

Nelson Tasman
KINDERGARTENS

NGĀ KOHUNGAHUNGA MAI WHAKATU KI AORERE

For the best possible start

1948-2023
75th ANNIVERSARY





Matangi Āwhio - Auckland Point Kindergarten

Kia ora e te whānau, Matangi Āwhio have had another amazing year! This year we launched our new Kaupapa Matua, our guiding values. We worked really hard to gather whānau, kaiako, and tamariki input and it came together beautifully. Our three key values are whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, and manaakitanga. These three ways of being are valued by us all and we see them playing out in so many ways!

We also started a concentrated effort in sharing the ātaahua educational resources gifted to us by our eight local iwi. We have all truly loved learning about Matua Hautere, Kaikaiāwero, Hohapata, and e toru ngā waka, the three waka of our eight iwi. This mahi built so wonderfully on our love of Māui and Kupe and kaiako, whānau, and tamariki have all been learning and sharing together!



Throughout the three spaces we have enjoyed excursions to the pool, the playground in Tahunanui, the library, numerous pepeha hīkoi (including spontaneous rounds of Matua Hautere entertaining the public!), watching the Mako train, and of course our Teal Valley. We sadly said goodbye to Teal Valley this year but on our last trip a lamb had just been born which reminded us all of the ebb and flow!



We celebrated Matariki with a delicious hangi, waiata, and whānau! Perfect!

The tamariki really enjoyed learning about ngā whetu and which realms they look after.

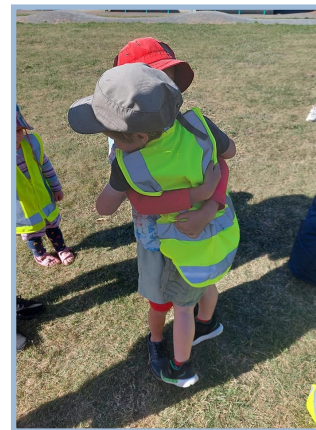
Te Wiki o te Reo Māori saw us all ordering our kawhe in te Reo Māori and learning how to make fry bread!

The tamariki became recording artists recording both 'Alafapeti Faka-Tonga' (the Tongan alphabet) and 'Ngā Waka o Te Taihū' (the waka of the top of the South).



Endless art projects featuring our beloved Māui were created and Matua Hautere, Hohapata, and so many waka entered the mix! We watched pūrerehua emerge, grew sunflowers, started to walk and talk, welcomed new friends, and celebrated those heading off to kura.

We welcomed Niva home with the lovely Miracle and had many supportive relievers along the way.



Whānau was the word of the year and as we start to wrap up our evaluations we can really feel that focus. We are a close whānau here at Matangi Āwhio and through collaboration, tautoko, understanding, openness, and a whole load of laughs we keep those bonds growing.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past'



Birchwood Kindergarten

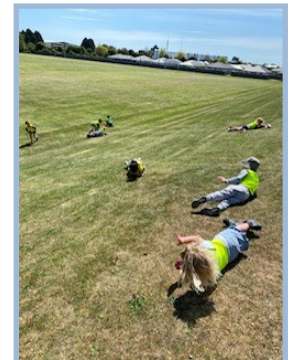
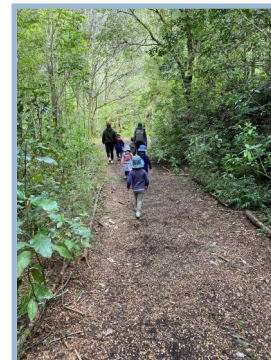
What a wonderful year we have had at Birchwood Kindergarten, the highlight for the year was gaining our Silver Enviroschool reflection, with amazing whanau support and some strong leadership from our incredible Enviroschool kaiako team we finally got there, this mahi united us as a team with a shared vision of the teaching and learning happening throughout the kindergarten. This was followed by a disco celebration that was enjoyed by our children, whanau and kaiako alike as we celebrated all we had achieved over the year and acknowledged those who supported us.

Another highlight has been our collective enquiry into Nga Atua, the Guardians with a focus on hinemoana, haumiatiketike, we have foraged in our local environment on local nature walks and visited our local tides to observe the ebb and flow of the sea. We are so fortunate to have such a great local 'backyard' to explore!



