

Newsletter/Panui

Hōngongoi/July 2020

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to the following families: Emily Blackburn, Leo To'o, Yuana Jagat, Sunny Elsmore, Bodhi Dean, Maggie Satherley. ***Haere ra, farewell to:*** Tilly Lennox-Nehemia and Sebastian Jongerius

Teachers' Stop Work Meetings and National Day of Action – 24 July

This week you may hear through the media, that early childhood teachers will be attending stop work meetings around the country on Friday the 24th of July between 7.30 and 9.30 am, and that there will be various other events held to mark a National Day of Action for early childhood teachers. At the meetings teachers who are NZEI – Te Riu Roa (union) members will be considering an offer made recently by employers through their collective agreement negotiations.

Current government funding levels mean that qualified teachers in early childhood services earn up to 49% less than teachers in kindergartens and schools with the same qualifications. The offer made by employers that will be discussed by teachers, was insufficient to bridge this gap. Employers have pledged however, to return with an improved offer if more funding becomes available before or soon after the Election. In the meantime, teachers will discuss how to move political decision-makers to support and fund further progress towards full pay parity with other qualified teachers in kindergartens and schools.

KEL committee members agree that our teachers deserve pay parity with other teachers, but that this will only be possible with additional funding from government.

Our teaching team has agreed that only one teacher will attend the union meeting in our area and that therefore the centre will not close for the morning on Friday.

How can you support the Pay Parity Campaign?

If you wish to support the campaign for pay parity for our teachers, you could write an email and/or letter to the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins at: c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz simply saying that you support the current campaign for pay parity for early childhood teachers, but that KEL cannot progress this any further without further funding from Government.

Matariki 2020

KEL will hold its Matariki Celebration this year on Friday the 24th of July at the centre from 4.30 onwards. All KEL whānau are welcome.



Surviving lockdown

Well it certainly has been an extraordinary year so far. Two months ago, we were very unsure of what lay ahead of us all and were still when we would be reopening. It is great to see everyone enjoying being back at KEL.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding over this time. Thanks also, to our fantastic teachers who have carefully managed the process of a safe reopening of the centre. We hope everyone's friends and whānau around the world are doing well.

Important dates to remember

Matariki Celebration – 4.30 pm, Friday 24 July

Next Committee Meeting – 9.15 am, Tuesday 18 August

KEL Governance

Our KEL governance committee and staff work together to determine and develop the centre's strategic direction, support our teaching team and keep everyone on track. We aspire to provide high quality education for all tamariki within an inclusive and sustainable learning community. It is important to have a diversity of knowledge, interests and life experiences on the committee. We welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a committee member or would like more information, to please email Helen at: helenbaxternz@outlook.com or have a chat to Jannie at the centre.

Next Committee Meeting:

The governance committee meets once every six weeks. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 18th August at 9.15 am** at KEL.

Ministry of Education Contract

Over the last year the centre has been working with a Ministry of Education contractor, Lynn Rupe, who has been helping us to make improvements to Internal Evaluation, Staff Appraisal and Annual Planning processes. Lynn's expertise has been valuable to the team and we are confident that we are on track as regards Ministry requirements and expectations. The contract ends at the end of July.

KEL Fees and Donations

You may have noticed that your invoice this month looked a little different from usual. Previously, monthly invoices to parents combined fees owing, the fundraising levy and the suggested donation amount, into one figure. Invoices now separate the components out.

Please remember for families attesting *20 Hours ECE* to the centre, no fees are charged unless your child attends for more than 20 hours per week. However, the Ministry of Education funding is not sufficient to cover all the centre's our running costs. We do therefore, ask families for a donation of \$2.70 per attested hour to assist the centre to cover its operating costs and to enable us to continue to provide a high quality learning environment for tamariki and employ qualified teachers.

Fundraising Levy

KEL does not ask parents to participate in fundraising events. Instead, we charge each family a fundraising levy of \$3.00 per day. All families are required to pay this levy.

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 money you pay. Go to:

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

Staffing update

Farewell and good wishes to Rumi and tena koe Sameera

Prior to lockdown Samra Naveed and Rumi Ghosh were our regular relievers. Over lockdown however Rumi had a baby and is no longer available for relieving. Since we reopened, we have employed Samra for three regular days a week – and we now have Sameera Waqas as our casual reliever.

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 parents to name when they drop off.

Donation of a box of tissues is always appreciated.

Advise us of absences and illnesses

Please let teachers 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.

How can you help?

We are always grateful for donations of plastic bags, spare clothes for children, especially trousers and underpants.

Washing

We appreciate help with the centre's weekly washing. There is a roster by the sign in folder.

Spare Clothing

Can you please make sure you have spare clothes in your child's bag for those messy play/ water activities.

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 child 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*.

Kia Kaha

from Jannie, Nikki, Jess,
Helen, Kathleen & the Committee
Kilbirnie Early Learners

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Our website – www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz