



## MARCH NEWSLETTER

It was great to see so many of you at the Sovereign Star Disco and the Car Boot Sale. We raised \$280 for our preschool!

Unfortunately, we've had to cancel our family picnic as the forecast for our planned "rain day" is for rain too! Instead, we will hold the picnic in spring.

A few things to look forward to next term: swimming for the Prep Room starts again, and we're starting up HipHop dance classes for both the Prep Room and Preschool. Keep an eye on future newsletters and your child's cubby hole for more information about these.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our message in the last newsletter about outstanding accounts. We appreciate that you've taken the time to contact Pam about payment arrangements, and we encourage those who haven't set up a payment plan to do so.

You'll notice that the latest menus for the children are now displayed underneath the kitchen window, which are on a four-week rotation. We ask that for health and safety reasons, please do not enter the kitchen, and especially please do not handle any of the food that has been prepared for the children. We thank you for your co-operation in this area.

Please remember to bring a named sun hat and provide a drink bottle each day, and the days are getting cooler so bringing gumboots, coats and warm hats are a good idea too.

See you next month!

## EVENT

**Multicultural Day!**  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

We would love everyone to join us in celebrating our diversity. Come dressed in your favourite country's clothes, bring a story to share, an artifact to show or some kai from your culture!



### SOVEREIGN STAR

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[facebook.com/sovereignstar](https://facebook.com/sovereignstar)

[sovereignstarpreschool.co.nz](https://sovereignstarpreschool.co.nz)

## NEWS FROM THE NURSERY

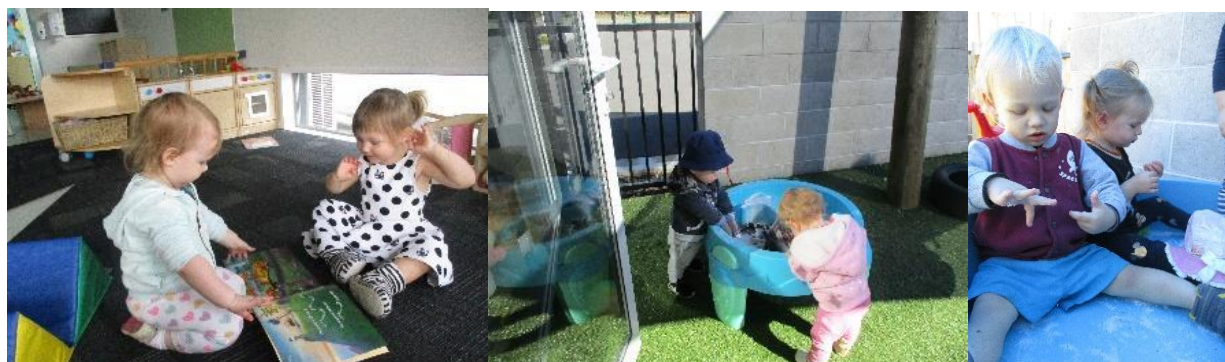
With the continuation of the beautiful weather, the children in the nursery have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their outdoor surroundings. This has seen the children have a wonderful time playing on the slide, in the sandpit and investigating numerous sensory activities outside inclusive of cornflour and animals as well as rock salt and natural resources.

This month the children in the nursery have been having an awesome time developing their verbal communication skills throughout their active explorations. They have loved learning a variety of different action and movement songs and reading various big books. This has seen the group focus in the nursery change from multi-sensory experiences to verbal language. We will continue to extend the children's interest in this through providing them with opportunities to extend their verbal language through various cooking experiences, sensory activities and music sessions.

We have recently welcomed Jessica, Jaxson, Theo and Pearl to Sovereign Star Nursery and Preschool.

**From the Nursery team,**

***Alisha, Melissa and Natasha***



# A big hello from the preschool!

Over the last few weeks the Preschool children have been busy engaging in many bug-related activities including going for bug hunts, creating insects with different materials such as playdough, slime and recyclable objects and reading lots of different books about bees, caterpillars and butterflies. We have also been practicing our cooking skills, making pancakes and banana muffins for our afternoon tea. Many of the preschool children have really enjoyed spending time cooking in the sandpit, using the mud kitchen and cooking resources, so it was great to be able to extend this interest by using real ingredients to experiment with.

The Preschool team would also like to ask whanau to keep children's toys at home instead of bringing them into the room when they arrive in the morning. This is to avoid potential arguments between children about whose toy belongs to whom, and it also stops unhappy children if a toy is lost or broken. Thank you for your understanding! We will continue to provide a range of learning opportunities over the next few weeks that extend the children's interests in bugs, sensory play, construction, physical activity, art and transport.

**From the Preschool team,**  
*Denise, Courtney, Kelly and Jessica*

## CATCH UP ON THE PREP ROOM

What a busy month we have had in the prep room! The tamariki are learning lots in our transition to school programme – check out their books.

Thank you to Olivia and Scarlett's Dad for coming in to the preschool in his firefighter's uniform and chatting with us about his involvement in the Port Hills fires. Through our recent dress up day we collected \$68 which has been donated to the Kaiapoi Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Our children have been exploring and learning to care about the garden and have harvested some yummy apples from our apple tree. The tamariki have planted their own beans to take care of and once they have grown you can plant them together in your garden. They have enjoyed exploring science as they ask questions and come up with some fantastic conclusions. Music has been a big focus in the classroom as we explore a variety of new songs and dancing.

We ask for your help in providing us with a family photo for our family tree.

The Prep Room has changed their mealtimes to align themselves to primary school meal times, helping with the transition to school: 9:45am fruit break, 11am morning tea, 12:45pm lunch, 3:15pm afternoon tea.

We now have a Treaty and set of Values in the Prep Room. For Kindness, Honesty, Respect, Caring, Responsibility the children receive a star on the chart as they work towards a certificate in the Value Awards each term. The first three in the class to achieve the five values each term gets to have a fluffly with Pam at Jagz, and the first achiever becomes head student for the following term!

**Your Prep Room family,**

*Kim, Elsa and Jo*

## HELLO FROM THE PTA

### **Did you know Sovereign Star has a PTA?**

The PTA helps to organise events throughout the year which helps us raise funds for equipment and activities for the centre as well as providing a chance for children and families to get together and have some fun.

Last year, the PTA organised the successful Trike-a-thon, which helped to purchase the climbing equipment and mats and this has proven very popular with the children. We raised a total of \$2020.03 at this event!

The PTA is made up of parents and teacher representatives who are keen to be involved in fundraising and providing opportunities for our children at the centre. Trish Pepperell is the chairperson, Rachel Smith is the secretary, Audrey Galley and Leanne Coyles are the treasurers, and the committee is made up of Philippa Hancox, Alex Cope, Jess Craig and Dan Halligan. Teacher/Centre representatives are Elsa, Courtney, Alisha, Kim and Pam. Please feel free to speak to any of the committee about fundraising ideas or you are keen to join the PTA (the more parents, the better)!

Our next meeting is Thursday 6 April, 2017, 7.30pm at Sovereign Star. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Email [pta.sovereignstar@gmail.com](mailto:pta.sovereignstar@gmail.com) for more information about the PTA

