

Annual Report for Koru Kindergarten May 2016/2017

Curriculum- Learning and Teaching

Professional Learning

There has been a range of professional learning that has happened over the year for our teachers. This includes Incredible Years, ECE Leadership Forum, TPU Conference, First Aid, Working Theories, I will believe it when I see it, Child Matters, Treaty of Waitangi, Making it a Success, NZ Infant and Toddler Seminar, Educa, IT Systems, Professional Development Day, Success for Maori, Leadership Development Programme and Te Poumaumau. This professional learning supports our teachers in their teaching and we are so grateful for the opportunity to better ourselves.

Our Internal Evaluation (previously called Self Review) last year was on 'Is our assessment process consistent in practice?' As a result of this we have incorporated a Te Ao Maori Perspective and we have signed up to Educa (an online assessment tool) We are still part of the Transition to School Network with all the ECE services and primary schools in the Stratford area. This continues to be a very valuable time for us and a great benefit to our children and whanau, as we can discuss what different schools offer as our children begin their transition into school.

We have also had lots of other exciting additions to our programme including visits to the Mountain, Puanga Celebration, Harrold the Giraffe, Puppet Show at SHS, Kindy Gym, Americana, 4 year old sports day, Oranga Mokopuna, Play Ball Taranaki, and of course our wonderful Farm walks.

Fundraising and Projects

Grants

In the last year we received \$16,066.97 from Grants. This was through COGS, Oranga Mokopuna, TET, Pub Charity, and The Southern Trust. Some of the resources we managed to secure through this funding were; operation expenses, outdoor civil defense kit, indoor and outdoor children's resources such as sand/water table, drill, physical education equipment, storage set, and our stage 2 building project.

We thank the individual Grant providers for their help and support in providing these resources for our tamariki! We couldn't survive without them!

We also received \$1,210 in the last year from Stationery Fees, this money goes towards, printing and paper for learning stories and admin costs.

Sleep Room and Stage 2

What a journey this has been. The sleep room was completed in October/November last year and has been so beneficial to our Kindergarten. The extra space is great and we are currently using the old sleep room space for our infant area.

With this extra space we have been relicensed and can now take up to 42 children. Kindergarten Taranaki have decided they would like to keep our numbers lower than this to ensure we provide a quality service.

Stage 2 consists of a new infant area next to the sleep room and the old sleep room being transformed into a bigger office space for teachers and a smaller extra sleep room. Depending on how much money we get will depend on what part of the plan goes ahead.

Stage 2 plans are all done and we are currently waiting for TSB Community Trust to get back to us with hopefully enough money to get started. If we are successful this project will be started in the October term break. We currently have \$10,000 from TET, \$10,000 from reserved funds and \$10,000 in Equity funding giving us a total of \$30,000 to put towards this.

General Business

Food Act

The Food Act 2014 now applies to Early Childhood Centres. We have just registered and we now have a year before this process needs to be complete.

Changes in Operation/Staffing

Last year we had to farewell Stacey in August and Brenda at the end of the year. We welcomed Sharon Mitchell back into a permanent teacher role from term 4 last year. We also welcomed Lisa Richards as our new meal co-ordinator who started in term 1 this year. We had Karina return this year after having to take extended leave last year to be with her son. At the end of this term we will sadly farewell Marie, it has come the time for her to relax and enjoy her retirement.

We have had a number of fixed term relievers in full time and part time positions over the last year due to an influx in our rolls, this will continue to be monitored depending on roll numbers.

Term 1 had a few minor changes due to Seraya stepping up into a Professional Leader role and Le-arna stepping into the Head Teacher role.

TPU

We started the year with a record number of TPU children starting however this did not eventuate, with several having a change of circumstances effecting enrolment numbers.

Our teachers have supported our young mums with advice, guidance and support. We have seen such growth in our current mums and these young ladies confidence and interactions with their children has blossomed. It really is such a rewarding thing to be part of, and full credit has to go the effort of the teaching team at the TPU.

Thank you

Koru is so fortunate to have so many families that give their time freely to help keep our Kindergarten operational.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every member of our amazing teaching team, meal co-ordinator and administrator. What a fabulous group of people to work alongside of everyday. I feel incredibly privileged to work with a group of people that are so committed to providing a quality service for our children.

In closing I would like to thank our Whanau group, you are a special group of people, who give up your free time to help and support us in our roles. We sadly say to goodbye to Kelly and Lizzie as their boys head off to school. Kelly you have been a huge part of our Whanau group throughout the years that all 3 of your boys have attended Koru, you have taken on different roles such as President, treasurer, and secretary. Thank you for all the hours behind the scenes that you have given our Kindergarten, you always went over and beyond. Lizzie Thank you so much for all your input into our Whanau group and your huge efforts in fundraising.

There are so many people that help us every day to make Koru the amazing place it is. Thank you to you all.

Le-arna Russ

Assistant Head Teacher

Koru Kindergarten