

Teacher's Report

A.G.M

18th May 2017

Firstly, I would like to thank the whanau/families who are here tonight in support of the Kindergarten and wider community.

During the past year, our small but efficient Committee have continued to support and provide for this Kindergarten, which I feel is something to feel proud very of and to celebrate. We all lead busy lives and it is often difficult to commit to being part of a committee, but for those of you who have made time, we are very appreciative. There are also a lot of parents who support the Kindergarten in a variety of ways and we thank them also...all help is valued.

Our learning environment continues to reflect that it is loved, cared for and well resourced, making it a very special place for children to grow and learn.

We are managing to maintain full rolls, which is very encouraging, as there are a lot of centres that are struggling to maintain numbers. We have two longer sessions each week that suits some of our families, but numbers do not seem to be climbing and Kindergarten Taranaki will be surveying the Patea community to see if there are families that might choose to access these hours.

The teaching team has remained the same over the past year, which I feel sure has a 'settling' effect on the children. I would like to thank Ireen and Mary for their ongoing support and contribution to the centre programme and 'culture'. I know parents and children know they 'have a place' here, that their voice will be heard and needs met. As a team we work to build relationships that ensure whanau feel a strong sense of Belonging and that they 'have a place' within our environment busy environment

Kylie Fenton has been appointed the roll of relieving teacher, arriving at 11.30 daily to release teachers for their lunch breaks. We welcome her to the team.

Emma Carter, teacher Aide, has left us as she is having a baby. The children will miss her as she has built lovely relationships them during the 3 years she has been with us.

Emma Cole continues to cover Administration tasks with skill and efficiency, being an asset to the Kindergarten team.

We have a great team here at Patea Kindergarten, teachers, support workers, committee and wider community that are all working together to

ensure that our programme and environment are maintained at a high level.

Learning and Development

The team continue to support children and their learning, at a level that is appropriate. We have a range of ages that we are working with and it is very important that we provide a programme that caters for a range of ages, needs and ability. We are guided by our curriculum, Te Whariki, under the heading of Well-Being, Belonging, Contribution, Communication and Exploration. When we plan and write learning stories for our children, we make links to the goals under these headings. As a team, we place importance on the fact that each child has their individual needs met as we observe and plan for them, recognising each child's difference.

We have recently updated our back wall, that is reflective of the wider community and 'where we come from'. This portrays our mountain, river and photos for the children to look out of different landmarks in and around Patea. We also have photos of all of our children and they love to look at themselves and their friends and enjoy viewing photos of things that are familiar to them. This has been a great prompt for conversations about Patea and the child's world.

During the year, there has been observations of some wonderful work and play within our environment. Not only has this been documented in individual Profiles, but we ensure that our 'What's Been Happening?' board is kept up to date and that children can revisit their experiences long with sharing them with whanau.

Our yearly visit from Zappo, was as entertaining and educational as always. His shows always make links to areas of our curriculum and are great fun. He has a wonderful way with the children and the ability to make them laugh at just about anything!

We have had a Funky Friday, just for fun, where the children dress in funky gear, we face paint and involve ourselves in loads of Funk. There was great interest in our Olympic games day, with children participating in a number of Olympic activities and being presented at the end of the day with their own medal. This was also supported by parents and we all enjoyed a shared Morning Tea once the events were completed.

We had a few visits to the local Library at the end of the year, and will be continuing to take small groups of children on a regular basis.

Healthy Eating continues to be a focus for us, and along with encouraging children to make healthy choices from their lunch boxes, we have made Mini Pizzas, smoothies and a variety of healthy snacks.

The garden has not been as abundant with vegetables as usual, but we put this down to the terrible summer we have had. At the end of last term we added compost and planted veges. We have had an abundance of Lettuce and Spinach and will be planting winter veges in the near future. The Family Corner has been a very popular area for play and social interactions. Last term we purchased a large variety of wooden packages and food, plus appliances. These have supported and inspired some wonderful imaginary play. We feel it is important for parents to know that some of their fundraising goes in to purchasing new equipment for their children to use and that it is seen within the environment.

We have also purchased a wooden waterway for the sandpit and a variety of boxes for play in the outdoor environment. All of this equipment has been greeted with enthusiasm by the children along with this, new challenges.

Our children continue to thrive, develop and grow within our wonderful environment. We have seen some magnificent work done in all areas of our programme, especially with blocks and construction, great skills and exploration in the Art and craft area, work with the Glue guns and of course the continued recognition and development of early literacy skills. We held a Trike-a-thon here at Kindergarten to raise funds. The children loved having the opportunity to bring their bikes to Kindergarten and there was a great turn out of parents and Grandparents, supporting their children. A shared morning tea following the cycling and once again, a great community event and lots of fun for all.

Our annual trip to the Wanganui Boys and Girls Gym was a great success as always. We nearly had a one to one ration, with most parents coming along to enjoy this day out. It is the perfect opportunity for children to challenge themselves and the use of their gross Motor skills, along with a bus ride and a Picnic lunch.

The theme for the Christmas Parade this year was 'underwater', so we chose Yellow Submarine. The children had a wonderful time and all looked amazing. Each year we join the Parade, and not only do the children enjoy their ride on the trailer and dressing up, it is important that we are seen to support community events.

