

Central Kindergarten (Stratford)

Head Teachers Report to the Annual General Meeting 17th May 2017

Po Marie Whānau and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Central Kindergarten (Stratford). I look forward to sharing my Report with you all and to reflecting on the year that has been, along with looking to the future.

Firstly I must thank our wonderful Committee for their commitment and dedication. The amount of money raised in the 2016/17 year was fantastic and will help benefit the children within this environment and those that enter in the future. We acknowledge the ongoing support of Ian Abraham who has been monitoring our grass area and mowing our lawns. We also thank Ian for helping us with some of the odd jobs that have needed to be attended to and of course, for taking our class photographs.

A huge thank you to Nola for giving her time to produce our calendars at the end of last year and for our annual class photos.

Businesses Taranaki wide must also be acknowledged. Their generosity has been outstanding!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated, conscientious team. I commend them on their ability to keep up with a large workload. Without the commitment and desire of Sam, MJ and Maxine to provide a great environment, and best teaching practices, our Kindergarten would not continue to grow and function as well as it does.

Central said farewell again to Nola, as our relieving Administrator at the end of term two 2016. Nicola Maul joined our team in term three as the permanent Kindergarten Administrator. Nicola is available three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 9:30am-2:30pm.

Grants

In September of 2016 we applied to the TET trust for a grant to upgrade our outdoor area at the southern end of the Kindergarten. The Kindergarten have received a grant of \$14,000.00 and the teaching team is working with the Property and Operations Managers to advance this project. Our vision is for children to intrinsically want to explore, discover and experience the unusual, unknown, natural environment. This will be an exciting addition for Central Kindergarten and we hope to start this project soon.

Central also received a COGS grant of \$2000.00 which has certainly helped off-set our administration costs

Recently we have purchased some new furniture using our Equity Funds. Continuing with our 'natural' look we have provided new wooden chairs and tables into our Kai and lino areas. Adjustable height tables will ensure all children, regardless of ability or need will be able to access activities and sit comfortably to participate. Wood chairs are larger in seat size giving a more secure base for younger and older children to sit.

We have also updated our Civil Defense Kit to ensure we have ample provisions should we ever be unfortunate enough to suffer a natural disaster. Again this was paid for with our Equity funds.

Kindergarten Roll Increase

It was decided to increase our roll number for a short period so that those waiting for spaces could access early education without a long wait. For term two we have increased our roll to up to 40 children, requiring us to enlist another teacher. Jan Forsythe has joined the team for three weeks and is working

Monday to Thursday. We welcome her expertise and support for this period of time. Maxine has increased her hours of work and the team and Children welcome having her here for a longer period.

Teaching and Learning

Introducing a new planning, assessment and evaluation process throughout the year has extended our communication with whānau as we work collaboratively supporting children with their individual goals. Clear acknowledgement of whānau aspirations has been documented and communication continues to strengthen through our Key Teacher approach. Relationships remain the heart of our day to day practices and ensures children and whānau gain a true sense of belonging within our environment helping children to learn and grow their skills. We continue to celebrate successes through our “I can” wall, which we have recently shifted so the sheets are at the children’s level. Regular revisiting of children’s portfolios helps children to recognise their ongoing learning and development and share their successes with others.

Professional Learning and Development

The teaching team continue to grow and strengthen practices. They regularly attend professional learning and development sessions delivered by knowledgeable, enthusiastic presenters. These experiences support the team to reflect on and advance their existing skills to ensure the Children and Whānau of Central Kindergarten are offered quality education and support.

Sessions attended include:

- First aid Revalidation
- Working Theories with Keryn Davis
- Cochlear Implants – Ann Fearne
- Speech and Language – Rebecca Swan
- Transition Network Meetings
- Appraisal – Mandy Coupe
- Internal Evaluation – Mandy Coupe
- Educa – Vicki
- IT – Dawn Osman

Events for the year:

- Levity Beet
- Zappo
- Wacky Wednesday
- Funky Hair Day
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- End of Year Celebration



The Team is looking forward to putting our new learning into practice and to continuing to offer quality education and learning to our Stratford Community. Through continuing our review and evaluation processes we will move towards our strategic direction and vision.

We look forward to another busy year and to developing and strengthening relationships within our community.

Colleen Smillie
Head Teacher