Matariki is always a treasured celebration at Birchwood Kindergarten, this was celebrated with lights, lanterns, intensive teaching and learning about the meaning and significance of this special time, with a festival at Kindergarten to celebrate... this year the fire and marshmallows in the sandpit, and a kapahaka performance from our children was a highlight!

We have also loved our adventures to Teal Valley Forrest Kindergarten, a much loved experience for our children and kaiako, we are so grateful to have been able to experience this programme. We have enjoyed a busy and full year of learning and FUN!





Golden Bay Kindergarten

As we reflect on our year at Golden Bay Kindergarten, we celebrate the enriching experiences our tamariki have had both within our gates and beyond.

Our philosophy to guide, inspire and empower every ākonga within our environments is at the heart of everything we do and we intentionally set up our environment as a 'third teacher', and offer rich, engaging spaces for our tamariki to be creative, curious and imaginative, challenged physically, learn and play together and practice kaitiakitanga.



By learning beyond the gate we connect with our community and meaningfully learn about significant places in our local area.



The values we hold close are manaakitanga and whanaungtanga and these underpin the trusting relationships that we nurture right from the moment our whānau come through our gate. These continue as whānau stay with their child while they settle into Kindergarten and then deepened through a home visit by their key teacher.



As we have always done, we consistently place high priority on our commitment to our bicultural program and this is now truly embedded throughout our Kindy. This year we have also welcomed many children with diverse learning needs and we are proud to offer these tamariki a learning environment where they are valued and respected as individuals, regardless of their abilities.



All kaiako are immensely proud of the welcoming and inclusive learning community we have created here and we showcase this in our collection of photos.



Greenwood Kindergarten

Greenwood Kindergarten continues to flourish within the Motueka community. Many families return with each new generation and the kaiako really enjoy make new connections while re-establishing the old.

The links into the community have been strengthened with regular visits to the library, firestation, museum and the local cafes for rounds of fluffies.

The transition to schools process for many moko is enhanced by the ongoing links to local schools through kapa haka and visits from and to schools by kaiako.



The kindergarten environment continues to be a source of delight and wonder as the gardens grow and the oak tree shares the changes of season through the coming and going of its leaves, birds and sun. The animals that live at kindergarten give many opportunities for moko whanau and maiako to love, learn and be enlightened.



Kaiako are continually captivated watching the moko as they grow, thrive and explore and are always seeking to provide new and ongoing learning journeys that will spark the love of learning in all moko.

Poipoia te kākano kia puawai
Nurture the seed and it will grow



Grove Street Kindergarten

This year we built on our mahi from 2022 and focused on kaitiakitanga in 'Our Place'. Special places that are significant to us, our kindergarten and homes. Empowered tamariki enhanced their mana through caring for the taiao and built a deeper connection with the whenua and ngā Atua. The importance of ako saw learning around sustainability and kaitiakitanga flow between whanau and kindergarten, enriching this mahi and building a stronger connection with our whanau. Later in the year this mahi led to an evaluation on 'Our People' where whanau and tamariki shared their culture and values with kindergarten, enhancing a sense of belonging and identity.



The highlight of all our special events this year was our Matariki celebration which started in the morning and went into the night. We were honoured to be hosts to a local school kapahaka group filled with past tamariki and whanau of our kindergarten. The busy day ended with shared kai, fire side chats and dancing. A special day attended by over 100 whanau. We look forward to wonderful 2024 filled with fun and learning!



Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakemua

If we take care of the earth and
take care of the people,
we will take care of the future.



Healthkids Kindergarten



Healthkids highlights are reflected in the pictures below. Our main curriculum focused has been weaving a local story (pūrākau) into our daily program and each kaiako has taken on a role of supporting this mahi. We had two sustained projects of making a waka and a dolphin (kaikaiāwaro) with paper mache which our tamariki in both rooms have thoroughly enjoyed.



Another highlight for the year has been through our enviroschool mahi and incorporating daily rituals with composting and our worm farm. Another part of our enviroschools mahi has been a focus to get out and about in our community, some of our trips have included local rubbish walks, visiting our local Bunnings, Teal Valley and enjoying parks in our local community. A special thanks to our story Gran, Gabby, who makes these outings possible.





Hira Kindergarten

At Hira this year, we have been working on our local purākau and equity within our family's contribution to our kindergarten curriculum, amongst many other things!! Here are 2 highlights... Our Matariki mahi, where we worked on a play to tell the story of Puanga or Puaka, depending on dialect. This was the result of a small whānau survey. We all learnt about this story and it's significance for our rohe. We prepared kai for our celebration evening....



