

Glenfield Early Learning Centre Newsletter, term 1, 2017

A big welcome to our new children since last newsletter: Lennie, Leo, Elijah, Kyle, Max, Sayuni, Zuri, Hannah, Daniel, Xin, Harjot, Charlize, Russell, Zach, Asyra and Jude. That's 15 new children just this year! The teaching team are very pleased with the way these children are settling in so well. A huge thank you to our families and children who have been here longer for helping us make them feel welcome at GELC.



Our student teacher this term is Phillipa Smith from AUT. Phillipa is in her 2nd year of her degree and is fitting into life at GELC smoothly. Thank you to those families who have introduced yourselves to Phillipa and welcomed her to our community.



FACEBOOK: Are you a part of our secret Facebook group? All parents should have received an email from Stacey inviting them to join our group. The email address needs to be connected to your Facebook account so that when you receive the invitation you can just click on the 'Accept' link and then Stacey or I can approve you into the group. If you aren't a member yet and don't want to miss out on all the information posted, please see Stacey or Paula and we will add you in.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: This term our teachers have had been involved in professional development including: Reflecting on teaching and leadership – empowering tamariki to learn and thrive; Extending Oral Language; Structure and Responsibilities of our Board of Governance; and Education for Sustainability and Enviroschools. Before the end of term 1, we will also be attending professional development run by AUT in mentoring their student teachers, and our whole team will have the opportunity to visit Sunnynook Community Crèche and network with teachers from other centres on the North Shore. Although this does mean extra work for the teaching team – it also helps keep us energized, informed and motivated – all which are better for our centre as a whole.

HEARING AND VISION: In our 2nd week of term we had Sarah Gormley from Waitemata Health come and visit us to offer B4School hearing and vision checks to our 4 year old children. A big thank you to the parents who made the effort to come if it wasn't their child's normal session, however if you did miss out don't worry – Sarah comes about 3 times a year so you are likely to get another opportunity before your child is 5 years old.

FRUIT WEEK: We are loving the support from our families in bringing in a couple of pieces of fruit or vegetables for the children to try in the 3rd week of term. As this week is 'special' the children get excited and are often keen to try new foods or eat foods they usually wouldn't because they see their friends enjoying them. We were pleased to receive so many quality fruits and veggies that we could extend it for another week. Thank you and look out for it again next term. Keep an eye on our secret Facebook page for reminders for the next fruit week.



TERM DATES

Last day of
term 1 is
Thursday 13
April, first day
of term 2 is
Monday the 1st
of May.

Easter Raffle
Drawn on 13th
of April.
Please make a
donation to the
box in the
lobby.

HEALTH AND LEARNING EXPO: We were very excited to bring you the Health and Learning Expo in partnership with Plunket in early March. There were a variety of organisations and services – including Eco Nappy Services owned by one of our very own Mums. We also had the Fire Service, Glenfield Library, local primary schools, Dental checks, YMCA, Literacy Auckland North, Helen's School of Swimming, Hippy, and a range of services from Plunket. An added bonus was the bouncy castle as well as the yummy sausage sizzle manned by Nigel. We ran a raffle which raised \$74 for our GELC children and one of our amazing Mum's (thank you Sarah) donated her time to show interested families around our centre. A big thank you to our parents who helped spread the word of the expo, and who supported the event on the day. The 2018 expo is set to be even bigger and better so keep an eye out next March! Photos are on our website.



WIN A WISH PROMOTION: The Breeze radio station is currently running a promotion that grants wishes to not-for-profit community groups – just like the GELC! We would love it if you would go online and make a wish that would benefit our centre. We have already asked for a fish-tank for our fish (their one is well past its 'best-before' date) and if you wanted to ask for the same it might help us get one. If you are looking for inspiration, come and see Stacey or Paula – we have a **huge** list of things we would love for our centre which unfortunately the budget doesn't quite extend to. <http://www.thebreeze.co.nz/Competitions/WindWish.aspx> is the link or just google 'Win a wish the breeze' and it will come up. Thank you to the parents who have already entered for us, I'm hoping to hear from them soon ☺



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

We will be continuing to advertise **free or low-cost parenting courses** held locally. The ones at Glenfield Library are in the daytime and they offer childcare while you are attending the course. Parenting is the hardest, most frustrating, important, rewarding (and underpaid) job ever – usually done on a lack of sleep and a tight budget! We support organisations that can offer families any tips that may help.

