



Kia Ora Parents and Whānau,

Happy New Year! A warm welcome back to all our families who have returned from holiday, and a special welcome to the new families settling in at Fantails. This is our first newsletter of the year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for welcoming me into the Fantails Family.

Summer and sunshine have well and truly been on the cards this past month and water play has been a very popular activity with all our age groups. Other activities that have been of great interest over the past month have been carpentry and dramatic play involving our children in great opportunities to build relationships, practise a range of skills and have FUN!

Our Chinese New Year Celebratory afternoon tea went so well and we appreciate your attendance and the delicious food we were able to share together.

We trust that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Waitangi Day together. The Toddler Room have put up a beautiful Waitangi Day wall display in the foyer.

Upcoming events to note down on your calendar:

Tuesday 18th February—Teddy Bears Picnic. All children are invited to bring along their favourite teddy for the day.

Wishing our families a FABULOUS February. Please don't hesitate to bring any concerns to our attention, or make suggestions. As a passionate team we endeavour to make you and your child's time with us, exceptional.

Kind regards,

Gladys Marais and the Fantails team



In the Babies room...

This month in the Babies Room we have been enjoying the outside environment with plenty of water play. We even explored ice on the very hot days to learn about science concepts and to keep cool. Our babies are so good at getting their sunscreen applied and will stand there patiently waiting for their turn. Hats must be worn outside so please keep reinforcing this at home.

We have fare-welled quite a few of our friends to the Toddler room. Transitioning children together in small groups makes this process so much easier and enjoyable for everyone.

We would like to welcome our new babies and their families to the room. We now have a number of our children learning to crawl together, and it's so beautiful seeing all the new relationships being formed while learning social skills.

Our Chinese New Year celebration was a huge success with lots of our families enjoying yummy dumplings and Chinese food to share.



In the Toddlers room...

Wow! What a great start to the New Year weather wise with beautiful, hot, sunny days. You've got to love summer time, and we have been making the most of it spending lots of time outside immersed in water experiences. Children are enjoying running through the sprinklers, playing with resources in the water trough, watering the garden and painting the concrete with water. Please encourage your children to wear their hats on the weekend as they must wear them while playing outside here at Fantails.

We got straight back into the year celebrating Chinese New Year. Our toddlers have been busy making decorations for this event such as lanterns, firecrackers, hats and rats, as this year we celebrate the year of the Rat.

At mat time we had discussions about the Chinese culture and that it is a special time to come together and share food with friends and family. We invited all our families to join us here at Fantails for a Chinese New Year celebration. We shared traditional Chinese dumplings together and discussed learning opportunities and aspirations parents have for their children.



In the Juniors room...

This month we celebrated Chinese New Year, where everyone dressed up in red or traditional costumes. The children worked hard at decorating the wall display, and the room, as well as practicing our Chinese New Year song which they performed in front of our parents, grandparents and other family members. After the mat time we shared our food which some of the parents had brought in and also the dumplings the children had help make that morning.

Since we are in summer we have had lots of sprinkler and water trough play outside. We have also been doing our 'Hearty Fun' exercise programme in the morning where we all get up and dance to our favourite songs. Sometimes with the Toddlers and Pre-schoolers too!

In the Junior room role play is still popular and the dress up corner is always busy as the children negotiate and navigate through their social interactions. This play helps develop their skills in social development and increases their communication skills through verbalising their wishes.





Sweetcorn

Available

January to April.

Buy

Corn with fresh green husks (outer leaves) and yellow to light brown tassels (inner strands). The darker the tassel, the riper the corn. The kernels should be fat and juicy.

Store

In the vegetable bin in the fridge.

Prepare



Remove the tassel from whole corn cobs.



Place into boiling water for 2 minutes, with or without husks.



Slice off the top and remove the husks.



Use a sharp knife to remove the kernels from the cob.

Cook

Can be:



Boiled



Barbecued



Cut off the cob and added to salad



Soup



In the Preschool room...

In the preschool room this month we have been focussing on 'Summer Fun'. A lot of the Flyers have brought in photos of what they have been doing both at home and at various holiday destinations. The children loved sharing and talking about the photos and their experiences of their holidays during our mat time.

After mat-times we then display the photos on our 'Summer' wall. This encourages children to speak confidently and articulate themselves - an important life skill.

The Flyers have been refining their fine motor skills as they cut, manipulate and design different artistic masterpieces for our wall displays. This helps develop their writing skills as they continue to get ready for school.

On the 23rd of January we celebrated Chinese New Year at Fantails. During the weeks preceding our celebration, we made decorations for our wall display and room fans, lanterns and even a dragon.

We also practiced our happy New Year song in both Mandarin and English. On the day we helped to make dumplings, which we enjoyed together with all the other delicious food, during the afternoon with our parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends.





Five Minutes With...

STACY!



What room are you in? Toddlers Room

I grew up in... China

If you came to my house for dinner you would have... Chinese Food

My favourite place is... Home Sweet Home

In my car I listen to... the Radio

Early bird or night owl... Night owl

My friends would describe me as... Chilled and Funny

If I wasn't a teacher, I would be... A Financial Advisor

The colours that makes me happy are... Green, Blue, Pink

My favourite game as a child was... Tag

Sweet or savoury... Savoury

The best day of the year is... New Year

My hidden talent is... Cooking

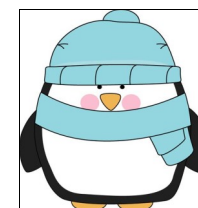
My dream holiday would be... Antarctica

I love the smell of... Roses

Being a teacher ... is an interesting Adventure

I love to... Travel with families and friends

My favourite season is... Winter



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Seasonal delights for the BBQ



Sweet corn is in season at the moment and it is easy to prepare on the BBQ.

Choose corn cobs with fresh green husks (the outer leaves) and light brown tassels at the top to make sure you get delicious juicy corn kernels.



1 Remove the tassel from the whole corn cobs



2 BBQ (with husks on or off) for 15 to 20 minutes turning every 5 minutes



3 Peel back the husk and eat as is



4 Or, remove the kernels from the cob and add to salads, fritters or soup

For more inspiration check out our easy meals with vegetables recipes here: <https://www.vegetables.co.nz/education-and-resources/downloads/easy-meals-with-vegetables/>

Children can choke on food at any age but the risk is higher in children under 5 years. Refer to the Ministry of Health Guidelines to find out more. Search 'food and choking' at health.govt.nz

For more information, visit: heartfoundation.org.nz