

KERIKERI KINDERGARTEN A.G.M.

Head Teacher's Report

28 February 2011

Curriculum

The year began on a positive note, with the temporary appointment of a .7 teacher Jo Johanson. This position was advertised later in the year and Jo won the permanent position. Jo taught here with me a few years ago and it is great to have her back.

Our team reflects and evaluates daily. This provides the flexibility needed to truly respect and follow children and teacher's interests. We began the year meeting in small groups every morning, but changed this when we noticed that it was a negative experience for some. We continue to notice recognise and respond to individual and group interests. As well, we are now working towards each teacher focussing on a once a week specific activity , with the focus changing each term. These will be based on sustainability and the environment.

All teachers are working on a research topic over a 2 year period. We will be sharing our findings at the end of this year or early 2012.

Teachers have been involved in an immense amount of professional development - I hosted pedagoga Tiziana Filippini from Reggio Emilia, Italy, by taking her to many early childhood centres in Kerikeri. In the evening, all teachers attended her presentation at FOOD at Wharepuke. I attended a series of 5 leadership sessions run by FUSION. I worked with 2 teachers mentoring them (Reggio Emilia approach). Teachers have attended courses and meetings on forest kindergartens, Habits of Mind, art classes, Reggio Emilia courses in Auckland, Protecting Tender Ears course, Infocare workshop, computer tuition and worked with Group Special Education advisors. We have been associate teachers and university supervisors for students from Te Tari Puna, Massey University, NZ Tertiary College and Auckland University. Teachers from other NKA kindergartens have visited. Three teachers joined the 19 other kindergartens in the Northland Association at the EXPO at Kensington in Whangarei. Many thanks for the huge efforts to get all of our gear there, set up and host an activity for the day, especially with it happening at the same time as our huge window display at the Proctor Library in Kerikeri. The natural products stimulated a lot of interest! The 3 panels

on display (specially made) at both were fantastic and illustrate some our work with Papatuanuku.

In line with our intent to be as involved in the community as possible (and have them at kindergarten), we have - hosted children from Kerikeri Primary, Kerikeri High School, vets, performed on stage at the Centre and invited other ECE centres to join us, Sandrine has been to work with clay and the children visited her place, Kawiti with music, The Kiwi Foundation, Yuasa Junior School from Japan, several student teachers on practicum, Tania Batt storyteller, art teachers from Waipapa Art Studio, attended a drama performance at the centre, visited a child's home (produce and animals), to FOOD at Wharepuke, POPPIES bookshop, NEON cafe, Postshop, Kindy Olympics, ORIGIN, Roland's Wood, Puketi Forest, Play Gym, and Waitangi. We worked with a Chilean family to raise money for the earthquake in Chile, with events lasting for a week. An attempt was made to raise funds for the Christchurch earthquake, but no money was sent as the amount raised was so small.

We have held a twilight picnic with teddies and a band, Pet Day, Stripy Day, the Wine Trail, a healthy food lunch, a Purple Haze Dance party and the kindergarten's 25th birthday.

November 4th, 25 years ago, was the first day that children attended Kerikeri Kindergarten. We marked the day with a SILVER dress up day and had a party with a huge amount of food and a special cake baked by the children. What a fun day!

The president of the establishment committee and first head teacher, visited earlier in the week, bringing gifts - watermelon and books. Thank you to Matilda's nana, Heather Townsend.

Many wonderful things happened this year and a few deserve special mention - the drama performances at the Centre, our Maori Language Plan, the formation of our Directional and Annual plans, the kapa haka group, some rejuvenated thinking regarding sustainability and the outdoor environment and our involvement with the community and vice versa.

Premises and Facilities

We have slowly phased out the brightly coloured plastic furniture, by purchasing wooden chairs and small tables and as a result, see children spending more focused time at an activity.

The old cubbies vanished from the deck, to create a less cluttered entrance. They were replaced by two wooden bag trolleys which live in the extension.

We are replacing containers with plain wooden wine boxes, rattan cooli hats, baskets and woven flax containers.

In term 4 we had the grass area re-turfed. After years of always having soil patches and thin grass, we now have a fabulous kikuyu lawn and will celebrate it in March when we have a twilight Garden Party.

We had discussions re building renovations and other ideas. These should begin this year.

Outstanding maintenance from 2009 was an issue but we are hopeful that the Association's new system will see our work done - gate, trench, guttering, exterior painting etc.

We replaced all fluorescent lights with covered ones.

We are working on creating many exciting features for our outdoor area. It is our hope that parents will contribute ideas to this development.

Health and Safety Practices

Because children are now spending more time at kindergarten every day, we have heightened awareness of the importance of healthy food. We held a healthy food lunch and have put together a Lunch Ideas recipe book. We hired our own personal trainer from the Gym who came and ran fitness sessions. Thank you Leah May.

We began supplying a bowl of fruit every day for those who need more food particularly in the afternoons. They are devouring it!

We now have the Kerikeri Laundry collecting washing every Friday and returning it on Monday morning. It wasn't something which parents were interested in doing 😊

Governance Management and Administration

A major change this year was the change of children's attendance hours. This followed a survey and many discussions and reorganising. We moved from either morning or afternoon sessions to 8.15 - 12.30pm Mon - Fri for 10 children OR 8.15 - 2.45pm Mon - Thurs and 8.15am - 12.30pm on Friday for 30 children. Based on children's arrival, attendance patterns and funding, the hours were changed in Term 4 to 8.30 - 12.45 and 8.30 - 2.30pm. With 20 hours free from the Government and 3 free hours from the Association, the maximum charge per child will be \$10.50 per week. Staff had to learn to operate under a new system. Rosters were trialled evaluated and modified as we felt our way through the changes. A new 360o appraisal system was introduced for teachers and we are now at the end of the first cycle of annual appraisals. Our appraisals are now linked to Key Performance Indicators. All teachers provide their appraiser with a professional development plan which will be considered during their next appraisals .

Parents were asked to take part in a survey on their involvement in kindergarten and their child's education. Results were overwhelming. Very few wanted to do something and they wanted teachers to organise most things. There were a few interested in parent education .

The Association employed a Speech and Language therapist and an Early Intervention teacher, both of whom we have referred children to. It has sped up the process of children being seen by a specialist.

We all prepared for relicensing by the Ministry of Education. This went extremely well, which is a reflection on the entire staff. Thank you.

In September we held a silent auction of mini canvases at NEON cafe. This year people in the community were invited to create a work or two for us. Again a novel event enjoyed by creators and purchasers. We even had internet bidding!

Special mention this year must go to Kerry Groome for her outstanding work with the Telephone Directory. She proposed changes to reduce the paper and computer time and next year we have a refined computer programme ready to go. Recognising that parent help with distribution and selling just isn't there, I decided to slightly increase the cost of advertising and pay a distributor to deliver the books free to every home. We have a few issues to iron out to ensure that the 2012 edition is problem free. Feedback from the community has been wonderful - happy advertisers because of the wider distribution and happy people receiving them for free ☺

There were some difficult times this year as staff suffered health problems. In February we were all shocked to hear of Rin Kennedy's death. Four teachers attended her extremely emotional funeral. In Term two, our senior teacher Megan Cooke passed away, again an extremely upsetting time for staff, who attended a special memorial service for her in Whangarei.

This is an exceptional kindergarten run by a highly enthusiastic positive, strong group of women. We are never content to just let things be - always evaluating, reflecting, debating, looking for ways for us all to improve. We constantly share and involve ourselves in astounding learning opportunities for children.

I look forward to another year as we grow together and challenge ourselves individually and as a team.

Cheryl Kingi
Head teacher