

Spare Labelled Clothes

Te Ao Tamariki 1st quarter 2012

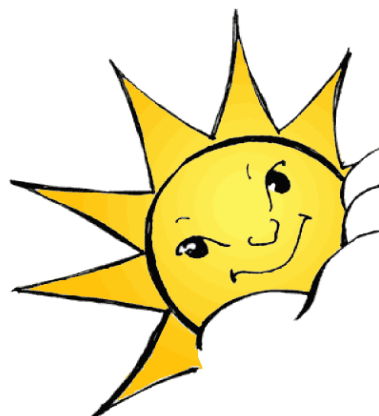
Newsletter

Welcome back everyone

We have had some wonderful stories about the holidays from our tamariki. Some of you have brought treasures and photos into our centre, reminders of your holidays. Thank you for sharing them with us. We hope everyone was able to take some time for relaxation over the Christmas Break. If you would like to email any photos or stories through to your primary carer the emails addresses can be found on this webpage. We also welcome fresh family photos for our Whanau Board.

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/earlyyears/people/tatpeople.shtml>

The weather has been very challenging for everyone lately. We have needed summer and winter clothes to be available for our children, sometimes on the same day! We apply sun-screen for the children when they are playing outside and this is applied twice a day as deemed necessary. If your child needs a particular brand of sunscreen please can you supply this to us with your child's name on it.



Remembering Lei

Lei was a teacher at Te Ao Tamariki from Jan 2010 to November 2011. Sadly, she passed away in November last year during a trip back to China to see her family.

In our staff meeting at Te Ao Tamariki the teachers discussed how we would like to celebrate Lei's life as a much loved teacher at our centre. Everyone agreed that Lei was an integral part of the centre. Lei's stories are in our children's learning journals. She is warmly remembered by our teachers, parents, children and all those who knew her.

We were unable to share our grief in our New Zealand way at the time of Lei's death as a respect for her parents and in accordance to her family's wishes. Cassandra and Te Ao Tamariki staff had the opportunity to meet with Lei's mum and dad who came out to New Zealand in December. They explained that Lei had died from a heart condition and had passed away peacefully in her sleep on 28th of November 2011, almost immediately after arriving in China. It is her parents' wishes that Lei's passing is kept private, to colleagues at Te Ao Tamariki and a small circle of family and friends both in New Zealand and China.

We feel that now is the time that we can get together to remember Lei and we would like to do this by holding a small and private Memorial Service. We will be holding the service on Sunday February 12th at 3:30 pm at Te Ao Tamariki. We would like to plant a memorial garden and fill it with white flowers. Lei loved white flowers. Rob Thomson who is Chaplain to the Navy will take the service for us. We will follow the service with shared kai and a cuppa. Staff and families of Te Ao Tamariki are welcome at this small and private service.

A donation would be appreciated towards the cost of the memorial garden.

There will be a book of condolences available on the day if you would like to share your thoughts and messages. This book will be forwarded to Lei's family.



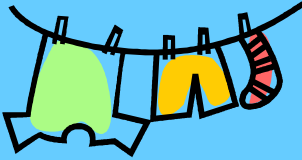


We welcomed in the Chinese New Year at Te Ao Tamariki by eating, dancing and singing. We wish to thank Qingcheng Sun's mother and grandmother who spent the morning with us making dumplings with the children. Sousuke Feng's father, Kevin, came to our morning karakia session and shared with the children what it was like for him growing up in China. He explained to the children the meaning of Chinese New Year. The children and the family members who were present at karakia were given a red envelope as a good luck gift for this special occasion. Kevin talked about what the year of the Dragon symbolises. Thanks you Kevin for your contribution to our programme. The children, teachers and visitors enjoyed having dumplings for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Everyone was so full!

Several children cooperated to complete their own dragon. Well done!

Spare Labelled Clothes

It would be really great if the children could come with their clothes and spare clothes named. This will make it easier for everyone to find the correct owners of miscellaneous and mislaid clothes.



**Our Phone Number
is 03 364 2821 ext3**

New Families

We would like to welcome back all our returning families.

We would also like to welcome some new families and children into our community. Welcome to Emily Rose Elder, Joshua Ling-Vovnenko and William Taylor.

Waitangi Day 6th February



We have been learning about New Zealand and our bi-cultural heritage. We will be practicing our waiata and will continue to learn our karakia.

We have been making a marae and learning about our National Flag.

This week on **Friday 10th February** we will Celebrate with a 'Hangi' This will be as near to a traditional Hangi as our resources will allow. We will use the oven in our kitchen and the slow cooker for the meat.

We will be asking parents to donate a vegetable. Traditionally a hangi has consisted of meat, potatoes, kumeras, pumpkins and cabbage. We will supply the meat.



We hope that you all enjoyed Waitangi Day.