

## Dargaville 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

### Curriculum Design

*Our curriculum is designed with heart. It enables children to feel empowered to take risks, to grow their independence and resilience at an unhurried pace, to experience opportunities to succeed and fail (and learn from it), to engage in problem solving, to set their own goals, to grow their emotional and social competence, to move their bodies, to experience their own culture and other cultures, to connect with nature, to feel a sense of belonging and community, to feel confident about themselves and to have fun.*

- This term we introduced the New Zealand Fire Service's *Get Firewise* pre-school programme to our tamariki and whānau. *Get Out! Stay Out!* Integrates principles from Te Whāriki EC Curriculum. Learning outcomes have been developed around a number of the Te Whāriki goals in each of the strands. The additional take-home material encourages parental/caregiver involvement and responsibility in home fire safety. It emphasises the importance of tamariki learning in the home environment in addition to learning through our kindergarten.
- We have a new 'house frame' - open ended outdoor play resource. This was built and donated by Jenny's son -Jace. Our tamariki continue to use this in many imaginative and creative ways.
- Our gardens continue to be an important part of our environment with children helping to plan and maintain them. Some vegetables have been added to our 'Swap a Crop' cart for whānau to enjoy.

Kaiako continue to grow their knowledge. ...

Shirley - Ongoing Roopu with NKA - completed first aid recertification, research and reading about supporting visual learners and how to use the core board to support some children's learning – pod casts from education council and professional discussions with colleagues and visiting professionals, in particular Anne and Natasha.

Jenny - My professional inquiry is my PD for this term - research and reading around the topic of environmental sustainability. Also listening to Education Council podcasts and collegial dialogue

Emma - Inquiry related PD and research around communication and mindfulness, podcasts, webinars etc. And collegial discussions

Faye- Zentangle Workshop in Wellington relating to my current inquiry. Research via books, articles and podcasts on Art.

Kelsi – Attended a support staff hui with the NKA and a one day course on effective communication.

Ruth-Continues with her studies for her Graduate Diploma of Education ECE

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

- School visits to Dargaville Primary School continued this term with a small group of 5 children taking part.
- Bus and Train trip focus continued for two terms with; letters created and sent to the train drivers, train and bus focused projects including much pretend play, art and craft activities, stories and songs etc. This all built up to the excursion by bus to Whangarei for a few rides on the Heritage Railway Train.
- The Man Shed has contributed to our kindy once again by tending to small repair jobs.
- Flea Cleaver has kindly made the little saw horses for our carpentry area.

**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.

- Kelsi and a group of enthusiastic parents got together and arranged our first Dargaville Christmas Parade Float. As with the train trip planning, our tamariki were very much involved by helping to create decorations, dressing for the occasion and taking part in this special community event. The biggest surprise for us was that Dargaville Kindergarten won first prize for our float \$800.00 from The Dargaville Lions Club.

We continue to;

- Have an open door policy where interested whānau can visit and talk with the teaching team about enrolment.
- Update our website that reflects our current nature of the kindergarten and newsletters, reports and photographs can be accessed electronically.
- Invite whānau to use our NKA App as a communication tool between kindergarten and home.

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

Fundraising events this term included;

- Creating a sub committee
- The Laundry soap powder venture (tamariki helped to make this) raised \$400.12 toward the costs of the train and bus excursion.
- Tea towel promotion provided a nice keepsake for our whānau and raised \$815.00 we received \$200 sponsorship for the towels from two local businesses; \$100 from Wild West Worcester Sauces & relishes plus \$100 from Kevin LeNoel Builders Ltd. Money raised from this venture has been targeted for improving our sandpit fencing and replacing the stove in our kitchen.

At present there are 61 children enrolled at Dargaville Kindergarten. We have 35 on the waiting list.

This term significant purchases enhancing our programme included;

- Extra compost and plants for replacing the gardens.
- Ingredients for laundry powder fundraising event.
- Art & craft supplies order
- Shade sails were reinstated
- *Clickety Clack, Clickety Clack all the way to town and back!* Train & Bus excursion to Whangarei.
- Our draft budget for 2019 has been finalised and presented to NKA for approval

**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,

Northland Kindergarten Association continues to support our kaiako by providing:

- Te Puāwaitanga o te kākano – Roopu hui, Whaea Manu
- Much valued regular Visits from our Practice Manager, Gillian Armit and Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Māori Advisor, Roimata Macfarlane and Speech Language Therapist, Gaye Easterbrook.
- We have had NKA Maintenance; Bevan has completed the painting of our building and we have received many positive comments about this.
- Ann Tierry MOE Educational Psychologist has supported the kaiako with implementing teaching strategies to guide all children in their learning.

#### **General Comments / Acknowledgements:**

Thank you cards were created with help from our tamariki and sent out to Kathleen Perry, who donated our kindergarten with a grand supply of paper, and to Jace Huriwai for building and donating to us the wonderful play house frame.

A card, lemon meringue pie and a dedication with the planting of Gerbera's in our front garden were presented to Marni Stewart to acknowledge all her support to the kindergarten with looking after the grounds and donation of goods.

A gift basket was created and presented to George Pickering to show our appreciation for her time and work during the term.

A few gifts were given to local businesses and kindergarten parents – Linda and Trent from the strawberry patch for their help and generosity this year. And to Trudi and Craig from McKay Electrical for their continued support to the kindergarten with fire safety and generous assistance with purchasing and using electrical equipment to help the kindergarten.

Some small gifts were given to acknowledge the whānau and community who helped with the Christmas float and the parade.

Our wonderful and reliable relieving teachers continued to support us during this term. We thank Deni, Viv, Raewyn, Sarah, Tracey and Ruth.