



Melodies Preschool June 2017 Newsletter

What have we been up to?

The month of May has been a busy month with the Disco, celebrating Mother's Day and exploring the changes in season. The children have enjoyed exploring autumn, playing in leaves that Liz had brought in from her garden and exploring with chestnuts, acorns, cracking walnuts and making artwork with leaves, including leaf rubbings and Piwakawaka (fantails).

Over the last few weeks the children have been very interested in Space, the Solar System and rocket ships. The children have enjoyed creating the solar system, creating space pictures and their own planets complete with aliens. During these activities there has been lots of rich language and conversations with teachers about space and what it would be like living in space.

And lots of funny conversations about space, some children told me the moon was made of cheese, soft cheese and hard cheese, yum!!

The children have also enjoyed going to the moon in their rocket ship and zooming round the planets at music time to lots of different space songs. This week the children have just completed making a huge rocket ship to play in, so they can zoom off into space whenever they please.

Wet wintery weather:

As we have had a few very wet days in a row where the grass has been saturated the children have had to stay off the grass. Abbey with the help of a builder and handy man Scott have built some bark paths around the perimeter of the grass area and re-landscaped the hill which now includes more paths so that the children have plenty of access to the playground and space to run about when the grass is too wet or frosty to play on. The grass area makes up one tenth of the total play space that the children have access to and the carpark is always open when the grass is too wet or frosty to play on, so they always have space and opportunity to run, play and be physically active.

Sustainability and Caring for the environment

This is an ongoing interest and changes as the seasons change, during the summer the children learnt that they needed to water the plants and grass to keep it alive they

Welcome to: We have many new children who have joined or joining Melodies over the last month or so. Welcome to Ted Ballantyne, Maya Shakespeare, Millie Lines and Isobel Ludlow.



A big Happy Birthday to Evie Godfrey, Ted Ballantyne, Alia Bradford, Anna McMillan, Ollie Lord, Elias Metekingi and Charlie Redman who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays in May/ June.

Farewell: Jaxon Young, Ciara Hide-Kirwan, Harry Lancaster, and Jackson Bennett-Bates who have turned 5 and started at Lincoln Primary. Abel Lawry who has turned 5 and started Prebbleton Primary and Freddie Buchanan who has turned 5 and started at Broadfields Primary.



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watched their vegetables grow and enjoyed harvesting the crops. They learnt to separate their rubbish at Kai time into Food, Rubbish and Recyclable. They have enjoyed creating artworks by reusing materials that would otherwise be thrown out.

Now it is winter the children are learning all about what happens to their food scraps that they put into the green bin, how they slowly turn into compost that we put back in the garden. The children have enjoyed clearing the veggie garden and digging in horse manure and compost to feed the soil so our new veggie plants will grow big and healthy. They have loved discovering worms and beetles along the way. We have been talking about what we would like to grow and what vegetables we can plant in the winter. The children have also enjoyed making silverbeet smoothies, with banana, blueberries and raspberries. These smoothies were delicious and they can't wait to plant some silver beet in our veggie garden. They are also learning how grass and plants survive when Jack Frost visits and we need to be patient for the sun to melt the frost away or our feet will break and kill the frozen grass. Lucky we can head out to the carpark for some games and running races while were waiting.

Sustainability building project

Over the next few weeks the children will design and plan kitchen units for the sandpit. These will be made out of recycled timber from pallets etc. If any building families have timber off cuts that would otherwise go to the skip we would greatly appreciate them. This timber can be treated or untreated. We may even call on the expertise of a builder in the coming weeks so please let us know if you would like to be part of the project.

Moving to Learn

In the carpark the children have learnt some new group games such as Fox and Goose and Rob the nest. These are great large group games where children learn to play co-operatively as a group, listen to instructions and think strategically. They have also been challenging themselves to leap, jump with two feet over hurdles, weave in and out of cones, and wriggle under hurdles, skip, catch, throw and much more while completing challenging obstacle courses. During wet inside days the children have been enjoying lots of eye tracking activities such as batting balloons with fly swats, blowing ping pong balls across the floor, dancing with scarves, jumping off the gym box while reaching for the balloon hanging from the ceiling.

(Children need to have eye fitness in order to read, these activities

encourages children's eye to focus near and far, left and right, up and down)

The music room is the perfect place on a wet day to

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challenge children's co-ordination and strength, as these activities are not fast and explosive rather slow and thoughtful. We have enjoyed learning children's yoga, walking hands and feet along a rope in the shape of a V it gets tricky as the rope gets wider, walking backwards along a wiggly rope while balancing a bean bag on our heads or other parts of our body.

They have also enjoyed learning to count, and sequence numbers while learning to play hop scotch. (Children have learnt something new when it becomes automated. e.g. count and sequence numbers while doing something else such as hopping. If this number knowledge is automatic when they reach school they will be able to focus on writing the number rather than thinking about what the number means or what comes next.)

Music Dance and Drama

Leading up to the disco the children explored listening dancing and moving to lots of different genres of music and contributing to our daily music sessions with their own songs that they personally like to listen to at home. This created a wonderful play list of folk songs and pop songs. Using the Carl Orff strategy to learn music the Shooting Comets have been developing listening skills to play complex rhythms, using body percussion and once they can feel the rhythm on their body they are then able to play it using percussion instruments. In order to remember these rhythms the children come up with words to match the rhythm, such as: Leo-pard and Mon-key, leo-pard and Mon-key bear and bird and snake. (Ask you child to play it for you). The children are now naturally beginning to hear other complex rhythms in songs and play them back to the teacher. (This is also teaching children about syllables of words which is necessary when learning to write).

Twinkling stars are starting to explore more complex songs and dances and develop friendships through partner songs. They are becoming little experts at holding the ukulele correctly and are learning to strum in time with the song. Such a tricky thing to keep one side of our body still while the other side strums. Animals have been a top interest at music time, shuffling like a hedgehog, scampering like a spider, jumping like a frog, not to mention Old MacDonald which is still top of the charts. The twinkling stars love to express themselves at music time, singing and dancing and playing, it is a great outlet for those younger children who do not have many words yet, and allows them to bond with



Your Junk is Our Treasure

Please keep the empty packaging boxed, supermarket bags and egg cartons coming. We are also in need of an old microwave for our sustainable building project and an old laptop for the family corner. Untreated wood for our woodwork table would be great too as we have completely run out. Old cooking utensils would be great for the sandpit.

Entertainment Book



The new 2017/2018 Entertainment Books have arrived!

Thank you so much for your support for last year. We raised enough to purchase our Monkey Bars which the children really enjoy. This year we would like to purchase more climbing equipment to supplement our Monkey Bars.

If you or anyone you know would like to purchase the new 2017/2018 Entertainment Book please go to the

other children in a fun inviting way.

Transition to school programme

Our 4 year old children love attending Transition to school time in the afternoon.

During the day the children talk about the letter of the week with the

teachers at mat time and during play time making connections with the letter and real experiences. From this

Liz, Serena and Abbey plan the transition to school lesson or extend on an interest in a more in-depth way such as

learning about the solar system and making planets, or drawing self-portraits, or drawing our friends whose name

start with the letter of the week. Children enjoy making connections with the natural world S for Silverbeet

smoothies. This all helps when they learn to write the letter of the week and begin to learn the letters of their name.

Our whole programme is interconnected and learning the symbolic symbol (alphabet, numbers) at transition to

school time is the icing on the cake, of all the learning from gym, music, dance, play, books and conversations they have

had throughout the day and the years leading up to when they turn 4.

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