
Parent Newsletter/Panui

July/Hūrae 2017

Talofa lava, Kia Ora, Hello & Bonjour...and welcome to our new families/whānau

We're having a party!

Friday 28th July – 4.30 pm

The Centre's new name is now officially registered. Our new signs are up. And we're having a party to celebrate! There will be music and dancing and food.



Come along, join the fun and go into the draw to win a voucher for an 8 inch celebration cake made by Committee Chairperson, Julia who runs "Mumcakes". (Terms and conditions apply).

Please bring some food to share, and something to drink if you would like. Bring the whole family.

Thanks to the Wellington Children's Foundation!

Last month we received a grant of \$685 from the Wellington Children's Foundation to purchase an array of puzzles from Koru Korua Tae <http://www.korukoruatae.com/> who make puzzles that support our focus on extending children's knowledge of te reo and tikanga Māori.

The grant has also allowed us to add to the selection of musical instruments available to the children.



Felicity joins the team

The change to longer opening hours this year brought with it a need for a 4th part-time teacher. In April we appointed Felicity Giltrap to this new position. Felicity works 10.45 to 1.30 each day. She also covers for teachers on leave on some days. Felicity has been our regular reliever for some time. We are very pleased to have her join the team on a permanent basis.



Committee news

KEL is an incorporated society. This means that in order to operate, it needs an elected committee of members (parents) to govern the running of the Centre.

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 the children who attend our Centre.

The committee meets once every six weeks, and members contribute as they are able, beyond that. Committee members for the year ahead are elected at our AGM each year or co-opted as required. Currently we are low on numbers at committee meetings and would love to have some more parents involved.

Next Committee Meeting

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the **8th August**, at 7.00 pm.

Our current committee members are:

Chairperson:	Julia King
Treasurer:	Jo Marshall
Secretary:	Julie Reeves
General committee:	Noanoa Von Bassewitz
Senior Teacher	Jannie Nehemia
Manager	Helen Baxter
Financial Administrator	Kathleen Reece

If you are interested in finding out more about what's involved in being a committee member please talk to the teachers, or call Julia at: 04 388 2191 or 021 232 4417 or

Email at: Julia.mulhollandking@gmail.com

Or just turn up at our next meeting. You are very welcome!

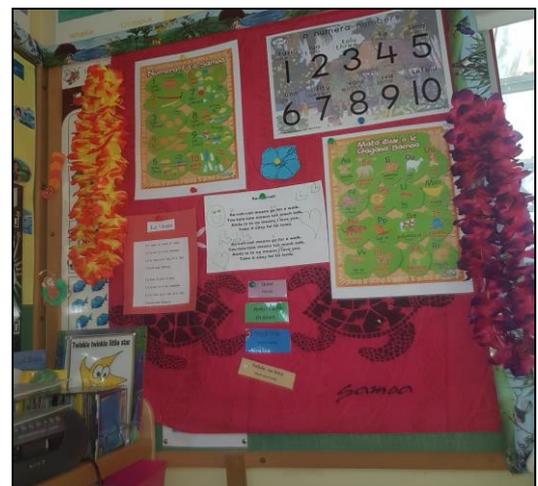
A big thank you to Watermark Signs!

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of Danny McGoverin from *Watermark Signs*. Danny has been working with the committee to produce our wonderful new Centre signs and sandwich board. We are very grateful to him for his donation to the Centre.

Ako Teaching & Learning

The children were involved in Samoan Language Week during June. There were lots of different activities offered:- making traditional Samoan food (panekeke) and coconut biscuits, activities using a coconut that weaved in with the Legend of Sina and the Eel, painting and craft activities, music and songs. This was a wonderfully successful week.

In June the children were also involved in a focus area on physical activities.



Profile books

Input into our programme from our families is always welcome. Each child has their own "profile book" at the Centre. You are most welcome to read your child's book at any time, and to take it home to show others. Your comments and feedback are important.

Centre Parking !

Please remember! when dropping off or picking up your child at the Centre do not use the "Disability" car parks (unless you have a Disability Card), and do not use the three Community Centre staff car parks in the far north/west corner.

And please note! the Centre car parks are for **short term parking only**. If there are no available parks in the area next to the Centre, or you want to stay longer, you will need to use the outer car park or the street. (The outer car park is only available to the public after 12 noon. If you use it prior to this you are at risk of being towed).

"Every Child is Worth it"

NZEI Campaign for restoration of funding to the ECE sector

In the lead up to the General Election this year, the NZEI is running a campaign calling for restoration of previous funding levels to the early childhood education sector.

The main messages of the campaign are:

- Restore funding to ECE that has been cut over the past six years
- Reduce teacher to child ratios and group sizes
- Restore the goal of 100 percent trained teachers in ECE



Although the government has put new money into the sector to fund NEW services, existing services have not had a cost of living, or any kind of increase to the per child, per hour funding rates since July 2014.

