

Mairtown 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 Māori

Term 4 has once again seen high quality learning delivered for our kindergarten tamariki and community. This has been influenced by many factors which include, but are not limited to:

- ***Assessment: The programme at Mairtown continues to be focused on individual and group learning of our tamariki. Many of these highlights are documented on our blog site, individually in children's portfolios as well as day book entries, wall documentation and a documented long-term inquiry/research booklet. As a result of our assessment practices our attending children and their whānau (and the wider international community through our weekly blog) have been able to witness the ongoing learning that occurs at Mairtown. Through our high-quality assessment practices, the teachers have been able to reflect on how best to foster and extend upon children's interests where appropriate, as well as how the learning environment is setup at Mairtown to support the children in their learning goals.***
- ***This term we have had ongoing (from term 3), open ended investigative work into endangered animals and outdoor sustainability practices including growing and eating our own produce, as well as establishing a new worm farm and a community seed library. As a result of the children's continuous work and observing their play we have noticed how this has benefited their cognitive development, imagination, sense of wonder, belonging, creativity, literacy (observed in imaginative/dramatic play) and the natural world (endangered animals and gardening). Links to the community have also been noted as whānau have shared stories from children at home linked to these topics.***

Other curriculum highlights this term include our art work (for calendars) using the artist Hundertwasser as a provocation, the creation of our own decorations for the festival of Christmas trees and our gratitude tree. As a result of our teaching practice we have chosen to work with small groups of children on their Hundertwasser art pieces, in order to encourage children to 'think like an artist'. From observing the children's work and words, we have noticed how this has resulted not only in some stunning art pieces, but also in-depth thinking from children. For instance, many children created stories about their art pieces which in turn fosters critical thinking, imaginative skills and oral language development. When working on Christmas decorations, our focus was on sustainability. This has resulted in the children valuing and recognising that old materials can be upcycled and reused to create beautiful pieces. The gratitude tree has been a wonderful way to talk about 'how we are grateful for each other' and instill a sense of respect to one another, kindness and thankfulness.

- *The teaching team have undertaken professional learning opportunities to enhance their teaching practice in meaningful ways, which has had a positive impact on the children that the team work alongside due to them being more aware of a wider range of teaching strategies they can use. This has included Zair, Amy and Susie completing their appraisals; Sarah and Christine completing their termly meetings; and Amy and Christine completing Amy's two PCT meetings for the term. Zair and Amy attended the enviroschools hui in Auckland during the last term break, of which they all undertook professional learning on all aspects of enviroschool which will assist us in our forthcoming journey. Christine has completed her first aid refresher course.*
- *The whole team has also engaged in professional development for our local ECE community by hosting an open evening. This was run as a fundraiser and has resulted in assisting Zair and Christine with their travel and accommodation expenses when they travel to Wellington in January to host a workshop at the 8th International Art in Early Childhood Conference.*
- *Anna from Comrie Park kindergarten has visited to talk to the whole team about how we can start our enviroschools journey and work toward our bronze reflection. This has resulted in making the team think more deeply about our current situation in terms of sustainability at Mairtown, explore alternatives and consider actions for change.*
- *The outdoor learning environment has had work completed, the biggest of which is an upgrade to our storage shed outside. This has resulted in a safer more usable environment for teachers and children, and one where resources can be easily seen and hence more readily used. Our garden area and vegetable beds have been lovingly looked after by both the children and teachers as well as having a tidy up by our gardener, Peggy, in the term break. This has resulted in children developing and learning skills about the natural world including growing plants from seeds and caring for plants as they develop, exploring concepts of sustainability, and has given children opportunity to see food moving from garden to table and they harvest, prepare and cook food.*
- *Purchases made over this term which have enhanced the kindergarten teaching and learning environment in many ways include new plants for the kai table. A new computer for Christine was also purchased resulting in her being able to complete her work and assessment efficiently and in a timely manner. A selection of books has been purchased to enhance teaching practices and increase knowledge and interest, topics include inquiry-based learning and documentation. A new water trough has been ordered, two outdoor teepees, hand bells, a worm farm, special cloaks for our leaving ceremony and an office chair was purchased to replace one that was broken.*
- *Te Ao Māori world views have continued to be supported. We are fortunate to have had Kelly from our kindergarten whanau, come in frequently to sing and teach our tamariki and staff new waiata. In addition we have also continued to build on this use of te reo in*

our day to day practice by supporting one another in our efforts, and Christine has completed her one year te reo course, through Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. This will continue to be an ongoing journey for the team, resulting in having a positive influence on our children and their whānau in regards to their understanding of the Māori language and the significant role it plays in our bi-cultural nation.

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

- *Our relationships and partnerships with our kindergarten whānau, fellow early childhood educators, primary schools and local and global community has been fostered by many events, meetings and collaborations over this term which have resulted in positive outcomes for all mentioned. This has included a visit from the two teachers from Kerikeri kindergarten (they attended our Friday nature programme) who are looking at establishing a nature based programme in their kindergarten community, a whole kindergarten trip to the Golden Church to view the Christmas tree festival, a visit for 20 children to Abbey Field House to sing songs to the residents, an excursion to the Glenbervie climbing forest for the 10 children on our nature programme and teachers from local ECE centres as part of our open evening.*
- *Other celebrations include a morning tea to celebrate Ata completing her graduate diploma in ECE having spent the past year with us at Mairtown, and on Friday the 14th December the whole kindergarten will be celebrating a successful year at a picnic party held at Mair Park. The picnic has been arranged for the early evening in order to provide a time suitable to all families, especially those that may work. As a result of these three events we continue to foster our relationships with all our whānau, encourage the building of relationships with each other amongst attending whānau, highlight the importance of the need to celebrate and to care about special events for our attending whānau.*
- *This year, for the first time we have worked with the Salvation army in their Christmas appeal to assist a local family 'Adopt a family'. Our community have provided small gifts and food items to an anonymous local family for the festive season. This has resulted in a great deal of dialogue around how we can care for others and help people in need, promoting the concepts of fairness, empathy and kindness.*
- *Whangarei Central Library have kindly donated us a Lilliput library. This will be available for our community in term 1 2019 after we have decorated it and installed in.*

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.

