

Waitara Central Kindergarten

Annual general meeting Report.

17/5/17

Thank you for attending our annual general meeting for 2017.

We welcome new members onto our committee and thank those who are stepping down, for their commitment and support of our kindergarten community.

We started several new children at the beginning of the year, welcome the families into our community. We were mindful of the directive from the management to keep our rolls at 30 per day. We did not have a very big waiting list, but have worked throughout the year to keep the rolls full.

Term two we did a big healthy food push, and had lots of learning around healthy lunch boxes and keeping ourselves fit and healthy. We held a healthy food picnic which was well attended by families.

The van continues to be a huge asset for us, enabling us to pick up our Tamariki who may otherwise not be able to come every day. It works really well with sharing it with Orapa and we keep in touch and work in with each other if our driver is away. We have a close relationship with Orapa- which is great. United front- marketing our kindergartens in our community.

We did the sport Taranaki biking programme which was heaps of fun and learning for our children.

Bobbie had her hours changed in March, with her hours cut to 15 hours a week. Bobbie now is the Administrator for both Waitara Central and Orapa. This works really well, we do miss Bobbie on the days she is not here. Bobbie is such an asset to our kindergarten, capable and hardworking, she does an awesome job.

We successfully applied to COGS for funding and this paid for our Administration costs of photocopying, portfolio folders, paper etc. We were very grateful for this funding. We also applied to TET for funding for our dry river bed. We have still to have some prices come in for that. It is not signed off with Property Manager yet.

In May, Teachers also lost conditions to their contract. Our non contact time was cut for teachers and reduced non contact time for Head teachers. This has also affected the person in the part time position, meaning that they were working less hours.

We have been part of a research project with Huirangi School over 2015/16. This was about transition to school and ensuring that children got the best opportunities to have success when starting school. We worked closely with Nikki and Aimee the Teachers from Huirangi. During this time Teachers here looked closely at how we supported new families and Tamariki to transition into kindergarten and then out – and onto school. We reviewed our procedures and information we gave to parents.

In 2016 we had a huge interest in Fulton Hogan, and Trina organised for the worker to come and pour our concrete path at the front of the kindergarten. This was a huge highlight for our children, especially the boys with the huge passion. We also had visits from the local Police, as one of our children had a huge interest in Police and their cars. Constable Phil came and the children were able to look in his car and check out all the details of this.

Teachers were working through the year to support our Tamariki develop social competence, strong wellbeing and mana. We work to provide a free play curriculum which allows children to follow their interests, their passions and develop at the level which is right for them. We support, question, listen and work alongside the children. We provide lots of opportunities for real work and learning here. We bake lots and our children love to be part of this in a group or as an individual making a scone for themselves. We learned new Waiata, in preparation of our Matariki Celebration Hangi hui. This was well attended by our families and such an awesome evening of sharing and celebrating our Tamariki, their learning and our kindergarten. We had one of our Father's come in during the day and put on the hangi pot for the meat and vegetables. Families brought kai to share and we enjoyed Celebrating together. Our tamariki gave a little concert for our whanau. These whanau hui have grown our community into a strong group, with knowledge of us being a community working for our Tamariki and their families.

Story park worked really well for families, and provided whanau with information on line about their child's learning and development at kindergarten.

We continued to garden and grow vegetables at kindergarten all year with the children learning about planting seeds and growing food and flowers. Developing knowledge of the worm farm and how to look after the worms. Learning also about composting.

During the year we were able to support some of our families with care parcels. This was made possible through two of our local churches giving us donations to support our kindergarten whanau. This was also great to purchase our food for lunches, being able to give children extra food if required was really awesome. We really appreciated that support from the churches.

The Teachers worked closely with Ministry of Education over the year to support some of our children with diverse needs. Amanda and Alyson did the Incredible years course and this has been a very valuable and useful tool for supporting our Tamariki.

Teachers work to ensure that all children are having a positive and nurturing learning experience here at kindergarten. We use free Play as the vehicle of learning and children can make choices about their day, Te Whariki our curriculum guides our teaching and we love having whanau involvement in the learning and play. Parents are always welcome here.

Trina left our team at the end of term three to take a Head Teachers role at Best Start. We were sad to see her leave. Nikki Mulligan relieved for term four and the job was advertised and Nikki won the position and start in her new role in 2017. We re-structured the hours for our part time person and Amanda dropped to 31 hours and the part time job for Nikki became 26 hours.

At the end of 2016 we were fortunate to be given Christmas shoe boxes for our Tamariki. This was such a lovely way to end the year for children and families. We had an End of year party BBQ and potluck kai, families came to celebrate the year. After our kai, we gave out the parcels. There was a box for every child.

Teacher want to thank the committee for all the support and energy they have given to our kindergarten. The fund raising, the donations, and support attending committee meetings. Helping at working bee's, coming on excursions around the community. We have valued and appreciate our parents giving up their time to come along and support us in the kindergarten.

The more whanau involvement the better it is for the children. Partnerships with whanau is the key to ensuring our tamariki get the best early childhood education. We welcome with delight those who are stepping up to be on our committee for 2017. Thank you.

**“It takes a village to raise a child”**

I move my report be accepted.

Alyson Fitzsimons Head Teacher.

