

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

August 2009

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Erica Batchelor	Issac Boomer
Aidan Dujakovic	Zach Georgieff
Olivia Hawkes	Mika Hughes
Levi Mahaki	Flynn Maynard
Thomas Rawstron	Joshua Ritchie
Charlie Robinson	Murphy Robinson
Mckenzie Walker	



Kerry will be returning from maternity leave on 29th September. This will allow us to split the 4 - 5 year old group into two groups and further enhance the opportunities we offer to the older children as they are nearing school.

FARWELL TO:

Bailee Atkinson	Megan Cattell
Rico Gamble	Libby Gillespie
Renee Maddigan	Meila Stevenson
Harmony Tuilaepa	Charli Watts

We will include a full update of all teaching staff and their responsibilities in our next newsletter.

SICKNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Thanks so much to all of you who have been informing us of children being absent from preschool. This is incredibly helpful to us in managing staff rosters during periods of increased sickness. Absences can be phoned to preschool any time or you can email murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz

As this newsletter goes to print we are currently working closely with the Ministry of Health to contain the spread of Measles from the Nursery. While Measles is extremely contagious, most children have been vaccinated against this and most people over the age of 40 also have sufficient immunity.

STAFF:



Vanessa will be returning to the Nursery on Monday 10th August working Monday to Thursday. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rebecca McIvor for the outstanding job she has done as acting Team Leader of the Nursery while

Vanessa has been on maternity leave.

Elleke will also be returning from maternity leave on 20th August. She will be working Thursday and Friday at Junior School. We would also like to thank Sonia for seamlessly fitting into Elleke's teaching programme over the last six months.



The MOH has reminded all parents to be vigilant in looking out for children with suspected symptoms of Measles. Symptoms of Measles in the early stages resemble those of a cold, seasonal influenza, or swine flu. The typical measles rash often appears after up to 4 days of flu-like illness, and a child is considered infectious from approximately one day prior to symptom onset until 4 days after onset of rash.

For this reason, the advice to keep children away from school or preschool when unwell until a probable diagnosis is clear, remains pertinent.

When a child is diagnosed with suspected measles, the MOH will contact the affected preschool or school and request class lists to identify children who have been exposed. Immunisation records will also be requested to identify those requiring follow-up. In some cases, children who are unimmunized and do not receive appropriate preventative treatment will need to be excluded from preschool or school for up to 14 days.

This is a timely reminder for parents to remember to supply copies of children's immunisation details when these are updated. Records can be returned to the payments box or scanned and emailed to Murray. This prevents children's details being unnecessarily passed onto the MOH in the event of a contagious diseases outbreak.

NURSERY NEWS:

We are focussing on Literacy this coming month and are planning a walk down to the Redcliffs Library or possibly Sumner. We are going to make books with the children, bring in our own "special" books from home and would like it if the children could bring in any of their own favourites for us to share for a day.

Could parents please remember to supply a piece of fruit each day to share for morning and afternoon teas.



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

Our new programme planning is working well and there are many more spontaneous experiences happening for the children. We are planning a disco day sometime very soon for all of the children who love to dance and sing. So watch out for notices around Junior School for the date. Otherwise keep checking the planning board in the Kitchen to find out what has been happening on a day to day basis. Can parents please check their children's cubby holes to see if they need more nappies and wipes, staff try to remind parents but are not always able to catch everyone.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

Preschool has been visited on numerous occasions by "Jack Frost" - the children have gone to great lengths to hunt out the ice that he has left behind! With the weather continuing to be extremely cold we still believe that the children should be offered the opportunity to play outside. If however you wish your child to remain inside, please let a teaching staff member know.

Whilst staff do their best to ensure that children's clothing does not go missing (by placing it in their teacher's box in the hallway and/or bag); it is essential that your child's clothing is named. Naming children's clothing assists us in not only identifying clothing (while assisting children to get dressed), but also tracking down clothing when there are several identical items. If you have picked up another child's clothing we would appreciate it being returned. The lost property box is located in the kitchen (under a small table beside the sign in/out desk). Please note that the lost property box is emptied at the end of each month - the left over items are normally placed in the clothing recycle bins. A big thank you to all families/whanau who have recently donated spare clothing.

June and Clair would like to thank Ingrid Wyllie, Rachel Atkinson, John Davies and Polly Cross's grandmother who helped out on the recent trip to the museum. The children who went certainly enjoyed the body exhibition and the Discovery Centre.

