

This term we have fair willed Tyrown Stevens, Lucah Evans, Brittany Gurung, Emily Lyders, Mason Cooper and soon to be Zoe Schiller

We have welcomed Libby and Lacey Hall, Oliver Whaiunui, Mason Cooper, Emily Hale, Fletcher Adam, Annaleese Reynolds, Aubrey Evans, Skyla Jackson.

Please take the time to read the newsletter, many thanks Emma, Brittany, Cate and Natalie



Milton Kindergarten



Term four 2017
Newsletter



Self-review – this term we have been working on our bi-cultural practice. This began with some informal conversations with whanau around their perspective. These lead to our self review question; “How effectively do teachers make evident their commitment to bi-cultural practice.”

We created some goals around this, a main one being to engage whanau in tikanga practice that include te reo Maori through regular event and routines.

This has lead to the development of our kindergarten pepeha which was facilitated by Trish. The children now know this song and we have supporting the children’s understanding through art work, making it visible.

Teachers have put themselves out there to include karakia and waiata and performing to the committee.

Kahui Ako update Term 4

Over the last few Kahui Ako meetings the group have been working on developing pathways for numeracy and maths development across the sectors. This work includes teachers from all education sectors getting together to share and discuss what is happening in this area for children that they teach. Having these discussions supports teachers to recognise the pathways- what is happening for children in kindergarten currently that supports their learning as they enter school. This requires teachers to observe and record what is happening in their settings. Sharing this information also high lights the demands and challenges for teachers.

After sharing this information teachers then worked together over a day to develop pathways for children, recognising where children need to be at each stage of their education journey in order for them to make progress on their continuum. Teachers then worked together to create exemplars for children's learning, so teachers can gage where children are at. Learning through play is what we believe in and what we know is effective for our learners. For this reasons these exemplars provide possible activities- which can be adapted for individual and groups of children depending on their interests and strengths. It also recognises that learning requires the development of skills, knowledge and attitude together. So dispositions towards learning remain the focus of our work.

What difference does this make for your child?

This process supports teachers to understand the content that children need to support their development in numeracy. Building our ability to support stronger pathways of learning between settings for individual children. This gives teachers a better understanding of the knowledge that children require to begin their school journey and also for teachers in school to build on the knowledge, skills and attitude that children develop at kindergarten, 'giving it a go' 'confidence to share ideas' 'take a risk' 'challenge themselves', etc.

.....**Planning and Assessment** – teachers have developed their knowledge around Māori concepts and tikanga Māori which is now evident in children's narratives. Teachers have also been including legends into the daily program to support group learning, children have represented their learning through art work and puppet shows of I Te Timatanga (In



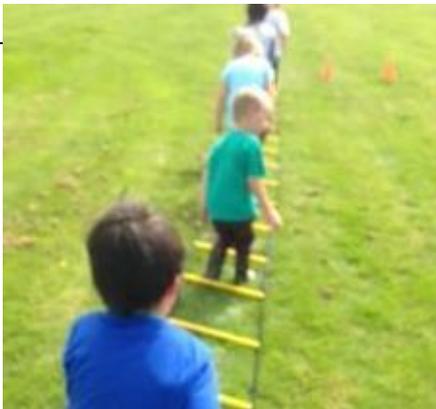
Healthy Heart – This journey has continued through resources being added to the environment to inspire healthy choices for children's lunch boxes. Children have engaged in cooking, teacher and parent led, that introduce children to new foods and techniques making vege scones and lasagne. Children have also been working in the garden. Amy Hale has supported the children and also gained donations from New World, Hammer Hardware and Yates. Thank you Amy!



This leads our next step in the journey which include nutrition and physical activity policies for the kindergarten. We would love you feed in to this process next year!

Paul skipper continues to support our children with physical development through the **sports program**, this is a much loved activity for our children– Jason aspires to be ‘like Paul when I grow up!’

All these experiences contribute to children’s growing understanding of the connections between healthy food and healthy bodies “go, go, go food” vs. “slow, slow, slow food”, and the changes to their bodies as they engage in physical play e.g. fast heartbeat, hot, etc.



Fundraising — there has been a HUGE effort this term from teachers and whanau. This has been our first kindergarten calendar, big thank you to Kim Schiller and Chris who gave their time to take the photos and also to all the families who got their children to their photo shoots. Kim also spent many hours editing and putting the calendar together. We made \$1200 from sponsorship of the calendars! This was a logistical nightmare at times and we appreciate all whanau being patient. The calendars are beautiful and selling fast! For only five dollars! Great Christmas presents guys.

A sheep was donated and then processed by the Woodhead family for our sausage sizzle lunches this term and we raised \$146.

Toilet roll fundraiser was organised by Amy Hale and raised \$650! Great effort Amv!

Term dates —

Term one starts Monday the 22nd of January 2018. This is a twelve week term with the last day of term being Thursday 12th April.

We are CLOSED for statutory holidays which are:

- Waitangi Day– Tuesday the 6th February
- Otago anniversary Monday 26th March
- Easter Monday 2nd April

We will be holding the Christmas celebration on the 19th of December at 12.30pm, Santa will arrive at 1.30pm. Bring a plate to share please and the children will be performing their Christmas Carols for you all, they have been working hard. That evening we will be carol singing for some older members of the community, spreading some Christmas cheer.

Merry Christmas whanau– we have enjoyed huge growth in our numbers at kindergarten this year, we now have 30 children every day and a waiting list, so remember to let friends know they need to enrol to get on the waiting list and not to wait to long! We have welcomed many new additions to our community. We wish old friends and new friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Friday Fun Time —

The children who are getting ready to make the transition to school have been enjoying 'Friday Fun Time' with Kelly Holden– in room one, Milton primary school. This time includes engaging in a mat time and a sharing of Room One's learning through movie clips as well as other fun activities based around letter recognition.

House Keeping —

Please check your children regularly for head lice and ask a teacher if you need any support.

Term one and four– sun hats, wide brim must be worn. Also children should be sun blocked before they come to kindergarten, we will re-sun block at lunch time.

The new donations roster will be up before the end of term, please ensure you have your donations so we can continue to provide morning tea. As from next term there will be a roster for parent help, this is traditional kindergarten expectation. The teachers have tried to accommodate different whanau situations in the past (though our questionnaire at the beginning of the year) however the growing numbers and time it takes to organise help on day to day means we will return to a roster.

Please ensure your children have changes of clothes for the day. Rash tops are a great idea for kindy as they dry quickly!