



Our Vision: We provide a nurturing learning environment for children to develop skills for life.

It is my pleasure to present the Head Teachers Report for 2017.

Welcome to all attending the meeting tonight.

2017 staffing remains stable with Meredith Houghton and Shane Ross being full time teachers and Eleanor Rumbal and Leigh Werder in the part-time teaching position, with myself being the Head Teacher. Janet Reid is our Administrator working 15 hours per week.

Goal 1 – Best Practice

What this means to us:

- Give children extensive opportunities to grow and learn
- Children have opportunities to engage in environmental practice
- Provide bicultural experiences within the programme

Curriculum

The teachers at Kaitake have provided an interesting and stimulating curriculum which is based on the children’s interests and their learning is developed around these. Play is an integral part of our curriculum, and our environment promotes sustainability, curiosity, choice, exploration, fun, risk-taking, socialization, communication to name a few of the skills children acquire while attending here.

There is a strong belief for the best learning outcomes for the children, teachers build valuable and respectful relationships with the parents / whanau.

We have an ongoing commitment to support the Treaty of Waitangi by implementing Te Ao Maori into our practice throughout the curriculum. All parents / whanau are consulted about their aspirations for their child which we consider regularly when planning for the each child. On leaving kindergarten when going to school each child is gifted a native tree.

Te Whaariki, the Early Childhood Curriculum has been revised this year. The children’s learning stories in their portfolios make direct links to Te Whaariki which enables parents / whanau to make direct links to the Curriculum. Families are invited and encouraged to spend time at the kindergarten, discuss the day with their child, receive feedback from teachers, plan and attend activities and events, support fundraising activities and accompany their child on trips.

Our philosophy focuses on the individual child and being accepting of each other. We have an environment awareness with sustainability being a large part of this. The vegetable garden continues to be a focus with planning, planting, taking care of vegetables and harvesting and utilizing the produce. The older children peer teach and support the younger children which has developed the caring culture that we have here at Kaitake.

Safety checks are undertaken daily to maintain a safe learning environment for all.

Financial Management and Purchases

The committee and teachers have a good understanding of the finances of the Kindergarten. Kaitake is in a good financial position which Danelle will outline more in the Treasurers Report. All committee members are encouraged to participate in conversations regarding our finances and the planning around these. We make decisions about what is best for the kindergarten now and in the future. Expenditure is well managed with the committee organising fundraising events for each term and our major fundraiser in Term 3 being Okurukuru Art Auction. The committee has been very proactive in fundraising, thank you for organising these events, and Janet's support she gives the committee.

Our focus for fundraising last year has been for our building alterations. It is of great disappointment that this didn't happen in the May Term Break. We were successful in obtaining a \$30,000 grant from the TSB but unfortunately we are still \$15,000 short for this to go ahead. We asked Kindergarten Taranaki to be a Guarantor which would have enabled us to take out a TSB loan for this amount, unfortunately this has not happened. We want this alteration to enhance our education programme for the children and future generations. Kindergarten Taranaki are not in favour of supporting our loan application as these alterations do not meet their criteria for future income earning potential. We are continuing to apply for additional grants and fundraise for this project.

Goal 2 -Collaborative Relationships

What this means to us:

- Open reciprocal communication with parents and other services to enhance trust and respect, resulting in better opportunities for children's learning
- Be supportive of the committee

Families/whanau are welcomed into Kindergarten, and are made aware of our philosophy around children's learning.

Family and Fundraising Events

During the year we provide a variety of family events for the extended family / whanau to be involved with their child at Kindergarten.

Policy Development / Review process / Consultation

There is a continual process of review that happens throughout the year, both planned and spontaneous. Our policies and procedures are reviewed on a two year cycle.

Fire and Earthquake drills are carried out and documented each term.

Teachers share reflections of their practice to improve learning outcomes for the children.

What this means to us:

- Support each team member with ideas and encourage their strengths – enable teachers to grow professionally
- Support the committee with the building alterations to make the veranda area part of our building.

Goal 3 - Growth and Diversity

Professional Development

Throughout the year teachers have kept abreast of current research, theory, and practice, and have participated in professional development opportunities which are linked to individual performance appraisals. Through our self-review process, the quality of teaching and learning is consistently enhanced.

Goal 4 – Organisational Robustness

What this means to us:

- Continue to have strong links with our local schools
- Continue to provide local schools with a transition form when a child is turning five.
- Teachers will maintain a professional image in the community
- Children receive good quality care and education

Connections to the community – visitors

We have many visitors from the community over the year. Visitors entertain and support teachers and the children.

We have strong relationships with the local schools that we feed into, these schools actively promote the kindergarten.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the teaching team who work in a collaborative way which is inclusive of other teachers, parents and children. I thank you for your passion commitment and enthusiasm which contributes to our quality programme.

Thank you to the committee for your support. Sincere thanks to Rebecca, Kylie and Danelle for your support and dedication to the committee. You have each held an office bearing job on the committee. Rebecca is not seeking re-election, thank you for stepping into the Presidents role for a year. Thank you all for your support to me as Head Teacher.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed in any way throughout the year. It is great that so many people associated with the Kindergarten care. Parents and friends of the Kindergarten have made this the special place that it is for the children, thanks for your services and time throughout the year.

Robyn Lander
Head Teacher