Message from the front office: When making payments, please either have the **exact cash or use EFTPOS** as the centre doesn't keep cash on site. This will make your transactions quicker, and their lives much easier. Thank you.

Did you know that you are welcome to **book an appointment** to speak with the teachers about your child? If you have any questions or anything you would like to share with us, please just see Stacey or Paula and we will arrange a time with you.

WINTER HATS: We are pleased to offer you a selection of very cute winter hats to order at \$18 each. Please note – the centre makes a small profit on each hat which will go directly into our fundraising budget and be spent on the children of our centre. If you would like to place an order, with payment please, see Stacey or Paula. See the full range on the noticeboard in the lobby. Last day for orders is 12th of April.



EASTER RAFFLE: We are asking all families to donate an item they would like to win so we can put together an Easter Raffle to raise money for some special resources. We will be selling tickets in the last week of term, and if any of your extended family would like to support us by buying tickets that would be great. As usual the price will be \$2 a ticket, or 3 tickets for \$5. Donations can be placed in the decorated box in the lobby.



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY: The 17th of March was a perfect opportunity to celebrate the Irish culture. We decorated the centre, and asked all our children to dress in green for the day. The teaching team had been busy all week with the children making green hats and flags to use in the parade around the Glenfield Community Centre courtyard. Our afternoon children even enjoyed making St Patrick's Day fairy bread which they got to take home and enjoy. We were very pleased at the support from families in dressing up their children and coming along to watch the parade. This was a fun way to introduce and develop the concept of other countries and cultures to our children as well as giving them an opportunity to experience something a little different in a familiar environment. For more photos, check out our secret Facebook page.



OUR TRIP TO GLENFIELD LIBRARY: We have just had our first visit to Glenfield Library this year, we are hoping to make this something we do with our afternoon/all-day children once a term. We started the process with the librarian Andy coming to read to our children and introduce herself, then followed up one week later with the trip. Andy kindly showed us around the library – even around the 'staff only' areas! Next Thursday we will be making a 'Thank You' card for Andy to reinforce our learning, practice our literacy skills in a meaningful context, and practice good manners. A big 'thank you' too for our parents who came along to walk the children down to the library with us – your help was much appreciated. See more photos on our secret Facebook page.



FAMILY EVENT: We would love all families to come and join us for a picnic dinner in the park. Please save Tuesday the 4th of April at 5pm until 6.30pm (rain date the following Tuesday at the same time). We will meet at 5pm at the playground in Camelot Reserve. There is a big space for children to play and some playground equipment too. Although it is unfenced, it is well away from the roads with entrances from Camelot Place, Battle Place, Chivalry Road, and the shortcut from Bentley Ave. BYO dinner, picnic blanket, and any play equipment (balls, kites, bikes etc.) that you may enjoy. Parents, Grandparents, siblings are all welcome to come and enjoy the fun. Please note: As this is a family event **you are responsible for your children at all times**. There is no charge for this fun event. More details on Facebook to come.



FIRE SERVICE: We are excited to share with you that the Fire service will come to visit us Friday the 7th of April, (as long as they don't get called out to an emergency!). They will talk to the children about the need to 'Get Down and Get Out' and for families to have an emergency escape route and meeting place in case of fire. They are planning to show the children their special clothing and explain why they wear it. This can reduce the chances of children hiding from firefighters because they are scared in an emergency situation. We hope they will also have time to show us the truck and hold the hose like last time they came. See our secret Facebook page closer to the time for details.



A final inspirational word from Maya Angelou...**Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.**

Your teaching team: Paula, Stacey, Almira, Vee, Joanne and Jessie.