

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

April 2010



Thanks to everyone who supported our Easter fun night and the Superhero Plunket Fundraiser Day. The children loved dressing up as their favourite superhero as well as trying out all of the new dress-ups recently purchased for Preschool and Junior School.

With the colder mornings and the leaves changing colour it's easy to see that autumn is setting in (and the sunhats can be stored away). Even when the days are cooler the children are being offered opportunities to explore the outside environment.

Please ensure you pack clearly named warm weatherproof clothing for your child so that they can participate - jacket, hat, scarf, gloves, gumboots! Extra clothing is also appreciated (trousers, jerseys, long sleeved tops) as the children still get wet (often in puddles).

On Monday 15th February we were very fortunate to host Gota Matui and Yuki Lino from a university in Japan; and Lia de Vocht - van Alphen (from Canterbury University). Yuki, a doctoral student had been investigating our NZ curriculum (particularly assessment) at Canterbury University. Gota, an associate professor was interested in seeing how our socio-cultural approach to children's learning and development works. Exchanges of information from international academics are extremely important as they offer the visitors with experiences and ideas that ultimately influence their approaches when they return. During their time with us they looked at our environment, children's profile books and daily programmes.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:



Niko Clarke
Scarlet Pilbrow
Louie Thwaites

Louis McAlpine
Leon Pobjoy-Wymer
Harry Whithear

John McCoy
Arona Togiasso
Annie Young

FAREWELL TO:



Aidan Dujakovic
Estella Johns
Harisson Randall
Archie Young

Alana Cooke
Rock McLaren
Matthew Weisenburger

Clara Dujakovic
Georgia Raine
Eva Wylie

Good luck to all of you who are starting school this month.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Jollie, Jacky and Taylah Zhang on the birth of Anton.



THANK YOU:

To Maia & Jesse Blake for donating a new wooden bike to preschool. The Blake family's company also made the new round tables and stools that are in the art room and at Junior School. The tables and stools can be purchased by visiting www.mocka.co.nz

STAFF:

The James St Preschool & Junior School currently operate on two licences for Ministry of Education purposes. Both preschools comply independently with all legislation and both are reviewed independently by ERO. We would prefer to be licenced as one preschool however this is not possible under current regulations. We have recently undertaken a review of administrative and leadership functions across both preschools and have decided to centralise some of the roles that are common to both preschools and in particular the tasks that require consistency across both areas.

We have decided to maintain three team leaders as is presently the case, Nursery, Junior School and Preschool. The Team Leaders are responsible for the day to day management of their learning area, including children, staff, curriculum, health and safety, regulatory compliance and most importantly parent liaison. The Team Leader is the person parents should see regarding the daily running of the preschools.

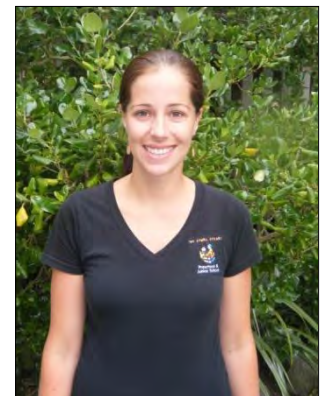
We have created a new position of Person Responsible for Performance and Review. This position encompasses all areas of the preschools and involves responsibility for Staff Appraisal and Development, Teacher Registration, Teachers in Training, Internal Review Systems and External Review Systems (ERO). The three Team Leaders and the Person Responsible for Performance and Review also have a large teaching component in their job description.



Tracy Summerton has been appointed to the position of Person Responsible for Performance and Review. Tracy was a natural choice for this position given her significant experience in Early Childhood Education, her exceptional skills in managing people and her thorough grasp of the links between legislation, policy and practice. Tracy will also spend one day per week undertaking further study in Early Childhood Education. Tracy is one of those rare (some would say unusual) people that gets extremely excited about reading a new Ministry publication or writing a 60 page Crisis Management Plan.

Kirsty Jones will take over the position of Team Leader of the Preschool learning area from 19th April.

Kirsty has worked in Early Childhood Education for seven years and has considerable experience across all age groups, especially the 2-5 year olds. Kirsty has the unanimous support of all staff in undertaking this role and we wish her the best in this position.