We prepared decorations and props for our play..... and had a wonderful evening connecting with whānau.



We continued our learning about our tāngata whenua and how they came to Aotearoa. We also learnt about the Ngāti Koata telling of Hohāpata te Kahupuku, a tangata rongonui of our rohe here in Delaware Bay. We did a collaborative wall display to tell the story of the wreck of the Delaware.



Preparing harakeke to make a rope, cutting, colouring and painting to make the display.



Display with Hohāpata, the crew, the rope, the Delaware, the storm - rain and lightning, clouds, waves, ocean, rocks and boulders on the shore...





Motueka Kindergarten

One of our biggest highlight this year was connecting with Te Awhina marae through a pōwhiri process. We have been learning waiata, local pūrākau, kapa haka and poi. Our whānau were a big part of supporting us with this and our tamariki were able to participate in a way that filled their mana and warmed our kaiako hearts.

Our Matariki celebration was a wonderful evening where our whānau came together to share kai, karakia, waiata, dancing and kōrero, all wrapped up in the thrill of being at kindy at night time.

With every one of our kaiako engaging in different Te Ao Māori courses we are thriving in this area and have been able to bring our passions alive in our daily curriculum so that our tamariki, whānau and manuhiri can see, feel and hear our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



We have been guided by maramataka which is a Te Ao Māori concept that uses the phases of te marama (the moon) to garden by. It has taught us when to sow, transplant, plant above and below ground, fertilise and harvest. We have been experimenting with the different types of māra kai that we are growing, and our tamariki have been enjoying baking, making different smoothies, omlettes and fritatas.

We are proud to announce that we became a Bronze Enviroschool in early October and will begin to mahi towards becoming a silver Enviroschool.

**Whāia te iti kahurangi kit e tūohu
koe me he maunga teitei**

Seek the treasure you value most
dearly, if you bow your head,
let it be to a lofty mountain



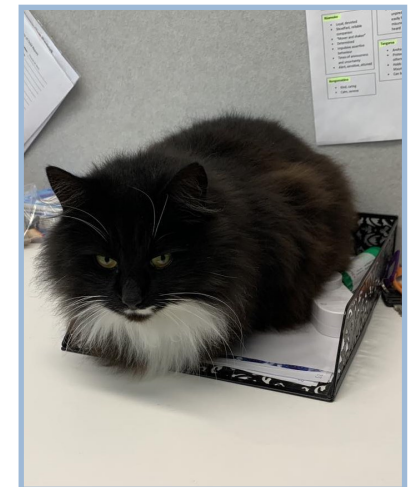
Motueka South Kindergarten



2023 has been a big year! New name, new building, new location.



New teachers and friends.



New equipment but the same cat, Bella.

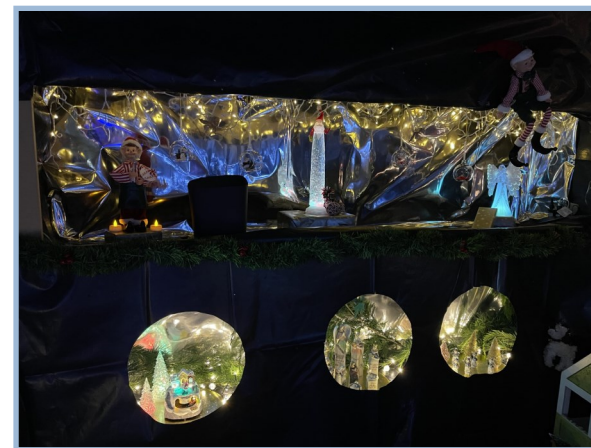


Murchison Kindergarten

We are delighted to welcome Ardie as our new, permanent teacher, who has settled into Murchison and the team here perfectly. We were very grateful to have had Helen Durbridge relieve for us long term, however, it is a huge relief to finally have Ardie join our team. We expect the kindergarten to continue to flourish and prosper with this calibre of teaching and be the excellent, beautiful learning space that it is, for our tamariki, which is in itself, is part of our curriculum.



