



Welcome to our March newsletter.

We now have two Waikato students with us each working one day a week on Wednesdays and Fridays for the next two terms – both students are called "Kate" so please say hello to them if you see them around.

The children are continuing to enjoy water play and even though we have had some rain this week the temperatures are still warm. We ask that you can all ensure they have plenty of spare clothing in their bags for a couple of changes.

Gala

Bethlehem School are holding their Gala earlier this year on **Sun 11th April**. We will be having a stall again and this year we will be selling gorgeous, dried flower wands and pencil cases.

We will be asking for parent help on the day – 2 at a time in half hour blocks – and will put a roster up in the entrance area in the next couple of weeks.

Constitution

We are in the process of updating our Constitution. This is the legal authority for our Pre-School. Our Committee are reviewing the updates and then it will be out for consultation from next week for you all to read. These changes will then be proposed at the AGM on April 13th.

New Food Guidelines

Please check out these links on the Min of Health's website regarding foods that children are at risk from choking on. It is up to you to choose what food you give your children. Here at our Pre-School, there are always teachers with children at mealtimes and we all hold a Current First Aid certificate.

[Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Yoghurt – many children are sent with yoghurt pouches in their lunchboxes which children find very challenging to open – and if they do, their lids are often left lying around. With a larger number of two-year-olds we are concerned of the risk of these being put in their mouths and choking. We would like to encourage parents to purchase a reusable pouch with a large twist top lid – therefore supporting our sustainability practices and children's safety.

These can be purchased from these websites to name a couple:

[Kai Carrier Reusable Food Pouches 140ml 5 Pack | The Warehouse](#)

[Reusable Food Pouch 5 Pack - New Zealand Nature \(nznature.co.nz\)](#)

V.I.M Takeaway Dinner

Mark your calendars! Our Annual event will be held on **Wednesday 7th April between 5-6.30pm**. We invite the very important male in your children's lives to come along with some dinner and share some time at Pre-School. It may be an Uncle, neighbour, Grandad, or special friend, so don't despair if Dad is away or unable to come.

Bob Owens

We will be walking down to Bob Owens to sing to the old folks on **Wednesday 24th March**.

We will be leaving after morning tea at approx 10.15am, returning by 11.15am and would like as many parent helpers as we can. If you can join us, then please let Toni know.

This is a great way to introduce the young and old in our community in a fun interactive morning.

Management Committee Meeting

Our next Management Committee Meeting will be held at Pre-School on **Tuesday 16th March at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome. Please see Toni or Jo if you would like more information.

AGM Date has been set – please join us on **Tue 13 April** from 8.15pm. Wine and Cheese is provided!

Easter Raffle

We would like to ask all our families to please send in any Easter treats for our Easter Raffle baskets. This is one of our main fundraisers for the year and we greatly appreciate your donations.

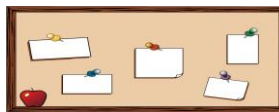
We usually get to make up some wonderful gift baskets which are greatly admired!

Tickets will go on sale soon – and sent home with your children.



Information around Pre-School

Please take a regular look at your child's portfolio and check out our programme planning board to see the rich environment of learning activities happening in the centre each day.



Please see Facebook for regular photo updates and please feel free to talk to staff if you have any questions or queries about your child's learning.

Signing in

Please ensure you sign your child in and out each day. This is a Ministry of Education requirement for record keeping but is also a safety requirement to ensure we know children are with us.

Absences

Please also let us know if your child is absent. You can call us and leave us a message, email us or private message us

A tummy bug is about.

Please remember our 48-hour exclusion policy as recommended by the Health Department. This helps to contain the spread of germs.



Lost Property

Please remember to check our Lost Property for any items you may have lost this term. Please remember to name your child's belongings so we can encourage children to take responsibility for their own possessions and to promote independence.

Another Reminder on Gate Protocol



We would like to remind all Pre-School parent/families and visitors to carefully check the gate as they enter and leave our Pre-School grounds – ensuring that the gate closes properly behind you – and also that you have not inadvertently allowed any other children through with you.

Changes

If you would like to change/increase your child's hours then please see Jo in the Office.



Questionnaire has gone out this week.

Hopefully, you will all have seen the e-mail with a link to our Survey Monkey Questionnaire. This questionnaire helps us in our Strategic and Goal planning for the Pre-School so would very much appreciate your responses.

Whanau Wall

If you haven't already bought in a family photo we would love to have one for our Whanau wall. Having our family photos displayed in the Pre-School helps to promote our sense of belonging and well-being for our children and families as they feel a part of the wider Pre-School community.