

Frankleigh Park Kindergarten-Kura Pepi Waenga-The Kindergarten between two rivers

Head Teachers Report to Annual General Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

“Ehara taku toa

I te toa takitahi

Engari, he toa takitini”

“Success is not the work of one but the work of many”

“Nau Mai Haere Mai. Welcome and warm greetings to our Annual General Meeting for 2017. It is with great pleasure but also a sense of sadness that I present my last AGM report after almost 10 years as Head Teacher here-this is a summary of the highlights, events and progress for children, teachers and whanau within our kindergarten community over the past year (March 2016-February 2017).

The kindergarten philosophy and Strategic plan are integral to this report and sit alongside the Kindergarten Taranaki strategy. These strategies, Best practice, Collaborative relationships, Organisational robustness and Growth and Diversity will inform the headings for this report.

**Best Practice:** This aligns with our teaching philosophy statements –“We believe in ako-a community where we are all teachers and learners” and “We believe that the environment is the 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher and we respect and nurture it through sustainable practices”.

**Learning and development** -On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CFs (change for sustainability) was implemented and kindergartens now offered enrolment spaces for 2- 6 year olds. In order to inform our practice our major self review in 2016 evaluated the effectiveness of our practices in teaching the younger children who were now part of our kindergarten programme and in particular, the communication and exploration needs which ERO had identified as indicators of a highly responsive programme for under 3's. Teachers wanted to ensure all children benefited from this teaching and were challenged to ensure that the high quality programme continued with the additional needs of the younger children. As the year progressed, relationships strengthened, children were supported with routines and teachers discovered these children were in fact very capable and confident. A mind -set shift saw teachers using care moments such as toileting and kai routines as opportunity for rich learning and strong relationship building. The teaching of pro social behaviour with special emphasis on strengthening the relationships between older and younger children-the cultural competency in the Maori world called Ako and sometimes tuakana/teina, also contributed to the quality of the programme. A parental survey carried out prior to our ERO visit in November affirmed the overwhelming majority of families agreed we support their parental aspirations.

Our 3 yearly ERO visit on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, was very positive and reviewed us as well placed to provide positive learning outcomes for all children. Key next steps were to strengthen the acknowledgement of children's cultures and languages in assessment documentation and to strengthen review and internal evaluation practices to more clearly identify the impact of teaching practices on learning outcomes. This will inform our kindergarten internal evaluation going forward this year.

**Professional Learning and Development** contributed to this work and included attendance at:

- Under threes's with Pennie Brownlee –Trish- March 19th
- Children's working theories in action/social competency conference – Team –July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Nathan-Mikaere Wallis-Brain development /Attachment-Tanya-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>
- Giftedness in children –Joanne-October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Incredible years training-Tanya, Trish-January 27<sup>th</sup>, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Appraisal/Evaluation meetings with staff to review this work and Professional leader visits.

**Reviews:** All policies and procedures were reviewed as per schedule and curriculum reviews were carried out to influence teacher decisions with purchase of resources to support children's learning. Curriculum purchases included a mulcher, a water play storage trolley, a ball storage trolley, wheelbarrows, fire and police hats, dolls buggies/strollers, puzzles and many books.

**Collaborative Relationships:** This aligns with our teaching philosophy statements "We believe that building meaningful relationships is essential for children's holistic development and whanau wellbeing" and "We believe children's individuality is to be celebrated". Highlights included: **Multicultural celebrations** to raise awareness and acceptance of diversity and have included Chinese, Irish, Canadian, British, Dutch, Fijian days. Money was raised for the Fijian cyclone victims and sent to UNICEF.

**Special visitors** have included:

- Peter Galvin –Entertainer for Irish day–March 17<sup>th</sup>
- The Easter Bunny –March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Michael Self from Country TV –April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Zappo the magician –July 27<sup>th</sup>
- Amy Hunt-Kiwibop-August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Many visits from other professional colleagues such as Kindergarten Taranaki Management team members, New entrant teachers from Woodleigh and

Vogeltown schools, Special Education staff, Public Health nurses and other colleagues visiting our programme to share knowledge.

