

Up with the play

Newsletter to our Bright Minds' Families



MATARIKI (Maori new year celebrations)

Matariki is the name for the Pleiades star cluster. The Maori New Year is signalled by the heliacal rising of Matariki. The heliacal rising is when a star first becomes visible on the eastern horizon at dawn. Matariki is a time to prepare; to learn, to share ideas and to celebrate the future.

The Matariki constellation of stars (and in some iwi, Puanga) signals the end of one year and the beginning of the next cycle of life.

Matariki also has great significance for ocean voyagers as a navigation beacon.

The Matariki constellation is well known throughout the world. In Japan, Matariki is known as Subaru (may be the name of your car). Matariki is a time to prepare the whenua (land) for planting in the spring. Matariki falls at the end of the harvest, therefore food and special delicacies are prepared and shared amongst friends and families.

As Matariki is part of the winter season, in the past there was not much time for outdoor activities, so this time was used instead for learning about whakapapa, whanau and iwi (families and tribal history).

You could celebrate Matariki by preparing a garden in your backyard, have a family gathering to share family history and knowledge and then have a feast to celebrate the New Year.

MATARIKI CELEBRATION AT BRIGHT MINDS CHILD CARE

At Bright Minds we are celebrating Matariki by having a gathering of our children's families here at our centre, later in the month of June. When we have set a date, we'll pop an invitation in your child's pocket – please watch for it. The children love it when you come here and share their "special place" with their families.

INES RETURNS FROM CHILE

The children are clearly delighted to see Ines looking so well and happy after her two month holiday at home with family and friends in Chile.



TOBY'S FIRST JOB (as bus conductor – well he is 5yrs old now and ready to earn his own way in the world) "How many stages Maam?"



OVERTIME FEE

We have avoided applying this fee to our late comers, although it is common practice in most day cares. Our teachers do not get paid to wait back for parents who are delayed for what ever reason in collecting their children. We must now advise parents that from now on, there will be a fee of \$20.00 per ten minutes after 6.00pm. This fee will go directly to the teacher who is waiting and caring for the child.



BIRTHDAY BOYS AND GIRL

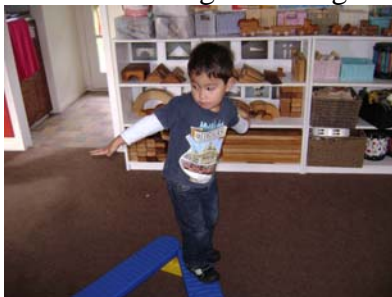
Well it's party time at Bright Minds this month. Dylan and Kafiz turn the magic age of three years old, on 2nd and 16th respectively. Their happy parents can now join the ECE group of children and get \$80.00 per week subsidy paid on their day care fees.

Whoohoo!!

Charlie Rose and Caleb turn four years old on 13th and 29th respectively, and Toby takes the cake by turning five years on 8th June and goes off to school the same day. How good is that Toby?? And how about that school uniform – especially the shoes? Dylan (right) is deciding which is the best way to look at his art – sideways or up side down or...?



Kafiz has daring balancing skills on the high beam.



Charlie Rose displaying her artistic skills on canvas.



Caleb with his ever gorgeous smiling face



"House keeping"

Fees – a reminder that fees are to be paid weekly in advance, unless you have a special arrangement with Lynn or Noel. Otherwise 10% late fees will apply on overdue accounts
Further reminders: (1) Please ring us if your child will be away due to illness, or for any other reason.

A BIG WELCOME TO – LOCHLAN

Charlie Roses' baby brother who started with us this month. Is it just me, or are some babies more beautiful than others.....?



EVEN OFFICE LADIES HAVE BIRTHDAYS

And Dianne celebrated hers this month – Bright Minds sent this beautiful floral display – thank you very much Noel and staff. It is truly beautiful.



SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR

In case you thought we were short of things to celebrate this month – here is an excuse – the shortest day of the year is 21st June – does that mean we're half way through winter and spring is on its way?

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