



May 2018 – Newsletter 2:

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

MATARIKI : We will be hosting our Matariki Family Fun night on Saturday 16 June from 5.30pm -7.00pm. This is always a great family event with activities and fun for the whole family for just a \$5.00 entry fee per family. (This covers the sausages, cups of soup for all the family and a glow stick for children in the family). This year we will be celebrating the harvest and crop planting aspect of Matariki. Along with the favourite activities of face painting, disco dancing and scavenger hunting, we will also be planting some berry fruit plants into our community garden. There will also be vegetable soup made by our tamariki and kaiako. Make sure to note this date on your calendars and come into the office to book your ticket before Friday 8 June.

CALDER STEWART DONATION. Our thanks to Erin Hughes for applying to Calder Stewart on our behalf for a donation to go towards plants for our outdoor play and garden areas. We were thrilled to receive \$100.00 to allow us to purchase some plants, and we hope to be using this money for the Matariki planting ceremony.

EARLY MORNING ROUTINES: We have decided to begin with all children in the KORU room when the centre opens in the mornings. All children who start before 8.15am will go to the Koru room and at 8.15am all rooms will be open for the day. In the afternoon, the children will leave Waihopai at 4.30 and be in the Totara room till the centre closes at 5.30pm. Koru room will also stay open till 5.30pm. These changes allow us to fit in team meetings and non-contact times for our teachers. Thanks for your patience as we worked through these changes.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE PROGRAMMES: Surrey Park Early Learning Centre Inc is very fortunate to be involved in a new Ministry of Education initiative. Advisors from the Ministry of Education are available to visit the centre to provide professional learning and development for our teachers in identified areas of children's learning. Nationally this year oral language learning for children is an area of focus, and this advice and guidance programme- amongst others – will enhance the teachers teaching strategies and skills in these areas, which in turn will provide better support for children's learning. (We also have support from Public Health South with vision, hearing and well child visits). There are 3 levels of support in this new initiative. Level 1 will be meeting with the teachers and making initial observations to determine the level of support needed. Level 2: working with small groups of children with similar areas of need to provide strategies for teachers and Level 3, one on one comprehensive programmes for an individual child. Parents will be asked to give general permission for Levels 1 and 2 of the initiative on the enrolment form, but if a Level 3 programme is recommended, consultation will be made with the parent and a special consent form will be need to be signed. Teachers will keep you informed of any programmes that your child might be involved in and you are welcome to ask for an appointment to discuss the programme in more detail.

Research shows the earlier we can get support for specific learning needs, the better outcomes for children so we are really pleased to be able to access this support for our teachers, and the children.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY: The centre will be closed on Monday 4 June for Queen's Birthday.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK: Remember you can purchase a book from the office.

*Regards
Avril Datzell*