

Newsletter

POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN ELLERSLIE

Term 4 2024

Welcome to term 4! We've nearly made it through the year! We are rejoicing in the warmer and spring weather we are having, with our tamariki spending most of their time in the outdoors exploring in the natural environment and developing all sorts of play with their peers.

We'd love to welcome Ted, Sebastian, and Kevin and their families to our wonderful kindergarten.

This last term, we've farewelled and celebrated five wonderful tamariki who have finished their journey here at kindy and are starting their new life at school. We wish them all the very best and can't wait to hear how they are going!

WHAIARO TE TAUTURU—SELF HELP

Some of the most important learning objectives we include in our curriculum is supporting children as they move from dependence to independence. This happens for all children at their pace but our environment is carefully designed to ensure that children can learn to take care of themselves as they grow from toddlerhood into young children.

The size of the furniture, the location and the number we have of each piece is important to enable success at being independent. From day one we encourage the children to find their own lunch boxes and drink bottles from in their bags for morning tea. As they grow and transition to longer days they are involved in making their own sandwiches at lunchtime. When tamariki need a nappy change we involve them by asking them to get a nappy from their bag, climb up the steps to the mat and help remove clothing.

If tamariki have been involved in water or messy play and need a change we take the time to work alongside them as they learn to remove their outer clothes and put them in their bag and choose something else to put on.

There are many ways you can support this learning:

- The choice of bag and lunch boxes (ease of opening, lid attached etc)
- Allowing tamariki to carry their bags in and find their name.
- Being responsible for placing their lunchtime fruit in the hua rakau bowl.
- Ask them to help find their shoes and other belongings at home time.

Working together we can support our tamariki to be confident and capable at caring for themselves.



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INTERNAL EVALUATION

How well do we use the art of music in our local curriculum to support tamariki in their learning ?'

Music has so many facets that can support the kaiako in creating a curriculum where children can grow and develop.

Each Kaiako has decided to take an area of curriculum development and explore how well we use music in this area to support our learning objectives.

This includes how music is offered in large group activities such as mat and hui times.

We will explore whether we can extend our competence and vocabulary in te reo through the use of music.

We also want to explore how we can include music in other curriculum area's such as carpentry, art and crafts, outdoors....

We look forward to sharing more!

“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

SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all that brought back their surveys earlier in the year. It has been decided that we will offer the fabulous fours, school readiness programme, three days a week on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, after lunch for 30-40 minutes. The term that your child turns four, is the term they will be invited to join the four year old fun.

FABULOUS FOURS

All about me

This term, the Fabulous Fours will participate in the “All About Me” programme, designed by the New Zealand Police. This module aims to educate and support young children by teaching them strategies and skills for staying safe, which they can build upon in subsequent years. The seven focus areas covered are; all about me, my body, my home & my family, how I feel, saying ‘no’, secrets & surprises, and getting help. Each of these focus areas links clearly with our learning outcomes in our early childhood curriculum Te Whāriki - Te Ara Whānui. It is a valuable learning experience for our four year olds which we have included in our annual planning for many years.

In todays world, tamariki have an increasing need to learn skills, attitudes and knowledge to keep themselves safe in a range of situations involving interactions with other people. The earlier tamariki get personal safety education the more likely they are to develop sensible attitudes to personal safety, and to adopt and use personal safety strategies in their lives.