On a sadder note we have accepted Sonia's resignation. Sonia, who travels a considerable distance each day, has been appointed to a teaching position at a preschool much closer to her home. We would like to thank Sonia for her contributions over the last seven years. Sonia has been extremely adaptable and has been a valuable teacher in all three areas of the preschool. Sonia finishes on the 30th April. We wish her well in her new job.

NURSERY NEWS:

The children in the nursery have shown an interest in the teacher's camera. As a result they have been offered one of the children's digital cameras to take images. A significant amount of children have also been developing themselves physically - by walking, and manipulating sensory/messy play.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

March has been a busy month here at Junior School with our staff changes. It has been nice for the children and staff getting to know Chloe and for Chloe to learn all about us. We have also had some new children start who have settled in very well and are having a great time exploring all of the fun things to do here. Some of our older children are moving over to preschool in the new school term and some nursery children are heading over here. The children have been very interested in the monkey bars that we borrowed from preschool at the beginning of March, there has been lots of challenging of our balancing skills, climbing and jumping skills. We are sad that the weather is changing and becoming very cold already, so we would just like to remind parents about keeping a couple of changes of clothing for warm or cold weather in children's bags or cubbies. We would also be very grateful for any plastic bags or newspapers that you may have spare.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

Over the last month we supported two students Jayne and Emily on practicum. Throughout each of the teaching years, staff mentor various students from Canterbury University, Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa/New Zealand Childcare Association and New Zealand College of Early Childhood Education. These opportunities allow both the students and staff to develop professionally. India Ward will be on practicum during the second school term.

After showing an interest the children have been offered experiences to extend their knowledge on - dinosaurs, volcanoes, puppets/masks, caterpillars/butterflies, and gone on spontaneous trips within the community.

SIGN IN/SIGN OUT:

Please ensure that you sign your child in on arrival, and out as you depart. Arriving before and after your child's booked times attracts a \$1 per minute early/late fee. Children on the premises outside their bookings also affect the regulated teacher to child ratios; and may risk the preschool being in breach of its licence conditions. The register is also used during our evacuation/emergency procedures.

ILLNESS/SICKNESS:



We have been asked by a preschool parent to highlight the fact that there is a Chicken Pox vaccination available. *"If I had known about it I would have definitely paid the \$75 to avoid my son coming down with Chicken Pox right on Xmas! I have mentioned the immunisation to friends and no one is aware of it."*

DIRECT DEBIT WINNER:

Congratulations to Miranda and Scott Noakes, who have one weeks free childcare for setting up a direct debit payment. The James St Preschool & Junior School only accepts Direct Debit payments for all new enrolments. This includes children transitioning from one preschool to the other.

OPTIONAL CHARGE:

Recently we have had a few parents questioning the reason for the 20 Hours ECE Optional Charge. This is not surprising given it is now three years since The James St Preschool implemented the 20 Hours ECE scheme. The Ministry of Education funds \$4.56 per hour for a child eligible for 20 Hours ECE up to six hours per day or 20 hours per week. This is a shortfall of \$3.44 per hour. The Ministry's justification for the shortfall is that the subsidy is only intended to cover the minimum regulated standard of care in Early Childhood Services. If preschools offer a higher standard of Education and Care then it is up to them to ask parents to pay towards this care.

The James St Preschool exceeds the Minimum Regulated Standards in many areas including:

	Minimum Regulated Standard	James St Preschool
Under Two Teacher Child Ratio	1 to 5	Approx 1 to 3
Over Two Teacher Child Ratio	1 to 10	Approx 1 to 7
Meals	Not Required to be Provided	Morning Tea, Lunches, Afternoon Tea, Late Snack all included
Space per Child - Outdoor	5 square meters	15 square meters
Learning Profiles	Not Required to be Provided	3 to 4 hours per week non-contact time provided to all teaching staff for documenting children's learning and development. Profiles provided for all children.
Information and Communication Technology	Not Required to be Provided	\$20000 annual budget for ICT including computers, networking, cameras and audio visual equipment and consumables.
Staff Qualifications	Currently 50% of all teachers meeting ratio requirements must hold an ECE teaching qualification and NZTC Registration.	100% of all teachers meeting ratio requirements hold an ECE teaching qualification and NZTC Registration.