This year the children were gifted 'Christmas Boxes', by a charity in New Plymouth. These were handed out at the children's Christmas Party by Santa and the children were very spoilt. We decided that it would be appropriate to 'pay it forward', so made collection for the Salvation Army and presented them with \$300+ worth of children's toys for gifts. Our

children also enjoyed the Bouncy Castle, Bubbles and a wonderful array of Christmas Party food. We are so lucky!

Communication and consultation.

During the year we keep our parents informed through Newsletters Notice Board, the outside Blackboard and verbally. The team work together to ensure that our families are kept well informed, not only of Kindergarten events, but also their children's learning and development. Children's learning is documented and shared through Profiles, conversations and portrayed with photos in the environment. Each member of the team are happy to meet with whanau at any stage to discuss their child's development or answer any queries they may have regarding the centre's programme.

Kindergarten Taranaki met with the Committee in regard to the lack of space and conditions teachers have been working in, within the office area. A solution was agreed on, in that a Portable Office has been purchased, with the Kindergarten contributing a maximum of \$10,000.00. As of the beginning of term two, the office has been in use and is certainly providing a great work space for the Teaching team and has been welcomed with great enthusiasm! We invited Syd Kershaw to Bless the building for us and this was done last Monday.

There will be a survey formatted by Kindergarten Taranaki, in consultation with the teaching team and circulated within the urban area, hoping to inform and encourage families that may not be using an Early Childhood centre, to do so. This should be done this term.

Operation and Administration

We continue to service a wide area and have very diverse group of children here at Patea. We are maintaining roll numbers, and have a small waiting list. We pride ourselves on our 'open door' policy and make an effort to welcome new families into the centre and accommodate them as best we can.

Our committee give up time and energy in support of our centre and raise funds to ensure we continue to resource the centre well. The teaching team would like to thank this small group for their dedication, time and contribution to our Kindergarten. Also, for the wonderful support on a personal level that the team has experienced during the past year. Patea Kindergarten is a great example of a community of learners and a caring, supportive environment for all who are associated with it. I know our parents and whanau not only feel welcome here, but they belong.

Applying for Grants and funds toward our Renovations continues to be challenging. Hopefully with the boundaries for TSB funding being changed to include Patea will be beneficial for us in the long run. Now that the Teaching team have their own office and area to work from, we are hoping to work in stages toward our end goal. This at times, is a very frustrating process and I want to ensure that those of you who continue to apply for grants and find ways to generate income, do not go unnoticed. The teaching team appreciate all that you do.

Acknowledgements

A big thank-you to Mary and Ireen, who constantly give of their best, to ensure our children thrive within our environment, have a great start in life and know that they are each valued as individuals and for their uniqueness.

As the old say goes....there is no 'I' in team and it is all about working together, complimenting strengths and accepting differences and communication. All of which, I believe this team does well.

Lorraine Honeyfield has once again been a very capable and loved reliever. We are very lucky to have someone who will assist at the drop of a hat. Lorraine is known to our children and whanau, and her contribution to this Kindergarten is acknowledged and appreciated. We have also had Margie Buist and Kathy Prankherd with us on a relieving basis during the year.

Our Kindergarten Administrator, Emma, continues to work with speed and confidence, keeping records, rolls and books in an order.

We have recently had Loren Stuart join the team as Techer Aide, as a replacement for Emma Carter. The children have warmed to Loren instantly and it is obvious she is going to be an asset to the centre.

Last but not least our very important whanau, all of who contribute to the culture of our centre and their child's learning and development. It is wonderful in the morning to see so many of our Mums or Dads spending time here with their children, talking to one another and the team, recognising that they are welcome and valued.

We are all looking forward to another busy year together, building relationships and supporting this wonderful community of learners.

Kia Ora and Thank You,

Robyn

Operation and Administration

At the end of last year Jasmine shifted to Auckland. Her lovely smile and gentle qualities have been missed, not only in the office, but also by the children, as Jazz worked with children needing support and also, on occasions relieved for one of the teaching team.

Jazz has been replaced by Jo Hoskins, who is in the office Monday and Fridays and doing a very good job, keeping rolls full and administration jobs up to date. Thank you Jo for stepping up when things were looking a bit grim!

The Committee continue to support the centre and Fundraise so that we can continue to provide resources that support our programme. We are aware that we have a small community, but the ongoing work and support of the committee and wider Kindergarten community, have ensured that we do manage to maintain a well-resourced centre and a quality programme. With a large number of new families, we hope support for our centre will continue and grow. We have every reason to be Patea

Proud, as our centre reflects a community of learners and an environment that is loved and cared for.

Acknowledgements

When we reflect on the diverse group within our learning environment and the fact that we are maintaining full rolls, I think we can all feel pleased with the efforts made by this Kindergarten community. With our children being the centre focus and their wellbeing our joint vision, all contribution is acknowledge and appreciated.

During the year we have had several relievers; Ireen Hurley, Lorraine Honeyfield and Karen Hoffman. It is great to be able to have the support and contribution of these girls when needed.

Once again a huge thank you to our committee, for their loyalty, dedication and hard work. Your commitment is appreciated and recognised.

Thank you to Jo, for picking up the pieces when Jaz left, I would be truly lost without such a capable (and patient) K.A.

Annette and Jenny, we continue to develop as a team, working together to provide a place where each child knows they are special, valued and their strengths recognised. I acknowledge and appreciate your commitment to high quality outcomes for our children as we continue to reflect on, review and find ways to improve our practise.

Our Kindergarten community is thriving and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution all our families and whanau make toward its uniqueness.

Kia Ora and Thank you

Robyn Sorensen
Head Teacher

