

Pukekura Kindergarten

Teachers' Annual Report 2017

Tena koutou katoa. It is my pleasure to present the Teachers' Annual Report for 2017.

Looking back over the last 12 months we were able to achieve most of our aims from the Annual Plan. This is a huge accomplishment for the Pukekura Kindergarten whānau. We have also developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan that will guide and support all future developments for our kindergarten from now until 2021. We continue to operate with a very tight budget, but the teaching team and our families are committed to provide a quality learning experience for our community now and into the future.

TEACHING AND LEARNING:

What a busy 12 months it has been at Pukekura Kindergarten. We have continued to provide an interesting programme for our tamariki based on the aspirations and goals of Te Whāriki, the NZ Early Childhood Curriculum, their whānau and the child's voice. Teachers plan for children's emergent interests and strengths; we provide an attractive and stimulating environment that provokes children's interest and encourages exploration, inspires creativity and supports meaningful engagement.

- Special events included a PJ party with breakfast at kindergarten, Family Disco, Picnic Tea, Father's evening, a Wheel-a-thon and our first ever Multi Ethnic Shared Kai Lunch. Excursions have included the regular Bushwalks. Special visitors have included various baby animals brought into the kindergarten by their families.
- Playball continues to be a valuable extension to what we offer at kindergarten. We continue to see the delight of the children during these learning experiences.
- The outdoor equipment continues to be well utilised by the children.
- Focus programmes have included the celebrating regular events such as Matāriki, Easter & Christmas.
- Staff attended a range of professional development including: Children's Working Theories was the focus of last year's Conference in July; Incredible Years; Educa Introduction; Appraisal/Internal Review Workshops; Leadership Development Programme; Te Ara Reo Māori; and First Aid. We also attended teacher and head teacher hui.

ENVIRONMENT:

- A huge thanks to all those involved in maintenance projects (both large and small) undertaken over the last year. Working together we can achieve so much. A very special thank you to Freddie Cleland for your amazing work to 'fix up' anything and everything that was needed this year (and thank you Anna for facilitating this work).
- The children's bathroom upgrade has now been completed. The children have enjoyed having privacy. The new change table has supported children's independence during

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nappy changing. The shower has also proved to be very useful as it is now more accessible during clean up times ensuring the safety of children and teachers. Thank you again to Nicky Trass and Kyle Arnold for your support and work during this project.

- The carpet in the playroom and office was replaced during the September School Holidays. The teaching team have been able to provide children with a wider range of floor activities that supports a range of learning opportunities.
- With the remainder of the TSB Grant we were also able to purchase a new puzzle cabinet which is more accessible for our tamariki and a lockable cabinet for the Administrator's to ensure we keep any cash secure.
- Trees were removed to make way for the retaining wall work to be completed. Other trees were pruned to extend their life by a couple of years.
- New play equipment that has been purchased over the course of the year has included new blocks which was purchased with the assistance of the Harcourts Foundation. New collage table and two new outdoor tables have been purchased. New light table resources were also purchased and the tamariki have enjoyed exploring colour and light. New figurines were also purchased with represented diverse cultures and these are used with the new blocks.
- Playground developments will continue to progress over the coming year with the teaching team keenly anticipating working with Robin Christie from Childspace in Wellington to help with designing an outdoor learning environment that is as inviting and stimulating as our lovely indoor learning environment.
- We would also like to thank the Management Team at Kindergarten Taranaki for your guidance and support over the last year. It has been wonderful to see our Strategic Plan coming together so we can continue to support children's learning and development.

COLLABORATION:

- The review for last year resulted in some changes happening especially with the decreased release time for the teaching team. Flexibility and adaptability were required by the teaching team and our whānau with the Association's Changes for Sustainability. A major focus was ensuring that we maintained our roll numbers which ensured adequate funding.
- A new way of documenting children's learning was also implemented as a direct result of the teacher's having reduced release time. An added bonus has been the equitable documentation for all children at our kindergarten that has been a true reflection of a very collaborative effort by the teaching team, the families and our tamariki. Children have been so excited in sharing their interests, strengths and passions with their teachers. We feel like we know our children so much more as a result of this new documentation process.
- Management plans have continued to be reviewed on a regular basis.
- Professional visitors included Kindergarten Taranaki management personnel; Special Education; Public Health Nurse; other support personnel. The teaching team are committed to working with a wide range of services to ensure that we provide a quality learning environment for all of our tamariki.
- Other adults working in the kindergarten have included student teachers from University of Canterbury, WITT, Yellow Castle trainees and relieving teachers.

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- Our roll has fluctuated over the last 3 quarters of the year. We have said farewell 3/4th of our roll with children off to school. This impacted on the age and the structure of our sessions. We unfortunately did not have the physical numbers to successfully replace this attrition therefore we needed to open the structure to a 3hr/3hr/6hr model which allowed greater flexibility of enrolment which was being communicated with enquiries and those that had been on the waiting list. Some slight changes have happened to the learning environment which has supported our younger learners. I would like to sincerely thank Levonne our Kindergarten Administrator for her support in ensuring we maintain our roll numbers.
- I joined the team again as Head Teacher in July and I look forward to future developments for our kindergarten as we work within an every changing and dynamic learning environment. We welcomed Joss to the permanent teaching team in a part-time role in early September 2016. Joss brings a fresh perspective to team. We have also said a very fond farewell to Aimee Wisnewski at the end of October of last year. Aimee had been a valuable member of the teaching team off and on over numerous years and will be greatly missed. We welcomed Denise into the long-term relieving role until an appointment could be made for this position to which Denise was the successful applicant and has quickly joined the team. Denise brings a wealth of experience with her.

On behalf of the team I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the wonderful parents / whānau for their continued support in a myriad of ways throughout the year. As the saying goes – many hands make for light work. Your involvement and contribution is absolutely vital to the success of the kindergarten and its goals. A special thank you also to the committee for your amazing support and fundraising projects. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents to manage the range of tasks asked of them and who give so freely of their time and energy. The team looks forward to continuing to work with our kindergarten whānau to provide quality education for the tamariki of Pukekura Kindergarten now and into the future.

De Riddle
Head Teacher
9th May 2017

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