

Koromiko Kindergarten Annual Report June 2016 to May 2017.

Written by Denise Smith-Watty, Head Teacher and presented by Gwyneth Barker, Acting Head Teacher.

Manaaki whenua. Manaaki tangata. Haere whakamua.

“Care for the land. Care for the people. Go forward.”

Thank you all for being here this evening, we often say how lucky we are to have you here to support this kindergarten.

We gave a fond farewell and thanked Christina for all of her work, guidance and support as Teacher and Head Teacher during her time at Koromiko Kindergarten.

To our team; Gwyneth, Holly, Beth and Jess, thank you for all the hard work, passion and dedication that you have shared with the children, families and the Koromiko Kindergarten environment during the last twelve months.

Our umbrella organisation.

The Kindergarten Taranaki Association is now three years old and continues to develop. There are policies to blend and review from North and South Associations, work is with this is ongoing. The Annual meeting for Kindergarten Taranaki will be held in later in the year and you are all invited to attend.

Our roll.

We have been able to hold our roll at 100% most days and enjoy each and every day with our diverse group of learners. Any child under the age of 6 is welcome to go on our waiting list and we are licenced to teach children from 2 to 6 years old.

Events and Excursions

Grandparent and Special Friends day was very well supported in 2016. We had a lovely day enjoying watching the children proudly sharing their kindergarten with their very important guests. This was part of our Matariki/Puanga celebration.

We had a visit from an Ambulance Officer, who is also one of our Dads. He brought the Ambulance and all of the children were given the opportunity to go inside it and look at the equipment. He then brought in the stretcher and some of the things Ambulance officers use to help people.

We decided to try hosting Fathers evening in Term one instead of Term four to be able to enjoy some better weather. This went very well and was supported and enjoyed by many families and yes, we did avoid the rain this year.

Our Children's Day was a great event and it was wonderful to share this with so many families, who were able to take the time to come and share some of the day with the children. I know that the children really enjoyed this too and they often share this page of their profile book with their friends.

Our Christmas celebration was held at the kindergarten this year as there weren't enough helpers to go to the park. We hired a bouncy castle and alerted Santa of the change of venue. The feedback from families was that they enjoyed it much better, as there was less stress, from a supervision point of view.

Zappo, a magician and Levity Beet, a music entertainer, were well received by the children and we hope to host them again this year. It is great to be able to provide this kind of experience for our children.

We were invited to and went to Ramanui School to develop our understanding of learning in a bi-cultural way. The children learnt a new song, all in Te Reo Maori and performed this for the school community.

All our events and excursions were well supported by families. Excursions and entertainers are paid for by our equity funding grant and our goal is always to have no cost to families.

Our written Strategic plan for 2016.

Our strategic plan is the way we plan and evaluate our teaching and learning direction for the year. I want to acknowledge Gwyneth, Holly and Christina for their input into our work for the year and producing the finished document.

The strategic plan is broken into 3 sections.

Firstly; Respectful and Reciprocal Relationships. To have established and maintained relationships with parents, whanau and others who have a significant impact on our children now and in the future.

In order to strengthen the bicultural programme of Koromiko Kindergarten, as a team we are reflecting on the information given on the “Underlying Theoretical Principles of Tikanga Maori” reflective posters. We are using these as guides to our questions and to support our learning.

We celebrated Matariki/Puanga over the month of June. We did this to coincide with the appearance of the Matariki/Puanga constellation and the Maori New Year.

Elements of Maori Tikanga are used daily in our teaching practise, for example:

Kiatiakitanga, how do we teach and show guardianship of elements of our kindergarten environment and Manaakitanga, how do we welcome and host our visitors.

Secondly; A Confident and Capable Learning Community.

To have established a learning community within the kindergarten.

This part of the Strategic Plan was focused on our planned self-review study for 2016. The goal of this was to encourage healthy food choices for children attending kindergarten in order to support learning and development.

And; Education for Sustainability.

To have an environment that reflects the principles of Education for Sustainability.

In 2016 we have become more involved with the Enviro school project, with teachers attending various professional development opportunities to support this. This is an area that we are all passionate about and the children really enjoy learning about. This year we have introduced a weta hotel for the children to explore and we have upgraded our Willow hut and ponga house.

The full Strategic Plan document is available for reading after the meeting or at any time you may wish to browse through it. You will find it under the profile books in the classroom.

To our fantastic committee.

You are an amazing group of dedicated, passionate women, working together for the common goal of making our kindergarten stronger for all of our children and their families.

You are an essential part of supporting this kindergarten to be the wonderful place it is and on behalf of my colleagues, I sincerely thank you for all of the hard work and support you have given during last year.

Again, thank you all for giving your time and being here tonight

This concludes my report for our Annual Meeting of 2017 and I move that this report be accepted.

A seconder please

Thank you.