



Annual General Meeting 22/5/17 - Team Report

Raising learner achievement for Orapa Kindergarten children remains an ongoing focus and one which the teaching team take a holistic approach to. We know that healthy, active children are much better placed, and ready, for learning and therefore place a strong emphasis on providing an environment where children's physical and emotional wellbeing is supported and promoted via healthy lifestyle messages. Our expansive, well-resourced outdoor environment supports the promotion of physical fitness and large motor development, while healthy food prepared and provided daily to all children meets the NZ Heart Foundations nutritional guidelines.

Attendance data over the past year would indicate that both the provision of food and the transport service have contributed significantly to increase attendances and enrolments as well as supporting regular and consistent attendance, key to raising learner achievement. The Orapa Kindergarten community remains very appreciative of both these services funded by MoE Equity fund.

Collaborative relationships with wider community agencies i.e. Tui Ora, Oranga MokoPuna, Public Health Nurses and the Heart Foundation have further strengthened and endorsed well-being messages. Participation in the Heart Foundations 'Jump Rope 4 Heart' promotion i.e. 'Jumping June' and 'Skipping September' have become regular annual features in our programme with children's achievements being acknowledged and featured on the 'Jump Rope for Heart' organisation website:

'CASE STUDIES ORAPA KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES SKIPPING SEPTEMBER'.



'Skipping' is an excellent activity for brain development, developing numeracy skills, improving coordination and balance, strengthening the heart muscles and fitness, developing healthy bones, promoting healthy competition turn taking and so much more. Congratulations to our tamariki on an amazing achievement and many thanks to our wonderful families and friends who supported our 'Skipping September' event and for joining our celebration on 'Jump-a-thon Day'.

'Children benefit from a strong focus on active movement and healthy eating.' Education Review Office report 19.1.17

Last year we achieved the Heart Foundation's 'Whānau' Award and are currently working toward achieving the 'Pā Harakeke' Award. In recognition of completing Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the 'Oranga Mokopuna Programme', Tui Ora granted Orapa Kindergarten \$1,000 to develop our active movement programme. These funds were gratefully received and used to purchase 'Hart Sport' large foam equipment.

Participation in the Oranga Mokopuna programme has provided many opportunities to develop and extend active movement in the curriculum. These resources have helped extend children's physical skills, increase fitness, as well as promoting social skills and building confidence.



This year we were fortunate to receive a grant from Southern Trust which has enabled our children access to the 'NZ Playball' programme on a weekly basis for the remainder of 2017. This programme provides many learning benefits and recognises that movement and physical activity are key to young children's learning, growth and development through building critical pathways to the brain.

To further raise learner achievements teachers continue to engage in professional learning opportunities i.e. 'Neuro Science Extensive Training' (Brain Wave Trust), Working Theories Workshop (Keryn Davis). By strengthening team understanding of brain development (neuro science) and how children learn we are much better informed to support families better understand how their children learn and grow.

Whānau and families are valued as key partners in their child's learning and to ensure best possible learning outcomes teachers use a range of communication strategies to consult with families. Children's 'E' Portfolios are now available to families via EDUCA, an online programme which parents have direct access to and are able to respond and contribute to children's learning and development.

Orapa Kindergarten is well supported by a strong community spirit and a sense of belonging that exists amongst families, whānau and wider community. Under the competent leadership of Haylee Reid as Committee President and with support from Rebecca Reade (Vice President) and Camille Hodges (Secretary/Treasurer) many strategic goals have been achieved. Thank you Haylee for your amazing contribution to Orapa Kindergarten over the past 3 years. We have all admired the many skills and attributes you have brought to this leadership role and of course will miss your sense of fun and comical stories. We not only thank you Haylee but also your entire family who have supported you so well in this role. You leave Orapa Kindergarten in a much better place. Many thanks also to our wonderful support staff: Bobbie Henry (Kindergarten Administrator), Emma Simpson (Kindergarten Cook, Driver and Teacher Aide) and Patricia Eketone (Teacher Aide) all of whom make a valued contribution to teaching and learning in this very busy learning environment. Mauruuru koe katoa mo koutou mahi pakeke –thank you all for your hard work.

Orapa Kindergarten Teaching Team -Amy Sulzberger, Bridget Kuriger, Ullaniya Gwiadszinski, Dale Borg

