

IRMGARD RITCHIE KINDERGARTEN 2019

APRIL NEWSLETTER



Te Kura Puhou o Irmgard Ritchie

A WARM WELCOME to all our new children, parents/whanau that have joined us during the term. We are looking forward to getting to know you during your time at Irmgard Ritchie Kindergarten.

SESSION TIMES

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 2:30pm

It is important for the teachers to have time first thing in the morning to set up the environment and have a team briefing for the day. To enable us to do so please arrive at 8.30am onwards.

TERM DATE

Term 2 29th April– 5th July

Term 3 22nd July– 27th Sept.

Term 4 14th Oct—19th Dec.

Successful events this term:

Multicultural Day – A day of celebration of unity, aroha, manaaki and diversity. It was an awesome celebration with our tamariki, parents and whanau with special guests Hine Poa from our Marae and Philippine Ambassador of NZ Gary Domingo. Special thanks to all our parents and grandparents who attended, helped and participated in making this a very successful event.

An enjoyable and educational trip to Expressions/Whirinaki and Pinehaven Library. We visited the interactive transport exhibition called BRRROOM BRRROOM and saw some photographic art. We did a bit of children's yoga before we headed to the library where the librarian read us some cool stories. Special thanks Claire from Expressions and Shantelle from the library. A big thank you to all our parent helpers on this trip.

Thank you to all our parents and whanau for supporting our Easter Raffle this term. We raised \$823. This will go towards our outdoor redevelopment. Special thanks to Kellie (Tate's mum) and Marguerite (administrator) for organising this fundraising.

During the term break, Sarah and Michael (Lydia's parents) will be doing a hard job of delivering a truck load of sand to put in our exciting sandpit. A big thank you to them.

Parenting course for mums called 'New Move Up' program starts Wed 8 May: Referrals open now!

What is 'The Move Up' program? They work with women 'needing support' and guidance to make 'healthy lifestyle choices' for themselves and their whanau.

There is a 9 x week programme commences 9.30 am to 1.30 pm at Hutt Art Centre, 9 Myrtle St. Morning tea provided. If you are interested please call 027 766 2111 or email theteam@wow.org.nz

Free dental care for children for under 18s

Preschool children from the age of 2 years, until they start primary school, will receive yearly check- ups by appointment at their local Bee Healthy Dental Hub Clinics. We encourage parents to call us on 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583) to book and dental checkup appointment if their pre-schooler is due for their yearly checkup.

Changes to kindergarten fees

There will be an increase to the fee to attend kindergarten from 29th April. The fees will increase from \$3 per hour to \$4 per hour for any hours over 20 hours that your child attends kindergarten. This change will assist us to meet our increased operational costs. If you are having difficulty in paying your fees please let the teachers know.

End Mat time

Some of our new children get easily tired during the day. If your child is unsettled and has difficulty sitting on the mat at the end of the day please feel free to take your child home before end of mat time at 2.15pm. We have 3 mat times during the day. We focus learning, story and korero with our tamariki at morning mat time. End mat time is only for gathering the children ready to go home.

Washing

If you are parent help rostered during the day, kindly take the washing home too please. Thanks for your help.

If you want your child to be in Story Park (online children documentation), please let the teacher know.

Our team are passionate about teaching your children and also the assessment- learning stories we write. We would encourage you all to add your thoughts and comments as this is a wonderful way to celebrate your child's interests, passions and progression of learning.

Please return your child's portfolio book when you have finished reading it .

OTHER NOTICES

Notices and other announcements can be found on the whiteboard (outside), in your child's pocket (locker room) kindergarten facebook page and story park. Please ensure that you read the notices regularly to find out the upcoming events and activities at kindergarten during the day.

Just a reminder please do not park in the kindergarten drive way at all times as this is very unsafe for Pedestrians. There is parking available at the back of the kindergarten along Mcleod Street (BMX track entrance)

Please dress your child/children according to the weather Thank you.

Reminders

Change of clothes

Please ensure all children have a change of clothes in their bag and that they are clearly named.

Information for teaching children with Autism

National Autistic society (NAS) describes autism as 'a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around them'. Autism is a spectrum condition and affects individuals in different ways, with different degrees of severity. At the lower end of the spectrum, ASDs are often associated with learning disabilities. Children with higher-end disorders, such as Asperger's Syndrome, tend to have an average or above-average IQ. However, all people with ASDs share difficulties with: communication, social interaction and thinking and behaving flexibly.

Establishing a buddy system of support can be valuable. Talk to the appointed buddies about how to support the child with autism.

Some general strategies for teachers or adults

- It's important to remember that every child with ASD is unique and will respond in different ways. If an assistant supports the child, teachers should find out from them exactly which conditions are most conducive to learning and good behaviour. In addition, teachers can help by:
- Having a clear structure to the day/lesson, with a visual timetable displayed to show what is going to happen.
- Minimising disruption to routine – always talk through any known changes well in advance so that the child can be prepared.
- Remembering that the child with ASD may not understand facial expression and figurative language. Explain clearly and concisely in 'black and white' terms.
- Referring to the child by name – s/he may not understand that 'everyone' includes them.
- Using concrete apparatus and visual signs/symbols to back up verbal and written instructions.
- Using social stories to teach about social interaction and appropriate behaviours for different situations.
- Being clear and firm about behaviour and applying rules consistently.
- Making use of ICT – computers are not demanding emotionally, as people often are, and can allow the child with ASD to 'rest' from the demands and pitfalls of social interaction.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARENTS AND WHANAU WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO HELP WITH FUNDRAISING, PARENT HELPING, WASHING, AND EXCURSIONS. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. HAVE A WONDERFUL TERM BREAK!

