



## Parent-Teacher interviews!!!

Starting on Friday, the 23rd of April and continuing until Wednesday the 28th of April, Bright Sparks will be carrying out Parent-Teacher interviews. More specific information will be offered to you by your child 's teachers.

The interviews will be 15 minutes long and will be held in the Conference Room. Due to the fact that some parents will come in their lunch breaks or have work related commitments, we must adhere to the 15 minute time allocation.

If you are interested in attending, please ensure that you pen your name on the lists, in a time slot that suits you. For those families who are unable to attend, and are still interested in having a discussion with their child 's teachers, please discuss this with the Pedagogista or Lead Teacher and agree on a later date, suitable to all parties involved.

## Staff News

- It 's a BOY!!! Alexandra gave birth to her little man on Tuesday, the 6th of April . His name is Elijah. Looking forward to meeting him!!! No other news about him, as yet.
- Liana joined the Tiaho team, on Monday the 12th of April. Liana 's Bachelor of Education Degree in ECE from UNITEC is backed up by years of experience in the early childhood field.
- Michelle, a highly qualified early childhood teacher, has been supporting Canaan and Leone in the Stellar Room (4-5 year olds ).
- Due to personal circumstances Jose, in the Astron team ( 3 to 4 year olds ), has decided to visit his home country, the Philippines. There is a possibility that he will return to Bright Sparks in August. For the time being, Jarni is supporting the Astron teachers, Faith and Arina. She is studying towards her Bachelor of Education in ECE from Massey University.

- **Extra days:** As we must always ensure that our child-teacher ratio is maintained, as per MOE regulations, we would like you to contact the Manager or the Pedagogista well in advance when you would like an extra day for your child.
- **Medical certificates:** Clearance medical certificates must be handed in upon your child's return to the centre should s/he been away ill with contagious infections.
- **Health & Safety:** Sun block and hand sanitizer lotions are available for children and parents to use every time they enter Bright Sparks premises.

## Winter is getting closer!!!

Brrrrr! With Winter around the corner we would like to remind you to check the clothes in your child's bag. Are they suitable? Have you thought about a raincoat and a beanie? They are just great and keep the children's bodies warm and dry... just a thought.

Also don't forget appropriate shoes, please. Let's keep those toes warm!!!

**Gumboots are perfect..**

## News from Centre One

Tiaho:

We extend our warm welcome to our new teacher Liana and the new children: Padriac, Baraka, Mustafa, Cooper, Liam and their families. With the expansion of our Tiaho family, our programme "***My own new little world***" focuses primarily on identifying the most suitable ways to settle the children, allowing them to develop a growing sense of belonging. Settling children in a new environment is an ongoing process and we would like to thank all our parents for their support.

The "***Totally Physical***" component of our planning concentrates on all those physical challenges our children experience in our setting. After gaining confidence with their loco-motor skills, most of our children are interested in challenging themselves physically. We are committed to providing activities to support their interest throughout the day. Our Active Movement facilitator has been supporting us by introducing new physical engagements for the children.

Please feel free to share your thoughts in order to assist us in creating an environment that allows for real learning opportunities to take place. Also, don't forget to share your children's special moments with us, verbally and through their portfolios.

## Clareo

This month we have welcomed Sreeja Menon who has moved across from working in the Tiaho Room with the babies to working alongside our toddlers in the Clareo Room.

The focus in our room is on Developing a Pedagogy of Play with our children. It is about observing different patterns of how our children learn and incorporate their environment and the world around them into their play experiences.



A warm welcome to the parents and children who have moved across from the Tiaho Room into the Clareo Room and to those parents who have just begun with us. We look forward to working closely with you and your children in the coming weeks.

## News from Centre Two

### *Astron 3-4 year olds*

We are pleased to say that our efforts to support children in enhancing their fine motor skills are paying off. Many of them are beginning to master the art of manipulating minute objects. This focus also facilitates children in developing attentiveness and effective hand-eye coordination, both of which are prerequisites in developing reading and writing skills.

## A new investigation has begun!!!

At the beginning of this month, Samantha brought in insects. This prompted her peers and teachers to question what insects are about. We are continually exploring this question and will hopefully find answers through our investigation. So, watch this space!



### Stellar: 4-5 year olds

Over the past two months, there have been a number of varied interests that the children have shown as individuals and collectively as a group.

We are delving into the realm of *“questions for investigative purposes”*. We are beginning to discern the difference between *“making a statement”* and *“asking a question”*, mostly during our Morning Meeting times. The children are becoming aware that questions are asked in order to learn something about a topic and that a statement is something we would like others to know.



We have also been very keen on **Mathematics** (including geometry, quantities, volume, patterns, colours and counting). The children have been exploring the ways in which they can represent numbers from writing digits to using their fingers or objects to visually represent a number. They are exploring how many different and interesting ways they can find to do this, often with amazingly funny results.

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## ***Stellar: 4-5 year olds***

Tied in with our interest in Maths, has been the **construction designs** that have been produced by a collective group of some of our Stellar boys. Their creations have been so extensive that often there are no more blocks left in the baskets, boxes or shelves! The constructions themselves have tended to stay in the construction area but, from time to time, they have shown up in other areas around the classroom, including our new free composition area next to the Remida area. There are always “STOP” signs left on them on completion which tells everyone that they are not to be altered or put away. Sometimes we have invited the children to come back and revisit, encouraging them to look at it through fresh eyes and see if they want to add or change anything.

In **“Telling Tales”**, the children have been inventing fictitious characters while also exploring more conventional characters such as transformers, super-heroes and princesses and embellishing themselves (as characters) with special powers or abilities. Recreating these characters has led to a great interest in **“Self-Portraits”**. It has been amazing to see the different ways in which the children perceive themselves as individuals and also as members of their families (immediate or extended). The majority of the children have drawn themselves and placed these drawings on the door into the Stellar Room. There are also more detailed self-portraits on the main wall inside the classroom that the children are encouraged to add to as they please; encouraging them to consider additional details.

Outdoors, we have the Climbing Dome that the children have been very busy on. They are finding new and inventive ways to climb upside down, do flips, hang on with just their legs or arms. We’ve also seen the dome become a stage for theatricality. Once such instance was taming **“tigers and lions”** which were inside the **“cave”**. The dramatic play that unfolds within the climbing dome is quite unique and inclusive and its’ presence is offering new opportunities for the Astron and Stellar children to work alongside each other.

***\*\*We would like to ask for any natural or neutral toned wooden frames that our families are willing to part with of any shape or size please??***