

Devon Kindergarten

Teachers' Annual Report (1 Mar 2016-28 Feb 2017)

AGM 17th May 2017

Tēnā koutou katoa

On behalf of the teaching team at Devon Kindergarten, I would like to welcome you all and thank you for coming to show your interest and support. It is much appreciated. A special welcome to our Kindergarten Taranaki representative, Cara Newsome.

It is that time of year when we reflect on how the year has been and consider what is on the horizon for the coming year.

Learning and Development:

During 2016 the tamariki experienced an interesting and varied programme that supported and extended their interests, strengths and needs. Based on the goals of Te Whāriki, the Early Childhood Curriculum, tamariki experienced an environment where their health and well-being were protected and nurtured; where they and their families developed a sense of belonging; where opportunities for learning were equitable and their contribution was valued; where the languages and symbols of their culture were promoted and protected; where they learned through active exploration of the environment. Based on the Devon Kindergarten philosophy tamariki were empowered to explore their ideas; supported to build positive respectful relationships; challenged to try new things; developed a growing appreciation of our bi-cultural heritage.

- Playball, a physical skills programme continued fortnightly during the year. Coaches Mike, Carlin and Hayden have built a strong rapport with our tamariki and their sessions are met with eager anticipation. It's been great to see the increasing confidence and skills our tamariki are building.
- Whaea Raewyn visited regularly during the year to support our bi-cultural programme. She has taught us waiata, poi and haka. Through repetition our tamariki are becoming more familiar and confident with te reo Māori and tikanga.
- It's always great to cook with produce grown in the garden. Tamariki are learning about how to grow nutritious food. They enjoyed tasting raw produce such as carrots, broad beans, cucumber, corn on the cob, sunflower seeds and strawberries. We planted a range of 'Little Gardens' thanks to families who shopped at New World. Cooking activities have enabled tamariki to try a wide range of foods from silverbeet fritatta to rhubarb iceblocks; from broadbean dip to spinach and feta scones; from lettuce sandwiches to 'bubble and squeak'. Our tamariki are learning about where food comes from and are trying new foods and tastes.
- The worm farm and composting have continued to help children learn about conservation. We joined the 'Paper for Trees' programme which promotes recycling of waste paper. The sale of worm juice (\$1 per bottle) will help to cover the cost of seeds, potting mix etc.
- A range of visitors to the kindergarten have added interest and vibrancy to our programme. They have included one of our Sri Lankan parents to talk about a special Buddhist celebration; Lynley and Rebecca from Puke Ariki to read stories; Leevity Beet and Zappo the magician to entertain (and educate) our tamariki; Joelle from Sport Taranaki to facilitate the 'Let's Get Going' cycle programme; children and teachers from Moturoa School to foster ongoing relationships.
- Tamariki have enjoyed visits to: Puke Ariki to see the 'Under the Sea' exhibition and have stories read to them; TSB Showplace to see 'Shu's Song', a Capital E production; Moturoa

School to see a school performance; Pukekura Park; Lawry St playground; Americarna; West End School (termly visits); Chipmunks with their families for the end of year Christmas Party.

- Special events added further interest for our tamariki / whānau and included: Mother's Day morning tea; Matariki soup and bun lunch; Devon Olympic Games; Frozen and Friends Day; Taste of Culture Luncheon; farewell morning tea for Liz Day.
- Tamariki interests have been varied throughout the year and included: dancing to music and songs from the movies 'Frozen', 'Trolls' and 'Moana'; dramatic play ('Frozen', spaceships, doctors & hospitals, police, superheroes, cats and dogs, schools and family play); sand, water & pipes; making mud and mud play; playing group games; Māori costumes and 'Poi E' music; 'Fairies & Giants' music/game; riding bikes.
- 'Yarn bombing' continued to be a popular focus during the year, initiated by the teachers.
- The 'Duffy Book' programme was introduced and our tamariki received free books to take home.
- New resources improved our programme and the learning environment. Most of these were purchased using Equity funding and included: books and puzzles, outdoor kitchen, water canal, pot plants, police dress-ups, family corner furniture, wooden food set, child chairs, drying racks for artwork, couch, adult chair, credenza storage unit. We also purchased laptop computers and filing drawers for the office.

Communication and Consultation:

- Visitors to the centre included:
 - Cherie Boyd: CEO Kindergarten Taranaki
 - Lois Sibtsen: Professional Leader/Senior Teacher, Kindergarten Taranaki
 - Dennis Wills: Property officer, Kindergarten Taranaki
 - Chrissy Lepper: director/facilitator for LEAP Education Research & Consultancy
 - Ali Wisnewski: Public Health Nurse
 - Education Review Office (ERO) team (Nov 2016)
 - Donna Hounslow-Caracciolo: EI teacher, Learning Support, Ministry of Education
 - Gina Fabish: photographer who took group photos (Dec 2016)
 - Mike Clarke and Catherine Cooper: West End School
 - Mike Dowd, Fiona Hopkirk: St Josephs School
 - Delwyn Riding and Jo Wilkinson: Moturoa School
 - Plus various tradespeople including Chubb personnel to test fire safety equipment
- Teachers attended some or all of the following Professional Development opportunities:
 - First Aid
 - Staff Sync training (for finding relieving teachers)
 - Working Theories
 - Transition to School
 - Incredible Years (to support children's social & emotional competencies)
 - Leadership Development Programme
 - Giftedness
 - Educa
 - Appraisal
 - Internal Evaluation
 - GOSH (online incident/accident reporting)
 - Building Essence of Learning Stories
 - Well-being
 - Continuity of Learning with Chrissy Lepper

