

Parihaka Kindergarten Staff Community Report

High quality learning delivered - Learning outcomes for children; The learning environment both inside and out; professional learning undertaken; purchases, plans for change, Te Ao Maori

It is hard to believe that it is already the end of 2018 – each year seems to pass us by so quickly! Here are some of our highlights from Term 4

- Our regular, weekly firepits were a highlight of the beginning of the term, before it became too hot to be comfortable around the fire. This has been an excellent experience for the children, who were starting to take real ownership of setting up the fire, sharing the rules, cooking and keeping themselves and others safe. We look forward to doing it again next year!
- Several new children joined us this term, and have settled in really well. They and their families have been welcomed in to our kindergarten with a Mihi Whakatau, which is always an awesome way to start their time at kindergarten, and foster a sense of belonging.
- We introduced a number of new resources this term, including lots of natural resources from the teacher's trips to the beach. Our new green bikes are here, with much more grippy tyres! The last bikes have been so well used that the tires were shiny and smooth!
- Lizzie Zeibe relieved for us for several weeks this term, while Wendy and Kirsten were away. We wish to publicly thank Lizzie for all her mahi. Lizzie was much loved by children and teachers alike, and we look forward to having her back as a reliever in future.
- Clay has been a strong area of interest over the early half of the term. The children are increasing their skills with using this medium, and creating many pieces of art work that they are able to take home with them. Kirsten has been able to fire several of the children's pieces in a community kiln, and we hope to do more of this next term.
- Loose part play has taken on a new life of its own, as children drag around planks, tree poles, tyres, reels and stumps etc to use in various creative ways. When the Northpower crew came to install fibre for our ultrafast broadband this play stepped up another level. Children started digging drains, burying pipes, carrying water to their holes, and shifting earth around in the big trucks. This type of play is so valuable for helping the children to build their working theories about how the world works. It also promotes problem solving, team work, and physical skills.

Relationships – Strong sustained relationships and partnerships: Community Engagement: Pumanawatanga, transition to school visits, trips, visitors into the kindergarten, special events, etc

This term we have:

- We have had Vulcan's Aunty in to perform a traditional Balinese dance for our tamariki.
- We have undertaken several transition to school meetings with our families and professional partners.
- Our upcoming Christmas event will be on the 3rd of December. We are taking the children by bus to the top of Parihaka Maunga. From here we will walk down to Mair Park, and catch the bus back to kindergarten for a shared meal. We are very excited about this trip!
- We have worked closely with our professional partners from the MoE – Francis (Speech Language Therapist, Jan (Early Intervention), and Maggie Tatana (Education Support Worker).
- Teachers from Whangarei and Onerahi Primary Schools have visited to make contact with our children who are transitioning into school next term.
- Gay Easterbrooke, speech language therapist for NKA has also been in to visit tamariki.
- Jackson's Mum, Rowena, has been bringing baby Leah in to kindergarten for the tamariki to observe her body language and facial expressions. This is an initiative called the 'empathy project' and has been initiated by Kirsten. We hope that this aids children to understand how others are feeling, by observing their reactions.
- At the beginning of the term we had several fire-pit days on a Wednesday, before the weather got too hot! When we have a fire-pit we always enlist the help of our fabulous parents, to help keep our children safe.
- The Library Bus visits kindergarten once a term, and our children love climbing aboard to choose a book, and have a story with the librarian, if we are lucky!
- Mihi whakatau have been done for each new family who has joined kindergarten, as is our usual custom at Parihaka.

Promotion – Lifting the profile of the kindergarten within the community: newspaper stories and photos, open days, kindergarten out in the community, promotional flyers sent out, etc

- Facebook is used regularly to promote our kindergarten, and keep in contact with our whanau.
- Word of mouth continues to be our most effective form of promotion, and has resulted in full roles again this term.

Finance – Financial Stability: Management and administration (roll numbers, variation report explanation, fund raising, grant applications etc

The roll at Parihaka Kindergarten has remained strong and we have a healthy waiting list. We continue to get walk ins off the street who have had the kindergarten recommended to them which is great for us. We have 9 children leaving us at the end of this term, and should start the new year with pretty full rolls.

Services – Services delivered that are relevant to the communities they serve: Ensure our services meet our communities' needs. Working alongside of NKA: PPM, speech and Language therapist, Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Maori visits. Environmental sustainability,

As listed above:

- We have worked closely with our professional partners from the MoE – Francis (Speech Language Therapist, Jan (Early Intervention), and Maggie Tatana (Education Support Worker).
- Chrissie Browne has been regularly visiting from the NKA. Chrissie is the social worker employed by NKA. Chrissie is becoming familiar with our kindergarten and tamariki, and available to help families as she is needed.
- Gay Easterbrook (NKA Speech Language specialist) also works with our tamariki.
- We have had several transition to school meetings with whanau and staff from the local primary schools.
- Our Professional Practise Manager, Bronwyn Coulter, has been a regular visitor this term.
- Roimata McFarlane is our Pou Whakarewa Tikanga specialist, and has been in to observe and assist us in our practice of all things Māori.

General Comments:

Acknowledgements: