

Newsletter

POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN ELLERSLIE

Term 4 2025

We happily welcome Hugo, Isla , Leon and their whanau to the Pohutukawa Family. Avery, Amelie and Theo join the older siblings here too!

STAFF UPDATES

Annie and Josh welcomed baby Archie into the world on October 9th. By all accounts he is very cute, feeding is going well and he prefers to sleep during the day rather than at night. We know Annie will be enjoying every moment and in time will sleep again!

Alyse is happy in her new role teaching at Macleans primary and all the challenges a new environment offers.

We are thrilled to welcome Jessyna to the team full time. She has plenty of experience after 4 years in her last role and she is very excited to be part of the Pohutukawa Family.

Emi is back from Maternity leave... She will be working Monday and Wednesday at this stage. We also have Sarah helping us out for a few weeks on Tuesday Thursday and Fridays

DIWALI

We have been exploring **Diwali** through several art projects. We made **patakhe** (firework) pictures and **rangoli** art (circular patterns). We painted **mehndi** (Henna decorations) on paper, and have been singing a rhyme at mat-time about **diya** (small lamps).



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**“Nau te rourou,
naku te rourou,
ka ora ai te iwi”**

This means with your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive”. It highlights the idea that by contributing our resources and working together, we can ensure the well-being of the community.



INDIVIDUAL PLANNING

We are committed to identifying a unique learner focus for every child and creating an environment that supports them in achieving their goals. Throughout their journey of exploration, creativity, and play within our kindergarten, we actively document meaningful moments that reflect each tamariki’s progress.

Collaborating with whānau is incredibly valuable as we shape and support each child’s learning focus. We warmly invite you to share your thoughts and ideas—whether through portfolio contributions or conversations with our kaiako. Your insights enrich our understanding and strengthen our shared approach.

Together, we provide the most powerful support for our children to thrive and reach their full potential.



MAHI WHA CLUB

We have started this term by exploring shapes and relating their features to different numbers. We are looking at the how many sides and how many corners each shape has. We are also creating a shape monster book to bring home which is one of our favourite mat time songs.

We will explore numbers, counting and revisit our letter formation strokes. Once we hit December it will be full Christmas mode.

We’re proud of the children’s progress in school readiness, including pencil grip, number and letter recognition, scissor skills and gluing. We also focus on building independence and self-care skills like dressing, managing belongings, zipping bags, and tidying up.

With several of our children heading off to school this term we wish them all the success and look forward to hearing of their adventures. Louis, Mina, Maia, Kailo, Bryn and Petra.

SUN SAFETY

- Please ensure your child has a **named hat** for outdoor play. You are welcome to leave it in the hat box at kindy.
- We do have spare kindy hats if needed.
- Apply sunscreen to your child before kindy; kaiako will reapply in the afternoon as required.



GROUP PLANNING

There has been such a huge interest in construction both in the classroom and out in the playground we are looking how we can support this learning.

We are providing some provocations with pictures of famous architecture, construction of bridge photos and building plans.

We are setting up experiences inside with blocks, diggers and loose parts. Outside we have the new red digger, pipes and pulleys in the sandpit. The children are also exploring having smaller spaces in the playground using teepees and the foam mats to build walls that enclose little spaces.



CONFERENCE REVIEW

I was grateful to be able to attend the ChildSpace Joy and Creativity conference in Wellington on the 10th and 11th of October, alongside Sarah the head teacher from our Glendowie kindy.

Surrounding ourselves with over 200 other passionate teachers from NZ and Australia, whilst listening to specialists and leaders with expert knowledge was invigorating for the soul and mind.

Highlights were a paper on the importance of developing Empowerment and Whakamana in our tamariki. Supporting them to grow and become responsible leaders of the future that believe they can make a difference for the good of everyone. *'With power comes responsibility'*.

There were workshops on looking after ourselves as leaders and ensuring that we continue to work in education with joy and creativity. How to create an environment that feels, smells and looks appealing, creating security and belonging whilst fostering challenge and curiosity. And how to keep the balance between fun and safety.

I believe in a changing world, we as educators need to continue to learn, reflect and grow to be the best teachers we can be.—Mel

DRESS-UP DAY

Friday 31st October

Come dressed up as whatever you want. A fun day for all to be super heroes, favourite characters or perhaps your hearts desire.



KETE AKO/ PORTFOLIOS

We love sharing your children's learning and development with you . Please feel free to take these home and share with your whanau and then



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IMPORTANT DATES

Grandparents Day - Friday 7th November 9:30–11:30am

- Bring one grandparent along to share in the fun!
- Please bring a plate for shared morning tea.
- Tamariki still need their lunchbox and drink bottle.
- Even if your child doesn't usually attend on this day, they are welcome to join with their grandparent.

Children's Christmas Party - Monday 15th December

Next Year: Kindy will open for an optional week of holiday programme on Monday 19th January 2026. Then term 1 starts Tuesday 27th.

VOLCANO VISIT

Wow what an explosive day we had with Natasha visiting from Auckland Museum! We learnt about the Te Ao Māori story of how the youngest child of Papatuaanuku and Ranginui, Ruuaumoko can get mad and stamp his feet (earthquakes) and have a tantrum (exploding volcano). We learnt about magma and flowing lave and lava bombs and how they form rocks. We even made a lava eruption!



FAMILY BOOST

The Family Boost payment has **increased**. It is made directly to families with young children to help with the rising costs of early childhood education (ECE).

Please contact Mel if you need help claiming this.

Quarterly household income	Maximum quarterly refund
\$35,000	\$1,560.00
\$40,000	\$1,210.00
\$45,000	\$860.00
\$50,000	\$510.00
\$55,000	\$160.00
\$57,286 or more	\$0.00