Pānui

OUR NEW MAHENO KINDERGARTEN - A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

As we celebrate our new Maheno Kindergarten, we would like to acknowledge the incredible team of contractors, subcontractors, consultants and community supporters who have helped bring this very special project to life.

Our sincere thanks to Breens Construction, and to every contractor, subcontractor and consultant who contributed their time, expertise and craftsmanship throughout the project. Your contribution has been about so much more than constructing a building.Together, you have helped create a welcoming and inspiring space where tamariki can learn, play, grow and belong for generations to come.

We would also like to extend a very special thank you to the following local businesses and organisations for their generous donations and support:

- Network Waitaki
- Whitestone Honey
- Port Blakely
- Craigs Poultry
- Road Metals

Your generosity has made a meaningful contribution to this project and demonstrates the wonderful community spirit that surrounds Maheno Kindergarten.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed. Whether through construction, professional expertise, materials, donations or support, you have all played a part in creating something that will have a lasting impact.

Ngā mihi nui – thank you for being part of the Maheno Kindergarten journey and helping us create this lasting legacy for our community.

With Special Thanks To:

- Breens Construction
- Laser Plumbing
- Peter Herron Flooring
- MCM Contracting
- Ranger Specialist Coating
- Oamaru Roofing
- Vantage Aluminium
- Greeves Scaffolding
- Placemakers
- Plunket Electrical
- Millenium Joinery
- Treekraft
- Forgie Hollows and Associates

Thank You to Our Generous Supporters.

FROBELIAN PRINCIPLES - NUMBER FIVE

Engaging with nature

Froebel believed that tamariki learn best when they have regular opportunities to connect with and explore the natural world. He saw nature as an important teacher, providing endless opportunities for wonder, discovery, creativity, and investigation. Through spending time outdoors, observing seasonal changes, caring for living things, and exploring the environment around them, tamariki develop an understanding of their place in the world and their responsibility towards it. In our kindergartens, we encourage tamariki to spend quality time in nature, to explore the garden, natural materials, insects, weather, and the changing seasons.

Through these experiences, tamariki develop curiosity, resilience, problem-solving and a sense of respect and care for the environment. Exploration | Mana Aotūroa and Belonging | Mana Whenua in Te Whāriki strongly reflect this Froebelian principle, as tamariki develop working theories about the world around them and build connections with people, places and Papatūānuku. You may observe this in tamariki digging in the garden, tending plants, collecting natural treasures, observing insects, getting muddy or excitedly telling someone about a discovery they have made.

Knowledgeable and nurturing educators

Froebel believed that tamariki do best when they are supported by caring and knowledgeable kaiako who understand how tamariki develop and who see each child as a capable and unique learner. He believed that the educator was to observe closely, listen, guide and encourage. He believed that educators should thoughtfully respond to tamariki interests and extend their learning through meaningful experiences. In our kindergartens, kaiako develop strong and trusting relationships with tamariki and whānau, and create environments that are safe, respectful and where tamariki feel confident to explore, take risks and learn with others. Tamariki grow their independence, curiosity, confidence and a positive sense of themselves as learners through responsive interactions, thoughtful conversations and intentional teaching from kaiako. This aligns closely with Te Whāriki, where learning is fostered through responsive and reciprocal relationships that empower tamariki to develop as confident and competent learners. You might see this in kaiako working with tamariki, celebrating success, supporting tamariki through challenges, noticing and responding to tamariki interests, and creating opportunities which foster deeper thinking, exploration and learning.

Through this newsletter series of exploring Froebelian principles, we can see just how relevant his ideas still are in our kindergartens today. As we have explored unity and connectedness, autonomous learners, valuing childhood in its own right, relationships, creativity, engaging with nature, and the role of knowledgeable and nurturing kaiako, we can see how closely these principles align with the aspirations of Te Whāriki. At the heart of them all is the belief that tamariki are capable, curious and creative learners who thrive when they feel a sense of belonging, have opportunities to play and explore, build meaningful relationships, and are supported by responsive adults. These principles can be seen throughout our everyday practice. They are reflected in the conversations we have, the environments we create, the relationships we nurture and the opportunities tamariki experience each day. Froebel's vision continues to guide our work as we support tamariki to grow as confident, competent learners who feel connected to themselves, others and the world around them. **He taonga te tamaiti - Every child is a treasure.**

ENVIROSCHOOLS ENDORSEMENT FOR ALL OKA KINDERGARTENS

We are excited that our partnership with The Enviroschools Foundation has now been endorsed and all of our five kindergartens are now Enviroschools.

Recently, Karen Hailes and Euan Scrivener (Enviroschools Facilitator), held our first hui with each of our kindergartens learning the kaupapa of Enviroschools of "creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through learning and taking action together".

The five guiding principles are Empowered Learners (where tamariki participate creatively honouring their perspectives); Te Ao Māori (insights, knowledge and ways of being related to the taiao); Sustainable Communities (tamariki act in ways that nurture all aspects of nature and people); Respect for Diversity (cultural traditions and practices are experienced, valued, and appreciated), and, Learning for Sustainability (a holistic, action and future-focused approach to learning). These are the core foundations of Enviroschools.

We are all now on this amazing journey and wait with anticipation how the tamariki will connect with and explore the environment, then plan, design and take action in their local places.

Ōamaru Kindergarten Association - Term Calendar 2027
Edna McCulloch, Glen Warren, Holmes & Maheno Kindergartens

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Ōamaru Kindergarten Association - Term Calendar 2027
Casa Nova Kindergarten

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Days Open | Open - Important Dates | Closed | Weekends (Closed) | Public Holidays (Closed) | Teacher Only Days (Closed)

Important Dates: OKA Annual General Meeting - Thursday 3rd June 2027, Annual Kindergarten Day - Thursday 10th June 2027

209-211 Thames Street, Ōamaru (03) 434 2422 www.oamarukindergarten.co.nz