



Milton Kindergarten

Kia ora whanau

Kia ora Milton Kindergarten whanau! We are excited to be back for term 2, 2018! We have a lot going on for this term that we are excited to share with you! Please have a read of the newsletter and ask us any questions about this term!

Group Planning:

This term, we have a group goal around developing **whanaungatanga (developing relationships)**. This has different meanings for different people therefore every child's contribution will look different. We want children to recognise what they, and their peers are good at which shows a deeper connection between peers about learning and dispositions. We are asking children to give each other feedback on what their friends are doing. To do this, we have been diving into the dimensions of **mauri, mana and wairua**. Through the giving and receiving of feedback, the children are encouraged to work collaboratively and are supporting each other in their individual learning journeys. All of this also comes back to our previous group goals around whakauka (being focused/sustained in our play) and whakamanawa (positive emotional expression) which all supports developing relationships. We want children to be proud of their own, and others learning and be able to record and revisit their work. To revisit and show others what they've been learning helps others to gain a deeper understanding of their peers learning and dispositions which will support to enhance each other mana. We will be encouraging the children to ask for help, recognise their own learning and the learning of others and celebrating together, encourage them to use phrases such as Whakaatu ki a ratua (show them how), haere tonu (keep going), Awhina mai (help me), etc. to share their own point of view.

Indicator 1:

Children will name their own and others wairua (special attributes) – giving feedback.

Indicator 2:

Children will work collaboratively with each other (mauri)

Indicator 3:

Children will be supporting each other (mana)

HEALTHY EATING QUESTIONNAIRE- we will be reviewing our food and drink policy and a questionnaire to parents will be out shortly.

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House Keeping:

Food Policy:

Please feel free take a look at our food and drink policy but in short, we encourage healthy foods in lunch boxes such as sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, proteins (eggs, tuna, chicken, etc.) and nuts. We would like to gently discourage sugary snacks like chocolate and lollies. Lollies include “fruit” strings and nuggets as these actually contain less vitamins and minerals from fruit and more sugar.

Session Times:

A gentle reminder that our session times run from 8.45am-2.45pm. You are welcome to come in earlier as long as you, or a designated guardian, stays with your child until at least 8.45am. We also would like to remind you that after session, we do have meetings and professional learning that we need to attend and therefore encourage you to please collect your children on time.

Home Toys:

We understand that your children would like to share their toys at kindergarten but we can't be responsible for any damage or loss of toys that your child brings. We would like to press the importance of leaving home toys at home. They cause kaffuffles or get lost.

What to Bring to Kindergarten:

We have busy days here at Milton Kindergarten and we would like your children to get the most out of it as they can. Therefore your child needs to be well equipped! They will need to bring certain things daily to ensure they start out on the right foot!

- Healthy lunch box
- 2 changes of weather appropriate clothing e.g. jackets, closed shoes, long pants if cold or hats, shorts, if warm.
- Appropriate footwear if doing sports programme e.g. sneakers, NOT gumboots or jandals.
- At least 3 nappies or changes of knickers.

Whanau Roster:

Please keep checking the whanau help roster! We are running out of essentials!

Lost Property:

Please check the lost property! All left overs will go to the Salvation Army.

Term Dates:

Term 1:
22/1/18 – 13/4/18
Term 2:
30/4/18 – 7/7/18
Term 3:
23/7/18 – 28/9/18
Term 4:
15/10/18 – 21/12/18



Fonterra Grant:

We are very lucky to be able to receive a generous grant from Fonterra to be able to purchase some new chairs for kindy. These chairs are better suited for our children's learning. We would like to give a HUGE thank you to Fonterra for their generous donation to us!

As well as Trudy our Grants coordinator

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What's on for Milton Kindergarten Kaiako:

Internal Evaluation:

We are doing research around our kindergarten philosophy. We have been collecting data over a year to understand the aspirations of our whanau, as well as what our community values in terms of learning and culture. We are also doing research and collecting data for our research pods which are a part of our Kahui Ako – Community of Learners.

Kahui Ako – Community of Learners:

The Community of Learners involves Milton Kindergarten, Milton Primary, Tokoiti Primary, St. Mary's Primary and Tokoiti High School. We all choose a research “pod” to be a part of and collaborate our findings together to gain a better understanding around what each area looks like in each sector. Brittany is involved in the ‘Learner Agency’ pod and is conducting an internal evaluation around this and presenting it to her pod. Emma is involved in the ‘Collaboration’ pod and is also collecting data and doing research to present back to her pod. These will help support us to grow practice and achieve excellence for our children.

Professional Learning:

We have recently undergone some amazing professional learning with **Nathan Wallis**. He has an extensive range of knowledge around brain development in children, teenagers and young adults. We took away from this the importance of validating children's emotions, the importance of education in the early years, and the importance of building relationships. We have become more aware of children's emotions and acknowledging them as being real and supporting children to deal with them. We now know that when children's needs are not being met, they go into their “survival brain” which essentially disables the part of the brain that starts to build on literacy, numeracy and other such academia. They therefore start to lose the confidence in their ability to learn and lose confidence in the fact that they are valued and cared about. So basically, up until they are about 8 years old, children need to hear how amazing they are, even if they're not. If they hear it, they'll believe it and develop their self-confidence and self-worth.

We have also been to an **Oral Literacy** night which we came out of feeling very good because we are already doing all the things we need to be doing to send children off to school with the right skills and knowledge around literacy to success. We use a diverse range of books and have multiple media in which the children can do mark making or create masterpieces in which they then tell their kaiako all about!

Association PL- work around the new teaching standards has brought the association together as we have unpacked this and created indicators against the standards as a group. This supports teachers to understand and fulfil their obligations as well as recognise areas for growth.