



KidzWay

Early Learning Centre

22-26 Northumberland Street
Tapanui, West Otago 9522

Email: kidzwayelc@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.kidzway.co.nz

Phone 03 204 88 99

Newsletter No.1 - February 2016

"Children are immature and they'll handle their anger immaturely until they are taught better methods"

(Anon)

Kia Ora Families and Whanau

Welcome back and to the first newsletter for 2016!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday break and are coping with this heat OK!!

It is great catching up with you all again – even after only three weeks away we notice the growth in the children. Keep sharing those holiday and life experiences your children are involved in at home. It adds so much more value when we can include learning experiences around these interests and events.

A big welcome to all our new families – we trust you and your children are settling into life at KidzWay. If there is anything you are unsure about or don't know please ask; also the parent handbook you received on enrolment and our website www.kidzway.co.nz both have a wealth of information. ☺

Ka Kite, Denise (Head Teacher), Josanne, Michelle, Alison, Nicky, Maree and Fiona (Teachers) and Kath (Administrator)



Ngahere Explorers (Nature Walks)

We are excited to report that we are almost organised to start this great learning experience for our four-year-olds. We plan to take the oldest 10 four-year-olds on a walk to explore the natural environment one morning per week. We will be going on Mondays this term, and at this stage we are due to begin on Monday 15 February.

Information will be available to parents involved next week. A roster of parent helps is also being prepared to enable this programme to run.

If you kindly pledged funds to this programme following the initial letter sent out to parents of four-year-olds last year, now is a good time to fulfill this. Please see Kath – thank you very much. Likewise if you would still like to donate to this programme, see Kath also.



Thank you to the following businesses for their much appreciated help...

- ❖ **Stuart Timber** for their generous donation of \$500 towards the cost of setting up Ngahere Explorers.
- ❖ **West Otago Transport** for purchasing and signwriting a trolley for use on our Ngahere explorations.
- ❖ **Farmlands** for generously discounting the wet-weather gear (jackets and trousers) we have purchased for the Ngahere Explorers programme.



Handy-Man

Once again KidzWay is on the lookout for a Handy-Man who can fix, mend, build things, water blast, maintain our drains and gutters and anything else that keeps the Centre safe and well-maintained.

Please see Denise for a job description for this important position. Thank you. ☺

Up-Coming Events

As you will read at the end of this newsletter, there are quite a few events coming up in this term. Please note them on your calendar. For those of you who are new to KidzWay, our ways of communicating with you about these events are through our Newsletter and the "School News" section of the Blue Mountain Express. In addition, detailed information about each event is sometimes sent through email, Facebook (invite us to be your friend) and of course written on the white board as you enter into KidzWay's foyer. Your blue parent pocket also contains information, for example hard copies of the newsletters, permission slips and accounts. Please clear regularly.

- **Wednesday 17 February: Teacher Only Day.** This is a valuable day for KidzWay Staff to plan, review and attend professional development as a team. We usually only have one Teacher Only Day per year.
- **Wednesday 24 February: Father's/Special Person's Night - 5:30-7:00 pm.** This is a lovely opportunity for your child to bring Dad or a special person in their life to play and show them around KidzWay. We have a simple dinner of sausages, hot chips, coleslaw and bread, followed by some fun games. A gold coin donation towards dinner is appreciated.
- **Wednesday 9 March: Kaka Point Beach/Bus trip.** A lovely Day Out! As well as Wednesday children, all families are welcome to attend this trip. The Ministry of Education require us to have a 1:1 adult:child ratio around water, so parent help is required to make this event happen. Parents can choose to come on the bus or take their own cars. More details and bus cost will be out before the event.

Thank you

- **Craig Stiven** – for installing a new soap dispenser when he saw our need earlier this week!

Can you help us out with...

- 2-3 Runner bikes (without peddles) or bikes we can remove the pedals from
- Plastic shopping bags for wet clothing etc
- Used boys shorts/trousers, underwear, tee shirts: sizes 2-5
- Used girls shorts/trousers, underwear and tops: sizes 2-5
- Please check your laundry for any KidzWay clothing which may have gone home with your child.

Dates for your calendar:

Monday 8 February: Waitangi Day – CENTRE CLOSED

Wednesday 17 February: Teacher Only Day – CENTRE CLOSED

Wednesday 24 February: Fathers'/Special Person's Night 5.30-7pm (gold coin donation towards dinner)

Wednesday 9 March: Kaka Point Beach/Bus trip

Wednesday and Thursday 16, 17 March: Education Review Office (ERO) visits KidzWay

Monday 21 March: Otago Anniversary Day – CENTRE CLOSED

Thursday 24 March: KidzWay Easter Celebrations and shared afternoon tea

Friday 25 and Monday 28: - CENTRE CLOSED for Easter Break

"O Lord, you alone are my hope; I've trusted you from childhood." Psalm 71:5