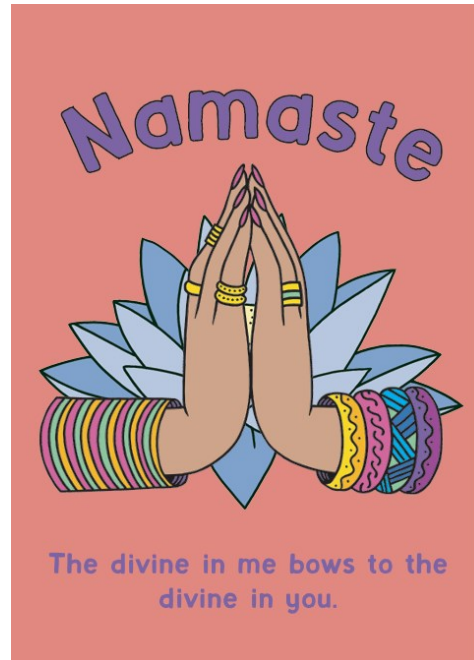
Easy Coconut Ladoo

- 2 cups flaked coconut
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 pinches ground cardamom
- 2 drops vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons semolina flour (Optional)
- ½ cup flaked coconut, or more as needed

1. Place 2 cups coconut into a pan and heat over low heat until lightly toasted, making sure not to burn or change color, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat.
2. Bring a pot of water to a boil over high heat. Place unopened can of condensed milk into the middle of the pot; boil for 3 to 4 minutes. Remove using tongs; let cool slightly, about 5 minutes.
3. Pour into coconut and add cardamom and vanilla extract. Mix well. Let cool enough to handle, about 5 minutes.
4. Form mixture into small balls using oiled hands, as mixture will be very sticky, adding semolina as needed if very wet and runny.
5. Place remaining coconut into a shallow bowl or on a plate. Roll ladoos in coconut and serve.

DIWALI

In the first few weeks of Term 4, we will celebrate the festival of Diwali. This celebration will help tamariki feel valued and respected, boosting their self-esteem and sense of belonging. It also provides an opportunity for other tamariki to learn about and appreciate different cultures. Sharing new cultural knowledge and experiences fosters respect and aroha among everyone. By embracing diverse cultures, we create an equitable learning environment where we celebrate and affirm our identities, promoting a positive awareness and understanding of our own and each other's cultures.



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.

www.pohutukawa.net.nz

TE WHARIKI- OUR CURRICULUM

PRINCIPLES - KAUPAPA WHAKAHAERE

Whānau tangata | Family and community

The wider world of family and community is an integral part of early childhood curriculum.

Me whiri mai te whānau, te hapū, te iwi, me tauīwi, me ō rātou wāhi nohonga, ki roto i te whāriki, hei āwhina, hei tautoko i te akoranga, i te whakatipuranga o te mokopuna

Tū mai e moko. Te whakaata o ō mātua. Te moko o ō tipuna.

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

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS

We are still looking for some new testimonials and google reviews. If you have the time please click on the link on the bottom of my email signature and give us a review, even if its just to click the stars.

Please remember to comment on Facebook especially the community pages looking for ECE recommendations.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Dress-up Day- **31st October**
- Grandparents Day – **8th November**
- Christmas Party – **20th December**
- End of term - **20th December**

See you all next year on :

Monday 20th January 2025



REMINDERS

SUNBLOCK: Please apply this before arriving at kindy. We will top up after lunch. If you wish to supply your own named bottle please do so.

SUNHATS: Must be worn when playing outside. Please name these

Please ensure your child has enough spare clothing and a wet bag for any wet items (there is always plenty of water and messy play at kindy).

Hopefully the winter bugs are well behind us but we do ask if your child is unwell, keep them home so that they can rest and recover well and teachers and other tamariki stay well too

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.

FAMILY BOOST

The Family Boost payment is now up and running. It is made directly to families with young children to help with the rising costs of early childhood education (ECE). The Family Boost payment will be equal to 25% of ECE fees already paid by households, maximum of \$975 every 3 months, have a household income of less than \$180 000 a year, effective 1st July.

Families can claim this every 3 months by applying through IRD. We have had several families successfully apply. If you want to do this then please let me know if you need an updated version of our invoice (License numbers must now be included).

You will also need an IRD# for the child you are claiming for so need to apply for this if they don't yet have one. You will then login through your own IR login to process this.

ENROLMENT CHANGES

If you wish to change your enrolment days or your child is turning 3 please ensure you have signed these changes on the enrolment form **on or before** that date of change.