

## Newsletter/Panui

### May/Haratua 2022

*Nau mai, haere mai* to: Brooke Cooper, Wolfgang Uivel, and  
*Haere ra, farewell* to: Taika Aukino-Cooper, Emily Blackburn and Eva Chrysoulis.

### Matariki Celebration

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 4.30 to 6 pm**

**Come and join us to celebrate the Māori New Year !**

KEL will be welcoming the appearance in the night sky, of the nine stars of Matariki this year on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

Matariki will have a special performance for you all. We will then share a special kai. Please bring a plate of kai to share (no nuts please). All KEL whānau are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.



### We are trialling Storypark

Recently kaiako and the committee agreed to trial Storypark at the Centre. Storypark is an online tool that assists kaiako and whānau to work together to extend children's interests and abilities and support their learning journey.

Through Storypark, kaiako can record learning and communicate privately with whānau and develop stronger partnerships with whānau.

Drop off and pick up time at KEL is often rushed and busy. Storypark provides whānau with another way to discuss their child's learning with kaiako, in their own time. It also means that learning stories and photos can be easily shared with other members of each child's whānau. It can also be used by the Centre to share notices, reminders, policies etc.

Over the next couple of weeks you will receive an email from kaiako inviting to register. You can choose to accept or not.

The trial is free and is for 3 months. If kaiako and whānau agree that it is useful at the end of the trial period, we will continue with it. The annual cost to the Centre will be approximately \$300. There is no added cost for whānau.

**N.B. Using Storypark is not compulsory. It will not replace profile books. Kaiako will continue to record learning stories in your child's book.**

You can find out more about it here: <https://nz.storypark.com/>

### Important dates and events coming up

**Queens Birthday Holiday:** KEL closed: 6 June

**Committee Meeting:** 15 June

**Matariki Celebration** – 4.30 pm, Friday, 17 June

**Matariki Holiday** – KEL closed: Friday, 24 June

### Emma appointed to permanent kaiako position

In March Jess Cooper left the Centre to take up a Head Teacher position at Wellington South Kindergarten. We advertised the vacancy and after following the Centre's appointment procedure, the committee agreed to appoint Emma Chrysoulis who has been relieving at the Centre for the last year.

Emma graduated as a qualified early childhood teacher in 2009 and has worked mainly in community-based centres so she fits well in KEL environment and with our values and philosophy. She is looking forward to settling in as a permanent member of the team.

Emma's regular days of work are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. She also sometimes fills in when needed on the other two days each week.



## Our Governance Committee

### Our Committee Members are:

**Chairperson:** Bronwen Chesterfield

**Treasurer:** Zara Calcott

**Secretary:** Kate Dean

**General Committee:** Rachel Olson and Meredith Sims.

And all our kaiako are also members of the committee.

### Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday 15 June

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> of June of June at 7.00 pm.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the committee's role is and/or joining the committee, please contact our Chairperson, Bronwen Broadbent at: [the\\_bronster@hotmail.com](mailto:the_bronster@hotmail.com) or talk to Jannie at the Centre.

**If you wasn't to join the committee but are not always able to attend meetings at the Centre, you can always join us by Zoom.**

### Policies currently under review

All our policies are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect current practice and legal requirements. Policies currently under review are:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi policy
- Child protection policy
- Alcohol and other drugs and substances policy
- Emergencies policy and procedures

Policies under review are posted on the noticeboard with any proposed amendments. Whānau members are welcome to comment or suggest changes – on these copies or by email.

## Budget 2022

### What does it mean for KEL?

In the Budget announcement this month, the government announced that it would be providing funding to allow centres to implement the next step toward pay parity for early childhood teachers as from January 2023. This will mean that KEL will be funded to pay our kaiako who sit on Step 1 to Step 6 on the pay scale, the same rates as their kindergarten teacher colleagues. It does not however, ensure full pay parity for our most experienced teachers or for our Senior Teacher. That is, we are not there yet.

## Current Kaiako Internal Evaluation

Our current kaiako inquiry questions is:

**'How do we support tamariki and whānau during their transition out of KEL'**

Some questions for whānau to respond to may appear on our noticeboards over the next few weeks. Your responses and contributions will be much appreciated.

As part of this inquiry we will be looking at strengthening our relationships with new entrant teachers and the processes for tamariki starting school at local schools. We are hoping to invite a local new entrant teacher to visit the Centre to meet with kaiako and parents.

## Reminder!

**Please don't forget to sign the attendance register when you arrive and when you pick up**

**This is really important.** In the case of an emergency situation kaiako need to know which tamariki are in the building at any one time in the day.

## RAT kits available at Centre

The Ministry of Education has provided us with a supply of RAT kits for our staff and whānau. Please do just ask if you would like to take some home for your family's use.

## Pick up time

It has been great to see that more whānau picking up tamariki on time recently. Thank you all for this. It means our kaiako can leave on time also. Please do remember that afternoon pick-up time is 2.30 pm. This means you need to arrive **BEFORE** 2.30 so you can be out the door by 2.30.

## Housekeeping and reminders:

**Advise us of absences and illnesses:** Please let kaiako know if your tamariki will **not** be attending on a day they are booked to attend and let us know if they have a diagnosed illness.

**Hats and warm jackets:** Please remember to bring a waterproof jacket and a warm hat for your tamariki, so they can spend time outdoors during the winter months.

**Washing:** We appreciate help with the Centre's weekly washing. There is a roster by the sign in folder.

**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.**

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

**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 \$6.30 per hour for any unattested hours.

**Parent Donations:** We wish to thank those parents who respond to our requests for donations. These are absolutely crucial to the Centre's financial viability!

**Donation of a box of tissues** is always appreciated.

*Kia Kaha*

*from Jannie, Nikki, Elise, Emma  
Helen, Kathleen & the Committee*

**Kilbirnie Early Learners**

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Our website – [www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz](http://www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz)

# From our kaiako .....

## What learning has been happening at KEL?

We have been setting up obstacle courses and other physical activities for those who are wanting a challenge. There has been lots of creative work going on at the collage table with using our junk resources and some interesting painting. The sand area has been popular too, with tamariki using water with the sand - lots of messy play! We have been noticing lots of friendships develop between tamariki lately.

We would like to thank all our whānau for their cooperation and tolerance over the last few weeks regarding closure days and early closing times on some days. We do our absolute best to remain open but isolation requirements and also the shortage of relievers throughout the whole sector at the moment makes it very difficult. This is continuing to be a problem and there may be days where we just cannot meet legal requirements and cannot open.

