



April 2010
Newsletter

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Newsletters via email:

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Welcome back from the holidays!

We hope you all had a great time during the holidays– I have heard some stories of lovely trips away and fun times. We would like to welcome Gill Smith to our centre as an Early Childhood teacher. Please read more about Gill further on in the newsletter. Also a big welcome to Sydney and Joanne, and Callum and Emma.

You will also have noticed some colorful changes to the place and please say hello to our budgie when you walk by – I am sure he is much happier inside as the weather gets a little cooler. We look forward to seeing you all at the Parent Evening on 4 May at 11 Coyle St, at 7.30pm. Marguerite Vanderkolk who works for IHC will be presenting a session on Parents as Advocates and will be discussing your rights when deciding on schools, ongoing education for your children and what funding is available. You are all most welcome and we look forward to seeing you all there.

We attended training over the break including Workplace Literacy, AEPS training, Health and Safety, Infection Control, Treaty of Waitangi training and Business Planning, as well as lots of cleaning and preparing the centre for an awesome Term 2.

On the 6 and 7 of May we will be attending the National Conductive Education Foundation Conference and AGM here in Auckland. There will not be any classes held those 2 days. Ildi and Gyongyi will be attending the National Early Childhood Conference in Christchurch on the 8th and 9th May. The week of 17-21 May is National Conductive Education Awareness week and we will be holding an Open Day here in the centre on Wednesday 19 May. Please be aware there will be many visitors in the centre who will be observing classes. On the 27 May we will be hosting a stand at "Know How Day " at North Harbour Stadium which is a free information day for parents and carers and those who work with children with disabilities.

Please check the notice board for news from the Parent Reference group meeting on 16 April. And, thank you all very much for remembering to sign your child in and out of the centre – makes our life a lot easier!

Jenny Ballantyne
Conductive Education Manager

Introducing Gill Smith

Gill is our new Early Childhood teacher in Conductive Education centre, she has written a little bit about herself as an introduction.

I have been working with children for more than 20 years in several health and educational settings. For the past five years I have been working in Early Childhood Education. My professional background has involved me working with children and young adults who display high and complex needs. In the past I have worked in small developmental group settings which have had a strong focus on play therapy, speech language development, behaviour modification and social skills.

I have also worked on an individual basis with many children who have displayed complex needs. All this has enabled me to work closely with some amazing families and form professional trusting relationships and partnerships. I am passionate about my work with children and believe in giving all children an opportunity to shine.

I have three grown up children, a daughter in high school, and two sons who are both working in their chosen careers. In my free time you will find with a really good book, at the movies or spending quality time with my children, my good friends or my little white dog. I have an interest in and am involved in The Mt Albert Dyslexic Ass, Circle of Friends and La Leche League.

Kindergarten Group

This term the kindergarten group will be looking at the Maori New Year celebration Matariki. We will be learning some new Maori words and songs relating to Matariki. We will be visiting the Auckland Museum later in the term. We are also talking to the children about Autumn, reading stories, singing songs and doing lots of activities using Autumn leaves and looking at all the different textures and sounds of autumn leave and the bright colours the autumn brings. The children have already been busy collecting leaves and exploring

Important dates

4 May	Parent Evening
6 & 7 May	Conductive Education AGM and Seminar
PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES ON 6 & 7 MAY	
17 to 21 May	Conductive Education Awareness Week
19 May	IRIS Conductive Education Open Day

Theme for this term is Maori Culture

This term we are having a focus on Maori Culture. To start this discussion, I thought it would be interesting to talk about IRIS and the Maori words that sit under our logo—Tirohanga Whānui.

From a Maori perspective there is no single word for IRIS – the closest are words such as Karu, Kanohi and Whatu. The Maori word for rainbow is 'uenuku', and for wave is 'ngaru'.



Our kaumatua and kaiwhakahaere have provided the term 'Tirohanga Whānui' which means being able to see (today) and also beyond (broad spectrum of possibilities, including things not seen or known about yet). This supports our purpose which is to help people be the very best they can

be, and also our vision which is to see beyond and unlock potential.

Happy Birthday to . . .

Joshua, Ali Dee, Samantha and Merilyn!

Parking please

Parents please remember when parking out the front of the building in the angle parks to drive right up to the front edge of the parking space. This makes it a lot easier for cars to pass as they turn and make their way around the car park. Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you to all the parents for coming on time in the morning and in the afternoon. One small request, could you please make sure that the children have some spare clothes and warmer clothes kept in their bags.

Fundraising

Adele Carran is interested in hearing from any parents or carers who are willing to assist the centre with fundraising. Adele is here every day in the Beginners Group.

Dante

We are sorry to hear that Dante passed away at Easter. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.