



Kia ora koutou!

Kei te pupuhi te hau! The wind is blowing strong today!

I hope this newsletter finds you all warm and sheltered in this crazy weather. While the weather is incredibly unpredictable in Spring, can you please pack clothing for all seasons for the next few weeks particularly a winter beanie and a summer hat. Some days we feel the cold of winter and other days feel like we are possibly getting sunburnt!

We have recently purchased NOM sunscreen for the warmer months. At enrolment we ask for your permission to use this on your child's skin or not. It is a SPF30 100% natural sunscreen which is more expensive than most but is something we feel needs to be in alignment with our philosophy of natural well-being where possible. If you wish to know more about this product or want to supply your own, please let us know.

We have welcomed Joyce to our relieving team to cover our teachers when they are away. Joyce is an ECE Qualified Teacher in Singapore and is a lovely, gentle presence in our centre. Joy also continues to relieve for our centre too.

We have also welcomed Sarah to our team in the last week. She is taking Brooke's maternity leave position at the end of October. Sarah is a Qualified ECE Teacher and will be a wonderful addition at our team.

Brooke and Cheryl attend their final seminar next week for their Diploma In Steiner ECE. We are proud of their dedication as they compete this three year study. Joyce will be filling in for Brooke and Sarah will be in for Cheryl.

Our Raffle winners from the Spring Fair were Brooke for the baby raffle which was a delight to us all. And thank you to the lovely person who bought tickets for her as a surprise. Jenna Connor won the grocery raffle but we have no contact details for her. If you know her please let us know by Monday otherwise we will pass onto the next person drawn out.

It is that time of year to order your Calendars again. Please see the order form in this newsletter and ask your child's teacher to see their art work and photo.

Ngā manaakitanga,
The Kowhai Tui Whānau.



Coming Up!

- ⇒ 30th Sept–3rd Oct. Cheryl and Brooke at Titirangi Kindy for Diploma seminar.
- ⇒ 28th October: Labour Day. Centre Closed
- ⇒ 31st Oct: Calendar Orders due.
- ⇒ 20th Dec: Special Person's Morning Tea.
- ⇒ 24th December 1pm: Centre Closes for Christmas Holidays.
- ⇒ 13th January 7:30am: Centre Re-opens for 2020.



A century ago Rudolf Steiner pointed to the importance of self-initiated play for young children, especially between the third and sixth year of life, and he warned of the consequences of replacing the child's self-directed play with activities which are planned according to programs and pedagogical intentions held by adults. His reasons for suggesting non-interference of the adult in respect to child-initiated play are based on a deepening of the understanding of play in relation to three fundamental areas:

- The nature of play in early childhood as distinct from the play of older children
- The role of play in the development of the child
- The role of play in the biography of the human being

The urge to play appears in young children up to the age of five with such elemental force that one can compare it to the natural necessities of eating and sleeping. Rudolf Steiner likens the urge to play to the flow of a river, to the water's continuous moving along in the river bed. What happens in play is not premeditated but occurs out of the spur of the moment with a great deal of willpower. The release of will through the play action is a source of joy for the child, a joy not linked to the achievement of a specific purpose. Turning to the role of play in the biography of the human being, he says: *"The urge to play, the particular way in which a child plays, disappears and sinks below the surface of life. Then it resurfaces, but as something different, as the skill to adapt to life. There is an inner coherence in life throughout all its stages. We need to know this in order to teach children in the right way."*

The child has a spiritual-soul activity that, in a certain sense, still hovers lightly, etherically over the child. (That is, the spirit-soul being of the child is not yet fully incarnated.) It is active in play in much the same way that dreams are active throughout the entire life. In children, however, this activity occurs not simply in dreams, it occurs also in play, which develops in external reality. What thus develops in external reality subsides in a certain sense. In just the same way that the seed-forming forces of a plant subside in the leaf and flower petal and only reappear in the fruit, what a child uses in play also only reappears at about the age of twenty-one or twenty-two, as independent reasoning in gathering experiences in life.

Play reveals its greatest importance for the human biography, in that self-directed play is a practice for and a foreshadowing of taking responsibility for one's own life.

Play is an activity in which the child relates to the outer and inner world and experiences different qualities of life on earth. There are six types of play:

1. Play in which the child actively explores the environment and forms mental representations of this world which are later linked to concepts.
2. Play that specifically develops the coordination and dexterity of the limbs and the mastery of the body.
3. Play in which the child reproduces the roles and events of everyday life and in replaying social experiences builds an understanding of the social world.
4. Play in which the child expresses inner experiences and works through trauma.
5. Play in which the child enters the world of images and archetypes, which are the heritage of humanity, and reproduces those images in playing out stories or producing pictures related to long times past.
6. Play in which the child creates something new, actively changing the given.



Encouraging free play gives children the opportunity to enhance their imagination, critical thinking skills, gross motor skills and sensory integration skills. Logs, stumps, seeds, puddles, coloured veils transform into rocket ships, castles, bridges, and treasures. Creating a healthy inner and outer life force.



Turning your Child's Pictures into unique products!



- \$ 15 Per Calendar
- \$ 10 Per Pack of 8 Cards
- \$ 15 Per Diary
- \$ 13 Per Mouse Mat
- \$ 13 Per Sketch Pad

0508 4WALDORF (0508-492-536)

Yvonne: Administrator (Ext 3)

eceoffice@waikatowaldorf.school.nz

Cai: Accounts (Ext 3)

Rebecca: Manager for Kowhai and Tui (Ext 3)
kowhai@waikatowaldorf.school.nz

Kowhai Whare: (Ext 1) or 022 039 7707

Tui Whare: (Ext 2) or 022 039 7732