

Five Minutes With...

# Laura!

**What room are you in?** Kitchen

**I grew up in...** Dublin

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

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

**In my car I listen to...** U2

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

**My friends would describe me as...** Fun and unpredictable

**If I wasn't a kitchen hand, I would be...** A captain in the army

**The colours that makes me happy are...** Fuchsia and sky blue

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

**Sweet or savoury...** Savoury

**The best day of the year is...** St Patricks Day

**My hidden talent is...** Gymnastics and hockey

**My dream holiday would be...** Alaska to see the northern lights

**I love the smell of...** Orange chocolate

**Being a kitchen hand is...** Awesome because I get to work with my best mate Kat

**I love to...** Swimming, surfing, hiking and singing

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



## Kia Ora Parents and Whanau,

Welcome to spring!

What a busy past month it has been! We had two very successful trips to the Auckland Museum with so many wonderful parent helpers joining us! Our annual Disco was a blast with over 200 people attending followed by our 'Fathers Day Come and Play' afternoon BBQ on the 30th August.

Thank you to all the Dads and Grandfathers that came along to celebrate with us in honour of the amazing job you all do! It is fantastic to see such positive male role models in our young children's lives.

We are privileged at Fantails to have 3 full time male teachers Cody, Alan and Daniel; and are delighted to welcome our 4th, Zac to the team as a regular reliever. It is fantastic to have more male teachers joining our Early Childhood teaching profession and we appreciate the different dynamics they bring to our learning environment.



Take a look at our 'Fantails Silverdale' Facebook page and follow us, to keep up to date with the highlights of our special events and see what exciting learning experiences the children are involved in.

Kind regards, Nikki Summerville

## In the Babies Room...

What a great time we had at our disco evening, especially having fun with the bubbles and balloons. Our babies were certainly extending their hand/eye coordination skills by playing catch with their parents. Music and movement are strong interests with our babies so they knew all the songs and actions on our playlist.

This month our focus has been dinosaurs with many of our children wanting to incorporate them into their play ,such as dinosaurs books at mat times and we even have a song that we are learning called the dinosaur stomp.

We have updated our posters for the windows and our children have contributed by adding dinosaurs stickers to the back so that can revisit these pictures at any time. When the weather permits we like to take the dinosaurs outside for an adventure in the sandpit or exploring in the garden.



Then it was our exciting adventure to the museum. Two buses took off with Juniors, Toddlers, parents, grandparents and teachers heading for the Auckland museum. The bus ride was full of laughter and singing as we got closer and closer. The trip was amazing as we got to look and explore the 'Weird and Wonderful' and 'Butterflies' exhibit as well as the rest of the museum. The large penguin, sharks and dinosaur skeletons were a big hit. Through this experience the children are learning about what is around them in the natural world. This experience is increasing the children's ability to develop and appreciation of animals and things in their wider world.



**Te Reo Phrase:**  
**Ko wai tō ingoa?**  
**What's your name?**



## In the Juniors room...

This month in the Juniors room it has been full of fun and excitement. We were all anticipating the 'Disco' and the 'Museum trip' through this time the children have been very busy creating play around real life events, people and places. We have moved from the 'Shop' play to role play around a 'Hospital'. The night finally arrived "Disco Fever"! Everyone was excited and dressed up in their favourite costume. It was a fun night with three separate rooms. One the dance room with the lights and DJ, the other one was the balloon and bubble room where we negotiated the bubbles before going into the last room – the food room, yum! There was yummy food and water to quench our thirst after all the dancing and showing our moves on the dance floor. The following week we have a centre prize giving and the children were awarded with certificates and trophies.



## In the Toddlers Room...

The highlight for this month was our disco party which is one of our many special events we host every year. This is always a great evening for our families to come together, enjoy each others company, share food and kick up their heals on the dance floor with their children.

Then followed the awards for best dressed etc. We celebrated Cook Island language week in the toddlers room by learning some new words, songs and customs. The most exciting part was dressing up in Meripa's bright Cook Islands hula costumes and dancing to the traditional music at mat times.



This month our children have shown an interest in role playing with the animals and bugs in the sandpit. Our trip to the Museum has extended this interest by exploring different exhibits, learning more about nature and the world around them.

## In the Preschool Room...

At the beginning of the month we went to the Auckland Museum to look at all their creepy crawlies – the butterfly display and the Weird and Wonderful room, which extended and increased the children's interest. What a great finale for our 'Creepy Crawlies' focus!

Our new focus this month is 'Creative Construction'. The children are using their creative minds to build a variety of constructions using lots of different materials. This expands their ability to inquire, research and explore as they construct their creative masterpieces.

There was great anticipation as the annual disco got closer and closer. The Flyers created a wall display for this special event. It did not disappoint and was an awesome night with children, teachers and parents dressing up in all sorts of different costumes, from 'Mr Potato Head' to 'Spiderman'.



The following week there was a Prize giving for Toddlers, Juniors and the Flyers. Some of the certificates included 'Best costume' and 'Best Dance Moves'. Trophies had been made for the Preschool children and were given out accordingly.

The children are now focussing on 'Fathers Day' and have been busy preparing for our special Fathers day event.

This month our social competency focus is on 'Happy' and 'Scared' and what these look and feel like and how to deal with these emotions.



## HEALTHY NACHOS



Nachos are a popular dish to serve in early learning services and at home.

With ingredients like corn chips, cheese and sour cream, traditional nachos can be high in energy (kilojoules), saturated fat and salt.

By making simple swaps, you can easily put a healthy twist on this Mexican favourite!



### 1. The base.

- Instead of corn chips try:
- ♥ Wholemeal pita bread or wraps, cut into pieces and grill until crisp\*.
  - ♥ Thinly sliced potato or kumara rounds or wedges, bake until golden\*.
  - ♥ Whole grains like brown rice or quinoa.

### 2. The sauce.

- ♥ Choose lean meat or drain the fat when cooking.
- ♥ Add vegetables (like grated carrot, courgette or corn) and legumes (like kidney beans, black beans or chickpeas) to canned tomatoes or nacho sauce\*.

### 3. The toppings.

- ♥ Capsicum, tomato or homemade salsa\*
- ♥ Herbs, lemon / lime wedges.
- ♥ Reduced-fat cheese (e.g. Edam or Noble).
- ♥ Natural yoghurt or guacamole\*.

\* visit [fuelled4life.org.nz](http://fuelled4life.org.nz) for recipes.

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