We are so fortunate to be part of this amazing community and our relationship within it continues to grow. We are an integral part of this community, becoming more involved in local events including story time at the library, The Spring Flower Show, Pets Day at school, Matariki Celebrations as well as having access to the Fire Station and Ambulance Service who are always keen to showcase their services to us. The children are always ready and willing to bake our now famous 'thank you cookies' for anyone who helps and supports us in the community.



Work will commence shortly to create our much loved and looked forward to 'Christmas Grotto'. This magic gets shared throughout our community.

Our garden has always been a strong focal point and this year is no exception. We encourage planting, growing, processing food and generally looking after our space, which the children love getting involved with.

We want to increase the amount of edibles in the garden – we already have blueberries and strawberries as well as many vegetables, established trees, giving us apples, grapes, mandarins, feijoas and limes.

We have strengthened our relationship with the school, especially in regard to the new entrants class, with regular, frequent visits with our children who are transitioning to school.



Our treaty-signing ritual has been enriched this year by the addition of a beautiful hand-carved Waka. Our local wood carver created this beautiful piece for us, made from reclaimed rimu and oak – representative of our bi-cultural environment.

We are extremely proud of our Kindergarten and are truly grateful for our amazing children and their families – our FLG remains strong and we have been fortunate to purchase many resources this year with funds raised, to enrich the learning of our tamariki.



Nayland Kindergarten

Kaiako at Nayland Kindergarten regularly retell local pūrākau (iwi stories) with small groups of tamariki. Tamariki have become very familiar with 'Te Wheke a Muturangi, the story of Kupe's journey to Aotearoa chasing a giant octopus and the story of Mātua Hautere, the ancestor of Ngāti Kuia. Tamariki have had opportunities to explore the pūrākau through play: building wheke out of uku/clay or playdough, art experiences and dramatic play. We moved the outdoor climbing equipment to make a "waka hourua", an ocean-going waka. The pūrākau inspire our play: sailing, fishing, diving, cooking, singing and battles with Te Wheke. We talk about Tangaroa, the guardian of the oceans, and we always give him back the first fish we catch.



Incredible Years (IY) training has provided a strong basis to spring off when looking at the inclusion of an increasingly younger and also higher needs tamariki in our Kindergarten.

Through kaiako training and the implementation of strategies during a regular review we have increased positive learning and social outcomes between tamariki, kaiako and whānau.

Some of the strategies included changes in the rhythm of the day, learning about toddler needs, consistent strategies of appropriate behaviour between home and kindergarten, newsletters, a Kindergarten Tiriti between tamariki and kaiako, creating IY plans and celebrating success from these.

Overall we are seeing happy and engaged tamariki that have a toolbox of strategies to go about their day.



In June this year the tamariki that went on an excursion to the Fairy Gardens and had the opportunity to work in a smaller group with their peers. Some of the older children have had the opportunity to lead the group and look after the younger children. They have been able to share the experience with friends they often play with at kindergarten. Relationships form by having the time and experience together.

The kaiako will encourage more excursions, and through the children's interests we can explore more of the world around us.

In particular it is the kindergarten's hope we are able to do more of these excursions to encourage the Enviroschool Kaupapa. This is finding out more about how we as a community can have a sustainable future and how we as people can recycle, and look after our environment to have for our future wellbeing.



As part of this trip we were also able to visit the fairy gardens around the road from a teacher's home in Richmond. Families were able to help with transporting the children to the home in private vehicles and explore the wider community even more.

The plan for next time will be to see if we can make our own fairy house at kindergarten to take up to the fairy gardens and place there using the new bus system. Another Enviroschools plan for sustainability.

Ko te kai rapu, ko ia te kite

He who seeks will find

Don't sit back, have a go and
experience it



Nelson Central Kindergarten

What a busy exciting past year we have had here at Waimārama Nelson Central Kindergarten. This past year we have continued to provide positive learning opportunities for all our tamariki and whānau. Our whānau have provided us with ideas and thoughts on what they would like to see happen here at Kindergarten during our well attended pizza whānau evening back in March. This enabled us to co construct curriculum along side whānau incorporating and sharing ideas.

Another highlight for us has been becoming more visible in the community as we took part in Te Ramaroa Light Festival. Tamariki had the opportunity to learn about Inanga fresh water fish and create an art installation which were on display at the Queens Gardens during the festival.



We have had several visits to the Suter Art Gallery this year to explore mahi toi and create our own art. These visits strengthen our community ties and support our tamariki to connect with people, places and things.

