

Marfell Kindergarten AGM

## *Head Teachers Report Thursday 18th May, 2017*

This report covers the period of time from 1st March 2016 to 29 February 2017.

It's been a busy year for us at Marfell Kindergarten and we have had lots of fun and adventure along the way.

We have been supported by dedicated teachers, support staff, whanau, our community, support agencies, our Whānau Support Group and our umbrella organization, Kindergarten Taranaki.

Our kindergarten environment is attractive and purposeful, and tamariki are joyful, engaged and happy to be here. Our whanau are supportive and present in the kindergarten.

Let's take a look at some of the events that have shaped the past twelve months...

### **Strategic Plan success**

- Cycle Skills 2016
- ERO 2016
- Puanga Festival 2016
- Actively involved in the community, using kindergarten as a venue for community meetings, eg Pathways Community Meetings, B4 School Checks,
- Each teacher received a mobile draw unit for their space in the office as they requested
- We are continually working to build and strengthen relationships between ourselves and our local schools, we enjoy a good working relationship with them all. It takes time and effort to build up the level of mutual respect as professionals.

### **Highlights from this period**

- ERO visited us in October, as they do each three years or so. It was an interesting visit that acknowledged us for what they thought we were good at and gave us a couple of things that need further development. They do this for every kindergarten and school in New Zealand, in fact all educational institutions. Their next visit will be in three years time. ERO's findings included...
  - "Children participate in sustained play
  - Children learn in a programme that reflects their interests, strengths and abilities.
  - A strong sense of belonging and focus on well being is promoted.
  - Respectful Practice is evident.
  - Teachers maximise the opportunities that arise to effectively support children developing social competence.
  - Tuakana, teina relationships actively promote children to support and guide their peers.
  - Te Reo and aspects of tikanga Maori are integrated through the programme.
  - Teachers work with parents and whanau to promote best outcomes for all learners.

- These strong foundations...should support the ongoing focus on promoting educational success for Maori.
- A recently established assessment process promotes learning centered partnerships with parents.”

A big thanks to the team that helped us to showcase our kindergarten for this ERO review. I was the only remaining staff member since the previous review 3 years prior. It was a difficult time, but our small team pulled together and our work spoke for itself, although I don't think ERO saw all of our fabulousness! Trish was a super star with her first day being the day ERO came.

- Healthy Heart Award we achieved that this year and it was a long process. We have it now and it lasts for two years. Our tamariki already experience an environment at kindergarten with a strong focus on healthy lifestyles, so most of the criteria, we were already doing. We still had some work to do and we were the grateful recipients of two grants of \$500 each for outdoor equipment, as a result of this mahi. We are about to start work on level 4 of Oranga Mokopuna.
- Kanikani this was another successful event that saw teachers and whanau working together to ensure everyone was safe and had fun. This is our definition of successful. For us at Marfell it's not about how much money we raise, it's about how full our hearts are at the end of the night. We all felt apart of something really special at the end of the kanikani, chatting as we laughed and cleaned, as one whānau. Now that's kotahitanga in action!
- Puanga Kapahaka Festival 2016 in Waitara. This was another success, with our tamariki shining on the day. Our group was slightly younger than in previous years, with a few two year olds performing. The pride on the faces of our tamariki and whanau made the whole experience even greater. Seeing tamariki experience success as Maori in that fabulous forum was sensational. This was our third year performing and we are the only kindergarten to do so. It's pretty special alright.
- The Shoebox Christmas Organisers approached us half way through last year and asked if our tamariki would like to be involved in receiving a shoebox full of gifts just for them, and of course we agreed! At Marfell Kindergarten we decided that rather than the kindergarten give them to the tamariki, we would quietly slip them to parents and they could choose how their tamariki received them. Many of our whanau told us how very grateful they were for these, as there was little or no money for presents. This reinforced our decision to let whanau decide. It's wonderful knowing that each parent got to be the hero in their child's eye, on the day. Tu Meke! A big ups also to the organisers and the many families and individuals who filled these shoeboxes for tamariki to receive. These came from the wider community of New Plymouth and beyond.
- Philosophy Review we gained momentum with this in the first half of the year, and were able to focus on having the new philosophy board painted by a whanau member of our kindergarten, ready for the big reveal.

