



Annual General Meeting Report

Te Mata Kindergarten

25th February 2010

Head Teacher: Fiona Francois

Teachers: Rachel Furniss
Karen McLaughlin

Kindergarten Support: Michelle Thompson

Te Mata Kindergarten Staff Annual Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2010 annual report on behalf of the teachers and staff at Te Mata Kindergarten.

Staffing

The teaching team at Te Mata remained the same throughout 2009. This stability provides consistency and continues to strengthen our teaching team. We are very unique and this familiar team of teachers is a significant factor in the Te Mata success.

We now have fully funded for 26 hours per week by the Association our Kindergarten support. Michelle Thompson is another familiar part of our team and assists the teachers and children significantly.

We are also fortunate to have Chris Richardson who works specifically with our special needs children but is also an important member of our team. Chris is employed by Special Education and has also been part of Te Mata for several years.

Karen, Rachel and I would again like to thank the parents and committee for their support in the day to day running of the Kindergarten. We have worked hard with our goals and philosophy of “A Community engaged in learning together.”

We identified our New Zealand culture as a specific goal for 2009 and were pleased to have accomplished many of our goals which we have had for several years. The morning children finally visited a Marae, attended a Kapa Haka concert and as Teachers we learnt to weave flax baskets which are now in use in Kindergarten. Karl Wixon taught us our own Waiata which the morning children have embraced and sing regularly.

Throughout the year we welcomed many new families from around the world and established links with these children’s previous Kindergartens as well as new schools which

some of our children now attend in other countries. We shared photographs, pictures, e-mails and parcels with Early Childhood centres in Australia, Wales, England and Germany. Parents continue to be active contributors in the day to day programme.

Rolls

Both sessions have 45 children and we have a very high average attendance. The waiting list has been consistent over the past year and we continue to maintain ourselves in a very competitive market. We are now the only 45/45 Kindergarten in Heretaunga Kindergarten Association and have the largest roll with the least number of teachers. We hold a unique position in the Kindergarten sector.

Strategic Management and Relationships

Despite the increasing workload and expectations we have continued to provide a high quality of education for children and meet the demands of families. We are encouraged that the Havelock North community continues to select Te Mata as their choice for Early Childhood Education. Throughout the year we monitored why families enrolled at Te Mata and how they found out about our Kindergarten. This was a valuable research exercise and provided us with reliable and accurate information that families selected Te Mata because of the teachers and reputation in the community. They predominately sourced this information through word of mouth from friends and family.

Professional Development

Throughout the year all teachers attended several professional development courses. One of the outcomes of these courses was the confirmation that Te Mata Kindergarten is truly a unique centre with established highly experienced teachers, amazing family involvement, fantastic parent and committee support and wonderful children.

In January we farewelled our Senior Teacher Elizabeth Lane. We will miss her support, professional understanding and dedication to Kindergarten teachers. Liz was our Senior Teacher for many years and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Achievement towards team Goals

Throughout 2009 the teachers documented self review of the curriculum and a comprehensive review of how we support Maori children and families at Te Mata. Through this review our Maori family became very involved in the programme sharing their family heritage and initiating new links in the community for us. We were especially pleased that as a result of our encouragement with this family they have also continued the community links for Havelock North Primary School.

Visitors

- Association Personnel
- Group Special Education personnel
- Senior Teachers – Elizabeth Lane and Fran Hurworth
- Havelock North High School students – work experience
- Te Mata Primary School staff
- Havelock North Primary school staff

- Ministry of Health
- Village Press
- Ministry of Education
- Hastings Christian School staff
- Teacher training personnel
- Constable Bruce Grimshaw
- Police Dogs and handlers
- Police
- Public Health
- Many parents and families sharing their resources and knowledge

Community Involvement

We would all like to extend a very sincere thank you to all those parents who helped in this way and especially at the end of term clean ups. Simple acts of kindness at the end of the session are greatly valued.

Parent help has also developed into parent involvement with many parents sharing their own skills and resources with the children. We value the time parents take to complete stories from home, taking photographs and sharing special events, which their children and families have been doing. The children benefit significantly from this sharing of information. Over the past year we had many visitors, which were members of a child's family, and it was a special moment in that child's life at Kindergarten. Thank you to the many families who enabled this to happen. We have many visitors to Kindergarten from our community and extended families.

We were also fortunate to have a local artist work with the children creating magic stones and clay collages. Yvette van Radars worked with the morning children teaching them about clay and sculpture. The group made wonderful "magic stone sculptures which are in the garden for all the children to appreciate and touch. Each child also made their own clay collage which Yvette attached to the brick wall by the entrance to Kindergarten. These are a special reflection of the children's learning.

The children also participated in making our own "Te Mata Hilton" using wood, pumice, pinecones, paper and card. Janet O'Reilly shared her unique gardening skills and ideas and we now have an insect Hilton for the children to appreciate insects in their natural environment. Janet also involved the children making wildflower gorilla bombs using clay, coffee and flower seeds. We look forward to seeing these grow in the right conditions.

Special Events

- Family evenings
- Christmas giving tree
- St. Patrick's day
- Wacky Wednesday
- International day
- Christmas parties
- Pirate Dress up day
- Zebra & fairies dress up day
- Excursions

Purchases

Throughout 2009 we replaced considerable amounts of equipment in the Kindergarten and continued to spend money on good quality art and craft resources. Our stationary and printing costs are also a large expense but we feel this is worthwhile and very valuable. Our Kindergarten documents large volumes of children's learning through photographs and learning stories. These are all evident in Group Learning Stories and each child's individual profile. It is worth remembering we have 90 children for whom we record their learning.

Maintenance

This year we spent many months planning the restructure of the fort and large slide. However this has proven to be very worthwhile and the changes were undertaken over the Christmas holidays. We are thrilled with the final result and anticipate the children will equally enjoy their new play structure. This restructure cost \$13,000 and we would like to acknowledge the committee for their hard work in fundraising towards these expenses. Our outdoor play area is a stunning environment for the children to enjoy a natural space with beautiful trees, shade, and grass and play areas.

Curriculum: Teaching & Learning

During 2009 we worked hard to include families in the curriculum and experiences for the children. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful parent support with the many topics the children select. We continue to document an even greater number of learning experiences for individual children and group learning stories. It is rewarding to watch families share their child's learning and discoveries. The group learning board is a valuable avenue for families to be informed about what has happened at kindergarten. Many families continue to support their children at home and often share additional information they have researched together about specific topics or a story from home. Throughout the year many parents shared their skills with the children at mat time and during the session. These were great learning opportunities for the children and very special for the child who parent was involved. The large TV screen and laptops are especially valuable for these times. Many parents presented power points and slides throughout the year.

Strategic Management & Relationships

Finally on behalf of all the staff that has been involved in Te Mata Kindergarten over the past year, I would like to thank all the parents, extended families and children for their contributions. Special thanks to all those on the committee who have helped throughout the year in a wide variety of ways. The sub committees, gardening, maintenance, shopping and everyone else fully deserve our congratulations. However this year we would like to make special mention of the fundraising committee who have excelled. The constant flow of e-mails and communication was amazing. Not to mention the wonderful

wine evening, sales and all the time fundraising continually for Kindergarten. We are very fortunate to have such a passionate team of parents supporting us.

We would also like to make special mention of the wonderful support you gave us as professionals. It was a privilege to work with a group of parents who supported our vision for Kindergarten and our values.

Special thanks to Sharon Tong for your fantastic work as treasurer. We are very fortunate to have your skills and expertise. Thank you also to Sarah Massingham as Secretary. It was a great help having your skills and support.

And a very special thanks you to Kelly James who has been president for the past year. You have been a great President and very reliable, always supporting the teachers. We wish you all the best and look forward to welcoming you back with Holly in a couple of years.

Best wishes to all those who are retiring from the committee and a big welcome to the new 2010 committee.

Fiona Francois
Head Teacher

Karen McLaughlin
Teacher

Rachel Furniss
Teacher