



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.

Kia ora whanau, Term three has come and gone so quickly, it has been one that seems to have been filled with lots of illness/sickness with both tamariki and Kaiako spending time away from Kindergarten. Teresa has been away for the last three weeks of term due to illness, but she is slowly on the mend and hopes to be back with us all at the start of next term.

Despite all of this illness, it has still been a very busy and fun filled term for our tamariki and kaiako with loads of continuous holistic learning and development taking place. We have had a lot of children graduate and move onto school; which has meant that we have had eleven new children starting. Kaiako have enjoyed observing the “Ako” that is taking place within our learning environment between our tamariki, we are seeing our older more settled tamariki supporting and sharing their knowledge and understandings with our new tamariki and whanau that have started this term. This term has seen Kaiako focusing on developing relationships with the new tamariki and whanau and ensuring that they are settling into Ruawai Kindergarten their new learning environment, developing a sense of belonging and feeling like they have a place here. We continue to support and encourage our tamariki in the development of their social skills and also in their confidence and abilities in their own self-help and self-regulation skills as these are foundation skills that are an essential part of their learning and development.

This term we have renewed our Healthy Heart Gold award for the fourth time. Tamariki and kaiako have continued to share their knowledge and understandings around healthy eating, healthy lunch box options/choices, sustainable food wraps/containers with whanau and each other. We have also created a wall display around “Our healthy Lunch Boxes” and “How much Sugar?” As a result of this we have noticed that this information is acting as provocations from conversations between parents and also between parents and kaiako, which is leading to more sharing of knowledge, asking of questions and joint knowledge seeking/gaining. From these conversations we are also hearing what knowledge and understandings our tamariki are taking home and sharing with their whanau.

Wednesday 1st August – Teresa arranged for some very special visitors to come to Ruawai Kindergarten - Sharon and Alan Holt the Te Reo Sing-along pukapuka creators. We invited two of the junior classes from Ruawai Primary School to come and enjoy this experience with us.

Both Tamariki and Kaiako thoroughly enjoy using these pukapuka in our daily practise. Te Reo Maori Language and Music and movement are two very strong interests (here at Ruawai Kindergarten), it was an amazing experience to have them brought together in this way and through seeing these stories been acted out by Sharon and Allan. Thursday 23rd August – We had a visit from Fran our local Public Health Nurse and Fiona a second year student nurse. They came to talk to us about looking after our Hauora – Wellbeing. As a result of this visit our tamariki and kaiako have gained knowledge and understandings around why it is important for us to blow our noses, how to wash our hands correctly, how to catch our cough correctly and also understanding of how germs are spread.

Professional Development that Kaiako have attended this term:

Tuesday 17th July – Chanelle and Lisa attended Roimata Macfarlane’s Enviroschool’s workshop – Ko au, Ko koe, Ko Koe, ko au – Unpacking Maori Perspectives.

Teresa visited “Selwyn Park Kindergarten” – As a Enviroschool Facilitator on Wednesday 15th August to support the team with beginning their journey as an enviroschool.

Thursday 23rd August – Teaching team (Teresa, Chanelle, Lisa, Kyla and Katia) attended “Understanding Autism and strategies for behaviour Workshop” enabling us to better support nga tamariki.

Tuesday 9th –Thursday 11th October - Chanelle and Lisa will be attending the National ECE Enviroschool Facilitator Hui in Auckland.

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 had eleven tamariki transition into school, 10 have moved onto Ruawai Primary School and 1 to Arapohue Primary School. We have continued to enjoy, support and encourage the reverse transition visits from the new entrant class at Ruawai Primary School, they have visited several times this term. Each of our tamariki that transition to Ruawai Primary have a “Kindy Buddy” (a year 5 student), that visits them one day a week, spending time getting to know them and developing a trusting relationship. As a result of this we have noticed that it helps to make nga tamariki transition into school smoother; their buddy comes to their graduation, meets them in their new classroom on their first day at school and then actively supports them during interval and lunch breaks until they feel settled and have developed a sense of belonging within their new learning environment.

Every term we have a Whakawhanaungatanga to welcome all of our new tamariki and whanau, but this term due to staff illness we had to postpone it until later in the term and then with Teresa been unwell after the last few weeks of term we have decided to postpone until next term and as we would like all of our teaching team to be present when we have one of these special welcomes for new whanau and tamariki..