We have been fortunate to have worked with Emma Mathews a music therapist who has created beautiful waiata to support our tamariki with waiata that supports our values and celebrates who we are.

Our regular whānau events such as bike day , breakfasts and our annual christmas party have strengthened our relationships with our whānau.

Our visits to Teal Valley have continued over this last year and are hugely successful. Tamariki get to explore nature based play and become familiar with the whenua and programme during regular visits. With Teal Valley winding up we are looking to our local area and planning to explore our rich local area which includes Waimārama sanctuary.



Our team have been participating in a Ministry of Education run initiative called Te Hurihanganui. Te Hurihanganui aims to support communities to work together to address racism and inequity so they can accelerate the achievement and wellbeing of ākonga Māori and their whānau. Kaiako have been involved in professional development to support Te Hurihanganui and have used Ngāti Kuia pūrakau Matua Hautere as well as Ngā Kawatau the aspirations and expectations of Te Tauhi to further learning for kaiako, tamariki and whānau.

A highlight of this was our successful Matariki celebration which gave us a chance to reconnect and reflect on the past and look to the future. This was well attended by whānau and gave us all an opportunity to introduce Kaikaiāwaro the dolphin which tamariki take home to strengthen our partnership between home and Kindergarten as well as sharing pūrakau.

I would like to thank all our whānau and the team here at Waimarama Nelson Central Kindergarten for their continued support as we continue to provide the best outcomes for all our tamariki.



Nelson South Kindergarten



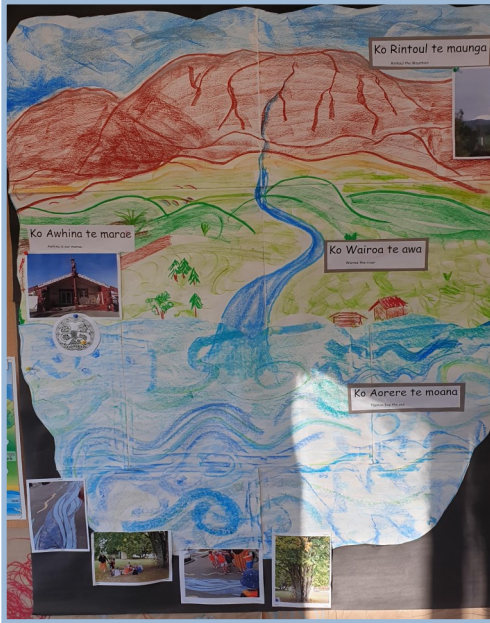
Nelson South Kindergarten has had a steady but great year. There has been some positive things to celebrate as a team and community. Our children's roll has increased recently after a few months of being low. The floodgates of two year olds have gushed in and thanks to the Nelson South team for the dedication and great work of transitioning, settling, nurturing, teaching and growing these tamaiti/whānau in their new learning space.

Nelson South Kindergarten were all excited/nervous/overwhelmed with the news that ERO was coming for a visit this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances these plans changed and NSK will have to wait patiently for the next rotation in the near future. Overall, Nelson South has had a successful journey this year with reviews. We had focused on 3 different reviews, all based on Te Ao Maori concepts, with the intention to strengthen our bi-cultural practices and processes. The outcomes from these reviews deepened the teams relationship with whānau/family and tamariki. It brought about great reflections for the team to shift the 'power' in decision making back to whānau regarding what is best for their children's learning. This was made possible when whānau joined forces with the team, breaking barriers to any learning/processes for the tamariki. This learning journey produced an authentic, meaningful and respectful tikanga/processes for our new found and loved environment.





Pinegrove Kindergarten



We have sadly farewelled 2 of our heihei and retired the other two to Karolyne's farmlet. Happily though we were gifted four more by the same whānau that gave us our original heihei. The tamariki thoroughly enjoy caring for our heihei and are learning the responsibilities of being kaitiaki within all aspects of their care. We are growing greens for them in our new raised garden beds. As yet no eggs but we check everyday eagerly awaiting them.



Pinegrove Kindergarten has continued to thrive in our fabulous setting in Brightwater. We have used our surroundings to inspire a great deal of mahi to support the learning of our new pepeha.

The making of a paper mache version of Mount Rintoul has brought about so many conversations and the tamariki are now recognising their mouna as they explore the local environment with their whānau. The depth of learning that is taking place for all of our tamariki has been feedback to us by so many whānau who share the stories of their tamaiti sharing the pepeha at home. Our tamariki are also sharing what they have learnt about their local area.



