

Panui, Paenga-whāwhā, 2017

April newsletter



Tena koe, Hello, Bula, Guten Tag

We hope you all had a wonderful restful and/or exciting Easter. This term has been very busy with changes to teaching staff and our new group learning goal of 'whai wahi – opting in'. Many children have moved considerably along their learning continuums as we begin to finish the term.

A massive shout out to the amazing Duathlon committee this year, we have heard it was a fantastic day and you all did an amazing job. Thank you for your hard work.

Huge thanks to the amazing Dads who came into kindergarten and moved our fence. Our outdoor environment plan is officially now underway, it is very exciting for us to begin to see it start to take shape. We have been fortunate to begin to use our paddock with two ponies joining the kindergarten whanau for a while. The children have been learning how to take care of a pony and most have sat on them or had a ride. There is lots of rich learning around animals that teachers will unpack for you over the coming weeks.

This term we have introduced a physical development programme for children to work on their fundamental skills. Spatial awareness, running, jumping and balance have been practiced.

We have also just started a programme called 'Know me, eat me'. Each month the children learn about a different food, April is Spinach. We have attached a recipe for our Spinach smoothie we trialled at kindergarten last week. The aim of this programme is for children to learn about different healthy foods and learn to like eating them.



Hulk Smoothie



Ingredients

- 2 small stalks of spinach
- 1 banana
- 1 cup of milk
- 1/4 of a teaspoon of honey
- 1 teaspoon of lemon juice

Preparation

1 Wash all of your spinach and cut the stalks off. Peel your bananas.

2 Put everything in the blender and blend until its smooth and all the spinach is broken up. Enjoy!

This recipe also works with a stick mixer.



Annual plan 2017

Goldfields Kindergarten has an Annual Plan each year that has goals that we are working towards. This year our goals are

1. **To increase the use of Te reo Māori in everyday practice.** The teachers are all attending Takina te kupu. This is a course learning Te Reo Māori, held in Lawrence each Wednesday night.
2. **To continue to build relationships with Schools and build connections for children transitioning to school.** The teaching team have joined the Tokomairiro Community of Learners group that Waitahuna School is also attending. Teachers are forming a plan to create a transition to school wall for the children and whanau.
3. **To involve children and their whanau in setting their own learning goals.** Currently teachers meeting with parents to discuss strengths/interests and aspirations for learning goals for individual children, the next step for our

team is to involve the children in this process.



Farewell to Matilda Wightman and Hollie Harrex as they continue their learning journey at Lawrence Area School.

Current Self Review

This term we have one planned self review. This is looking at how teachers work in a responsive way with families of diverse groups of children.

Our spontaneous self reviews include what ways teachers are deliberate and intentional in their teaching as well as how our philosophy reflects desired outcomes for infants and toddlers.

Your feed into our self review is very much appreciated.

HOUSEKEEPING

- All children need to come to kindergarten with a change of clothes and jacket.
- Teachers will start to send a txt reminder about parent help rosters. Thank you to everyone for coming in. If you can't make your parent help, feel free to ask another family member or swap with another parent.
- It is time to check the teachers have your correct address, phone number, emergency contacts, people allowed to pick up your child and children's updated immunisation certificates.
- Please name all belongings (and keep anything precious at home). We ask all families to please keep toys at home that aren't required for settling or sleeping.
- **The last day of term is Thursday the 20th of April, first day of term two is 1st of May.**



- Please if anyone wants to increase days/change days let the teachers know so we can accommodate these if possible.



Working Bee

We are planning on having a working bee at kindergarten on the 8th May to tidy up the grounds, do gardening, and odd jobs at kindergarten. We will start at 1pm (bring along your children if they aren't booked in that day). We will put a list on the whiteboard at the kindergarten entry of jobs we hope to achieve, and/or tools we might need on the day.

We look forward to catching up and making our kindergarten look amazing together with you and your children 😊

Goldfields Kindergarten have our ERO review on May 24th and 25th. There is a notice in your parent pocket for more information on this. The teaching team have been very busy completing all of the paperwork we have to send into them. We look forward to sharing our awesome kindergarten community with our ERO reviewers'.

The teachers would like to wish you all a wonderful break with your tamariki. A great time to recharge the batteries before winter kicks in. The new parent help roster will be emailed out in the next couple of weeks.

Finally, thank you very much to all of our helpers with the end of term clean up. We really do appreciate the time that you spend in kindergarten for your children and the teaching team.

Melissa, Amber and Starz



When dropping off in the morning please ensure you stay until 9am -when the teachers are engaged in the programme. At the end of day pick up please ensure you are here by 3pm. South Otago Kindergartens have a late fee policy, \$10 for the first 5 minutes late, and then \$5 for every minute after that.