

Glenfield Early Learning Centre Newsletter, term 4, 2016

A huge apology for the lack of newsletter in term 3. Please note that it certainly wasn't because we had nothing to write about – it may have been that we focused so much on doing that I ran out of time to record and share it all. Here is what happened... We got to welcome our **amazing volunteer Christine** who comes each Friday and works a full day to give her time to the children of GELC. Christine is a wonderful addition to the team and we are very happy that she has committed to stay until the end of 2016. We were also happy to see our **student Sam** from term 2 back to do the second part of her practicum. Another group of special visitors to our centre was the **baby chicks** that hatched. A dozen Living Eggs arrived, and after keeping them warm, watered and fed for 10 days, the now quite large and fluffy chicks went home with Olive and Imogen. This was very popular with the children and they learned lots about caring for animals during this time. Another first for us was a trip on a bus – very exciting! We set off in our GELC high-visibility vests to **Onepoto Domain** with all our awesome helpers (thank you very much) and had our lunch together before finding the images on the scavenger hunt and exploring the playground. Friday the 16th of September was the night of our **disco** in the Mission Hall. All families brought a plate of kai to share, and enjoyed the music, bubbles, facepainting, glowsticks, sausage sizzle and spot prizes. The hall looked great with all the party lights and teaching team looked a little different to their usual look too!



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A big welcome to our new children; Seth, Zoe, Willow, Fatima, Rinah, Jessica, Arianna, Luna, Jared, Ellie Lee, Nick, Irene, Lamar, JJ, Eve, Evelyn, Emma, Aiden Oh, and Richie. Some of you are not so new anymore! We are enjoying getting to know you and your families.



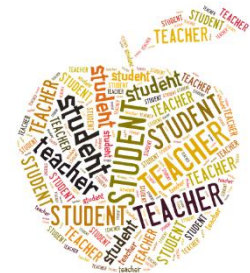
This term we have welcomed our student teacher Jessie Joo. Once again, we are grateful for our families support and welcoming attitude. The time spent at centres on practicum is both really valuable for both the student and the centre, and it is also a memory that lasts throughout the students teaching career. Thanks for making it a positive one for our students.

TERM DATES

Last day of
term 4 is
Wednesday 14
December
2016

Christmas
party for
families is
Thursday 15
December
9.30 – 11.30

First day of
term 1 is
Tuesday 7
February 2017



We have also been fortunate to be able to host **Disha**, who is the big sister of Adhiraj, and her friend April for their school **work experience** day in November. They both showed maturity and initiative and were a credit to their families and school, Northcote Intermediate. The GELC children, and teachers, loved having them for the day.

Behind the scenes: This term has continued to be a busy one for the teaching team. Professional development workshops attended have included Professional Learning and Enquiry; Communities of Learners; Planning for 2017; and First Aid. This is in addition to in-house professional development and the Managers Network Meeting which we hosted in October. We have celebrated various language weeks and Diwali with displays, conversations with children, art and activities with the children. A special thank you to Seth's family for providing some posters for our display and to Adhiraj and Diana's families for the delicious Diwali treats – hugely appreciated – as is all the yummy food brought in for the hard working teaching team. The team have also spent lots of time in planning and preparing for the various events happening this term.



ROTARY GLENFIELD: The brand new group Rotary Glenfield which is led by Anil Nathoo has completed their first ever project... They came together in their own time during our school holidays to make a concrete path through our garden for us. This was in our plans as the wobbly pavers were a trip hazard and needed removing and this part of the garden is also our primary evacuation route in case of emergency. Rotary sourced all the materials and did all the hard labour themselves. While they were doing the path, they also tidied up some of our outside area including sanding down our well-loved carpentry table and creating a ball/car run from spouting on the fence. We so appreciate the time and energy the good people from Rotary Glenfield invested in GELC. If you are interested in supporting, or joining them, please contact their president Anil at GlenfieldRotary@gmail.com.



OUR TRIP TO MAIRANGI BAY PLAYGROUND: Our second trip for the year proved just as popular as the first. We were very fortunate to have so many fantastic helpers on the day – thank you all. Once again we were so lucky with the weather and were able to eat and play in the sun. We looked pretty awesome in our high-visibility GELC vests too! The teaching team worked hard with the children to prepare them and teach them how to behave on the trip, and the children made us so proud with their amazing behaviour. They enjoyed exploring somewhere different and practicing their physical skills on all the playground equipment. Other highlights included watching the car on the hoist in the workshop next door go up and down lots of times, climbing the trees, being on the bus,



following the mosaic path through the park and being with their friends. We are looking forward to another trip next term.



