



## December Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Nga mihi o te wa kia koe me te whanau. Greetings to you and your family.

I am hoping that the arrival of the holiday season will give you the opportunity to sit down and read all our news in a leisurely fashion.

**2018 NEW PROGRAMME OPPORTUNITY:** We are really excited to tell you about our plans for 2018. As some of you will know we have a long-term plan to redevelop the Kawakawa rooms and in 2018 we are going to trial a new programme concept for the children.

We have many talented and skilled staff at the centre and we want to take the opportunity to utilize these skills and talents.

In Term 1 we are going to create special project areas in the two Kawakawa rooms where staff can offer programmes that enable children to have an in depth/ sustained experience in something they have a real interest in. For example, we might offer a set time block in the day for a construction or creative art experience, or a dance or yoga class. We can also offer extension projects for our older children.

Staff will be asked to provide an advertisement for the class. If you, or the staff think your child has a keen interest in that particular focus, their name would be put on the list to attend. We also know we have many talented family members, and would love it if you would tell us if there is any special talent or skill you would be able to share with the children. All programmes will be posted on the notice boards in the rooms.

We would look at starting this programme at the beginning of March, as in January and February we want all teachers to be available to support children to have a smooth transition back into centre life in four teaching teams, (instead of the current five teams). The Kawakawa children will become members of the Totara, Waihopai and Te Rito teams. Please contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions regarding this programme.

**EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE VISIT.** We welcome the Education Review office team to the centre on 31 January and 1 February 2018. A letter is attached explaining the purpose of their visit. We hope you will take the time to speak with the reviewers Jeanette and Sally. They will be interested to have parent's perspectives on how Surrey Park provides positive learning outcomes for your children.

**FUND RAISING & RAFFLE WINNERS:** It has been a busy time with special activities lately.

Walk-a-thon-Eye-Spy Night. Thank you to those families that attended our "Walk-a-thon & Eye Spy Night. Our main purpose was to make sure families got to have a good look around the centre and in this, I think we were successful. I do apologize to those who missed out on sausages for the BBQ tea. We made an error in our adding up and next time we will make sure our adding is double and triple checked!! The profit we made for this night was \$659.00. This will be going towards the upgrade of the Kawakawa Rooms.

**CALENDARS:** We raised \$1825.75 for this fundraiser, thank you so much for all your support. This money will be going towards the upgrade of the Kawakawa rooms.

**End of Year Raffle:** Thank you for your support of our End of year Xmas Raffle. We made \$1851.00 profit. This will also be going towards the upgrade of the Kawakawa Rooms.

The winners were

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Werder Family – Christmas/Holiday Hamper

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Dena Wharf – Christmas/Holiday Hamper

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Wayne Barker – Christmas/Holiday Hamper

4<sup>th</sup> Prize Amanda Hare – Gift Basket (Donated by the Plaza)

5<sup>th</sup> Prize Dianne Henderson - Christmas Cake + Chocolates

**THANKS:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people:

1. The staff, for their ongoing support of the centre. This year we had the revised curriculum document, Te Whāriki introduced. This has meant staff have spent many hours outside the normal workday, attending workshops to familiarize themselves with the new document to make sure they remain up to date in their teaching practice while still providing great learning opportunities for your children. I wish them all a well- deserved holiday.
2. Robyn Leckie, our new Head Teacher. A very special thanks to Robyn for the tremendous contribution she has made in her 6 months at the centre. 2017 has been a year of many changes in our curriculum, and many changes for our requirements as registered teachers. Robyn has supported all staff to adjust to these changes. We are very fortunate to have a head teacher with such passion and skills embedding high quality learning opportunities and outcomes for children at Surrey Park ELC Inc.
3. The Governance Committee, for overseeing the direction of the centre with such commitment. It can be very challenging to have young children and make yourself available for evening meetings so the time you give to the centre is very much appreciated.
4. A very special thanks to those families who were able to support our centre events and our fundraising ventures. The centre benefits hugely from your generosity and support. Thanks to all those who have made very generous donations during the year, with special thanks to Plaza, Supervalu on Yarrow Street for their donations.
5. Santa Parade: Thanks to everyone- staff and parents- who supported us in the preparation of trolleys and our float for the Santa Parade. It was great to see so many families involved on the day. A very special thanks to Gayle Jonker for her tremendous effort in co-ordinating everyone and everything to show Surrey Park ELC Inc in such a positive light. With her daughter awaiting serious surgery at that time, we are very grateful to Gayle for still setting aside time to do all this work for us.
6. You, the parents for allowing us to get to know you and your children. We value the relationships that are built with our families and are always sad when we farewell children- for some we have known them from babies, and have watched them develop into independent young children, ready for the next chapter of life's journey. Thank you for the privilege of having your children at Surrey Park ELC Inc.

Finally, a reminder that the centre re-opens on 22 January at 7.30am. The children who have bookings for the earlier week 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January have had these bookings confirmed by Helen. Please phone 027 357 6998 if you have any queries.

Kia taute maungarongo ki runga I te whenua - he whakairo pai ki nga tangata-Let there be peace and tranquility on earth and goodwill to all people. Season's greetings to you all. I wish you a relaxing holiday- and look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Regards Avril Dalzell