- *Our blog and Facebook continues to promote our kindergarten's profile in a local and global manner, we gain many questions and positive feedback from other educators around the world due to the quality and thoughtfulness of our writing. Our Nature Programme continues to make us visible within the community due to our Friday morning attendance at Mair Park. Christine has contributed on behalf of the whole kindergarten to the Northern Advocate's supplement 'The Year that was'. All of the above have resulted in lifting the kindergarten's profile in our community as well as nationally and internationally in meaningful ways.*
- *Once again, this year we were invited to decorate a tree at the St. John's Church in Kensington. The children have worked on producing decorations from natural and recycled products. As a result of their work, and in order for the children to see the tree and to understand the idea behind the 'festival of trees' an organised walk and visit to the church was arranged for all the children. As a result of this work and subsequent visit we continue to promote Mairtown Kindergarten as very much being a part of a small and caring community.*
- *During this term we hosted a workshop for our whānau and local community on composting. This was run by Bernadette from ECO solutions and as a result has enabled many more people to consider and try composting for themselves. The workshop was free, discount vouchers for composting systems were available providing a way in which we have been able to assist others on their way to thinking about how that can look after and care for our environment as well as make more sustainable choices.*

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

- *Our roles have been full, both morning and afternoons, for the duration of term 4. We have 6 children leaving for school at the end of term 4, and 7 beginning in term 1 2019. This term 10 children began at Mairtown and our waitlist still looks healthy with 48 children, up 11 children compared to this time last year.*
- *This term we have had two fundraisers; kindergarten photographs and calendar art work, both have been exceptionally well supported this year. Money raised as part of the calendar fundraiser (\$873) will go towards updating resources for our family corner, especially new prams and babies. Our photographs were taken by Renee, a past member of our Mairtown whānau and professional photographer, and due to Renee donating her skills and time, raised \$1002. This money has gone towards a new water trough for our outside play area. This brings the total cost of fundraising for term 4 2018 to \$1875.*

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 Māori visits. Environmental sustainability.

- *We have had valuable support from our Professional Practice Manager, Bronwyn Coulton and have had a great hui with Roimata. We have sought advice and services from the Ministry of Education, Special Education, Jan Dalley and Vallari Chavan, a speech language therapist for the Ministry of Education. All of this has had a positive impact for the children and their whānau and on the teaching and learning that has happened within our environment.*

Acknowledgements:

- *Special thanks have to go towards Kelly Kahukiwa and Renee Anderson (from Twig and Thistle photography). Renee gave us her valuable time and expertise as a photographer resulting in a very successful kindergarten fundraiser selling beautiful photographs. Kelly has also donated a great deal of his time sharing waiata and his expertise with us.*
- *We have also has some fantastic whānau support on our nature programme. This has meant that we can successfully continue to run this wonderful programme, that our children gain so much learning from.*
- *We are very thankful for all the support that we have received over the term and whole year from our kindergarten community. We feel honoured and humbled to have such a supportive community and love being a part of all the greatness that happens at Mairtown kindergarten. Our whānau have shown so much tremendous manaakitanga to one another which fosters a lovely sense of well-being, empathy and support for everyone.*

Please email this page to your Professional Practice Manager on the last day of term along with the full report

(It does not need to be presented to the community)

Kindergarten name:

Health and Safety	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Daily playground checks have been completed all term				
Termly playground checks have been completed				
Daily Hazard Checklists have been completed for this term and a copy of any new Hazard Record Sheets and Action Plan (Form E) have been forwarded to the Association and placed in the Kindergarten Hazard Register				
The Term Hazard Checks (Forms M and N) have been completed and a copy of any new Hazard Record Sheets and Action Plan (Form E) have been forwarded to the Association and placed in the Hazard Register for everyone to view				
The Earthquake Procedure has been carried out and has been noted on the correct form				
The Trial Evacuation Procedure have been carried out and the Trial Evacuation Report (Form Q) has been completed and emailed to the Association for this term				
Child and Adult Health and Safety				
There have been accidents/incidents reported to the Association this term				
The following forms and procedures have been completed as necessary:				
• Site Safety Induction Checklist (Form C)				
• Contractors Acknowledgement (Form I)				
• Volunteer Health and Safety Acknowledgement (Form H)				
• The Health and Safety Induction Register (Form B) has been updated				
Trial Fire Evacuation procedures have taken place				
Trial Earthquake drills have taken place				
1 st Aid Kit updated				
Personnel Management				
All pre appraisal meetings have taken place:				
Any Appraisals completed : please name and date:				
Any professional learning undertaken: (Please list and name attendee)				

Under earthquake procedures and trial evacuation procedures please put the date in the space provided.