
Newsletter/Panui

February/Hui-tanguru 2021

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to: Noel Nigussie. *Haere ra, farewell to:* Zoe Seve and Sunny Elsmore who finished at the end of 2020 and also to Cohen Katz and Lincoln Williams who are off to school this month

KEL Working Bee

Saturday 27th February 10 am - midday

We are holding a working bee on Saturday 27th February. This will be an opportunity for a good clean-up of the Centre. It would be great to see you there, even if you can't make it for the full two hours. Many hands make light work! There will be a variety of tasks to do inside and out.

Minimising food related choking in ECE centres

At the end of last year the Ministry of Education announced that it has made some amendments to the Licensing Criteria for early childhood centres. As from the end of January this year tamariki in centres must be seated while they eat and we must have one person on duty at all times who holds a current First Aid certificate.

KEL practice is already to ensure tamariki are seated while eating and we already ensure that there is at least one person on duty at all times, who has a current First Aid certificate.

But from now on in services like ours, where food is provided by whānau, the centre must promote best practices as set out in Ministry of Health: *'Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services'* and we must provide a copy of these guidelines to all whānau at the time of enrolment.

We are also currently in the process of reviewing our Food, Drink and Nutrition Policy to ensure it reflects current practice and that it meets the revised Licensing Criteria.

Policies currently under review

All our policies are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect current practice and legal requirements. We are currently reviewing the following policies:

- Food, Drink and Nutrition Policy
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Bi-cultural Policy

These policies will be posted on the noticeboard with any proposed amendments. Whānau members are welcome to comment or suggest other changes.

Other ways you can support KEL

If you can't make it to the working bee on the day, there are lots of other ways you could support the Centre.

- Taking the washing home
- Tidying up and maintaining our garden
- Mending equipment and resources
- Painting our entrance area
- Building maintenance
- Applying for grants
- Join our Committee

Just let our kaiako know.

Whānau Survey 2021

Once every two years KEL carries out a general survey of all whānau at the Centre. This is an important opportunity for you to have your say about how well you think the Centre is doing in meeting the needs of you and your tamariki.

The information gathered helps us to identify any concerns and ideas for improvement. The results also contribute to our strategic and annual planning. Your comments are therefore, very important.

The survey will be sent out via email next week. You are welcome to respond by email but there will be hard copies available at the Centre if you would rather respond in this way. We will place a box by the sign-in table for you to post your responses in.

The results will be collated and a summary provided to all whānau.

Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March at 7pm

The Committee meets once every six weeks, and members contribute as they are able, beyond that.

By becoming a committee member, you can play an important part in shaping your child's early learning experience and help ensure that decisions made by the Committee are in the interests of all tamariki who attend KEL.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the Committee's role is and/or joining the Committee, please contact one of our current Committee members. Chairperson: Kate Dean or Treasurer: Rachel Olson or talk to Jannie.

It's summer!

Hats: Sunhats are required for outdoor play in Term 1. Please supply your tamariki with a named sunhat to wear at Centre. You are welcome to leave a hat in the hat basket at KEL.

Sunscreen: Please apply sunblock to your tamariki before you leave them each morning. We have sunblock at the Centre and we can re-apply as necessary during the day. We need your consent however to use the Centre sunblock. If you have not already done so, please sign or decline the consent form. If your tamariki has a known allergy or sensitivity to certain sunblock brands, you will need to let us know. You can supply your own sunblock to use for your tamariki and leave it at the Centre.

Spare Clothing: Can you please make sure you have spare clothes in your tamariki bag for those messy play/ water activities.

Housekeeping and reminders:

Update your contact details

If you have had any changes to your contact details please let us know, including **Emergency Contact People's details**.

Naming your child's lunchbox

Please remember to name your child's lunch box, drink bottle and/or milk bottle. We have many that look alike.

N.B. There are vivids in the kitchen for whānau to name when they drop off.

Advise us of absences and illnesses

Please let kaiako know if your child will **not** be attending on a day they are booked to attend and let us know if they have a diagnosed illness.

Spare clothes donations

We are always grateful for donations of spare clothes for tamariki at KEL, especially trousers and underpants.

KEL Facebook Page

Keep up to date with KEL news!

If you haven't already, please visit our Facebook page and 'like' us. This is also a good way to keep up with KEL news and we appreciate your support and interaction with our page. Please don't hesitate to write a review on there as an additional way to help us promote our services.

Casual sessions

If you would like to book your tamariki in for extra days, please let Jannie know and she will do her very best to oblige. The cost for casual days is \$30 a day or \$10 if you are funded for 20 Hours ECE.

No nuts !

KEL is a nut free zone! We often have tamariki at the Centre with nut allergies. To protect them from inadvertently coming in contact with nuts in any form, we ask that all whānau **do not** include **nuts of any kind** in children's lunch boxes. This includes peanut butter and other spreads with nuts in them. You will also need to check muesli bars for nut content. We appreciate your support with this. **It's just not worth the risk!**

Waitangi Day Public Holiday closure !

This year the Waitangi Day holiday will be observed on Monday the 8th of February. KEL will be closed on that day.

Our Committee Members

Kia Ora KEL whānau!

I enrolled my son, Bodhi early last year and joined the committee a few months ago. I am enjoying being a part of this cool community and love being involved in the decision making and development of the Centre. We'd love to have a few more committee members!

Ngā mihi

Kate Dean katedean1980@gmail.com



Kia Ora Parents and Whānau,

I joined the Kilbirnie Early Learners Parent Committee in 2018 to become more involved in my children's education. It has been a wonderful experience for me learning about what goes on 'behind the scenes' and how we as parents can support not only the teachers and children at KEL, but the wider community as well. The committee is very welcoming to new members and any level of commitment made by parents is greatly appreciated and valued.

Ngā mihi,

Rachel Olson olson_rach@hotmail.com



Kia Kaha
from Jannie, Nikki, Jess, Elise
Helen, Kathleen & the Committee
Kilbirnie Early Learners
Phone: 04 387 9488

Email: kilbirnieearlylearners@xtra.co.nz

Manager - Helen Baxter: Tel: 02102379068 helenbaxternz@outlook.com

Our website – www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz