

Newsletter

POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN ELLERSLIE

Term 1 2025

Apologies this newsletter is so late out! Another whirlwind start to the year for Melanie with a new Student Management System to learn to use and a lengthy process with the Ministry of Education for our Glendowie license extension.

The kaiako and tamariki have jumped right into a fun filled weeks of learning with focus on our gardens, Tiriti o Waitangi, Chinese New Year—The Year of the Snake, kindness and being a good friend, and currently about protecting our fish for sea week.

PARENT ASPIRATIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

As we focus on our individual planning for each child we acknowledge the partnership with families and how working together and understanding the aspirations whānau have for their child is linked to their values. We are in the process of working alongside each of you to discuss these aspirations so that we can identify your child’s learner identity and plan how we can support them in their learning to succeed and achieve their specific learning goals.

From a **parent's perspective**, **learning aspirations** for their child often focus on their child's early development, foundational skills, and positive attitudes toward learning.

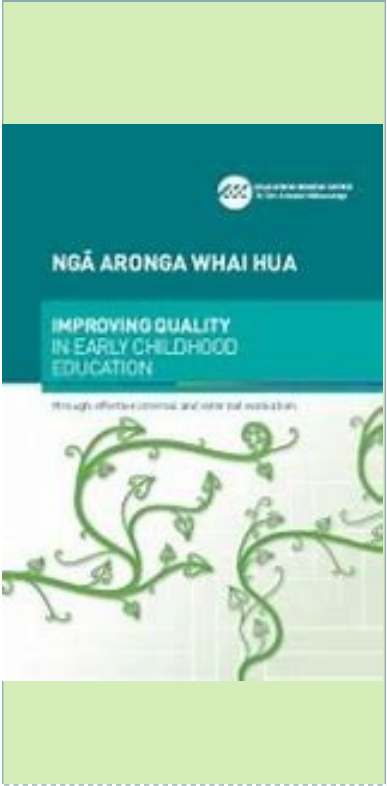
Parents’ Learning Aspirations for Their Child May Include:

- Curiosity & Love for Learning** – Hoping their child enjoys exploring new things, asking questions, and engaging in play-based learning.
- Confidence in Trying New Things** – Wishing their child feels safe to take small risks, such as trying new activities or making new friends.
- Independence & Self-Help Skills** – Supporting their child in learning basic life skills like dressing themselves, tidying up, or making simple choices.
- Social & Emotional Growth** – Wanting their child to express emotions appropriately, share, take turns, and build friendships.
- Resilience & Problem-Solving** – Helping their child develop patience, persistence, and the ability to cope with small challenges.
- Early Literacy & Numeracy Skills** – Hoping their child develops basic skills such as recognizing letters, counting, and enjoying storytelling.



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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 ?’

In the second week of the term, our teaching team participated in professional development with **Mauri Tui Tuia / Creative Therapies NZ**. The workshop, facilitated by **Claire and Annie**, provided valuable insights into using voice and movement to enhance engagement during mat time.

The facilitators challenged us to explore how rhythm and repetition can captivate children's attention, and we observed firsthand how these techniques foster engagement. They demonstrated how adjusting the tempo of a song—speeding it up or

slowing it down—can influence the overall energy in the room, effectively shaping the energy state of the **tamariki**.

As a team, we have been practicing ways to integrate **stop-and-go elements** into movement songs, encouraging active participation and responsiveness. Additionally, we are exploring how imaginative play can evolve songs and drama, making learning experiences more dynamic and interactive.

One of the key takeaways from the course was: **"Sing it, don't say it."** This simple yet powerful approach reinforces the idea that singing enhances engagement, making mat time and routine transitions more enjoyable and effective for young learners.

“ 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

Mahi Wha Club

We have decided to enhance the Fabulous Fours afternoon programme into a smaller group focus with the eldest 8 children. Teachers are working with the children upstairs for a focussed time before completing an activity. This term each teacher is taking a turn to choose a book and spend the week exploring it covering off basic pre literacy and numeracy skills, science and social skills and concepts through planned activities.

This term we have explored Chinese New Year, Treaty of Waitangi, Shapes, Insects and Kindness. We have Planting, Colours and others to come.

During these afternoon activities we are exploring how to sit and listen to a focussed session. We also explain to the children first what we will be doing for the activity so they can practice listening to instructions and then remembering once they are at their work table (a very important skill for success in the kura classroom). We also work on fine motor skills such as using glue, cutting with scissors, holding pens and threading. There is plenty of counting, number and letter recognition too.

Next term we are going to focus on smart words and support the children to form the letters they are righting with the correct strokes.

Melanie will be hosting a Literacy evening on **Thursday 3rd April** at 7 - 8 to explain the Smart Words programme and how you can best support pre literacy skills at home.



TRIP TO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Children and nature are a perfect match. We always try and include our children in designing and caring for our garden, including the worm farm.

We are very excited to be taking them to The Botanical Gardens in Manurewa. We will travel by bus and hope to have enough parents help for a 2 children: 1 Adult ratio.

We will leave kindy at 9.15 and then arrive at the gardens by 9.45. We will spend several hours exploring this wonderful resource in particular looking at the sensory gardens and completing a nature trail hunt.

Look out for permission slips in your pockets.

Monday 24th March

Cost will be \$20



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

COMMUNICATION

As a team we have been reflecting on our communication channels and how we share information with parents and receive information about the children in our care. As a team we are always open to discussions and encourage you to approach teachers at any time (drop off, pick up, email, text).

We are also focussing on sharing with you when we have written learning stories and encourage you to take home the kete ako (portfolios) at any point. We encourage you to read comment and add to these as they will be a life long Taonga for your child.

We have a kindy phone where we happily What's App you messages and photos during the day. 021 088 49711

We have a private Facebook group for those of you using that platform to check out photos and reminders. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/601611887120200/>

We also often email reminders if needed.

This newsletter will be out each term.

And finally, check out the whiteboard at the front door.

Every teacher has an email account they can be contacted on and can be used for emailing news if needed.

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TE WHARIKI -TE ARA WHANUI : OUR CURRICULUM

PLANNING

Planning involves deliberate decision making about the priorities for learning that have been identified by the kaiako, parents, whānau and community of the ECE service. All children should have opportunities to learn across all five strands of the curriculum and to pursue their strengths and interests in depth. When planning, kaiako draw on their own pedagogical knowledge and on their knowledge of the children. This is gained from informal and formal assessments, dialogue with parents, whānau and others working with the children and from other sources such as parent surveys and internal evaluation.

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

- Dad's Night– **6th March (5-7)**
- Botanical Gardens trip—**24th March**
- Literacy Evening—**3rd April (7-8)**
- End of term - **11th April**



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).

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

With our new Student Management System, each time there is an enrolment change you will need to sign the piece of paper acknowledging the change.