**Collaboration with Iwi** has included:

- Jan's attendance at the tangi of our well respected Kaumatua Antony Waru in April. Matua Tony attended many of our celebrations over the years and carried out the blessing ceremonies eg our sandpit project, our carved logo stone, our upper gardens project.
- Our Puanga kai Rau celebration in June was attended by many grandparents, including iwi. Whaea Rawinia Leatherby was invited but unable to come but suggested a Marae visit to Parihaka in 2017-this is still to be planned for.
- EnviroSchool Hui at FPK attended by teams from Puketapu, Ngamotu and Kahikatea kindergartens-June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Our Parihaka day celebration –November 3<sup>rd</sup>-where stories of peace were celebrated with children and calico flags painted with the 3 white feathers of Parihaka were flown.
- EnviroSchool visit to the Phillips property with Ngamotu, Puketapu, Kahikatea and Frankleigh Park teams-November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Community events** -outings in our own community or special visitors give opportunity for children to make connections to rohi-to people, places and things. Children engage in the cultural competency of Tangata Whenuatanga-the sense of belonging and identity within their communities. Highlights included:

- The annual wheelathon held at Woodleigh school on March 3<sup>rd</sup> had at least 50 families attending and raised \$1, 169.50
- Termly school visits to Woodleigh school.
- Rockpool excursion to AhuAhu rockpools –March 30<sup>th</sup>
- School visit to St Pius School –April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Puke Ariki librarians
- Lizzy's s farewell madhatter's tea party – May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Excursion to Puke Ariki and Kindy gym –June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Bruce McIntosh-NZ Police visit –June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- School visit to Inglewood Primary –June 27<sup>th</sup>
- Our superman day held September 2<sup>nd</sup>-where dads, grandads and other special males in children's lives are invited to kindergarten –Whanaungatanga in action – where children share their environment and their whanau with friends and teachers.
- Olympic games activity held at kindergarten –September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Xmas community BBQ –December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Professional development and learning** which supported these relationships included:

- The REART planning meetings with other ECE colleagues –Jan
- Attendance at monthly Board meetings as staff elected Board member –Jan
- REART –Listening with our eyes-Jan –July 30<sup>th</sup>
- REART Movie night at Fitzroy kg-looking at the work in Reggio Emilia-Team – September 14<sup>th</sup>
- REART-the language of light and shadow puppets-Jan –November 26<sup>th</sup>
- Transition to school PLD with Woodleigh school –Tanya, Trish –Feb 20<sup>th</sup>

**Committee:** Thank you once again for the amazing support given by Sarah Riley and her tireless committee over the last year-A special thanks to the office holders, Tania Clement, our secretary, Denise Houston, our Treasurer, Lucinda Searle, our Grants coordinator and Karen Manning, our Fundraising coordinator. Thank you to the rest of the committee who support them so enthusiastically throughout the year. Also thanks goes to Blair Werder, Matt Stone, Andrew Searle and Hope Fletcher who have kept our lawns mowed over the year. Thank you once again to the outgoing members of the committee, Chris Lane, Catherine Rhodes, Kelly Fryer, Sophie Walker and Estella Li and to those of you joining-welcome to a great team-A special thank you to our gardening group members who keep our environment so beautiful. I know Anna and her staff will be well supported over the next year.

**Organisational Robustness:**

Much progress has been made in this area as KT develops as an organisation. Some of this activity is highlighted below:

- Cherie Boyd, CE visited on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to talk with some community members re their feedback about the CFs proposal.
- GOSH –the online health and safety reporting system was commenced in May
- Consultation re the new KT vision and mission statement was introduced to committee by Antony Rhodes in our last AGM. The final vision statement adopted for KT was “Enriching Learning” and the final Mission statement “Inspiring tamariki, supporting whanau, growing communities by being innovative leaders in early learning”
- Formal opening of new kindergarten House on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Office 365 training –Kathryn and team attended June 27<sup>th</sup>
- A HT Hui was held to discuss -Mission, values, growth and diversity –August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The Introduction of Staff Sync and training for staff in October
- Claire Southee was voted onto the Governing board at the KT AGM on October 10<sup>th</sup> and Jan re-elected for a further term as staff elected board member.
- The exterior of the kindergarten was painted in January to the cost of KT.

