

ANNUAL TEACHERS REPORTS: 2017

Whakatauki

He waka eke noa.

A canoe which we are all in with no exception.

This whakatauki is about unity or kotahitanga. Eltham has undergone many changes over the year. There has been a commitment by all to ensure Eltham Kindergarten continues to provide quality early learning experiences for the children, their whānau, the teachers, support workers, administration and committee.

I would like to acknowledge the huge contributions of all individuals involved to ensure the viability of the kindergarten, in a very vibrant and passionate community.

Teaching Team

In 2016/2017 Eltham Kindergarten underwent numerous staff changes. Tracey Crowley was a dedicated reliever and was employed until the end of Term 2 2016, she was an invaluable dedicated teacher that helped contribute to the stability and development for Eltham Kindergarten. We have had De Riddle as Acting Head teacher for term 1 and 2 of 2016 until she was appointed as permanent head teacher at Pukekura Kindergarten, she offered a lot of knowledge and leadership and started progressing the development of our outdoor environment. We thank De for all her dedication during this time of change.

Louise Thomas then took up the acting head teacher role until she was later appointed as permanent Head Teacher in term 4 2016. We have also had Tina Gallie relieving in term 3 2016 in a full time fixed term position, and in term 4 2016. Mid way through term 4 2016 Sheena Verry took on this position. The numbers on the roll meant a restructure of the third teacher (Sheena's position) and was necessary to ensure the viability of the kindergarten. We thank both Tina and Sheena for all their hard work and dedication with families and whanau and building really strong relationships with the children, families/whanau and colleagues while they have been working at Eltham Kindergarten. We now have two permanent full time teachers at Eltham Kindergarten with the intention for the third teacher to have a permanent position. Helen Hart is back from recuperating after her knee accident in term 1 2016 and we had Kathy Pranker covering Helens position. Since returning Helen has continued in her role as Teacher Aide, it is great to have her back.

Learning and Development

The teachers have continued to plan using the goals and strands of Te Whāriki in harmony with the key elements of our philosophy:

- Respect
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Curiosity
- Confidence and Risk-taking
- Wonderment and Awe
- Thinking and Questioning
- Social Competence

- Humour

These elements are woven through the children's learning stories. The photos capture the children's learning. They are a celebration of the child's accomplishments and their progress over their time at kindergarten. The children enjoy revisiting their learning in the Portfolios.

Key areas of the curriculum have been:

- Playdough – developing fine motor muscles needed to support writing.
- Collage Creativity – lots of work with the glue gun. The process of problem solving and thinking about their creations.
- Math Concepts – sorting, matching, grouping, classification, adding, subtracting, measuring and comparing.
- Painting – colour and textures being explored.
- Puzzles – persistence with challenges, brain development, noticing patterns, problem solving strategies, communication skills, turn-taking.
- Blocks – problem solving, working through ideas, trial and error skill development, and persistence with a challenge, resilience.
- Dramatic Play – safely working through complex social understandings. Playing with ideas of being older, stronger etc. Figuring out their place in our world. The purchase of new costumes extended this play.
- Sandpit – large muscle development with digging and lifting, scientific ideas and development through ideas of erosion with the inclusion of the water.
- Physical Agility – confidence development together with a 'can do' attitude. Resilience to keep giving things a go even when it's really challenging. Practice makes perfect thinking.
- Trains – how pieces move through space, how they fit together while being a very social experience for all children.
- Books – literacy skills together with a love of books. The idea that our imaginations can think of anything if we only just 'think' about it.
- Music and Movement – how we move through space, rhythm, tempo and timing. Children are also learning just all the different ways they can move and control their bodies. They are developing important listening skills needed to support their future learning at schools.
- Natural World – An appreciation for all the living creatures from big to small. Children are also developing their working theories of the world around them. Life cycle of the butterfly supports children to understand the growth and development over time. Children have also been involved in the care of the garden tubs, planting and taking care of the vegetables grown at kindergarten then being able to enjoy the fruits of their labours. This also supports children connecting with the life cycle of plants.
- Celebrating special days of significance– Daffodil Day, Mothers day, Fathers day, - this included baking, making and decorating special cards, and the importance of celebrating being with our families.
- Science area – children can explore natural elements, this provides an area where they can make connections from their own experiences and knowledge from home about nature, animals and the natural world around them. Children continue to develop their skills of caring for our resources.

Professional Development

- Autism Training
- Quality Internal Evaluation Professional Development
- Incredible Years Training
- First Aid

Te Putahi Kura Pūhou o Taranaki

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- Appraisal Training
- Meetings
- Office 365
- Staff Sync Training
- Educa Training
- GOSH Training
- Ongoing Individual Appraisal work on both Personal and Centre Goals
- Ongoing work with Practicing Teaching Criteria (Education Council requirements for all registered teachers)

Event/Links with the Community

Ways that we support and extend children's social skills and about their place in the world are by engaging in the wider community. These experiences had great support from our whānau. Opportunities have included:

- Visits of the kindergarten to watch and support Americarna, connecting with the library
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Wacky Hair Day
- Grandparents Day
- Father's Night
- PJ Day
- Fish N Chip Lunch
- Kindergarten Blessing – Local Kaumatua, local elders, Kohanga tamariki attending
- Participation in the Christmas Parade
- Christmas Fun Day

Communication and Consultation

Newsletters, Public Notices from both Eltham Kindergarten and Kindergarten Taranaki have been a way we communicate with whānau about the happenings of the kindergarten. The daily whiteboard in the foyer and informing parents via text messages which is another tool the teaching team use to communicate those items that crop up day to day.

