

Newsletter/Panui

April/ Paenga-whāwhā 2025

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to:

Alex Lavan, Frankie Bell, Jules Hopman, Marley Tau'alupe, Samara Lalish and their whānau.

Kaiako Roster

In recent months you may have noticed a few changes to who is here on a day to day basis. We know that for some tamariki it is important to know in advance who is onboard each day. Currently, Riana and Tenaya are here every day, Jim works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Maddy does not work Thursdays. Josh covers Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Kaiako who are present each day are written up daily on the whiteboard at the entrance.

Kaiako Leave

Tenaya on leave from 17 to 28 April

Tenaya will be on leave for the week after Easter. Maddy will be acting Senior Teacher over that week.

Riana on practicum during June

Riana will be attending the first of two teaching practicums this year, from June 2 through to June 27. During this time we will endeavour to cover her absence with kaiako that tamariki know and have developed a relationship with.

KEL Annual General Meeting - 30 April 2025

Our AGM for the year has been scheduled for Wednesday evening the 30th April at 7.30 pm at KEL. At the meeting we hope to have a new entrant teacher from a local school to talk with whānau about School Readiness for tamariki who are about to start school.

Annual reports will be presented, and a proposed budget for the 2025/2026 year. We will also elect the Governance Committee for the year ahead. KEL is an incorporated society governed by a committee of parents. The committee determines and develops the centre's strategic direction, reviews our policies and procedures on a regular basis, employs and supports our kaiako and generally keeps the centre on task.

We need parents to join our committee!

The committee meets once every six weeks. By becoming a committee member, you can play an important role in shaping the early learning experience of your tamariki and help ensure that decisions made by the committee are in the interests of all tamariki who attend KEL.

Please consider putting your name forward to join the committee. You don't have to be an expert in anything! We welcome the views of ALL KEL whānau. If you would like to know more about the role of the committee, please talk to Tenaya, or email Helen at: helenbaxternz@outlook.com

Fundraising for our outdoor area

This year the KEL committee has been doing some thinking about ways we can fundraise to help fund some cool projects for our awesome centre.

One of these projects is our outside play area. This has been a major focus for our committee over the last year and more. We began by removing the tree which dominated the area and created lots of work for our kaiako, sweeping up leaves and flowers and seeds – all year round. We replaced the space the tree took up with a bark chip area and then we replaced the fence. Thanks to Fred Double (KEL whānau) for building the Bark Chip Pit and to all those KEL whānau who helped to make these first stages happen – including the grant applications. Thanks also to the Wellington Community Trust and the TG Macarthy Trust for providing us with grants to cover some of the costs so far.

Now! we want to move to the next stage -revamping the rest of the area and replacing the safety matting. This will cost money!

A key goal of our fundraising approach is to look beyond the wallets of our KEL whānau. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions or wants to offer time to support our fundraising project, please get in touch with Tenaya or our Chairperson/Treasurer: Liam Houlahan: liamh@hey.com

Creating a fun, imaginative and safe outdoor environment is core to the heart of KEL.

Whānau/Kaiako Conversations - Week of 5 May

All whānau are invited to book a time for a catch-up with kaiako during the week beginning 5th May.

This is an opportunity for whānau to sit down and work alongside key kaiako to develop a plan of learning and outcomes for tamariki. We recommend that you take up the opportunity to share your thoughts, talk through any concerns and hear from kaiako about how things are progressing for your tamaiti.

KEL Working Bee - Saturday 10 May- 10am-1pm

We are holding a working bee on Saturday 10th May from 10am to 1pm. This will be an opportunity for a good clean-up of the centre. It would be great to see you there. It's fine if you can't make it for the whole day. Any time you can offer would be much appreciated. Many hands make light work! There will be a variety of tasks to do inside and out.

KEL whānau survey results

Thanks so much to all those who responded to our whānau survey. Your responses and suggestions are very important and useful to the governance committee and our kaiako and will help us in short term goals and the development of our long-term strategic plan.

Comments and suggestions are listed below along with responses from the committee and kaiako:

Information:

[More information about staff and their qualifications.](#)

We will direct whānau to the noticeboard in the foyer and invite questions.

[More information about which kaiako weekly roster.](#)

We will keep whānau updated re staff leave and changes to the roster.

[More clarity re fees and funding.](#)

We will bring attention to the information on fees in the pack we provide to new whānau and ask if they have any questions after giving them the opportunity to read it.

[Information re how kaiako respond to conflict between tamariki.](#)

We will direct whānau to our Social Competency Policy and Procedures and ask if they have any questions.

[Whānau workshop topic suggestions were:](#)

School Readiness, Play Schema, Toileting, Supporting children through big emotions, Purpose of Play, New sibling in the whānau.

[The committee:](#)

3 whānau members said yes, they were interested in joining the committee.

[Opening for longer hours:](#)

All whānau said yes, they would be interested in KEL being open for longer hours.

Parent Donations

We wish to thank those parents and whānau who have responded to our requests for donations. These are absolutely crucial to the centre's financial viability!

Receipts

Receipts can be provided at the end of the financial year to those who have made donations during the year, or at other times should you request it, e.g. if you are leaving the centre.

Please let us know if you would like a receipt.

