

Portland 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

The outdoor kindergarten environment has been a key focus this year. Creating a welcoming environment where we all learn and work together. Gardens and areas of mahi are set up and cared for. Many comments this term from relieving teachers and whanau tell us that we are succeeding in this area.

Our Naturehood (NH) is still popular with all the tamariki not just the 10 eldest at the time who attend. This term while visiting the NH many challenges have taken place (the climbing of large tree stumps) with success at the end. Also many new children have joined.

How and what we need to recycle – setting up a new recycling center in 3 different areas of the kindergarten – inside, the kai deck and then the main one around the kai garden area with compost, worm farm, cardboard and land waste. With the purchase of wet bags again bringing to the notice of the tamariki NO plastic bags.

A herb garden was added next to the mud kitchen which has created new learning, oral language and role play in this area.

Money raised at the Disco was designated towards sand equipment – catalogues were pulled out and children discussed and voted on what they wanted to purchase. The discussion went on to include what was to happen to the old sand equipment and decisions were made around this. Old tonka trucks have been put into the mud mahi area and the new Tonka trucks have been added to the sand area creating new interest in construction in the sand.

Kiwi ingenuity has seen many constructions built using loose parts – swings in trees, traps for different animals and people, obstacle courses, creating spiders' webs.

Keeping our selves-safe with the beginning of term 4 with sunscreen and sun hats, participating in Shake out day and fire drills.

Writing, drawing and painting inside and out – using different media as well as different materials to express ourselves on e.g. chalk on concrete, chalk boards, using feathers on paper, to name but a few.

Being active and moving – acrobatics on the swings and monkey bars, running, chasing, dancing, digging, building, climbing

Leaning from each other and the use of books, pictures and the internet – sharing of knowledge, asking questions and learning together.

Cooking and baking in the outdoors in the sand and mud kitchen area using the new herb garden. This mahi invokes so much language.

Getting wet and dirty – rain, sprinkler, mud area and puddles. The enjoyment of being one with nature. Using our senses.

Cultural dressing up, singing and dancing – learning from others waiata that they know and joining in.

Construction inside at the hot glue table, art table, in the many block areas and then outside with blocks, loose parts, sand and carpentry.

With the last few weeks of term Christmas has taken over with what is on the tamariki mind – a Christmas tree was brought in by a family and then the tamariki made their own decorations out of paper and natural materials. Henry's whanau gifted us with a letterbox which has quickly become the letter box so that tamariki can write their letters to Santa and post them for him to pick up.

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

We have had many visitors to the NH from other kindergarten teachers looking at starting their own programme and from Maungakareme Primary School – it was awesome to see old Portland Kindergarten students returning to the NH for a visit and sharing their knowledge with their peers. This visit also allowed opportunities for tamariki that will be transitioning next year to meet their teachers in an environment familiar to them and which they are the leaders at.

Our yearly visit from Northtec students to continue their amazing work that they do behind the kindergarten took place with more spraying, weeding and trees cut out. This was followed with great support from a working bee – opening up the path behind kindergarten as another access way for whanau to use and enjoy entering or leaving kindergarten. This new path way is being enjoyed by all who are using it – they are spending time looking at and talking about the beauty of nature.

Continual relationship building with Portland School – supporting and being invited to their 100th Centennial. This brought the current and former community together. Portland School Principal and Teacher attending tamaiti graduations as part of their transition to School.

Our Christmas celebration was an inclusive occasion where all supporters of the kindergarten through the year came together to celebrate the year that has been – Golden Bay Cement, Portland Church Community, Local Community, Fire Service, and Portland School

Otaika Valley Primary School new entrant teacher visiting tamariki that will be transitioning to her class.

As part of Tasha's inquiry – she began her visits to 2 primary schools to look at transition.

Mihi whakatou for Holly the new support staff member – Holly's family took part in this as her husband is currently attending a Maori course so was able to practice what he was learning a long with the kaiako.

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

Continued support and high lightening the kindergarten through the beginning of this term with the NZ Beautiful Awards – 26th October the Portland Kindergarten Team went to the awards in Auckland to

represent ECE through NZ. We were not successful on the night but feel with all the support from whanau, community and wider that we were winners!

Christmas Party in the community.

Golden Bay Cement Community Newsletter – as part of their continued support of the kindergarten.

Northland Taniwha popping in for a game of rugby and a play in the kindergarten – we hit their FB page !!!

We continue to have enrolments from word of mouth from current whanau – babies are being enrolled so that they don't miss out!

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

Maintain full rolls with current tamariki picking up days when a child leaves. This has slightly lowered our overall children numbers. This will change again in the New Year as we lose 14 tamariki over the holidays to school and childcare as whanau needs change.

Calendar fundraiser of tamaiti and whanau photos used - \$413.50 – the purchase of a Bluetooth Speaker and New tablet so that music and stories can be played.

Christmas Raffle raised \$730 – this money will be set aside to start the beginning of the money needed for the swing project.

In discussion with tamariki new Tonka trucks were purchased with the use of the Disco money raised. During the order we made a deal with the company Play n Learn for every 4 Tonka utes we sell the kindergarten will receive 1 free. We sold 4 so will receive one free. Will add this to a raffle next year as one of the prizes.

Not a fundraiser for the kindergarten but supporting our whanau to become plastic free – a parent has organized wet bags to be made and for parents to purchase so that plastic bags with wet or soiled clothing do not need to go home in plastic.

Our major contributor to the kindergarten finances this term has been Golden Bay Cement – purchasing individualized children's named sun hats, equipment and resources for both the kindergarten and nature programme. We are very thankful for their continued support.

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,

We have received continued support from Northland Kindergarten Association from the following: Management - Kim Townsend our Professional Practice Manager (this term will be her last with us as the PPM cycle changes) we will begin 2019 with Bronwyn Coulton. Roimata Mc Farlane - Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Maori. Chrissie Browne - Social Worker in Early Childhood Education will finish her contact for 2018 and will not be renewing this, a sad farewell to Chrissie. Who has organised Plunket to come and advise whanau about car seats and supported us where and when needed. Gay Easterbrook - Speech Language Therapist working with a number of tamariki.

Incredible years programme for parents – was completed by the parents who signed up for this amazing course. A lot of parents did slowly pull out as the weeks went by which is a real shame. We did see parents

completing their homework – using sticker charts with their children and having kindergarten support them with this which is great to see and be a part of supporting parents with their children.

Ministry of Education Early Intervention – Jan Daley (Early Intervention Teacher) Speech and Language Advisors, Psychologist Jo Marker working with a couple of families as well as the lovely Fiona from Special Ed has re-joined the team.

General Comments/Acknowledgements:

A special thank you to

- To Leah Davidson for organising wet bags again for all our whanau and to those whanau who are purchasing them for their tamariki.
- For the generosity from Golden Bay Cement who supports the kindergarten and Naturehood programme in many different ways.
- The Grimmer, Heappey, Morgan, Comins, Robert-Cross, Owens and Ho families for all their awesome work on the path area behind kindergarten.
- To our parent group for organizing and putting together a festive Christmas celebration and raffle.
- The many parents whom freely give or their time in helping us in so many ways, those many small fix it jobs, lending a hand at the end of the day with tidying up.
- Thanks for the encouragement on FaceBook of all the comments and likes and hearts.
- Northtec tutors and students who came and gave a day in the bush area – spraying, cutting and getting rid of all those baddies out there.
- To all the Portland Kindergarten Whanau for their continued support and encouragement.