RED NOSE DAY: Thanks to the generous support of our fantastic families, the GELC was pleased and proud to bank a grand total of \$125. All of this money goes directly to Cure Kids, an organisation which funds vital medical research so everyone can live a healthy childhood.

SANTA PARADE: Sunday the 20th of November was the day of Glenfield's very own Santa Parade. It was lovely to share the experience of being a part of the parade with our families, the staff of the Community Centre, and our Chairperson of the Governance Group. The children were able to wave the flags they had made, and children, their families and the teachers all got to wear the GELC high-visibility vests during the parade. Those of us taking part in the parade enjoyed wishing parade-watchers a Merry Christmas – it was super exciting when we saw other friends from GELC watching the parade. We aim to be involved again next year, and to participate in next years Gala at Marlborough Park.



WINE AND CHEESE EVENING: This Thursday GELC will be hosting it's first Wine and Cheese evening for parents, grandparents and caregivers connected with the centre. We are hoping for it to be a fun and informal event where adults can get together in a child-free environment. As well as being a chance to get to know each other a bit better, we see the evening as a prime opportunity for you to give us feedback about your experience of GELC. We are always looking to improve our services to families, so here is your opportunity to let us know how. We hope you can join us.



FREE PARENTING COURSE: We are fortunate to be able to offer a **FREE Parenting Workshop** on Wednesday the 30th of November, from 6pm until 9pm. This is funded by the Ministry of Social Development and being facilitated by Lisa Gibson. Look for details on our website and for the notices on the noticeboards in the lobby at GELC.

GENERAL INFORMATION: We have applied for a **grant for funding** to cover our walls in the centre with a product called Autex. This Autex covering will not only look nice, but it will reduce noise in the centre considerably. We are expecting a decision on the outcome of the grant application in December, we will keep you posted.

Soon we will be running a **raffle to raise money** to off-set the costs of the Wine and Cheese evening and the Christmas Party for families. We will ask all families to donate something they would like to win to the hamper, and we will sell tickets from the 6th of December. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Party, so if you can't attend, please let us know whether you will be available to pick up your winnings if you are the lucky one. **Ray White Real Estate** will also be donating a hamper to raffle off, and inviting others from the community to buy tickets with profits going directly to the GELC. We thank them in advance for their on-going support.

Thank you to all the families who **check our notice-boards, Glenfield Community Centre Facebook and website** regularly. We spend a lot of time planning events and we have found that these are the most effective ways to share the information; notes going home are expensive to print and often get lost before they are read. We will continue to provide a list of Important Dates at the beginning of each term, so please keep checking, we don't want you to miss out!

Currently we are collecting donations of canned and non-perishable foods for **Auckland City Mission**. They will distribute foods gained to families who could use the help. If you would like to make a donation, the box is in the lobby of GELC.

If you have helped the GELC this year in some way, we would love you to come to our **"Thank You" morning tea** on Monday the 5th of December, starting at 10am. For more details check out our website or notices in the lobby on the noticeboard.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY: This year we will have our Christmas Party at ActiveZone on Downing Street. It will start at 9.30am and finish at 11.30am on Thursday 15th of December. As we are lucky to be such an ethnically diverse community we are able to celebrate traditions from many different cultures. We hope all families will join us in this final celebration of 2016. To get maximum enjoyment from the event, children are invited to decorate and bring their bike – we are able to give them lots of space to ride and let off energy. Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers are all welcome to dress up for Christmas too! We will have a time for the children to play and adults to socialise, then we will come together and the children will show you the songs they have been learning, then Santa will draw the raffle, and each GELC child will have the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and get a small gift (parents can get a photo). Then it will be time to say goodbye until 2017. **Please note: if you choose to come to this event, you are responsible for your child at all times – you will not be able to drop your child and come back later for them.**



A final thought for 2016...



You deserve happiness. You deserve peace. You deserve laughter. You deserve to love and be loved. You deserve life. Don't ever forget this.



The team from GELC wish you the holiday you deserve and look forward to seeing you back safe, happy and rested in 2017.

Paula, Stacey, Almira, Jessie, Vee, and Joanne