NZEI is asking parents/whānau throughout the country, to support the campaign by writing messages to MPs and candidates on pre-printed love hearts, as part of a "Have a Heart" pledge.

Find out how here: <http://everychild.org.nz/>

Do you have special skills or talents ?

We want to spruce up the KEL environment. We need parents to help with jobs around the Centre. Are you a sewer? An upholsterer? Are you handy with a hammer or a screw driver? Gardening? We are also looking for someone who could help us create a garden edge in the outside play area. If so let the teachers know.

Policy review

At our meeting in May the committee reviewed the following policies and procedures:

- Financial Management and Accountability
- Money Handling Policy

Copies of these revised policies are posted on the notice board.

Our next policies scheduled for review are:

Health and Safety, Accident and Injury Prevention, Alcohol and Animals at centre policies. These will also be posted on the noticeboard over the next month for you to view. Please feel free to read these and note any suggested changes for the committee to consider.

Did you know you can book in for casual sessions?

If you would like your child to attend a session on a casual basis, please telephone on the day, or pre book in advance. We do endeavour to keep our roll full but we do have vacancies on some days

Fees for Casual Days:

\$25 for a five hour session

\$30 for a six hour session

OR for 20 Hours ECE funded hours:

\$8.00 for a 5 hour session

\$10 for a 6 hour session

You can pay for a casual day on the day, or have the cost added to your monthly invoice.

Working bee - Saturday 22 July

12.00 to 2.00 pm at KEL

A KEL working bee will be held on the 22nd July.

It would be great to see you there. Many hands make light work!

A list of important tasks will be posted up at the Centre for you to sign up for

It would be great to have as many people as possible there on the day, but if you can't make it, please talk to the teachers about tasks you could take home to do, or come in and do, at another time.



We have a new email address

Please note, if you are contacting the Centre by email, we have a new address: kilbirnieearlylearners@xtra.co.nz

REMINDER !- PLEASE pick up your child on time

We organise our teachers' roster on the basis of the number of children enrolled. If you do not pick up your child at the agreed time, teachers' breaks may be delayed, non-contact time cut short, and/or teachers may have to stay beyond their paid hours.

Winter ills

Please do not bring your child to the Centre when they are not well. Sick children need the chance to rest and recuperate. We do not have the facilities to care for sick children.

A number of Centre children have had colds recently. To reduce the chance of infecting others, please keep your child at home until their nose discharge clears. Children who have had stomach bugs need to be kept away from the Centre until a period of at least 24 hours has passed since the last time they vomited or the last incidence of diarrhoea.

Please ask the teachers for information about exclusion periods for other infectious illnesses, or see our Health and Wellness Policy on the notice board.

Whooping cough alert!

Wellington Regional Public Health has had several notifications recently of confirmed cases of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) in adults and children.

The bacteria are circulating in the community, which potentially can put young babies and small children at risk of this highly infectious disease. So far, KEL has had no diagnosed cases reported to us, but you need to be aware.

Symptoms for those who have been immunised can be relatively mild, but in children under one year of age, or those who are not immunised it can be very serious. Women in the last 4 weeks of pregnancy who are concerned should see their GP or Lead Maternity Carer.

Anyone (child or adult) with a persistent cough should see their doctor, and remain away from the Centre until the doctor is sure it is not whooping cough.

All children should be up-to-date with their Pertussis (Whooping Cough) immunisations and are advised to check with their family doctor. Pertussis immunisation is given at six weeks, three months, five months and a booster at 4 and 11 years of age.

Boostrix vaccine is also recommended and is free, for pregnant women between (28-38) weeks of pregnancy to reduce their risk of getting the disease and passing it onto their new born baby. The vaccine provides protection pre and post delivery to mother and up to six weeks post delivery for baby.

Boostrix Vaccine is also recommended but not funded for; early childhood teachers, health professionals that care for young children or work in high risk areas and families of new born babies.

Housekeeping and reminders!

Wrap up warm for winter

Please remember to ensure your child comes to the Centre with warm clothes (a hat and jacket) for playing outside.

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, especially approaching the winter months!

Advise us of absences

Please let teachers know if your child will **not** be attending on a day they are booked to attend.

How can you help?

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

Clear your pocket regularly

Please clear your pocket regularly. This contains important information to all parents.

KEL Facebook Page

If you haven't already, please head onto Facebook 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.

Important dates coming up

Working Bee – 22nd July

Kilbirnie Early Learners – Launch Party – 28th July

Next Committee Meeting – 8th August

CENTRE EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER – 022 366 1510. Please ensure you have this number in your phone as this is the Centre's emergency phone number that is used in the event of an emergency.

Our emergency procedures are on the parent notice board.

Kia Kaha - Jannie, Tira, Isabel, Felicity, Helen & the Committee

Kilbirnie Early Learners.

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Our website – www.kilbirnieearlylearners.co.nz