

Inglewood Kindergarten AGM 2016

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome everyone to Inglewood Kindergarten's AGM. As teachers at Inglewood Kindergarten we feel very privileged to be part of such an amazing community, which values children and where families are supportive of one another.

This report is separated into the 4 headings of the strategic plan we were working on last year. These are Teaching and Learning, Leadership, Collaboration and Sustainable environments.

Teaching and Learning

Rolls

Due to limited spaces becoming available and increases in our waiting list, we increased our roll to 40 for 3 days of the week in term 2 of 2016 to meet community demand. As a result of this we welcomed an additional teacher and Denise McLean worked with us until she won a permanent position at Pukekura Kindergarten in term 4. While initially these sessions were extremely busy, as we were settling a number of new children, the children soon settled and adapted to the new group size. Once the 'bubble' of children had passed we reduced the roll number back down to 30 as our regular group size.

Oranga Mokopuna Programme

Kirsten has taken the lead on the kindergarten's involvement in the Oranga Mokopuna programme, facilitated by Tui Ora. This has included PD on 'Training the Trainer' to support active movement, having active movement sessions during the day, providing evidence of healthy eating procedures and achieving the healthy heart award. This has been a big body of work and as well as ensuring we are supporting children's healthy development, we have received \$1000 to put towards active movement resources as well as a back of outdoor equipment for the children to use. Thanks must go to Kirsten for taking on this sizeable task.

Interests and Activities

During the year we have continued to follow the children's interests as they play and learn at kindergarten. As a result of, or additionally we have celebrated Matariki, participated in the Cycle skills programme, had an amazing Freezy Thursday, welcomed Pamela from the Library regularly, visited Kindy Gym, the Bugs at PukeAriki, become particularly fond of the rubbish truck, watched Americarna, entered the Christmas parade, planted, grown and harvested fruit and vegetables, eaten fruit and vegetables....the list goes on!

Leadership

Professional Learning

Teachers have again been busy continuing to increase their professional knowledge by taking advantage of professional learning opportunities. Sally, Tania and Kirsten renewed their first aid certificates. The teaching team attended workshops on 'Walking the Talk – How do we know we do what we say we do?' as well as workshops related to accessing assistance for children through the Ministry of Education's learning support team. Additionally we attended the Kindergarten Taranaki Conference which provided rich, research based information related to children's working theories and social competency. The major piece of work has been the workshops which Professional Leader Lois Sibtsen has been presenting to us

about the Criteria for Curriculum Implementation. This has guided our work on our planning and assessment process review and led to huge professional growth for all teachers. A particularly noteworthy achievement is Tania completing her Bachelor of Teaching and Learning. Completing qualifications while working full time is always challenging and we are all proud of Tania's achievement. We were very happy to celebrate this with her at an NZEI awards evening in December.

Internal Evaluation

Over the year we have completed a significant amount of work in relation to the way we plan for and assess children's learning. The professional development workshops we've held with Lois have challenged our thinking and prompted professional dialogue and reflection. As a team, and individually, we have made significant changes to our assessment processes. While this work is ongoing, we have all noted that the changes to date have resulted in us knowing each and every child in a more in depth manner, and the information we are able to share with you through learning stories is much more meaningful than it might have been previously.

Changes for Sustainability

The reduction in Donna's hours, reduction in teacher release time and the reduction of the part time hours have had a significant impact on the Inglewood team. The government's decision not to increase funding for early childhood services since 2009 has had a continual impact on the budget with which Kindergarten Taranaki has to work and for many years they have been able to shield teachers, children and families from the underfunding. This is no longer possible and as a result these changes took place. As well as these obvious impacts, the professional development and property budgets were also reduced. While this has provided challenges, we appreciate the commitment that the Governing Board has to only hiring teachers to teach your tamariki. This ensures your children will continue to receive high quality early childhood education.

Education Review Office

In term 4 of 2016 we welcomed the Education Review Office to Inglewood kindergarten. ERO reviews education services to ensure they are well placed to provide education to children. This was very timely for us as we had just made significant changes to the planning and assessment processes and were ready to get some external feedback and possible future direction. We were delighted that ERO recognised the improvements we had made to our planning and assessment practices, and they were able to offer concise and helpful feedback to shape our next steps.