After what felt like an eternity we were finally able to hold our much loved and greatly attended Trike-a-thon. It has always been a Pinegrove tradition and it was simply

wonderful to be able to enjoy fabulous times connecting with so many of our whānau. We hire bike ramps and jumps which provide some extra fun for the tamariki as they ride around the field.

Pinegrove was also involved with the first Brightwater community Matariki event this year. It was great to part of the wider community to honour this national celebration. The fire poi was an absolute highlight.



Richmond Kindergarten

Richmond Kindergarten has had another busy year with lots of fun things happening within our curriculum including excursions to the gym, dance lessons and visits to the local schools.



Every fortnight, the Kaiako and parent helpers take the tamariki on a hikoi to the Richmond Town Hall where Linda runs 'Just Gym' classes. Linda provides opportunities for the tamariki to develop physical skills for life through the teaching and practicing of gymnastic based movements. These sessions add another dynamic to our physical programme and are thoroughly enjoyed by the tamariki.

Over the winter terms we had Annie and Rosa, from Legacy Dance, come and run dance sessions for our tamariki. Together we all learnt new moves that we then showcased to our whanau at the end of the third term. We look forward to welcoming these girls back into our programme when their busy timetable allows.

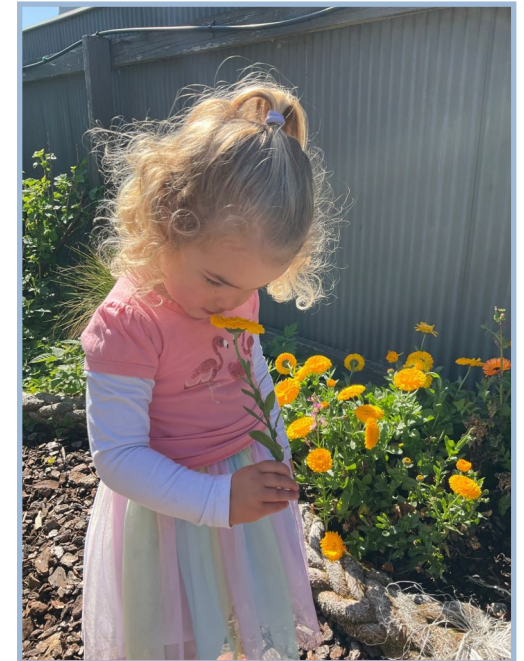


The learning each member of the Richmond Kindergarten team have gained from their participation in Te Reo professional development over this year, has been reflected in our programme through waiata, purakau and tikanga. We are very proud of the ways we support tamariki to learn about Aotearoa.

Our Matariki celebration was a huge success this year with record numbers in attendance. Whanau were welcomed into the Kindergarten with a Haka Powhiri before performing an amazing array of waiata with passion and gusto. It was then time to share kai and celebrate the mahi with whanau. The menemene from tamariki, Kaiako and whanau reflected what an amazing night this was.

The Kaiako, continue to provide a programme that has a focus on the individual goals of the tamariki. Through collaborating with whanau each child has a goal that sits under the umbrella of either Aroha, Rangitiratanga, Manaakitanga or Whakatoi. These learning goals are regularly assessed through learning stories and shared with whanau on Story Park.

A huge thanks to our Richmond Kindergarten community who continue to support the Kindergarten throughout the year.





Stoke Kindergarten

The kaiako at Stoke kindergarten embrace te Ao Māori. This is a place where you will feel the wairua, hear te reo, pūrākau and tikanga values woven through the curriculum in a fun and engaging way. You will see tamariki mahi is valued and their stories displayed around the environment.



The Nature Play programme continues to thrive and nurture the tamariki social, emotional, cultural and physical wellbeing. Each week a group of tamariki (and their whānau) connect with Papatūānuku in Ranui Reserve adjacent to the kindergarten. Tamariki explore their natural world in their own unique way, and in their own time. This place based learning goes beyond our back fence. Tamariki develop a sense of turangawaewae when they make meaningful connections with the local parks in our rohe familiar to them.

