh Shephard
Marazana Solodi	Rosa Taylor
Stella Trebilco	Thomas Williamson
Ethan Wong	

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

To Tara, Paul and Sid Strangwick on the birth of Alfie.

To Rhonda, Andrew and Kara Gooding on the birth of Alexia.

To Angie, Nigel and Caitlin Scott on the birth of Isla.

To Emely, Martin and Andrew Howe on the birth of Georgia.

To Krista, Scott and Zakiya Fletcher on the birth of Indygo.

To Teassa, Anton and Saffron Mogridge on the birth of Amelie.

To Tui, Jamie and Jack Tulloch on the birth of Lucy-Rose.

STAFF:

The James St Preschool & Junior School has continually strived to offer facilities staffing far in excess of what is required by Ministry of Education Standards. We have over time increased the number of staff in the Nursery and also in the Junior School so as to offer better teacher/child ratios. We are now in a position to be able to appoint another teacher in the preschool area. This will allow us to split the 4 - 5 year old group into 4 - 4½ year olds and 4½ - 5 year olds.



Chloe Skelton, who many of you will remember when she completed a teacher training section with us, has been appointed to take the new 4 - 4½ year old group. Chloe will start in the first week of December. She has a Bachelor of Education (ECE) and comes to us with very high recommendations.

Kerry Cattermole will continue on with the 4½ - 5 year olds. Kerry will also be taking maternity leave from February through until August. She will be replaced by June Seinafo. June has a Diploma of Teaching (ECE) and comes to us with several years experience working in Early Childhood Education. Congratulations also go to Kerry for completing her Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (ECE). Kerry certainly deserves a more relaxed year next year.





Elleke Hughes will be taking maternity leave from February through until July. She will be replaced by Sonia Parsons-Hill. We know most of you see Sonia as part of furniture in all areas of the preschool, we are extremely lucky to be able to cover

staff leave with our own pool of relievers.

Lastly (we hope), Vanessa Mahaki will be taking maternity leave from February through until July. She will be replaced by Jo South. Jo who is currently our cook has decided to study towards her Diploma of Teaching.



Jo will attend college one day per week and undertake centre based training four days per week. We wish Jo well with this. Kerry, Elleke and Vanessa are all planning to return to their current positions.

THANK YOU:

To Miken Freeman for the activity cube and also Aneira Salt for the Jumbo Duplo that they both donated to the Nursery.

To Jasper O'Loughlin & Family for donating two couches to the preschool.

To Jo & Sam South for donating a very treasured Tonka Truck and Bull Dozer. This will be well used in the sandpit.

To all of the parents who helped out on our trips to Willowbank and Science Alive.

To Andrew Whiteside from the Redcliffs Animal Medical Centre for donating his services and neutering our rabbit Packa. Packa had become quite preoccupied with continually digging his way across to Junior School to visit Lou. He also took the opportunity on his visits to eat his way through the preschool and Junior School gardens. We are sorry Packa it had to come to this.

ITEMS NEEDED:

We would appreciate any old (but not rusty) Muffin trays, cake & loaf tins and pots & pans for the children's sandpit. We also appreciate donations of shells collected from beach outings.

PHOTO ORDERS:

Photo Orders should arrive by the end of November in plenty of time for Christmas.

EMAIL ISSUES:

We have only just become aware that we have had some issues with e-mails not getting through our ISP's spam filter. This appears to have affected people who may have e-mailed us by replying to the weekly e-mailed invoices. Hopefully this has been rectified now. If you have e-mailed us in the last few weeks and not received a reply please contact us again. We are very sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

BRAINWAVES PRESENTATION:

Tuesday 18th November 7:00 – 8:30

Due to the popularity of the last Brainwaves Trust presentation earlier in the year (3rd April) and feedback given by parents and the staff who attended, Miriam McCaleb from the trust has been invited to repeat the presentation. We also encourage all those who attended previously to attend again as the information can be seen as overwhelming the first time around.

There will be a short break during the presentation, when tea, coffee and Tonia's famous Black Forest Fudge will be served.

2009 FEES:

Please read carefully the following information regarding our 2009 fees. These fees apply to all children's enrolments received after 1st Nov 2008. All children enrolled on 31st Oct 2008 will be entitled to a fee freeze until 31st Dec 2009, provided their **account balance is maintained at zero each week** in accordance with the agreed enrolment conditions. Families will lose their entitlement to this fee freeze if they do not maintain their account balance at zero. This will be a blanket rule and no discretion will be applied.

We would of liked to have been able to hold fees at their current level for all new and existing children, however due to significant cost increases we quite simply would not be able to continue to operate long term. This policy allows us to maintain our viability, continue to offer free ECE and reward existing parents for their loyalty to the preschool.

FREE ECE FEES	
Up to Six Hours per Day	Free
Up to 20 Hours per Week	Free
Bookings in excess of 6 Hours per Day or 20 Hours per Week	Same as Standard Fees for remainder of booking

The Free ECE optional charge will be maintained at \$2.00 per hour for any hours of free ECE used.

The James St Preschool & Junior School provides Education and Care at a level higher than required by the Ministry of Education Early Childhood Regulations. This includes the provision of meals, higher teacher/child ratios, teacher non-contact time for writing learning profiles and improved teaching experiences, the employment of a full time administrator, the employment of a teacher support person to assist with Individualised Learning Programmes, significantly more outdoor land than required by regulation, Perceptual Motor Programme and considerable resourcing in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Ministry of Education funding received for Free ECE hours is not sufficient to cover all of these additional services. Free ECE at The James St Preschool & Junior School is only viable if parents contribute towards the cost of providing services beyond the minimum level required by regulation.

Parents/Caregivers wishing to access Free ECE must also complete a Ministry of Education Attestation Form

STANDARD FEES		
(From 5 th Jan 2009 to 31 st Dec 2009)	Children Enrolled after 1/11/08	Children Enrolled before 1/11/08 whose accounts are maintained at zero
Hourly Fee (min 3 hrs)	8.00	7.50
Maximum Daily Charge	50	45

TRIP TO WILLOWBANK:

On Monday 13th October all of the morning children went on a trip to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve. Everyone was great at getting here nice and early to help ensure all of the children had name tags and sun block on and parents and children knew their groups.

As soon as the Double-Decker Bus arrived everyone piled in, found a seat and waited for the bus to go. The journey was nice and quick as everyone was busy talking or pointing at all of the different things that could be seen out of the window. When we arrived all of the children, parents, and teachers were keen to get going and explore all of the different things that there were to see.

We quickly split off into different groups and began to make our way around the park. Most of us stopped at the eels first, watching them gliding through the water, and then it was on to see lots of different animals. First there were some deer then a beautiful Peacock that had its feathers fanned for us to see the rainbow of colours. We even found a goose egg hiding by a tree as we were making our way around to see the Ostrich. We then saw some Otters, Monkeys, Chimps and lots of farmyard animals.

It was very quickly time for everyone to meet at the picnic area behind the farmyard for a well earned lunch and lemonade ice block. Once everyone was finished we made our way back to the bus where everyone happily found a seat and many children snuggled into a parent or teacher and had a snooze on the way back to preschool.

We would like to thank all of our parent helpers who came along: Maria, Moira, Sue, Rachel, Charli, Seonaigh, Wendi, Merrilyn and all of the staff for their great organisation and to Jo South for her great preparation of the lunches for all of the children.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Our Christmas party is on Friday 12th December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

There will be a Lolly Scramble, Bouncy Castle, Zoom Slide, Wacky Hair, Face Painting, Sausage Sizzle and Non-Alcoholic Drinks will also be provided.



This years Christmas party will run slightly different, in order to reduce the time parents and children wait to see Father Christmas. This year Father Christmas will arrive at 5:30pm, at which time he will be available for children to sit on his knee and receive a small gift consisting of a balloon, a lollipop and stickers. Please do not bring your own gift this year.

In the event of marginal weather we will e-mail all parents by 1 pm on the day of the party to confirm if the party is going ahead or not. If you are not on our e-mail system, please call the preschool to confirm if the party is going ahead.

We hope to see you and your family there for this popular and fun-filled event.

SUNBLOCK/SUN HATS:

Now that the weather is warming up, could parents please donate a bottle of sunblock and bring along a named sunhat for their child/ren. We would prefer the sunhats to be left at the pre-school for your child's use any time that is necessary. These will be washed on a weekly basis. The Consumers Institute of New Zealand recommends the Nivea Childrens 30+ Sunblock.



NURSERY NEWS:

We have had to delay our relocation of the Nursery to Junior School for a few months. Since our last newsletter we have worked with the Ministry of Education regarding our proposed plans. This has raised issues that require further investigation. In particular the Ministry of Education has indicated to us that each area used in the Junior School must have direct access to the legal required outdoor area for that area. Our current plans work on access to the preschool as a whole.

Due to this interpretation we are currently investigating two further options:

1. Demolition of Junior School and rebuilding. Obviously the most costly option and would require a lengthy temporary relocation.
2. Moving the Nursery to Junior School and operating on reduced licence numbers. This option would be the easiest to undertake and would also result in each Nursery/Junior School child having access to approximately three times the amount of outdoor area that they are legally required to have (the same as Preschool).