Thanks also to Nina Hayes for the shells. We are constantly on the lookout for resources to enhance the children's art experiences and the preschool environment -

- ✂ Boxes - we cannot accept any boxes that have had cleaning products in them (e.g. soap powder) or medicine (e.g. paracetamol), or toilet paper rolls
- ✂ Plastic containers - pottles (e.g. yoghurt), bottles (e.g. milk) - please make sure these have been rinsed out
- ✂ Gift wrap, cellophane, ribbon
- ✂ Buttons, corks, bottle tops
- ✂ Natural - drift wood, shells, pine cones, feathers and polished stones

Over the past few weeks the children have been involved in challenging themselves physically; developing their awareness of the significance of letters (especially those in their name); recycling (particularly our new worm farm) and understanding their bodies (such as skeletons). You may have noticed in the kitchen area that the way the weekly learning experiences are displayed has changed. In an effort to share these experiences with you we have created more visual displays (rather than lots of writing!). However, the feedback you give us about your child's learning/experience(s) within the home is extremely valuable. To assist with this a prompting question has been added to each of the children's individualised learning stories. Please take the time to fill these out as they allow the teaching staff to develop and/or implement ways to enhance your child's learning experiences.

Please remember to sign your child in when you drop off, and sign out when you pick up. Parents, caregivers and whanau also need to remember to drop off and pick up within a child's booked hours. A charge of \$1 for each minute is charged when a child is dropped off early and/or picked up late. Dropping off and/or picking up outside booked hours breaches the Government regulated adult to child ratios; and often means that a staff member has to remain outside their rostered hours of work and/or miss part of their break(s).

POLICY REVIEW:

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

August	September
Daily Programme	
Programme Planning	First Aid
Curriculum Management	Accidents

CHALK FUNDRAISER & PARENT DIRECT FUNDRAISER:

Once again we will be taking part in the Chalk and Parent Direct Preschool Fundraisers. Many of you have found these promotions great for purchasing some of your Xmas presents. The preschool receives equipment to the value of 20% of all orders places. Each fundraiser catalogue has a separate order form. Please keep the orders and payments separate from each other. If you do wish to make an order, please return your order forms and payments to the payments box by Fri 4th Sept. Please do not combine Chalk order payments with Parent Direct or preschool fees payments.

PAPER:

We are always very grateful for any donations of white paper, coloured paper, coloured card or old style printer paper (apparently they were called dot matrix printers) and cardboard of any shape and size to supplement our art programme.

CHILDREN'S PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS:

Penny Nichols, who is a professional photographer of children, will be in both preschools taking black and white photos of the children while they are busy playing. She will be visiting on Mon 31st Aug through to Fri 4th Sept. The cost for each photo will be \$14.00. If your child/ren doesn't attend on these days at these times then you are more than welcome to bring them along and stay while Penny takes photographs of them.

Penny's photos have proven extremely popular in past years with many parents purchasing these for Xmas gifts. Please feel free to bring siblings along as well.

Photos will be available for viewing and ordering from 21st September, giving plenty of time for families who wish to send photos overseas for Christmas.



Penny Nichols will be at preschool:	
Mon 31 st August Tues 1 st September Wed 2 nd September Fri 4 th September	9:30 - 2:00
Thurs 3 rd September	12:00 - 5:30

FAVOURITE STORYBOOK MOVIE CHARACTER DRESSUP DAY



Friday 7th August

All children (and staff!) are invited to participate in a dress up day to help fundraise and support TV3's Big Night In.

Gold coin donations greatly accepted!



CHRISTMAS HOURS 2009:

The preschools will be opening the following hours over the Xmas period. Children will be required to bring lunch boxes from Tues 29th Dec through until Fri 15th Jan.

To assist us with planning our staffing over Xmas, could you please complete the following holiday booking form as soon as possible, alternatively you can e-mail holiday bookings to murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz

Date	Hours Open
Thu 24 th Dec	Normal Hours
Fri 25 th Dec	Closed
Mon 28 th Dec	Closed
Tues 29 th Dec - Thurs 31 st Dec	8:30 - 4:30
Fri 1 st Jan	Closed
Mon 4 th Jan	Closed
Tues 5 th Jan - Fri 8 th Jan	8:30 - 4:30
Mon 11 th Jan	Resume Normal Hours

Holiday Booking Form Xmas 2009

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.

Holiday Booking Form Xmas 2009

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, Anna, Chloe,
June, Sonia, Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Rebecca
van der Kley, Hilary, Hayley, Jo, Kylie, Teryl,
Sally, Elleke, Gary, Sharyn, Heidi, Denise & Sue.