

Casa Nova - February Newsletter

Kia orana, Mālō e lelei, Talofa, Hallo, ,שלום Namaste, Bula, Hola, Aloha, Assalamualaikum, Kamusta, Kia ora, Hello and welcome back and/or to Kindergarten for 2021.

What's been happening with our ako (learning) this term.....

We have welcomed Gillian to our Teaching Team and into the Casa Nova programme—we are having a lot of fun getting to know Gillian and love having her with us.

Nga Tamariki have had a busy start back to the term revisiting relationships and developing new ones, with only a few changes to our groups this has been a lot of fun. Te Ra has provided us with relatively warm weather and promoted lots of outdoor play—water slide days are a favourite of many. Being involved with so much water and provoked lots of learning around how we can use this in fun but sustainable ways—our gardens and lawn have been watered well over the past few weeks.

Our Ako Rōpu (Group Learning) Priority presently is tuakana teina. Kaiako have been working with small groups promoting experts in areas to lead, model and coach their peers to build upon their own skills within the mahi happening. For example Poema supported her friends to learn how to make Zucchini Cake for lunch kai (this was delicious); Indi and Eva have been coaching others how to use some of our challenge area; Luca and Logan have been supporting some of their buddies how to create big train tracks and play on this together and Zion has been modelling and encouraging his peers to learn to break dancing moves. Tuakana Teina is a Māori concept where a more expert peer supports and mentors those still developing their knowledge and skills in an area of learning. Throughout your child's time at Kindergarten their expertise in an area will be identified and Kaiako will provoke opportunities for them to lead and share this with their friends.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to our old Kindergarten friend Bluebell. This sad event has given us the opportunity to build nga tamariki understanding of death and support the building of resilience in times of sadness. Many of your children were very interested in this whole process and have been very involved in the grieving process for her. Kaiako have observed a wonderful sense of responsibility and love for Bluebell and her life here with us.



Kaiako have started exploring how they support tamariki and their whānau to build upon learning both at Kindergarten and at home—learning and teaching in partnership.....

This year our main review of our teaching is based on the above. We are aware that we have been able to support some tamariki and their families to build similar learning skills at home and at kindergarten successfully. We would like to build upon the ways we do this and ensure we are doing this for all of our learners. Research shows that working in partnership ensures greater success for the learner involved. Attached to this newsletter is a survey we would really appreciate your feedback on. This will support us to gather evidence and explore what we need to do to develop our practice. If you would like a digital copy please let a Kaiako know.

What's on top for our Health and Safety.....

- Covid 19—Alert Levels may change at anytime. The last week has been a timely reminder about safe covid practices. Sanitiser is positioned at the gate for adults to use on the way in. Please don't forget to sign in using the covid app as well as on the daily roll. If your child is sick please keep them at home no matter what level we are in. We ask that your child stays home until they are well.
- We have made changes to our food and drink procedure and practices to ensure we are meeting Ministry requirements. We have been having conversations with nga tamariki about why we are now doing 'kai' this way to support their understandings. Thank you all for the hard work you have been doing considering these changes to lunchboxes. Please feel free to ask any questions about these changes.
- Headlice are doing the rounds again. Please send your child with their own named sun hat—sharing hats puts them more at risk of getting this. If you see your child itching please check their hair. We are happy to give advice on treatment and prevention if you would like to know more. A child with live lice cannot be at Kindergarten—these must be removed and the hair treated before they return. Hot washing bedding and ironing this is also important after treatment as well as a follow up treatment 7 days after the first one. Though sometimes challenging getting all eggs out of hair is important.
- Our Session Times are 8.45am-2.45pm—It is a Ministry of Education Requirement that children are not here without a parent, family member or guardian outside of these times. Setting up for the day does take Kaiako some time and if we are left with children early then this interrupts our programme for the day, likewise we have tonnes of paperwork and meetings to complete in the afternoons and need all the time we get to do this.



Thanks from your Kaiako—Sarah, Sue, Kelly, Gillian and Jan

When your child began Kindergarten they received a waterproof reusable bag with their name written on it. Often your child does get wet and needs to get changed, please send this along so we have a bag to put these wet clothes in—this saves their backpacks from getting wet and dirty too.

Fundraising.....

Notes for a fundraising raffle attached. This year rather than having hampers full of chocolate we are aiming for a healthier hamper with a New World Voucher included as this will be more beneficial to families who win these