

**Five Minutes With...**

# Sonia



**What room are you teaching in?** Toddlers

**I grew up in...** Pakuranga

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

**My favourite place is...** Orewa Beach

**In my car I listen to...** The radio

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

**My friends would describe me as...** Kind, gentle and positive

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

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

**My favourite game as a child was...** Monopoly

**Sweet or savoury...** Savoury

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

**My hidden talent is...** Handstands....in the water

**My dream holiday would be...** Italy and Greece

**I love the smell of...** Dinner cooking when I get home

**Teaching is...** Rewarding and fun, it keeps me on my toes

**I love to...** Take my dog for a walk and swim.

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



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**Fantails Childcare**  
SILVERDALE  
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## Kia Ora Parents and Whanau,

A big thank you to all the parents you came along to our parent evening. We trust you went away informed and ready to put some of the strategies and tips suggested into practice. Joy Sluiters from 'The parenting Place' will be back again on Wednesday 9th May to talk about 'Discipline without shouting, force or fluster'.

Our parent notice board in the hallway is full of useful community links, support groups etc. take a moment to view what is posted up.

Our individual and group photo days are coming up!

Tuesday 13th March—Babies and Toddlers

Wednesday 14th March—Juniors and Preschool

Please ensure you return your completed form and payment asap.

We had a wonderful time celebrating Waitangi Day with the children and creating our room Treaty's. We have also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and had a great turn out of parents and whanau that joined us for a shared afternoon tea. The lantern festival is on this weekend at the Auckland Domain—a great family event to visit!

Kind regards,

Nikki Summerville  
Group Manager



**The littlest feet make the biggest footprints in our hearts.**

## In the Babies Room...

Our babies were busy last month getting prepared for Chinese New Year by participating in many exciting art activities such as creating fans, lanterns and fire crackers. Merlin brought in some of her traditional Chinese costumes for the children to try on. Have a look at some of the wonderful photos we have taken which are displayed in the foyer. Fun was had by all at our mat times when the big drums were brought out for the children to play. Our afternoon tea celebrations for Chinese New Year was a huge success with plenty of noodles, dumplings and rice dishes for everyone to share. Thanks to all our parents for making some of these delicious dishes.

At the beginning of the month we honoured the Treaty of Waitangi with the children for Waitangi day by reading some stories and learning more about our cultural heritage. We made our own room treaty which all the babies signed by painting their thumb prints and stamping it into the document. This states that we will use our gentle hands and be kind to our friends. Keep an eye out for the next display board in the foyer as this will represent some of the beautiful moments from this Treaty.

Storytime is still a strong interest in the room. Flori's grandparents came in to read a story to the children which they loved. Please continue to bring in your child's favourite books for us to read.



Chinese New Year, this is an important time of year for the Chinese culture and we were privileged enough to share in the celebrations, learning about the twelve characters that represent the twelve year cycle, that this year is the year of the dog. The



Flyers made drums and decorated them, on the day we performed a dance with our drums and then participated in art activities at the tables. During this time we shared food with the parents some of the food was the dumplings the Flyers had made and some was food brought in from parents. Through this celebration we are widening social interactions and confidence through the performing arts, also expanding our knowledge around culture and events.



We had the amazing opportunity of Bark NZ visiting our room and sharing with the children how to take care of ourselves around dogs and how to treat them. We had five different dogs meet the Flyers and the instructors demonstrated to us how to approach them and taught us some rhymes that we could use to remember how to be safe. This experience has assisted our Flyer's to be more confident and aware around animals in new situations and developing their respect for animals as a whole.



## In the Preschool Room...

We have had a very busy month, firstly we visited the local vet hospital at Millwater. This was a great opportunity to ask the questions we were brainstorming the previous day. We were shown where they operate on animals and where they recover and get examined. We got to see some animals that were getting ready for surgery and listened to a dog's heartbeat. This trip helps develop the children's social and emotional skills through understanding about living things and how to look after them.

We learnt about the Treaty of Waitangi and what it means for all New Zealanders. We learnt what a treaty means and re-visited our room treaty and all together agreed with the rules in the room. This increases awareness of the world and expands experiences and understanding of events around us. This also grows a sense of self-identity within a group.



## In the Toddlers Room...

This month has been a busy one with many special celebrations going on. The highlights were Chinese New Year, Waitangi Day and Valentines Day. Another exciting experience we had was when Bark NZ brought their lovely dogs into the centre to teach the children how to look after them and use their gentle hands, while learning to keep themselves safe.

We created beautiful art work for Chinese New Year so we could display them around the room and in the foyer. Many of our parents came along to the centre for an afternoon tea, bringing their traditional Chinese dishes for us to share. A big thank-you to our parents who came in the day before to help us make dumplings. Merlin also prepared Fried rice and noodle dishes to share with all our whanau, Yummy! Our current focus is now Dramatic Play as we have noticed children engaging in role play and caring for the baby dolls for some time now. They are extending their social and communication skills through negotiating their roles and having discussions about fair play, inclusion and sharing.

We are going to start a news wall display so please bring in or email us some photos for your child to post on this wall. This creates a sense of belonging between home and centre.



## In the Juniors Room...

February has been full of fun, with two special celebrations squeezed into the one short month. It started with Waitangi Day, and how we learnt about the Treaty of Waitangi and what it means for all New Zealanders. We learnt what a treaty means and re visited our room treaty and all together agreed with the rules in the room.



We also made a waka for all the Juniors' pictures to represent the children in the room. This increases awareness of the world and expands experiences and understanding of events around us. This also grows a sense of self-identity within a group.

The second celebration was Chinese New Year, this is an important time of year for the Chinese culture and we were privileged enough to share in the celebrations, learning about the tradition of celebrating Chinese New Year and the legend story of the 12 animals of Chinese Zodiac. We learnt about the Dragon dance and even performed it in front of the parents when we invited them to watch our performance and share food with them. We are widening social interactions and confidence through the performing arts, also expanding our knowledge around culture and events.



The last big event was Bark NZ coming in to talk to us about dogs and how to treat them, the instructors bought in five dogs - one was huge! We learnt how to pat them gently and even got to practice patting them gently outside after the instructors had given us all the information. Through this experience the children are increasing their confidence and sense of control around new situations, and giving children the tools to understand and treat animals with respect.



**Te Reo Phrase:**

Harere mai ki waho.  
Come/let's go outside.

