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# FootSteps

## COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## TEACHING KIDS THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Everywhere you go there are Christmas decorations, carols being played and traffic jams! It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in Auckland! Christmas can be a special (and hectic) time for all the family. Our children, no doubt, are getting excited about all the things they are going to GET and be GIVEN on Christmas day. For us adults however, often the process of getting ready for Christmas can drain our enthusiasm for what the season really is about.

Imagine if we could all experience the joy, wonder and magic of the Christmas season together. The way we can all do this is by engaging in the same way that God did at Christmas time—by GIVING... Generosity of heart, is the antidote for the consumerism trap that we can get caught up into at Christmas time. This is the practice of being generous even when there is NOTHING we will gain from it... Here are some simple ways to grow your families 'generosity' muscles this Christmas and share the love and light of God's love to make Christmas memorable and joy filled!

### Gratitude Crafting:

At the age 2 or 3, children are generally focused on themselves—it's age appropriate. However, they can learn to show appreciation for all of the good things they have in their lives with support from parents and family. Maybe a simple habit of thinking at bed time 'what am I thankful for today' might be a good way to help them develop this quality.



### Donate Toys/Books:

Here's an idea to help children grow in their generosity. Before Christmas help your child to go through all their toys, clothes and books and choose the ones that they no longer play with, fit or read. These can then be donated to charity in anticipation of the Christmas influx of NEW toys. It is great to have a conversation about how they are helping other children have a happy Christmas too because of their generosity!

### Gift Giving:

In the Bible, it shares that '...it is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35) and by involving your child in the process of choosing and wrapping gifts for family members or neighbours they can share in the blessing of being generous. Getting excited about the joy that giving gifts brings to others can be very motivating and addictive!

**How does your family demonstrate generosity? How are you going to involve your child in being generous this holiday season?**

See page 3 'Beehive News', for details about our recent Fundraising—generosity and giving in action!

# WHANAU NEWS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Another year of blessing was and is to be celebrated for a few of our precious children.

Jake (5) » William (4) » Faupula (5) » Laurelle & Laudez (4) » Malia (5) » Chloe (5) » Ella (5) » Siope (4)

## GRADUATIONS

We will be celebrating a number of our Beehive children's graduations over the next few weeks. We are so blessed that they have been a part of our Centre and will greatly miss them all! We pray that the children will enjoy the new challenges that BIG school will bring in the New Year!

Jake P » Luisa » Faupula » Kenisha » Reuben » Malia » Miggy » Melani

## FARWELL

We are so sad to see not only **Noah** but his whole family leave overseas to Australia to live. We have enjoyed doing life with you Noah, Norman, Liz & little Ava and pray God's protection and blessings on you all.



**Mrs Keryn** has also shared that she will be finishing in her

role as Centre Manager early in 2018, once a plan for replacement has been finalised. After 8 years she will be stepping out of the full-time role at Papatoetoe Footsteps and into a supporting role for both our Centre and the new Tamariki Footsteps Centre that opened in Otara earlier this year. Thank you for your prayers for God's leading as we discover what a new season of leadership will look like in 2018!



Over the past couple of months, we have been working hard to develop our two key dispositions, respect and responsibility. One of the main ways that we have been working on this is by learning to be good friends. As a whole class, we focused on being kind through our words and actions. We had a special sticker chart for the class and every time the teachers noticed someone being kind the person who had been kind was awarded the opportunity to put a sticker on our chart. We all clapped and gave them a big thumbs-up and a "woooah great!" as we celebrated the kind action. The best thing however was that with each kind action we could see our chart filling up, taking us closer to the ultimate prize, our ice block party! It was wonderful seeing the children celebrate each other's successes and becoming more mindful of their own actions and how kindness makes the Pond a better place. We also had opportunities to reflect on how kind Jesus is and how He can help us to be kind too. Our ice lock party was a time of great joy and celebration where the children had the opportunity to reflect on the fact that being kind comes with a great feeling inside and it often has other rewards as well.



We've also been learning to take responsibility by taking turns to be helpers in our classroom. We have some important jobs that the children help us with every day and they love being responsible and helping our class run smoothly. Building a sense of responsibility takes thought and planning. How are you helping your child learn to take responsibility at home? We would love to hear from you.



We are in the process of learning how to use our online portfolio system, Educa. Thanks for your patience as we get up to speed with including it in our practice as teachers. Thanks so much to the families who have shared photos from home with us on Educa, it really helps us understand some of the wonderful stories the children share with us. We've also enjoyed reading some of the updated information parents have been sharing about their children in the profile section on Educa. We're excited about the potential of this wonderful tool and look forward to using it more regularly. Please feel free to chat to the office if you need help setting up your login for Educa.

Thanks so much for all of your support this year. Daily chats at drop off and pick up time, fundraising, coming on trips, attending Whanau Connect events, organising costumes for the Christmas Show and all of the other things in between have been so appreciated. We couldn't do half of what we do at Footsteps without the support of our wonderful families.

We are celebrating a successful year and are looking ahead to 2018 with anticipation. God has great things in store!



# News from the BEEHIVE!



Hello Families! Term 4 has been a happy and fun-filled term with lots of great adventures for us all. We really enjoyed our trip to Clevedon Animal Farm. The children (and adults too!) loved interacting with the miniature ponies, cheeky goats, chooks, ducks, gentle donkeys and a tiny foal. Lynn and her helpers made the day very special for us. We also greatly appreciated the help and support of the adults who were there to keep us safe and help us learn and have fun. (If you would like to go there yourselves, you can. Just check out the website for specific details.)

