Maheno Kindergarten Term 3 Newsletter

Kia ora e te whānau.

Welcome to all our new tamariki/whānau who have started since last term.

What's happening/happened at kindergarten

Lots and lots of exploring of our new play space! The tamariki are loving the grassed playground… but not so much at the moment with all the rain we have had.

Our sand pit area is up and running (after kaiako and a couple of parent helpers filled it with sand), and it has been a popular play space. A big thank you to JT for building it for us.

The carpentry shed (or the workshop as the tamariki have named it), is a lovely creative space for the tamariki and we will be kitting this out for our budding builders soon.

We celebrated "Book week" from the 17th to the 20th of August with our guest speakers: Constable Morriss, Mrs Macrae (principal of Maheno School), Chantal Barnes (Enviroschools facilitator), Skye (Chloe and Addisons Mum), and our G.M. Julie. On Thursday we had dress up day and some of the costumes were amazing!

In the near future there will be a garage sale for items which we did not need in our new space, we will let you know about this if you are interested.

Jasmine from the Ōamaru Penguin Colony visited us on the 27th August. She read a story about Percy the penguin, showed the tamariki some penguin eggs and feathers, then showed the tamariki how they make nesting boxes, and spoke about how they help our local little blue penguins.

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 your 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 and earthquake; our lockdown drills are done by kaiako only. If we must evacuate kindergarten due to an emergency our gathering place is over the road in the Maheno School grounds. 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 release tamariki to whānau until informed so by the proper authorities i.e. police.

Illnesses

There are a lot of illness going around at the moment so 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 within our kindergarten whānau and to keep your tamariki happy and healthy. Other contagious illnesses such as impetigo, whooping cough, chicken pox, conjunctivitis etc, have times of exclusion and kaiako will inform you of these if your child becomes unwell.

Another important thing for you to do is to let kaiako know if your child will be absent, so we are able to get someone else in for your child's space while they are absent.

What's happening for Kaiako

Our Internal Evaluation focus this year is on literacy learning within our programme. This keeps us up to date on best practice from the Ministry of Education such as the resource "Kōwhiti Whakapae Oral Language and Literacy", (which you may see us reference in your child's learning evaluations). 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.

Enviroschools update

We are starting to consolidate our Enviroschools kaupapa within our new learning environment. We have a tank attached to the roof of the sandpit for water from Rakanui (sky Atua), for the tamariki to use in the sandpit and for watering of plants.

We are excitedly waiting with anticipation for some grants to be awarded (fingers crossed), so we can have a tunnel house for the tamariki to learn about sustainability and caring for plants. We will then use our compost tumbler bin and worm farms to put nutrients into the gardens for hopefully some bumper crops!

All of our other kindergartens are now Enviroschools and as an Enviroschools facilitator Euan will be working across the association to bring them into the Enviroschools Kaupapa.

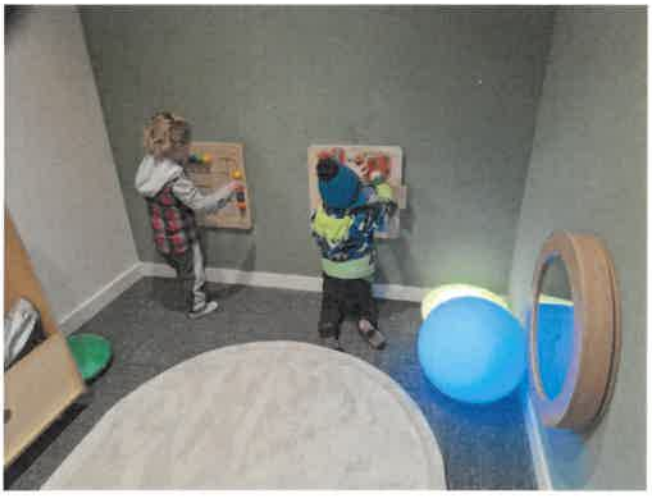
Miscellaneous

As the weather is so up and down at the moment, please have jackets available for your tamariki to use outside on those cold days.
As of next term your child will be required to wear a sunhat at all times when outside, please have one in your child's bag for them to use. We have some spare here but not a lot.

Please keep toys at home! Especially small swallowable ones!! (unless it is cuddly to settle your child into kindergarten).

Public holidays and kaiako professional times

Kaiako have a teacher only day on October the 5th.
And on the 26th October, Monday, we will be closed for Labour Day.
Last day of kindergarten for 2026 will be Tuesday 22nd of December and we reopen on Tuesday 12th January 2027.

Ngā mihi nui

The Maheno Teaching Team- Karen, Euan, Mel and Skyla