Tax rebates for donations

Because the centre is a charitable organisation, you can claim a tax rebate for donations you make. This means you can claim back a third of the amount you donate. Go to:

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/non-profit/np-donations/donee/np-donee-claiming-tax-credits.html> for details.

Teacher Only Day

Monday 23 June

KEL will be **closed** for our Teacher Only Day on the **Monday 23rd June**. On this day kaiako will be focusing on:

Strengthening their knowledge of Te Ao Māori in particular 'Kaitiakitanga'. This will be the foundation for their next Centre Inquiry - what does this look like for them as teachers and learners. There will also be time spent on the day on making resources, recycle, upcycle and reuse – linking back to kaitiakitanga.

IMPORTANT! Reminders:

Illnesses

If your tamaiti is not well, please keep them at home to prevent the spread of illness and infection at the centre.

Advise us of absences and illnesses

Please let us know if your tamaiti is going to be absent. We also want to know if your tamaiti is sick. Please let us know their symptoms so that we can protect everyone at KEL.

Text or email is our preferred method of communication for absences.

Nappies and wipes

Please remember to check your supply.

Naming items

Things are easily lost at KEL over the course of a busy day. Best practice is to name everything and keep precious toys at home.

Wet bags

Thank you to those who have provided wet bags for your tamariki, as we no longer have a supply of plastic bags these are a real help for messy/wet clothing.

Emergency kit snack boxes

We are wanting each whānau to provide us with a 2-litre ice cream container with snacks you know your tamaiti will eat, and medication such as inhalers for them. These must have a Drs label on it which shows expiry date and dosage. These will need to be turned over every 6 months.

Signing in and out

Remember to sign in and out when you are dropping off and picking up. For safety reasons we need to know who is on the premises at all times during the day.

Confirmation of enrolment forms

Occasionally we ask whānau to confirm that they want their tamaiti to continue to attend KEL for their booked hours. This is because if tamaiti have been absent for a period or show irregular attendance, the Ministry of Education requires that we ask whānau to sign a form to confirm their booked days/hours.

Thank you! to those whānau for supporting the Centre to comply with this MoE requirement.

NO NUTS!!!

Please remember **NO NUTS** of any type at KEL.

Casual days

If you would like to book your tamaiti in for a one-off extra day, please check in with Tenaya and she will do her very best to oblige.

KEL Tamariki & Kaiako 2025

Recently we had Laura Ridley Photography come to KEL to take photos of our tamariki and kaiako.



KILBIRNIE EARLY LEARNERS
2025



Back: Morley Tau'alupe, Riana Ngaia (Kaiako), Tenaya Tilly (Snr Kaiako), Maddy Heywood (Kaiako), Frankie Craig, Jules Hopman, Josh Mann (Kaiako)
Middle: Jim Bailey (Kaiako), Mia Restrepo, Sophia Restrepo, Valerina Jegusch, Kynani Kaopa, Niles Sudholme-McQuade, Mira Broadbury, Margot Ninogue, Ilev Haulahan
Front: Alex Lavan, Amber Kaur, Frankie Bell, Mabel Fullerton-Smith, Ray Hopman, India Roberston-Nichols, Dulcie Delany, Zoe Reeves, Skye Spencer-Phillips, Lucy Double

Absent: Kehlani Korpua
Manager: Helen Baxter

Learning, sharing and growing at KEL

Some of you may have already seen our large books "Learning, sharing and growing at KEL". These pukapuka are filled with snapshots of tamariki discovering the joy of working and learning with and alongside hoa, and holidays and snapshots of special moments. Our 2024 book continues to be a great source of re-discovery and our 2025 book has quickly ignited the interest of tamariki. We often hear "I was there" "there's me". We are able to use these pukapuka with tamariki to strengthen their relationships with people, places and things. Each time we look at and read these pukapuka, memories are unlocked, discoveries are made and it quite often leads to revisiting the learning. They are a great way to korero with your tamaiti about their learning here at KEL and they offer great opportunities to see your tamaiti in ways that often isn't recorded in their learning stories.

Thanks KEL Whānau !

and all the best for the holiday weekend!

Our kaiako, would like to thank everyone for making the KEL community one that is filled with aroha, whakaute and whakahoā. We may be small but we have big hearts!

Important dates coming up

Easter Weekend: 18 to 21 April. **KEL CLOSED**

ANZAC Day: 25 April. **KEL CLOSED**

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 30 April, 7.30 pm

Whānau/Kaiako Conversations: Week beginning 5 May

Working Bee: Saturday 10 May

Matariki Holiday: Friday 20 June. **KEL CLOSED**

Teacher Only Day: Monday 23 June. **KEL CLOSED**

Kia Kaha from

*Tenaya, Jim, Riana, Maddy, Josh, Helen, Kathleen and
Committee: Liam, Drew, Alice, David, Prue, Natalie & Emma
Kilbirnie Early Learners*

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Our website – www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz

Thanks! Bunnings for our Garden

We were very fortunate recently to have Bunnings provide us with wonderful vege and flower seedlings – and top soil for our front garden. They even came to help whānau and tamariki tidy up the garden and plant the seedlings.

Thanks especially to Prue Fullerton-Smith (parent /GC member) who initiated this project.

