

Parent Newsletter/Panui

March /Maehe 2019

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to: Amir Al-ahmad, Lilly May Edwards-Coker, Dutchie Henry, Cleo Hoskins, Te Huatahi Honiana Kameta Rangitawa-Ih, Teresa O'Donovan, Maddox Pakau, Teddy Satherley, Chelsea Slobbe, Cody Walmsley, Mabel Wells, Corin Wyeth and their families/whānau.

KEL Whānau Shared Meal

Friday 5th April, 4.30 – 6.00 pm

We are having a family social evening. Please come along and join us in our little get together. Bring your own takeaways and something to drink. This is great opportunity to get to know teachers, and other parents and children within our little centre community. **Bring the whole whānau!** It would be great to see you all there, even if just for a short time.

Welcome to our new teacher:

Geoffrey Richards

Earlier this month we appointed Geoffrey Richards to join our teaching team. Geof will replace Anne-Marie who left in early March. Geof will start at KEL on the 5th of April. The team is looking forward to it.

We asked Geof to provide us with a little information about himself to share with our families before he starts.

Please see his letter page 2



Update your child's immunisation record!

With the current outbreak of measles in other parts of the country we need to be prepared for the possible spread to Wellington. Should this occur, the centre will need to be able to protect those who are not currently fully immunised. Please make sure our teachers have the correct information about your child's immunisation status. That is, is it the same as when you enrolled your child or has it changed.

If you have a child under the age of 15 months they are unlikely to be protected from measles. If your child has had their first MMR vaccination but not their second, you should speak with your doctor for advice.

A flyer from Regional Public Health is attached with this

newsletter. For further information you can go to:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles/measles-advice-2019>

Parent Survey 2018 outcome

Our biennial survey results have been collated. You will find them attached to this newsletter.

Thank you to those who responded. The survey provides the committee with important feedback on our practices and the centres operations. It is also an opportunity for parents to raise any concerns they may have and to put forward ideas for improvements that could be made.

The results of this survey are being discussed by the committee and staff and will be considered as we develop our annual plans for 2019 and 2020.

We received lots of great feedback, and some useful suggestions for improvements that could be made.

For example:

Suggestion kete

While we will continue with biennial or annual surveys, some parents (and the teachers) liked the idea of a box or basket where parents could post their comments and suggestions – at any time. This would mean that issues/comments could be responded to more promptly.

More information for parents in the lead up to children starting school

A number of suggestions were made as to the kind of information we could provide that would be helpful to parents when children are starting school. We will be considering these suggestions over the next few months.

Valuing and supporting each child's language, culture and identity

It was suggested that children are given opportunities to learn more about each other's cultures.

N.B. You are always welcome to provide feedback by email, by phone or by face-to-face discussions with teachers. If you would like to speak in private with a teacher – make a time that suits you both.

KEL Emergency Procedures

KEL has comprehensive policies and procedures for coping in the case of a fire, earthquake or tsunami. As a result of the events in Christchurch on the 15th of March however, we are in the process of revisiting our policy and procedures in regard to responding to an external violent threat. The revised policy will be emailed out to parents and posted on our notice board for comment.

ERO Review

KEL was reviewed by ERO in January this year. We have now received the final report. This will be emailed out to all families/whānau in a separate email.

We need parents to join our Committee

If you are interested in finding out a bit more about what is involved in being a committee member, please come along to this next committee meeting.

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 the children who attend our centre.

Next Committee Meeting Friday, 12th April, at 9.30 am

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday the 29th of March at 9.30 am in the centre office.

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 and drink bottle.

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

If you haven't already, please visit our Facebook page and like us. 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.

Letter from Geof

Kia ora koutou!

My name is Geof, and I am a fully registered and qualified ECE teacher who has been given a fantastic opportunity to teach alongside the kaiako at Kilbirnie Early Learners, in helping all the tamariki, whānau, and kaiako to create wonderful learning journeys.

Throughout my teaching, I have brought my own interests through - of Art, Science, Physics, Music. And found new and innovative ways of passing on this knowledge. I also have a young daughter whom I was lucky enough to spend a year with her at Playcentre as she was growing up, and so from there onwards my own journey began as an early childhood teacher.

At the core of my teaching methods is being an empathetic, enthusiastic, motivational, and supportive teacher. To nurture the desires and interests of the child, and support those around me to feel connected as one - together. Thus being a creative person I use my skills and experience to play the guitar for all ages and stages, and create exciting and interesting dramatic play and construction ideas for tamariki. My teaching intentions are to extend this set of knowledge and skills to children, to enable them to explore and understand their world through expression, communication, well-being, and into their own self-awareness and identity.

My personal philosophy on teaching children, is one of respect for the child and their culture. To listen and engage thoughtfully, to be responsive to their learning needs whilst supporting them to become independent learners with a sense of empowerment, self-awareness and achievement.

It is also my desire to guide children through their own learning journey to understand their emotions, learn how to communicate with confidence, to enable them to feel secure with themselves and within their own social interactions. I believe in supporting an awareness of te Tiriti o Waitangi for tamariki, to allow them to experience the regular use of Māori tikanga and te reo Māori and tikanga Māori in their everyday learning so that they may reach their fullest potential in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

So with great enthusiasm I am looking forward to meeting all of you - tamariki, whānau, and kaiako all here at KEL, and enjoying valuable and memorable experiences to come.

Ka kite ano!

See you again soon!

Geof.

Ako Teaching and Learning

There has been a lot of interest from the children on insects lately. This started from Archer bringing in a big bug from home. Jess has extended this interest through lots of different resources; books, magnifying glasses, having different questions each day relating to insects and having group conversations with tamariki.

We purchased magnifying containers for observing the different insects that have been brought to KEL.

Parents, have a look on the Centre wall for stories relating to this learning.

The teachers have reintroduced mat times and these are going well.



Ngā kupu hou - new words

The teaching team is working together to strengthen knowledge of te reo Māori at the centre. Each month or so teachers focus on a new set of phrases with our tamariki. Parents/whānau can help children learn by becoming familiar with these phrases themselves and using them at home with children. Attached with this newsletter are the new words and phrases teachers and children have been learning lately. If you would like to use any of these in your home kei te pai. This will help strengthen these phrases for your children. If you use any other phrases or sayings in your home regularly, please feel free to share them with us.

Summer is still here !



Please supply your child with a sunhat that they will wear and to apply sunscreen before you leave your child each morning. If you have not, please let the teachers know. We have sunscreen at the centre and teachers will re-apply as necessary during the day. You need to let the teachers know however, if your child has a known allergy to certain sunscreen brands.

And don't forget to pack spare clothes in case your child gets wet when involved in water play!



Important dates to remember?

Whānau Shared Meal: **Friday 5th April, 4.30 to 6.00 pm**

Next Committee meeting: **Friday, 12th April, 9.30 am**

Easter: **Friday 19 & Monday 22 April - KEL closed**

Anzac Day: **Thursday 25 April - KEL closed**

Kia Kaha

from Jannie, Nikki, Jess,
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