Eltham Kindergarten's Facebook presence is also another way that we are able to communicate with our families. Through this parents/whānau and their wider family/friends are able to have more positive communication around their children's learning, and what has been happening at Eltham Kindergarten.

Operation and Administration

I would like to say a huge thank you to Donna Salisbury our Kindergarten Administrator for her amazing efforts to keep the administration of the kindergarten ticking over. I know the efforts she puts in with new enrolments and works diligently to ensure we meet all mandatory financial reporting requirements to the various agencies we must report to.

Our current enrolments are 40

Waiting list is 7

We are trying to fill our rolls back up to our 30/20 model as we have had a lot go off to school.

We ideally would like to see the enrolments over the afternoon increase up to 30 so that we were a 30/30 kindergarten. This means that we have a roll of 30 children in the morning and 30 children over the afternoon and will maximise the funding available to the kindergarten. Increase in the funding translate to increased operational funding that the kindergarten can directly use to ensure a quality learning environment is maintained.

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Equity Funding

Our Equity funding enables us to employ Helen as our teacher aide. Her role as teacher aide assists the teachers to work with a smaller group of children while also helping with some of the administrative tasks and resourcing of the Kindergarten.

We had also used the Equity Funding to fund visits from Playball Taranaki in term 3 and 4 last year. The children were able to participate in small group games and movement activities which supports their development holistically. Coach Mike and his team of coaches engage children while also providing children with another male role model in their lives.

In July 2016 we used equity funding to pay for Zappo to perform. Zappo provided children with an exciting new learning experience.

New sandpit diggers, trucks and sand equipment were purchased to replenish and replace older equipment. A dolls house and dolls equipment was purchased to further extend dramatic play interest. Tap tap nail set was also purchased to add to our resources to further extend children's skills and interests from our carpentry area.

We also used equity funding to enable Helen Hart to attend an autism seminar held by Sue Larkey in Palmerston this course supports with behaviour support and teaching strategies for children with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) behaviours.

Projects

Work and collaboration continued with the Association to progress the playground development. The second stage of the outdoor development (Dennis overseeing) took place in the July term break, one of the sandpits was taken out, levelled and paved with 3 planter boxes installed, the deck was resurfaced, new sand was installed in the end sandpit, new sandpit shed was built to hold all the sandpit equipment. Lastly the Perspex windows were installed later in term 3. The children love the new environment and it is a lot safer, cleaner, and more inviting. We organised a local artist to donate her time to paint four beautiful murals for our new fence. She has now completed all four, which we have attached to the fence, they look amazing and has created great conversations with children about nature.

We have had a heat pump installed in the office which now provides the teachers and staff with comfortable environment to work in.

We have had Pelorus grant us money for our shade sail above the swings which not only look great, it will help keep our children safe from our harmful sun during our summer months.

We have also had TET grant us money towards the veranda blinds which we had installed in term 4, these not only look amazing, they also keep out the weather and provide us with another room to utilise on wet days, we also use this area for our lunch (kai).

We have been lucky enough to have the support of local businesses who have donated money towards a picnic table each that we purchased to upgrade the old ones that were falling apart
A big thank you to

Uhlenbergs, Thomson O'Neil, Stanners Motors, Simons Family, Keegan Electrical, Schurr and Ireland Accountants.

The children have loved the progress to date and the conversations taking place are a delight. There ideas for leading their learning is fantastic. We would like to thank all the committee who have helped regularly at all our working bees, this helps us to be able to provide a stimulating, more inviting environment for our children.

We are currently in the process of organising for the inside development of the children's bathroom, art area, adults bathroom, laundry and kitchen. We are currently waiting on quotes

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for the kitchen so we can start to organise grants. The building work is planned to start in the Christmas break this year if all the grant applications are approved.

Acknowledgement and Thanks

We would like to say a big thank you to all our local businesses that have supported us by donating products, money and allowing us to sell our raffle tickets at their businesses. Without their continued support, our fundraising would not be as successful as it is and all fundraising profits go back to our tamariki at kindergarten to ensure we provide a stimulating learning environment.

We would also like to thank the Joblin Family for helping to paint the fence, which has brightened up the whole area and Stacey Clough for hauling away some of the garden rubbish after our working bee. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Stacey for her hard work while Chairperson in 2016 and thank Cindy for now stepping into this role, we couldn't do it without you. Thankyou to Cindy for your role as secretary and to Sandie for stepping up into this role and to Chelsea for stepping in to take on the treasury role.

Without the tireless work and dedication of all our wonderful committee members supporting not only the fundraising but the working bees, lawns and regular maintenance of the kindergarten, our kindergarten wouldn't look as amazing as it does and also our projects would not have been able to proceed.

We would like to thank the outgoing Committee Members for all their efforts over the last year. The teaching team sincerely appreciate the collaboration and cooperation in making Eltham Kindergarten a fantastic learning environment for all tamariki
Thank you so much.

Louise, Helen S, Diane, Helen H, and Donna
Eltham Kindergarten Team

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