

MAHENO KINDERGARTEN TERM 1

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te whānau.

This term we have said ka kite anō to Chloe, Cru, and Maddie.
And we say kia ora and welcome to Creedence, Zenaya, Aaleahyah, Hugo and Kolton.

What's happening at kindergarten

Our BBQ fundraiser is just about wrapped up, and we thank everyone for their hard mahi in selling the tickets around the community. All monies raised from Fundraising this year will be put into equipment and resourcing in our new kindergarten space.

Talking of our new building, it is humming along at a great pace, and we are looking forward to knowing the date we will start operating. At this stage it is looking like early June.

Visitors a plenty this term. Constable Jay visited us to talk to the tamariki about car park safety.

Miss Miller from Kakanui School visited us with some pupils to do some music with us. We hope to make this a regular event.

And we continue to have our lovely story time readers visit us from Maheno School on Friday mornings.

Health and Safety

At times we come and get you to sign for injuries your tamariki may have had at kindergarten, this includes near misses which could have ended in an accident. These records help us to mitigate these to keep tamariki as safe as we can. We have an Emergency Management Plan which is available for you to read. It explains our procedures in the event of an emergency. Every month we complete emergency drills such as fire, earthquake and lockdown. If we must evacuate kindergarten due to an emergency our gathering place is the tennis courts next to Maheno school. In an earthquake we will stay here at kindergarten if it is deemed safe to do so. In a lockdown scenario we will be inside and will not be able to let tamariki leave until told so by the proper authorities i.e. Police.

Illnesses

As we come into the colder months here is a reminder of our procedures. If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting, they must be absent from kindergarten for 48hrs since the last episode. This is so we don't have an outbreak of illness and to keep your tamariki happy and healthy. Other contagious illnesses such as impetigo, whooping cough, chicken pox or conjunctivitis also have times of exclusion from kindergarten that kaiako will inform you of if your child becomes ill.

- And please continue to let us know if your child will be absent, so we are able to get someone else in for your child's space while they are away.

What's happening for kaiako

Our Internal Evaluation focus this year is on literacy learning within our programme. This is to keep us up to date on best practice from the Ministry of Education such as "Kōwhiri Whakapae Oral Language and Literacy". Oral language learning is vital from a learning perspective as learning occurs through interaction with others and the environment. Oral language is also a key predictor of literacy skill development.

We are also doing some professional learning about the Froebelian principles which the general kindergarten philosophy is based on. These principles are: *Unity and connectedness; Autonomous learners; The value of childhood in its own right; Relationships matter; Creativity and the power of symbols; The central importance of play; Engaging with nature; and Knowledgeable, nurturing educators.*

Enviroschools update

Exciting news! Euan and our senior kaiako Karen Hailes are going to Auckland on March 24th for EnviroSchool facilitator training. This is so that our other four kindergartens can join the EnviroSchools kaupapa. Go Euan!

Although our temporary space does not have grass or gardens we do still have our worm farm operating. So there is still diluted "worm wees" for sale. The benefits of having a worm farm are...

The vermicast (worm poo) and verjuice (worm wee) fertilises the soil that our vegetables grow in. We harvest the vegetables and give the peelings and waste to the worms. They munch and chew their way through the food scraps and turn it into vermicast and vermiliquid that we put right back into the soil to continue the cycle of growing food (and other plants).

We all know children have a fascination with creepy crawly creatures. Worms fit this image well. They are small wriggly creatures that live underground or in worm farms. They have five hearts and breath through their skin. They don't have eyes, but they know when they are in the light and tunnel to get away from it.

A worm farm teaches children how to care for living creatures

1. Because Tiger Worms only eat certain food waste, children learn how to sort their leftovers and food they don't eat. Having a poster near the bins will help them learn what worms can eat and what they can't.
2. They learn responsibility to ensure that the worms get fed.
3. They learn how to care for the environment by returning the by-products of the worm farm to the soil.
4. And they can be involved in every step of the process.

Bits and Bobs

Autumn has arrived and with it comes the unpredictable weather. Tamariki still need to have a sunhat until term 2. And as the weather gets colder, please remember to have a jacket for your tamaiti, a woolly hat and changes of warm clothes in their bags. Actually, jackets are useful at all times because it keeps raining....

Please keep toys at home unless they are for comforting your child as they settle into kindergarten. Small toys especially! And those with batteries, are a choking hazard.

Public holidays and kaiako professional days

This term we are closed for operation on March 23rd (Otago anniversary day), the 3rd and 6th April (Easter Monday and Friday) and we are closed on the 15th, 16th, 17th April for teacher only days.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen, Euan, Mel, and Skyla