Tamariki build new connections with the unfamiliar - other places new. They learn about the importance wildlife has for the health and vitality of our streams and for the environment. Regular visits to Teal Valley Forest Kindergarten and Brook Waimārama Sanctuary support on and extend this learning and is well embedded into the kaupapa. Through tamariki experiencing localised curriculum they have opportunities to link their whakapapa to their ancestors like Kupe at Maara Wheke / Octopus Garden.



As kaiako knowledge grows and deepens about local histories, kaiako look for creative ways tamariki can make further connections to these pūrākau of important events. At kindergarten tamariki tell their stories through a range of visual art mediums, clay and screen printing and natural resources.



This is a little snapshot, a wee story of how Stoke kindergarten is a place where tamariki are provided a mountain of rich localised curriculum opportunities for the best possible start in life for their learning. Ngā mihi nui.





Tahunanui Kindergarten

We kicked off the year of shared whānau fun nights by celebrating our kindregarten's 60th Birthday with a Teddy Bears Picnic. For the teddy bears there was a hospital, an obstacle course and a decorate your bear station as well as story time. It was a wonderful night of connecting, relationship building and celebration. Other celebrations have been a night under the stars to celebrate Matariki, with hot soup, waiata and star hunting. Harakeke held a movie night and Te Rito a sparkle disco.



Planning and implementing a localised curriculum has included sharing local pūrākau and waiata and making connections through regular visits within our community, such as school, Nature Land, library, our community garden and also making kai for the community food pantry. Harakeke celebrated our dedicated Story Grans with a thank you afternoon tea.



Te Rito has welcomed improvements to their building including a much needed covered pergola over the sandpit, which now provides a dry space to play on wet days. Also installed is a shade cloth for the veranda and thanks to a successful grant application there has been new vinyl and carpet to some indoor areas.



The whole team has been working with Talking Matters as part of an RIE on support oral language development. This has been exciting and insightful mahi. Our tamariki were excited to be talking super heroes with special capes!





Tapawera Kindergarten

2023 has been an exciting year at kindergarten full of plenty of learning and lots of fun. We have been working hard and have recently achieved our Bronze Enviroschools status.

Tamariki have been learning and bringing purukau, legends from near and far alive as they have become familiar with Maui, Kupe, Kereopa. The kaiako have attended Te ahu reo- a language and cultural learning opportunity provided by Te tauihu iwi. This has allowed us to pass new waiata, language, tikanga and purukau on to akonga benefitting all.

Outside we have been making our space more inviting planting around our boundaries as well as forming a special butterfly garden in our outdoor space. During summer and Autumn we harvested lots of salad and vegetables from our gardens.



We have formed a very valuable partnership with Brook Waimarama Sanctuary that has enabled the Tamariki the opportunity to explore and learn about native plants, insects and birds. We use this time to learn about how we can protect these taonga.

One of our most valuable times is when we can just listen and watch the forest as we lie under the canopy and have a forest bathing experience.



Tamariki often tell us all about their treasured pets so this spring we decided to open our gates to all creatures and held a Pet's Day. We met and shared many of our furry, woolly and feathered friends who were all so well behaved. We also held a Grandparent's Day. Whānaungatanga is an aspect of our philosophy here that we treasure dearly. Working with our families is so key to young children's learning. So when we invited all the grandparents and special people we were thrilled to welcome so many through our doors to share all our learning and develop greater relationships.

After some Tamariki showed an interest in movement we got Josie on board to show us some yoga moves and help us find ways to look after our bodies. Along with yoga and plenty of climbing in our playground we were lucky enough to have the use of the school hall on Fridays to set up the gym equipment. Along with practising our leaps, ball skills were popular, especially hockey.

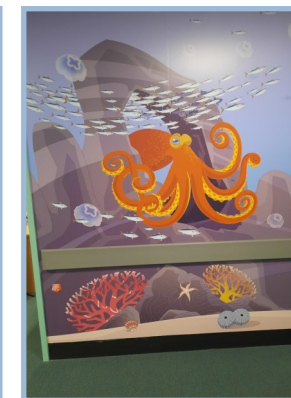
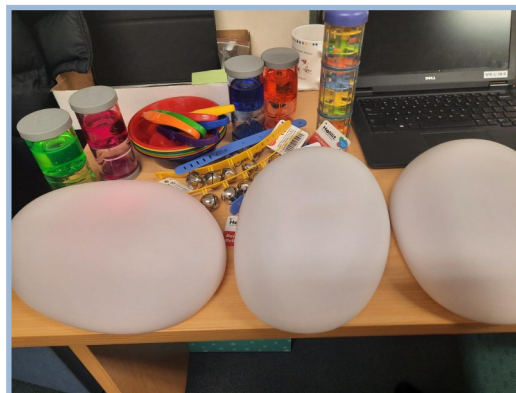


A big year of growth for us all and we look forward to another dynamic year full of learning for all.



