

Annual General Report from the Tawhiti Teaching Team – 2016/2017

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting. On behalf of the teaching team I would like to present this Annual report.

Learning and Development:

During the last year children's learning and development was enhanced with the following highlights:

St John's Gym – On the 17th May 2016 Aileen organised a trip to the Gym and children, teachers and some parents enjoyed all the different equipment, action songs and the exercise.

Water pump – In April this year 2017 Amanda organised a water pump at the sandpit and it is proving to be hugely popular. Very sustainable and with the children pumping and carting the water to the sandpit they are learning many skills.

Resources purchased – We have continued to purchase a variety of Maori and English books, puzzles, and cd's over the year. The children are loving their new sofa.

Vegetable garden – Throughout the year the children are supported by the teachers to plant the vegetable garden and care for it through watering and weeding it.

Kindergarten Events and Working with Family/Whanau

Fundraising – A huge thank you to the committee for supporting the teachers each term in this area. All the money raised is for the benefit of all the children. They love our recent Lounge purchase.

Calendars – We made our own calendars again for Christmas 2016. Shellie supported all the children in their amazing drawings on these and we thank Deidre for making the calendar and Shannon for the work that was put into collating and binding them and parents for buying them.

Christmas Party – Friday 9th December we had our annual Christmas party which was very successful as usual. We had a Bouncy Castle and a sausage 'n' bread for the children. The adults enjoyed making their own burgers. Many parents/grandparents attend this very social occasion. CJ the clown made the children balloon characters.

Sharing basket - this has continued to build strong relationships with parents, families, whanau and the larger community by all either putting goods in or taking them out.

Sharing table – Parents/family whānau have continued to support this table over the past year with either donating goods onto it or taking the goods from the table if they feel they can use them.

Visitors and Visits:

Tawhiti school buddies – At the beginning of each new school year the new school buddies visit us for the morning. Two children visit on Tuesday and Thursday's for an hour. This continues to build a great rapport for those children moving onto school.

Tawhiti Teachers – New Entrant teachers from Tawhiti school (Jacquie Scott and Ashley Potts) come occasionally to visit the children going to school and we also have termly visits by Jacquie.

Transition to school Liaison meetings – (ECE Network meetings) We have continued to have these meetings with kindergartens, Early childhood centres and schools attending. Each month we visit a different kindergarten, early childhood centre or school.

Professional Agencies - The Public Health Nurse continues to pop in on a regular basis to drop off or collect B4 Five school check forms. They also give us pamphlets to hand out to families and come into the kindergarten to show the children how to blow their nose and such things. In May 2016 we got a new Speech Language Therapist Maria Cunningham who has visited termly since then. Hayley the Behaviour Psychologist visited us on Tuesday 11th October for a child.

Zappo The Magician – In July 2016 Zappo visited kindergarten and children, parents and teachers had a wonderful morning of laughter and learning with his show.

Senior teacher visits - Lois has made a few visits throughout the year for the teachers learning and development. We had Seraya Hughes last term (T1 2017) as there was a shuffle around at the Association due to the resignation of our Professional Leader Hilda Colgan in February.

Taranaki Shoe Box Christmas – In December 2016 we participated in the Taranaki Shoe Box Christmas which was a new organisation. They donated all the families in the kindergarten a shoe box of goodies for their child. Most parents took these but there were some that didn't.

Lions Foundation – On Tuesday 7th June four ladies from the Lions Club came and planted two Feijoa trees they donated us for Arbour day. The children assisted them in the planting. Many thanks.

Kindergarten Operations

Roll numbers – These have continued to go up and down over the year. We are taking children around 3years still and we find the older children take on a responsibility of caring and supporting the new children into their new environment. **Teacher**

Aide/.425 teacher – In October 2016 Shelley Taylor joined our team in the position of teacher aide (funded by our equity funding) and This position is extremely beneficial to all the kindergarten children.

Sandpit cover – Cliff Steffenson made us a light sandpit cover as we had been having problems with cats in the sandpit.

Computers – through our Equity funding we have just purchased this month (May 2017) one new laptop for Shelley Taylor to be able to complete her work.

Students –In May 2016 Hannah Buchanan from Witt, joined our team one day a week for work experience. Hannah was with us until December 2016.

Fire and Earthquake Drills-We have these each month for children and teachers safety.

Kindergarten Taranaki – We enjoyed a great Christmas party in December 2016 in New Plymouth.

Fees – From the 1st April 2017 families are being charged fees of \$2.00 hour over the 20 hours free.

Cleaner – Joan our cleaner resigned in December 2016 and Anna started with us just after that. She is doing an amazing job as she is extremely thorough.

Aileen/Jess –Aileen left at the end of June 2016 for a full time job and Jess left at the end of September to venture to Australia to take up a Nanny position. Jess completed her teaching Degree so huge congratulations for that. We wish them well in their new adventures.

Professional Development courses – This has been extensive over the year for teachers with Oral Health Educator workshop, Outdoor Workshop, Shellie visited Tawhiti School, Staff Sync training, Marie attending IY (Incredible Years) training, an Earthquake workshop, Special Needs workshops NZEI and this year we are enrolled in the Oranga Mokopuna programme. Teachers throughout the year have also attended Appraisal meetings, Team, Staff and Committee meetings, Network meetings, Environment meetings, and Shellie also attends Head Teacher meetings.

Sickness – Over 2016/17 children have bouts of the usual child illnesses.eg colds/vomiting

Public Health Nurse – In August 2016 we got a new Public Health Nurse – Lynette Gilligan.

Ultra fast broadband – On Tuesday 2nd August our broadband was installed.

.425 Teacher – Shelley Taylor started with us in October 2016

Ardern Peters Architects – On the 9th June 2016 Glen Robinson of Ardern Peters along with our Property and Operations Manager met with our team to talk about the further building alterations that we would like to do. On 30th August Glen and Dennis our Property Manager visited us with the initial plans.

New Professional Manager – Mandy Coupe was appointed in February as our new Professional Manager.

Cleanline/Tricky trees – Kindergarten Taranaki have sort out the best deal for our cleaning products and all kindergartens purchase from Cleanline. Also when any tree work is to be done we have to use Tricky Trees.

Thank You: Thank you to everyone on the committee for your work over the past year. I would like to thank the parents, whanau and the community for the support they have given the kindergarten in varying ways. Eg. Washing/lawn mowing rosters, term cleans and particularly the fundraising events each term that they support. I would like to thank all our relievers as they are very important people to fill positions when we need it. I also wish to extend a huge thank you to Shannon our Kindergarten Administrator for the fabulous job she does in keeping the kindergarten office humming along. The last and most important thank you goes to my colleagues who with your huge support has made my job so much easier over the past year.

Shellie Vesty/Head Teacher

23rd May 2017