- The Resignation of Hilda Colgan, our Senior Teacher for 28 years on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and appointment of Mandy Coupe as Professional Manager.
- The centralised Cleanline contract for washroom products commenced in February.
- Jan resigned as staff elected board member on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Growth and Diversity:**

Various capital projects were carried out and planned for as part of our strategic planning this year and included:

- The replacement of Jan's laptop computer (\$1,325)—earmarked from Wheelathon fundraising.
- The approval of funding of \$8,000 from Southern Trust and replacement of the playroom, toilet, shower room and art room vinyl flooring in April.
- A sausage sizzle in May paid to reposition the children's toilets as part of the vinyl project.
- The installation of our 2 large shade umbrellas by Chris Lane in January and then Brook Fletcher in November. A stainless steel plaque has been ordered to acknowledge the \$8,000 donation from the Graincorp Community Fund which paid for these.
- The replacement and purchase of 10 kai table chairs from Starex –purchased through grants from the Harcourts Foundation (\$500) and Pelorus Trust (\$600).
- Methanex funding for \$500 was successful towards the purchase of a new nappy changing station from Grocare. The Four Winds Foundation declined our \$700 and we are awaiting our Rotary application.
- The replacement of the soft fall matting under our swings and outside the verandah was the major project for 2016 and funding of \$11,500 from TSB Community Trust was received. The surfacing was installed in January 2017 with some cost overruns because of extra tiling needed to ensure the compliance of the area. KT have agreed to pay 50% of this with FPK paying back 10 instalments of \$104 over 10 months.
- The River Project continued to be challenging and we struggled to progress with the design, labour and extra costing needed. A new design was approved by KT and with the addition of Bruce Evans as our builder, Tanya as Project Manager and some robust fundraising activities, we were now back on track. We used the \$4,094.95 from Graincorp funding to pay for the stage one civil works and with a generous donation from Merrilands medical centre and fundraising totalling \$3,163.90, we hope to complete the river very soon.
- The Lion foundation granted us \$2,800 to pay for our playball programme.

Jan met with committee members in February to set the strategic goals and budget for the coming year. The focus this year will be to complete the river project, pay off incidentals such as tree maintenance, overruns and pay back our KT loan (\$4,558.66 still owing).

## **Staffing:**

There were some staff changes throughout the year. Lizzy acted as relieving HT May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> while Jan hoildayed in Fiji. Lizzy resigned to transfer to Puketapu kindergarten on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This PT position was filled with relieving staff, Nola Williams, Lizette Kruger, Rosemary Tatham and Joanne Denney-Newman who covered this PT position long term until her permanent appointment as our 0.425 teacher on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Kathryn has been working 30 hours and dividing her time between Frankleigh Park and Marfell kindergarten this term but will be returning to her 15hour position with FPK next term. Tanya acted as relieving HT Feb 13<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> this year and I resigned my position as Head Teacher with my last working day April 26<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations and welcome to Anna McDougall who has been announced as the successful candidate, commencing April 27<sup>th</sup>.

I can't even begin to express how thankful and grateful I have been to work every day with Tanya, Trish, Joanne and Kathryn. We were all very sorry of course to see Lizzy transfer in May but the professionalism of the Frankleigh Park team ensured that the highest quality teaching was maintained at all times. I will miss you all so much when I leave next week –it really has been a “dream team”, the best job I have ever had and I know you will all carry on the Frankleigh Park vision under Anna's capable leadership.

I also want to acknowledge the work of Support staff ESWs, Kadisha Gomes and Lisa Martin who worked alongside teachers to support our children with special needs. In July, we also welcomed Suzanne Walton from GSE as our early Intervention teacher to replace our long serving retiring colleague Jill O'Dowda. Nicola Kiely, a Taranaki Educare student has worked with us this term. I move my report be accepted,

Nga mihi nui,

Jan Forsythe,

Head Teacher