In 2007 parents supported the introduction of 20 Hours ECE and the savings this delivered. While some parents were disappointed Government Funding did not cover the full cost of care they overwhelmingly said they were prefer to pay a small costs towards maintaining the same standard of care they had chosen when 20 Hours ECE was not in place. The \$2.00 hour optional charge has not increased since 2007 and we have no intention of increasing this charge, however for 20 Hours ECE to remain viable at The James St Preschool we need all parents to agree to this payment. We ask that parents do weigh up the on-going viability of 20 Hours for everyone versus any short term gain when agreeing to this payment.

We are currently waiting to see if any changes are announced in the May budget before undertaking a fuller review of 20 hours ECE at The James St Preschool.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Scoop- the Art of Pilates are running Pilates classes out of the Redcliffs Bowling Club & the Union Church , across from New World. They have some new classes, good for morning school/preschool drop off- 9:15- 10:15.

See www.scooppilates.co.nz for more information or contact 022-046-2009 or info@scooppilates.co.nz

If you have any information that you would like to include in our newsletter please email details to murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz

We do not include advertising in our newsletter, however if your business or community group is doing something that would be of interest to preschool parents please feel free to send this to us.



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS:

We still have a few copies left of the 2010/2011 entertainment book. Please secure your books by completing the form at the back of this newsletter and returning to the payments box at preschool or Junior School. Cheque, Visa and Mastercard payments are accepted. You can also purchase a book by adding the cost to your child's account. Just indicate this on the order form or e-mail Murray at murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz indicating your child's name and the number of books you require.

The 2009/10 Entertainment Books are still only \$65 and include offers at the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sports and leisure activities... all with 25% to 50% off or 2 for 1 offers.

CHILDCARE TAX REBATES:

You should have already received your Tax Receipt for preschool fees paid between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010.



You can claim a rebate if you:

- earned taxable income (such as salary or wages, benefit or self-employed income) during the year you're claiming for
- were resident in New Zealand at any time during that tax year (including non-residents)
- are an individual (not a company, trust or partnership), and

your child was under 18 or unable to work because of a disability, and:

- you were a single parent, or
- you and your partner were both receiving income which had tax deducted (this doesn't apply to couples who are separated), or
- you or your partner were disabled or physically unable to care for your child.

You can't claim this rebate if you live in a communal home, such as a rest home or a hospice.

The maximum Tax Rebate you can claim is \$940. This will result in a Tax Refund of \$310. If you claimed this rebate last year you will automatically receive a claim form from IRD.

You can also download a claim form from the forms section of our website www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz

If you have lost your tax receipt please e-mail murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz and we will reply with a replacement receipt.

If you have not claimed this rebate in previous years and were eligible, IRD will accept claims for the previous five years. You will need a separate claim form for each tax year. E-mail Murray if you require previous year's tax receipts.



Changes to Work and Income subsidy levels came into force on 1st April 2010. The hourly rate payable has increased.

How much can you earn and receive a Childcare Subsidy?	Number of children in your family aged under 16 (or under 18 and attending school)		
	1 Child	2 Children	3+ Children
\$ 3.70	\$1,274	\$1,465	\$1,634
\$ 2.57	\$1,380	\$1,581	\$1,772
\$ 2.43	\$1,486	\$1,698	\$1,910

Example: You have two children aged under 16 and your Gross Family Income is less than \$1581 per week, but more than \$1465 per week. You would be eligible for a childcare subsidy of \$2.57 per hour.

What are the maximum hours for a subsidy?

If you are in work or study, or if you have special circumstances that mean you need access to childcare, you can get:

- A Childcare Subsidy for up to 50 hours a week

Special circumstances might mean, for example, that you need to care for a sick partner, or that you need to attend regular medical treatment for yourself. If you are not in work or study you can still get a Childcare Subsidy for up to nine hours a week.

For more information or an application form please see Tonia or contact Work and Income on 0800 559009

Application forms are also available in the forms section of our website www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz

Kind regards to you all,
 Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Kerry, Kirsty Jones, Clair, Anna, Chloe, June, Vanessa, Hilary, Sonia, Jo, Kirsty Begg, Kylie, Teryl, Sally, Elleke, Hayley, India, Sharyn, Heidi & Denise



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Number of Books _____ (\$65 per book) Total Charge _\$ _____

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Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp Date _____ / _____

Card Holders Name _____ Signature _____