- Regular newsletters went out to families during the year to keep them informed of our programme and procedures they need to be aware of. We also used Educa, the whiteboard, notice pockets, emails and texts to communicate important information.
- Teachers have undertaken Appraisal, setting personal and centre goals and have worked towards gathering data/evidence to support improved practice and outcomes for children.
- Internal Evaluation is a centre-wide process. It also aims to improve practice and outcomes for children. We focused on 'Planning and Assessment' and 'Transition to School'. We asked 'How can we strengthen the transition to school process for our tamariki and their whānau?' Researching 'Communities of Learning', liaising with schools, displays and professional development were part of the evaluation process.
- The ERO team visited in November 2016. Their report is favourable and the kindergarten will be reviewed again in 2019.
- Educa on-line was introduced in Term 2, 2016 and is now established as our main way of documenting tamariki learning. A survey of parents in October 2016 indicated families thought Educa helped them stay better informed of their child's learning and what's happening at kindergarten. We strongly encourage all parents/whānau to give feedback on-line; post their own stories/photos/videos. In doing so you are part of your child's learning journey at kindergarten. We were paying for Educa out of Equity funding but Kindergarten Taranaki is funding this from 2017.
- There were a few changes in staff during 2016. Teresa resigned the part-time position to return to Puketapu Kindergarten Term 2, 2016. Andrea Robertson relieved for her. Alison returned from a secondment at Pukekura Kindergarten at the beginning of Term 3, 2016. Gill relieved for Alison til she returned. In August Gill was appointed to the permanent part-time position. Liz Day resigned her head teacher position at the end of 2016. Alison relieved in the head teacher role until the appointment was made. Gill stepped up to the full-time relieving position and Ayu Martin followed by Tina Gallie relieved in the part-time position. Alison was appointed to the permanent head teacher position in February 2017 and Gill was appointed to the permanent full-time position leaving the part-time position vacant. Teresa Guthrie was appointed to the permanent part-time position and started at the beginning of Term 2 2017. Jo-Anne Morris was appointed to the permanent Kindergarten Administrator position 4 April 2016. So it's great to have a permanent staff once more.
- We had several student teachers and Yellow Castle trainees working at the kindergarten on placements during the past year.
- **Equity fund:** \$19,599.85 was spent from Equity funding in the last financial year. It was used to purchase resources, equipment and furniture; Playball programme; trips; special visitors and events; Educa.

Operation and Administration:

- At Kindergarten Taranaki, Hilda Colgen, the Professional Manager, retired and Mandy Coupe was appointed to the position. A new part-time HR person was also employed.
- Kindergarten Taranaki's rolled out 'Changes for Sustainability' from the start of 2016. These included extending 20 ECE Hours to two year olds; increasing the Education fee to \$1.50 per hour (from 1 March 2016); increasing the fee for those not attesting to 20 ECE to \$5 per hour; reducing Kindergarten Administrator hours from 20 to 15 hours per week; reducing the part-time teacher hours to 17 per week; reducing operational funding from about \$27k to \$10k; centralising payment of a range of contracts such as cleaning and utilities (KT now pay for these).
- Kindergarten Taranaki has updated its policies and procedures. These can be found in red folders in the teachers' office.

- The Association arranged to have safety film put on all windows and mirrors.
- ABC Educare had some maintenance issues and used the kindergarten building and facilities during the July term break 2016. The kindergarten charged them for this.
- Fire and earthquake drills with tamariki were carried out successfully during the course of the year.
- The tamariki took part in a calendar fundraiser using their artwork in November 2016.
- On-going maintenance has included: a clean-up of the grounds and a skip was loaded with rubbish in Oct 2016; roof gutters cleaned out June 2016.
- The front door handle was changed and placed higher up out of children's reach.
- **Project:** plans were drawn up for the kitchen / kai room upgrade, new kindergarten administrator office and laundry by architects Ardern Peters. Quotes were received and grants were applied for. Stage one (kitchen and kai room upgrade) will cost about \$50k. \$8k was received from the Lion Foundation in Feb 2017; \$40k of conditional funding was received from the TSB Community Trust in March 2017. Kindergarten Taranaki may also make a contribution as the kitchen upgrade is due in part to structural deterioration.

Strategic Plan (2015-2019)

What was achieved in 2016?

- Positive learning environment:
 - Strategies implemented for promoting social and emotional competencies
 - Curriculum planning based on needs and interests of tamariki
- Challenging experiences:
 - Ran 'Let's Get Going' cycle programme
 - Extended tamariki working theories
- Whānau contribution:
 - Encouraged whānau to give feedback on Educa / survey
 - Encouraged parent participation through 'Involvement' forms
- Professional relationships:
 - Liaised with local school personnel; building relationships
 - Accessed agency support as necessary
- Bi-cultural practices:
 - Whaea Raewyn visited regularly; tamariki becoming more competent with te reo
 - Kindergarten pepeha and whakapai practiced more regularly
- Professional learning: See above

We would like to thank all parents/whānau for their wonderful support of the kindergarten over the past year. Whether it was through feedback on Educa, filling in surveys, helping on trips, help during sessions, end of term clean clean-ups, maintenance, attendance at various events, rugby ushering and other fundraising activities, providing resources for our tamariki or just spending time with your child at kindergarten your time has been much appreciated. A special thanks to all those who have worked on the committee supporting the teachers and the kindergarten during the past year. Your support is truly appreciated by us all.

We wish the new committee all the best for the coming year and look forward to working together to provide quality care and education for our tamariki.

Nga mihi nui,

Alison Downs / Head Teacher, on behalf of the teaching team