

## Five Minutes With...

# Caitlin!



**What room are you in?** Babies room

**I grew up in...** Rodney

**If you came to my house for dinner you would have...** Pasta

**My favourite place is...** Waipu

**In my car I listen to...** Radio

**Early bird or night owl...** Early bird

**My friends would describe me as...** Kind and happy

**If I wasn't a teacher, I would be...** Nurse

**The colours that makes me happy are...** Yellow and orange

**My favourite game as a child was...** Hide and seek

**Sweet or savoury...** Savoury

**The best day of the year is...** Christmas day

**My hidden talent is...** I can play the ukulele

**My dream holiday would be...** Europe

**I love the smell of...** Flowers

**Being a teacher is...** Rewarding

**I love to...** Take photos

**My favourite season is...** Summer



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# Fantails Childcare

SILVERDALE

## Newsletter

December 2018



## Kia Ora Parents and Whanau,

Yippee, its finally the countdown to Christmas! The children have been busy making lots of Christmas decorations and the walls in each room are filling up fast with wonderful festive displays. Take a moment to view what your child has made.



We are practicing our Christmas songs at mat-times in preparation for our exciting Christmas concert. This event is a much anticipated one, and the children always do a fantastic job up on stage singing to all the parents and families.

Be sure to note down on your calendar:

**FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER 5.30-7.30pm at Silverdale Primary School.**

(postponed rain date if necessary, will be Monday 17th December). Please refer to the party invitation emailed out to you for more information. We hope to see you all there!

We will be collecting tinned foods again this year to donate to Women's Refuge. Kindly place your contribution by the Christmas display in the hallway. Thank you.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year, and trust you all have a relaxing and fun holiday. We look forward to 2019 and continuing to be a part of your child's learning journey here at Fantails.

Kind regards,

Nikki Summerville and the Fantails team



## In the Preschool room...

We celebrated Diwali this month which the children enjoyed. One of our relieving teachers bought some henna in to decorate the teachers hands, this which is part of the traditional celebration. The children found this very interesting and were able to paint some designs on their hands with face paint. Some of the children also tried tie-dyeing fabric in bright colours.



It was exciting for the children to undo their dyed material and see what patterns and designs they had made.

We have now moved on in the Preschool room to focus on Christmas. This is always a highlight and lots of fun for the Flyers and we have been practicing our songs for the Christmas party. We will sound awesome!

We have started inquiry groups where we work specifically in small groups preparing for school. Our groups are called 'Kiwi' and 'Busy Bees' and this month we have been making rakau and using them in sequence songs.

With the sun shining, water and sand play have been very popular with a lot of children celebrating their pretend birthday in the sandpit, or covering their legs and turning them into mermaid tails, cars or boats. Building tunnels with all the 'Earth works' vehicles and constructing towns made of sand. In the water it's great to cool ourselves down with while having fun and learning more about early mathematical and science concepts.



## HO HO HO!



Embrace the festive spirit with these creative, healthy food and activity ideas:

- ♥ DIY Christmas trees and decorations
- ♥ Make snowmen using strawberries and yoghurt
- ♥ Santa-sack and reindeer races
- ♥ Make a Santa themed veggie tray
- ♥ Make gingerbread men and candy canes with play-dough
- ♥ Cut fruit and vegetables into festive shapes
- ♥ Give to those in need by donating to a local foodbank
- ♥ Sing Christmas carols with actions
- ♥ Perform a Christmas dance for whānau



Browse our [Healthy Celebrations Book](#) for more fun ideas and recipes to celebrate Christmas.

For more healthy recipes, visit [fuelled4life.org.nz/recipes](https://fuelled4life.org.nz/recipes)

## In the Juniors Room...

This month the juniors have been enjoying more role play as they continue to watch the progress of our teacher Holly who is due to have her baby in late January. The children are role modelling being pregnant and all the joys that come with parenthood – feeding, changing, bathing and walking the baby in a stroller.



At the start of the month we celebrated Diwali the festival the lights by splashing paint on a surface, dressing up in colourful clothes, listening and dancing to Diwali music.



As Christmas gets closer and Santa is just around the corner, we have started practicing our Christmas songs for our concert, making decoration and presents. It's like Santa's workshop with all our little 'Elves' busy creating amazing things.



The much anticipated bike day arrived. With big smiles on their faces the children picked their bikes from the bike carpark and road the trails. They stopped at the lights and pedestrian crossing; made quick stops at the petrol station, pumped the fuel and then they were off again! The children extended their gross motor skills and through role play they were building relationships with their peers. There was much fun to be had.



We have also been busy making Christmas decorations with the use of glitter, paint and other exciting craft resources. While the tamariki are learning about customs and regular events they are expressing themselves through creative media.



**Te Reo Phrase:**

Meri Kirihimete

Merry Christmas

## In the Babies Room...

Our babies focus has changed to Music and Movement as we have started to practice our Christmas songs in preparation for the Christmas party. Every day we have spontaneous mat times that always include singing songs and dancing. We sing songs to our babies as a calming strategy, sing at transitional periods and for learning opportunities. Children learn language through music, rhythm and repetition and this supports their cognitive development. Each time Merlin brings her drums out the children gather around and make lots of sounds. They are also discovering other musical instruments such as the xylophone, shakers and colourful scarves. Our younger babies are enjoying the heuristic baskets that Pam has made. This develops their creativity while using all their senses to learn about their world. We celebrated Diwali this month by doing a colourful group painting to hang on the wall. The weather is certainly heating up so we are all wearing our hats and applying sunscreen. Our babies are learning to keep their hats on and please support them by wearing hats on the weekend.



## In the Toddlers Room...

This month our children have shown an interest in Transport so this will be our new focus.

Children have been engaged with different art mediums to create the transport display such as planes, trucks, boats and even hot air balloons.

Through our mat times we are looking and learning about types of transport such as emergency vehicles. Our children wait patiently for their turn to put the magnetic interactive stories up on the board.

The children have also been interested in sea creatures so we are reading books about the sea and singing songs such as kina kina and slippery fish.

Christmas is just around the corner which means practising the songs we will be singing for our Christmas party.

As the weather warms up another notch or two, the children will need extra clothes packed in their bags and togs for all the water play we will be having.

Bike day for the toddlers was so much fun with most bringing their own bikes in from home. This creates a sense of belonging and pride to share their bikes with their friends. They followed each other around the chalk drawn road; giving way and stopping when needed. What great riding skills Toddlers.