We also thoroughly enjoyed having the firemen come to visit us. They were awesome! They showed us their special clothes, asked us tricky questions about what to do in the event of a fire (we knew all the answers) and then let us squirt the small fire hose, roll out and roll up a real piece of hose and also go inside the fire truck. They extended the massive ladder up and then showed us how it retracted, and the fire truck stabilizers were de-activated. We hope that we can see them again. Their visit was so interesting.



All the Beehive teachers feel incredibly proud of the Beehive children who worked very, very hard to learn all the songs, dances and lines for our recent Christmas production (thank you for your support with this). They were amazing, and we know that you, the families, felt proud too. We also hope that you love your fragranced candle. Perhaps you have used it already or maybe you are saving it until Christmas Day. Whatever you choose, we want you to remember that Jesus is the Light of the World!

Thank you, families, for a wonderful and successful year! It's not quite over yet, as there are more exciting and fun things ahead, but this is a great time for the Beehive team – Angie, Jeannie, Sina and Tamara (Amelia also), to express our gratitude to each of you for your love, support, enthusiasm, connection, kindness, prayers, wisdom and for the trust you have shown in us as we have loved and cared for your child/ren. It has been our privilege and delight to have been able to invest in their lives and to see them flourish in all of their dimensions – emotional, social, physical, academic and spiritual. We pray God's richest blessings over you all for the Christmas season and into the year ahead.



**THANK YOU** for helping us to make Christmas Special during Fundraising Week!

Two families, who have faced hardship and financial strife this term were blessed to receive 2 enormous grocery hampers PLUS some vouchers to buy fresh goods from Pak'n'Save and also presents from the Warehouse. Thank you everyone for YOUR generosity and contributions to our Fundraising week. We really have shared the true meaning of Christmas... GIVING to be a blessing!

## CHRISTMAS JOKES



Where do snowmen go to dance? **A snow ball!**

What does the Turkey eat at Christmas? **Nothing cos he's stuffed!**

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? **Tinsel itis.**



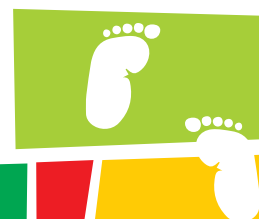
What do monkeys sing at Christmas? **Jungle bells, jungle bells!**

How does a cow say Merry Christmas? **Moowy Christmas!**

What did the T-Rex say when it was Christmas Eve? **– Merry T-Rexas**



What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas Tree? **A pineapple!**



# TOP TEN WATER SAFETY TIPS

## FOR KIWI FAMILIES THIS SUMMER

### 1. CONSTANT SUPERVISION

Make sure you actively supervise the children swimming at all times. It can be a good idea to have a designated supervisor for parties and family events.

### 2. TEACHING HESITATION

Teach your children that they are not allowed to play in, on or around water unless you are with them. Teach your children to ask themselves "Have I got an adult with me?"

### 3. LEARN TO SWIM

Summer is here – make sure the kids and yourself are confident and competent in the water. Head to your local pool to practice and book the kids in to swim school lessons.

### 4. EDUCATION IS KEY

Don't scare your kids but make sure they are truly aware of the dangers of water.

### 5. IDENTIFYING WATER HAZARDS AROUND THE HOME

Work as a family to identify all water hazards in and around your home. There are many items that may present a drowning threat.

### 6. WATER TOYS ARE NOT A SAFETY DEVICE

Never rely on water rings or inflatable toys for safety. Toys are great for having fun with when supervised swimming but will not protect your child from drowning.

### 7. HOME POOL SAFETY

Make sure if you or your friends own a pool that it matches the safety standards and that it is safely fenced with securely lockable gates.

### 8. BEACH SAFETY

As soon as you get to the beach, look around and familiarise yourself with the swimming area. It's also a great time to remind the kids of what is around them and even outline a 'swim zone' that they shouldn't swim past or beyond. If it is a beach with red and yellow flags, make sure they only swim in that area.

### 9. RIVER SAFETY

If you are picnicking by a river or water hole be aware of the potential dangers. More people drown in rivers in NZ than anywhere else. The look of rivers can be deceptive with water often moving faster than it appears. Pick your swimming spot carefully and watch for hidden objects like logs and rocks.

### 10. BOATING SAFETY

Children should wear life jackets at all times when on a boat, at the wharf or near any body of water. The life jacket must be the right size, tight fitting and worn correctly. Accompanying adults should wear life jackets, not only for their own protection but to set a good example.



## FOOTSTEPS CALENDAR

<b>Christmas Fun Day:</b>	Dec 15th
<b>Papsda Christmas Praise:</b>	Dec 16th
<b>Staff Christmas Function:</b>	Dec 19th
<b>Last Day of School:</b>	Dec 22nd
<b>First Day of School:</b>	Jan 15th 2018

**For more info about what's going on check out the noticeboards, Facebook or chat to one of us!**

## LOW COST OUTINGS

### IN AUCKLAND FOR THE FAMILY THIS SUMMER

#### SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

Nov 2017 - 25 Feb 2018

Saturday November 2017, 8.00am -  
Sunday 25 February 2018, 4.00pm

Gardens open 8am-8pm daily  
Auckland Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road,  
Manurewa, Auckland  
Free Event · Website [sculptureinthegardens.nz](http://sculptureinthegardens.nz)  
[facebook.com/sculptureinthegardens](https://www.facebook.com/sculptureinthegardens)



#### SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY: DEVONPORT

Sessions from 9 Jan-29 Mar 2018  
Every Tuesday at Windsor Reserve and Thursday  
at Bayswater Park.

Windsor Reserve, King Edward Parade, Devonport,  
Auckland  
Cost Free · Contact Maria Teape  
[maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz)