There have also been political developments with talk of the new regulations being delayed by six months to allow for further review and consultation.

Given our current proposal is currently costed at \$700 000 we must ensure that we are certain of obtaining Resource Consent (the Council have indicated a general toughening up on preschools operating in residential areas) and a Ministry of Education licence to operate.

We are absolutely committed to undertaking these changes without imposing significant fee increases on parents and will outline developments in the New Year.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

We have been very busy at Junior School this past month with the children showing a lot of interest in vehicles, which has led through to our current focus on People, Places and Things in our

community. At the end of September we had a Policeman come in to visit and show us around his car, and he also gave us some books which the children have loved reading with the teachers. Everyone had turns at looking through the car, and sitting in the driver's seat pretending to drive. When Alby left he set the siren off for us, which was really loud but lots of fun.

On Monday 20th October the Junior School also had Andy Ambulance visiting which was fun to explore and find out about Ambulances and what they do (and he even brought along a real ambulance for us to see).

We are now looking forward to planning a trip to our local supermarket, and pet shop and maybe to Sumner beach for some fun before the end of the year.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

With the warmer weather we have been experiencing there has been an increase in water play. Activities have been provided that have allowed the children to develop a variety of concepts - water safety (boats), mathematical (measuring), scientific (floating and sinking) and the effects of water, particularly on their clothes! Please pack several changes of clothing (or even their togs) into your child's bag as water play can often occur several times within the day.

Preschool has a very limited supply of spare clothing for children to change into. It is also important that you label your child's clothing and footwear. Often items that are identical or similar items (e.g. 'Croc' type shoes) are taken accidentally; clear naming of your child's clothing will assist staff in locating any lost items. A special box for each of the children's groups are also being introduced so that they may place (or store) their hats and other items of clothing during the day. A communal box will also be available for shoes and boots only.

An interest in the natural environment at preschool has also led to the children discovering the importance of caring for trees. This has also allowed them to develop their knowledge on how they grow, their parts and how and what they need to do to help them grow.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER:

Please make sure that your child is signed in (when you arrive) and out (when you pick up) on the attendance register. If the preschool was to evacuate it is the preschool's policy to use the attendance records to ensure that all children are accounted for. The attendance register also provides us with vital information of your child's attendance for the Ministry of Education, Work and Income; and your child's invoice.

IS YOUR CHILD TURNING THREE?

Please ensure that you have completed a Ministry of Education Attestation form at least one week prior to your child turning three. There is a sample form at preschool to assist you in completing all areas of this form correctly.

If you receive a Work and Income Subsidy, you should still complete an Attestation Form. Most parents will be better off claiming their entitlement of Free ECE and then claiming Work and Income Subsidies for any hours over six per day or 20 per week. We will contact you if you are better off just continuing on a Work and Income Subsidy. It is the parents' responsibility to notify Work & Income of any Free ECE hours being received so the subsidy can be altered accordingly.

If you change your child's booking on a **permanent** basis you will be required to complete a change of details form (as you do now), as well as an amendment to your attestation form (if receiving free ECE). Each Attestation Form has space for up to three changes to your child's hours.

If you change your child's hours on a **casual** basis you do not need to complete a change of details form. However if you wish to claim Free ECE for the casual hours (assuming you have Free ECE hours left in that week), you will need to make two amendments to your attestation form. In one line you will need to show the hours you wish to claim for the week of the casual booking. In the next line you will need to show the original hours being claimed again.

XMAS HOURS 2008:

The preschools will be opening the following hours over the Xmas period.

Date	Hours Open
Wed 24 th Dec	Normal Hours
Thurs 25 th Dec	Closed
Fri 26 th Dec	Closed
Mon 29 th Dec	8:30 - 4:30
Tues 30 th Dec	8:30 - 4:30
Wed 31 st Dec	8:30 - 4:30
Thurs 1 st Jan	Closed
Fri 2 nd Jan	Closed
Mon 5 th Jan	Resume Normal Hours

To assist us with planning our staffing over Xmas, could you please complete the following holiday booking form as soon as possible.

Holiday Booking Form Xmas 2008

Child's Name

We will be attending our normal hours during
December and January. *(Please Circle)*

OR

Last day of attendance before holiday

_____ / _____ / _____

First day of attendance after holiday

_____ / _____ / _____

Signed

Please return this form to the payments box.

Kind regards to you all,
Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Kerry, Clair, Sarah, Chloe, June, Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Rebecca van der Kley, Hilary, Hayley, Kylie, Teryl, Elleke, Sally, Gary, Jo Boyer, Sharyn, Jo South, Denise & Sue.