Friday 7th September – We visited Ruawai Primary School for their “Cross Country”, our tamariki enjoyed the opportunity to watch siblings and friends (that have moved on to school) run with others in their age groups and then Ruawai Kindergarten tamariki and Kaiako had the opportunity to run a short length of the cross country course. This is always is the most exciting part for our tamariki.

Friday 28th September - This term our tamariki were focusing on "Being Kind, Caring and Gentle with each other". When they had filled the jar with toanga – treasure (which they received when Kaiako noticed them demonstrating these positive dispositions) we celebrated with a “Teddy Bears Picnic” with everyone bringing a plate of kai from home to share at our lunchtime picnic.

This term we had Bonnie Lindsey here with us as a student for four weeks from Monday 3rd September to Friday 28th September. Bonnie fitted in well with the team, our Kindergarten Philosophy, daily programme and the routines and rituals here at Ruawai Kindergarten. It was wonderful to have you back with us for this short time Bonnie, we wish you well in the next steps of your teaching journey – you are a wonderful teacher – Mauria te pono – Believe in yourself.

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

As a team we are constantly promoting our Kindergarten through Facebook, Ruawai Rambler and by having an open door policy to our community. We had our photo and a story in the “Kaipara Lifestyler” on the 18th September – sharing with our community how we had just received the Pa-Harakeke (Gold) Healthy Heart Award for the 3rd time.

We have enjoyed visiting Ruawai Primary many times this year for different events and learning opportunities that we have been invited to as a result of this we believe that it is helping to better prepare our tamariki for their transition to school in the future (whether it be Ruawai or one of the other schools that our tamariki transition into), helping to develop their social skills and also widen and develop their understandings of the world around them.

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

We have been purchasing resources and equipment as required, following alongside the children’s interests and needs.

This term has seen 11 of our tamariki graduate and move onto the next stage of their learning journey. This has meant that we have welcomed 11 new tamariki and their whanau, who are starting their learning journey with us here at Ruawai Kindergarten.

We currently have 34 children enrolled at Ruawai Kindergarten. There are currently 37 children on our waiting list, this includes 15 two year olds and 8 under two year olds.

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.

On Tuesday 21st August Ruawai Kindergarten had our Enviroschool Silver Reflection Meeting. We invited our whanau, tamariki and community to join us for this meeting and a shared afternoon tea together. We had a fabulous group of supporters from our learning community attend the meeting and they shared their reasons why they loved Ruawai Kindergarten so much and why they felt that we deserved and had earned the title of a Silver Enviroschool. Professional Practise Managers Gillian Armitt and Kim Townsend, Comrie Park Kindergartens Head Teacher Anna Alexander and Northland Regional Enviroschool Coordinator Susan Karels were also all here to support and guide us through our Silver Reflection process. We became a Silver Enviroschool on 21/8/2018 and will have an official presentation of our Silver next term.

We have had several visits from Sharon Keko from Ministry of Education providing ongoing support for one of our tamaiti, their whanau, kaiako and peers.

This term we have had several visits from our professional practice manager Gillian Armitt and also a visit from Roimata McFarlane our Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Maori from NKA to support us with our Te ao Maori and tikanga practise.

Gay Easterbrook the Speech and Language therapist from NKA has visited us this term supporting tamariki, whanau and kaiako.

General Comments:

Thank you to all of our tamariki, whanau, community and kaiako for contributing in your own special ways to our fabulous learning environment and for making learning and development at Ruawai Kindergarten so much fun.

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ABOUT AS IF IT WERE
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BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY
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OF CHILDHOOD.
-FRED ROGERS**

Please remember to send your tamariki to Kindergarten with sun hats, sun block on and drink bottles because next term the weather is going to start really warming up and "Sun Safety" is very important to all of us.

Please pack LOTS of changes of clothes as we will be offering plenty of water play. Please return any Kindergarten clothes that are marked with "RK" as we are running very low. Any donations of shorts, pants, underwear and t-shirts would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support with providing your tamariki with healthy options which enables them to make healthy choices and for continuing to use sustainable/reusable packaging (e.g. snap lock bags/ paper bags/containers) in their lunchboxes. Just a couple of small reminders, please remember;

1. Leave food wrap out of lunch boxes, as this is not a recyclable or reusable product.
2. Limit packet items to one per lunch box and please leave things like "strings, mini jelly's, chocolate coated items and bottles of juice" for at home treats. 😊

Arohanui your teaching team; Teresa, Lisa, Chanelle and Kyla – Have a fun and safe holiday.

**Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata, Haere
whakamua**

Care for the land, Care for the people, Go forward