

# Newsletter

**POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN GLENDOWIE**

**Term 2 2024**

## WELCOME

Welcome to Term Two! We hope you all had some nice time with your whānau over the break. Our Kaiako have been working hard prepping Kindy for the new term and are excited for what is planned.

We've loved having new tamariki and their families join our Pohutukawa whānau. We'd like to formally welcome: Jack, Ben, and Meera.

We also look forward to having Finn and Merekara join us this term.

## MATARIKI

Matariki is a small cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades, in the Taurus constellation. In New Zealand it comes into view low on the north-eastern horizon, in the tail of the Milky Way, just before dawn in midwinter. This heralds the Māori New Year and the changing of the seasons, a time of remembrance, joy and peace. It is a time for communities to come together and celebrate.

Matariki is an abbreviation of 'Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea' ('The eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea'). According to one Māori legend, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother were separated by their offspring, one of their sons, god of the winds Tāwhirimātea, became angry, tearing out his eyes and hurling them into the heavens.

- **Matariki:** the star that signifies well-being, reflection, hope and the gathering of people; considered to be a female star which is the guardian of the other stars in the cluster. The name Matariki denotes both this individual star and the whole cluster.
- **Waitī:** the star linked with fresh water and food that comes from fresh water.
- **Waitā:** the star linked with the ocean and food that comes from it.
- **Tupuānuku:** the star linked with food that grows in the ground.
- **Tupuārangi:** the star linked with food that comes from the skies: fruits, berries, and birds.
- **Waipunarangi:** the star linked with the rain.
- **Ururangi:** the star that determines the winds for the year.
- **Pōhutukawa:** the star associated with those who have died.
- **Hiwa-i-te-rangi:** the star associated with dreams and aspirations for the coming year.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Internal Evaluation .....	2
Puāwai Akomanga.....	2
Huero Akomanga .....	3
Enrolments.....	3
Important dates.....	4
Te Wheke .....	4



## INTERNAL EVALUATION

Our Kaiako have started the process and investigation for our new internal evaluation. As a team, and as an early childhood provider, it is essential to us that we have systems that will best work to support kaiako working both individually and as a team. We need to work out how this planning and assessment can be documented and create the best learning outcomes for our tamariki. We've brainstormed who we are, what we are currently doing, and what we'd like to see (our goals). We have now come up with our main question:

**'How can individual planning improve the quality of learning outcomes. How can this planning be reflected in our documentation compared to previous styles?'**

We are currently reviewing current research and looking at other providers examples and process. We look forward to sharing what we find.



*"Internal evaluation is a systematic process used to evaluate what is and is not working, and for whom, and then to develop our practices and make improvements as a result of evaluation" p15 Ngā Aronga Whai Hua*

## PUĀWAI AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

This term we are focusing our afternoon time around mathematics. Each day our tamariki will have the opportunity to learn more about shapes, colours, numbers, order/sorting, and much more!!

Monday – Science & Colours with Kate

Tuesday – Shapes with Sarah

Wednesday – Project day with Kate and Natasha

Thursday – Numbers with Natasha

Friday – Baking

## PUĀWAI ROOM

We've enjoyed having some tamariki from the Huero Room join us at the beginning of the year and have loved seeing new relationships develop in the room. Last term, our tamariki showed a strong interest in being Kaiako at mat-times. It has been wonderful seeing how much these children have grown in their confidence and love to lead!

We've wrapped up our treehouse project that was led by some of our tamariki over the last two terms. We look forward to what interests our children will bring with them this term that might spark into a new project! Natasha is currently researching more about 'inquiry learning' and is hoping to bring this back to life with our inquiry tree. This is where we write up any questions or wonders that the tamariki might have, that we can then dive deep into together to find the answers.