Overall we were very happy with the result of the ERO review. In a short space of time the review team understood the essence of Inglewood Kindergarten. Recommendations in the report were areas we had already identified in our documentation as needing further development. They judged us to be well-placed to provide early childhood education and our next review is scheduled to be held in 3 years' time.

Students

Supporting students is an important part of our practice as teachers. This not only gives us the opportunity to support and welcome the next generation of teachers, but also provides us with the opportunity to articulate our practice and hear about new research and ways of thinking. This year we have welcomed Mihirangi, Mattie, and Beverly from the Taranaki Educare Training trust and Carol Bush from Massey University.

Collaboration

Whānau events

Having whānau events is very important to us here at Inglewood kindergarten. Key principles of our curriculum are Whānau and Community; and Relationships. We have been so pleased with the number of people enjoying the whānau events over the past year. Huge thanks to the committee who provide the support and logistics to allow these events to go ahead, and also the teachers and Donna for coming to spend extra time with the children and families to ensure these events are successful. It was great to see children and adults alike enjoying the trike-a-thon, Mum's evening, Dad's evening and the Christmas party. We love to see children with their families, spend some more relaxed time with you all, and see families getting to know each other.

Kāhui Ako o te Kohanga Mōa

One of the exciting pieces of work we have been involved in is the Inglewood Community of Learning, or Kāhui Ako o te Kohanga Mōa. Currently all of the early childhood services, primary schools, the secondary school and WITT are part of the group. Communities of Learning are a Ministry initiative to foster collaboration between schools, where best practices are shared to improve learning outcomes for learners. Together we have been writing achievement challenges to improve our shared pedagogy, enhance transitions, strengthen whānau partnerships and improve access to services for targeted and priority learners (which are those students who are not experiencing the success of which they are capable). To date I have been meeting as part of the Key Leadership Group to define and shape the challenges before they go to the Ministry of Education for approval. The four areas of the achievement challenge have been built into the kindergarten strategic plan and will shape a large portion for the internal evaluation we will be completing over the next few years. There will be many benefits for the Inglewood community as a result of all the learning centres working together so closely. The increased strength of relationships, and clearer understanding we have of each other's perspectives has already resulted in robust conversation and the opportunity to reflect on current practices within the group. Unfortunately the Ministry does not see fit to provide any resourcing (in terms of inquiry time or release for leadership roles) to early childhood education providers for this important piece of work. While we have committed to working collaboratively as part of the Kāhui Ako, we will be limited to what we are able to actually do due to the lack of resourcing we receive from the Ministry of Education.

Strategic Plan and Philosophy Review

Over the course of the year we have consulted through a questionnaire and via the review board and parent portal about the kindergarten philosophy and strategic plan. The philosophy requires regular review to ensure it continues to reflect the current values of the kindergarten community. Overall, whānau and teachers were happy with the philosophy. Interestingly when ERO visited we were in the middle of reviewing the philosophy and their comment was to please not change it, as it was so evident in all the work we do, and in the kindergarten itself. This was very affirming and the committee ratified that the existing philosophy would be maintained.

The strategic plan has been drawn from the results of the whānau survey, the Kindergarten Taranaki Strategic Plan, and the achievement challenges from our Kāhui Ako. It shapes the work we will be doing over the next 3 years. This has been discussed at a committee meeting and also been on the review board for quite some time for whānau to read and comment on.

Sustainable environments

Maintenance and Upgrades

As always, there have been a number of repairs and maintenance over the year. A new sand trap was installed on the drain next to the sandpit as this had become blocked and any rain resulted in a pond at the base of the ramp. The pump for the outside basin was refurbished after it became jammed and burnt out, the padded sides on the slide were repaired, and a new wall and bag hooks were installed. Finally the ongoing issue of the lawn was resolved and, thanks to Paul's ongoing care, the lawn is looking amazing and is also lush enough to be safe to climb on.

All of the achievements throughout this report could not have happened without the support of the kindergarten committee. On behalf of all the teachers, I would like to thank you all of the committee members for the dedication you have shown to improving learning outcomes for all children who attend Inglewood Kindergarten. Please know your input is valued, and we, as teachers, feel very supported in our roles as a result of the effort you put in.

I would like to move that my report is accepted.

Sally Wooller
Head Teacher