## Personnel

- Leah Allen won the Head Teachers position at Brooklands kindergarten and left on the 12th of August, and we appointed Trish Trentham to the full time permanent teacher position and she started on 25th October last year.

- Bex Caldwell our Kindergarten Administrator left us on the 3rd June last year and we have only just appointed a permanent KA and that's our new friend, Jude Maaka, who joins us today. Welcome Jude and we hope you have enjoyed your first week with us. We are grateful to Denise Lankshear who was our Administrator for a few months and did a fabulous job, but left us to take up full time employment. Kathryn Sole was filling in for us until we appointed Jude, thank you to Kathryn.
- Hilda Colgan who's last role with Kindergarten Taranaki was Professional leader, retired at the start of February this year. Hilda was based at Kindergarten Taranaki in town, and it was her and the late John Riley that employed me all those years ago. It's important to acknowledge these people as they were the foundation of North Taranaki Kindergarten Association, as we were known until South Taranaki merged with us and the name changed to Kindergarten Taranaki in very recent years. I will miss Hilda greatly as she was a wonderful colleague and mentor, and I very much looked up to her. Hilda was an advocate for the rights of tamariki, whānau, and kindergarten teachers.

## Acknowledgements

- Our **awesome community** for believing in us and staying true to the kaupapa of Marfell Kindergarten, sunshine, rain and hail. They came on our trips, attended our Whanau Support Group meetings, supported our fundraisers, hung around and helped out at kindergarten, rallied around and helped to make our participation at Puanga Kapahaka Festival a reality and success.
- Our **Kindergarten Taranaki** Support crew...Cherie, Liz, Dawn, Lois, Aira, Steve, Hilda, Jo, Bernadette, Dennis and John for their continued support as and when needed.
- To the many **support agencies** that we work alongside to meet the needs of our tamariki and whanau. As we hold hands with these agencies we can better advocate for the needs and aspirations of our whanau for their tamariki.
- Our **Whanau Support Group**, this is a small group of whānau that give up their time to come to our bi-monthly meetings and offer their ideas and support. Thank you to our President Anita Kumar for her on going support and helping out whenever she can. Also to Tania Rawiri, Zoe Lister, Bubby and Ed Te Huia, and Nicole Woodill who lend a hand whenever they can, many thanks.
- The **Marfell Kindergarten teachers and support staff**. Myself, Tracey, Leah, Denise, Bex and Lyn, and in the 4th term, Andy, Anna and then Trish, we all worked extremely hard, as we do every year, to ensure...
  - the tamariki of Marfell Kindergarten experience an environment that they recognise as their own and see themselves reflected in, and that offers opportunities for challenge, risk, belonging and fun, within a teaching and learning framework.
  - Whanau feel a sense of belonging here too and can choose to be involved at their own pace, being seen, heard and acknowledged as their child's first teacher, and partner in their kindergarten child's learning journey.

## **MoE Equity fund**

Once again our Equity fund has been our saviour. This pool of extra money has supported excursions, brought visitors to the kindergarten, provided resources and equipment, koha, kai and much much more. We are eternally grateful to the Ministry of Education for recognising that our kindergarten needs a bit of extra cash to be able to access resources and experiences that our tamariki would otherwise not be exposed too, due to being in a low socio economic area. We know our whanau also appreciate the many experiences their tamariki can have because of this fund.

## **Vision for 2017 and beyond**

- Puanga 2017
- Maintaining and growing links in our wider community ie local schools, support agencies,
- Redeveloping our outdoor space
- Embedding our new philosophy
- Carry on being present in the community responding to community needs.
- Identifying links in Marfell for Te Ao Maori, landmarks, Kaumatua, local history.
- Time for our complete and permanent team to get to know each other and our individual ways of working to ensure a unified approach for the success of our tamariki, whanau and community.
- Take a look at our Whanau Support Group structure and see how we can improve it to get more support from whānau and staff.

I move that my Head Teachers Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting be Accepted.

Sam Frank

18.05.17

Head Teacher