

Busy C's Preschool, 39 Voelas Rd, LYTTTELTON. Ph: 328 8211

*Where Learning and Development Sails Ahead*

April 15, 2011

Wishing you all a happy and restful ~~Easter break~~. Busy C's is closed Good Friday (April 22) and Easter Monday/Anzac Day (April 25). The children are enjoying working at baking Hot Cross buns, making Easter baskets, decorating hard boiled eggs to eat on Easter day. We are also sharing stories about our ANZACs, lest we forget. Lyttelton's ANZAC service is 10:15 at the Cenotaph, alternatively the Fire Station if the weather's not good. The parade will start from The Port Company carpark at 10:00.

You will have all met ~~Kirsten Mackay~~ who joined our team the day before the earthquake. She lives in Diamond Harbour with her whanau, coming to us with a background in outdoor education. Kirsten completed her Graduate Early Childhood Diploma of Teaching at the end of last year, already having a Master of Arts and a Secondary Teaching Diploma. She has quickly become an integral member of our Busy C's team, working mainly with our over 2 children and loving it! Haere mai Kirsten.



Since the February earthquake Busy C's has been the recipient of ~~random gifts of kindness~~ from new friends around the world. We got emails from as far away as Texas, USA (we think they are googling the epicentre & making the effort to see who's likely to be directly affected). Children from the Kaurilands Community Kindergarten (Titarangi) sent us drawings they had created for us and we also received carton loads of toys from the families at Otago Boys High

School - the children have been encouraged to choose some for home, and we will redistribute others... What thoughtful, kind communities...



Manu liked the phone Lily liked the dog

The rumbles and shakes we continue to experience serve to keep us alert... We again want to acknowledge the reassuring way our kaiako cared for our children and managed the crisis of February 22. They were so well prepared and capable (AND had balloons and barley sugars and plenty of hugs to allay fears) that they worked not only with our children, but many of our "old children" now attending school. Again we want to reiterate that in any crisis ~~we will keep your children safely with us~~ until they are able to be collected, ensuring they are always in the company of a familiar Busy C's kaiako. We have access to many community resources - and if necessary we can all sleep at the preschool, Caro & James', our "community contacts" Debbie & Andrew who live on the downhill side of the school, and the "blocky" Rec Centre certainly came into its own - holding fast for the community through the last one. We now have a dedicated Busy C's emergency cell phone, on the Telecom network, with your numbers preloaded so we can shoot off a group situational message if the landlines are down and before the network gets overloaded.. the trick will be keeping your numbers up-to-date. Again, please ensure we have your current contact details, and also those of your "Emergency Contacts". The **Emergency Call phone no. 0273288215** and we intend to have it with us in such a situation.



Our kaiako are looking forward to some more time to work on the children's **profile books** which they are aware have been a bit neglected during this unusual time we've been having. Please add your own voice & stories to these very rich documents - it seems from the regular feedback we receive, they continue to be the children's favourite books for a very long time post preschool - maybe forever! There has been a lot of interest around letters with the older children enjoying their increasing competency in being able to write their name and have others recognise it, while the younger ones appreciate the shape and mark making. There are always creations being made with a variety of media which help further develop the fine motor skills needed for "writing"/ mark making - media such as paints, pencils, felt pens, whiteboard markers, chalk, crayons, scissors are obvious ones... also helpful in developing this fine control are activities such as small construction, dolls house furniture rearrangement, puzzle piece manipulations, careful measuring of ingredients for baking, managing buttons & domes on clothing, handling playing cards... all sorts of meaningful activities in which children can be encouraged to be active participants. Our autumn garden has received renewed attention with many of the children developing a taste for green tomatoes (using their fine motor skills to pluck them from their stems!).

We were invited to join in a **celebratory day up at Lyttelton West School** a few weeks ago with our older school friends. The Bouncy Castle was a hit with our bigger children, while the younger ones enjoyed the two slides side-by-side and a new sandpit to play in. We enjoy our ongoing positive relationship and the sharing of resources with LWS.



Please bring a **warm change of clothes** for your children, NAMED. We have a lot of unnamed items of clothing in the Lost Property box which we ask you to check regularly.



Ka kite & kind regards from the Busy C's team -  
Caro, James, Bethan, Suzanne, Sam, Anneli, Michelle, & Kirsten