At the beginning of the term we are going to be going through the 'Get Firewise Programme' and once we are finished, we will organise a fire visit. Kate and Natasha

## THE CARPARK

**Please park behind the teachers cars facing the hedge. The space behind Sarah's van needs to be kept clear so cars can safely turn and then head back out into the street forwards. Thank you**



### Feijoa and coconut cake

- 175g softened butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1½ cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- 1¼ cups coconut
- 5-6 largish feijoas (approx. 1 – 1½ c)
- ¼ cup sliced almonds
- 2 tbsp sugar

1. Lightly grease a 20cm cake tin and pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees celcius.
  2. Cream the butter and sugar together.
  3. Add the eggs one at a time and beat in.
  4. Sift the flour with the baking powder and fold in, alternating with the milk.
  5. Fold the coconut and feijoas into the batter.
  6. Pour into the prepared tin, sprinkle the almonds and sugar evenly over the top of the cake.
- Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

## HUERO AKOMANGA

Last term was filled with fun, friends and fantastic learning. Our tamariki have taken a strong interest in gardening, showing engagement right from the planning stages, through to participating in planting, nurturing and caring for the various putiputi (flowers) and hua whenua (vegetables). The sunflowers were a huge hit.

The family area is always busy and a great place to be, trying out different roles and responsibilities. We have spent numerous hours caring for our babies (bathing, feeding, changing) and our ice-cream shop did a roaring trade.

Our concept for our planning and learning this term is all around Our Amazing World. We have observed a strong interest in and around the natural world and have set up an exploration area to see where this may lead.

Shapes and colours are an area we are continuing to work on too as well as Te Reo and Te Ao Māori. Listen out for any new songs or knowledge shared by your tamariki, and keep an eye on our planning wall to see what's happening. Looking forward to an incredible term ahead,

Stacey and Phillippa



## TE WHARIKI-OUR CURRICULUM

### PRINCIPLES - KAUPAPA WHAKAHAERE

#### Ngā Honongā / Relationships -

Mā roto i ngā piringa, i ngā whakahaere i waenganui o te mokopuna me te katoa, e whakatō te kaha ki roto i te mokopuna ki te ako / Children learn through responsive and reciprocal relationships with people, places and things.

*Tū mai e moko. Te whakaata o ō mātua. Te moko o ō tīpuna.*

*Stand strong, O moko. The reflection of your parents. The blueprint of your ancestors.*

## LOST PROPERTY

With the season of changing weather upon us we often have several layers of clothes removed during the day. We do our best for returning these to you but please help us by:

- a) Naming all your child's clothing.
- b) Remembering what they wore and looking for it on the day.
- c) Checking our lost property basket frequently.



## WEBSITE

We hope to have our new website live soon and will let you know when you can jump on and check it out!

Feel free to send in any feedback or even add a google review or testimony.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Mother's Day morning tea – **10<sup>th</sup> May From 8.30**
- Wheels Day – **28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May**
- Disco – **7<sup>th</sup> June 6-7.30**
- Pyjama Day – **21<sup>st</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June**
- Soup Day – **27<sup>th</sup> June Bring a root Vegetable**
- End of term - **5<sup>th</sup> July**

### Kindy closed

Kings Birthday – **3<sup>rd</sup> June**



## REMINDERS

Term 2 – Children are no longer 'required' to wear hats. Please collect from the hat basket if you have one at kindy.

It's that time again where warm clothing, raincoats, and gumboots become our daily wear. Please ensure your child has enough spare clothing and a wet bag for any wet items (as we do continue to provide outside play all year).

It is the season where colds and bugs love to be shared around. **Please be mindful of other tamariki in our care and our Kaiako.** If your child is unwell, keep them home so that they can rest and recover well.

Special things from home: We understand that sometimes children need their special cuddly. However, we'd really appreciate that other toys are left at home for safe keeping. It is not the Kaiako responsibility to be searching at the end of the day if these items get lost.

## TE WHEKE

Te Wheke is a holistic model of well-being and development based on a Māori world view. The model is based on 8 dimensions, or tentacles of the Wheke (Octopus). Te Wheke is the guardian/kaitiaki of limitless and infinite wisdom.



**Wairua** – spirituality  
**Hinengaro** – the mind  
**Taha tinana** – physical wellbeing  
**Whanaungatanga** - extended family  
**Mauri** – life force in people and objects  
**Mana**– unique identity of individuals and family  
**Hā Tainga Tukuīho** – our identity and uniqueness  
**Ranga Whatumanawa** – the open and healthy expression of emotion

## ENROLMENTS

Word of mouth is definitely our best marketing tool. We currently have vacancies every day if you would like to extend your enrolment days.

If you know of any families in the neighbourhood looking for excellent care and education for your children we would love you to send them our way.