Te Whare Manaaki - Nelson Hospital

We are always looking to improve the experiences of tamariki and whānau experiencing hospitalisation. This year our focus has been about environment and resourcing. We have been able to purchase a number of sensory and other resources through the generous assistance of other kindergartens. We thank them very much for their support. The new ward decals have been completed and are amazing. They are visually appealing and intricate. There's always something new to discover. We have reproduced the under the sea theme through into Te Whare Manaaki - and with a Reduce, Reuse and Recycle theme, have started with creating a wheke, and ika using medical equipment.



As we celebrated Matariki - we started our new Taonga Pukapuka - which documents some of our mahi. It is available for tamariki and whānau to both enjoy and contribute to.

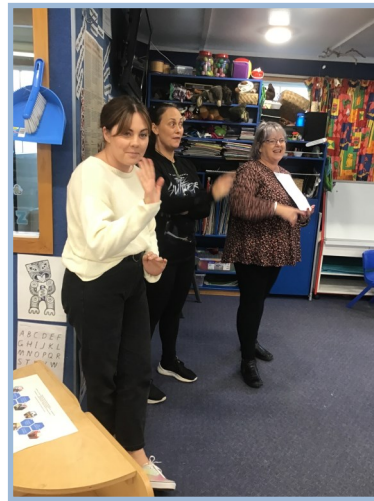
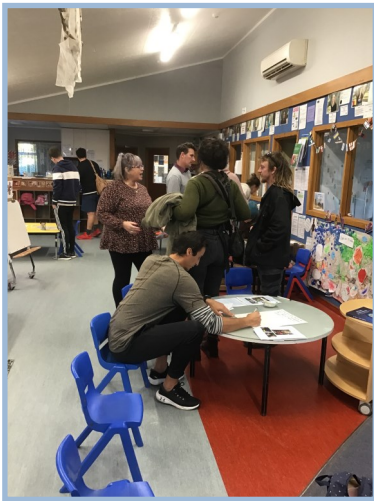
As well as engaging in Professional Development this year, Sue has been on The National Executive of the Hospital Play Specialists Association Aotearoa New Zealand since March 2022, and has been on the working groups looking at transition from ECE Kaiako to Hospital Based ECE Kaiako/Play Specialist; and another group working with ERO and how they review Hospital based ECE. Our relieving kaiako, Fay and Jenna, contribute hugely to our kaupapa, and we have been fortunate to have Marlene with us while we recruit a new Play Assistant to support the team.

Thanks to their 'home' kindergartens for supporting us. Congratulations on the Association reaching 75 years!



Victory Square Kindergarten

Over the past year we have held parent events that have helped us to redevelop our Philosophy. Some of our tamariki have experienced a trip to Trafalgar Centre to watch tamariki competing at the junior kapa haka nationals - Te Mana Kura Tahi. We have finished our three year Te Hurihanganui project and have learnt a lot about how we can stamp out racism.



We have completed an Art Course as a team and the amazing art that our tamarki are creating has been extraordinary and we are excited to see where this may continue to develop as we implement the things we have learnt.



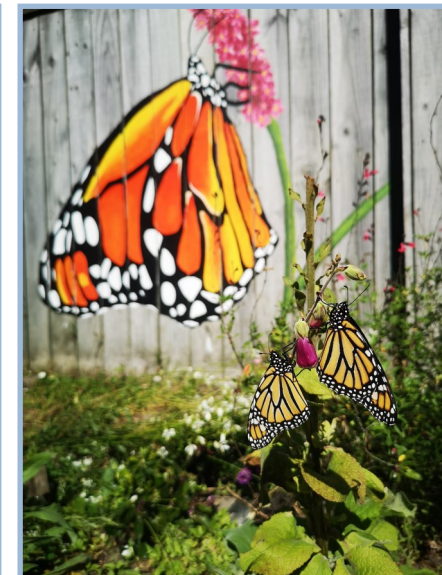


Waimea Kindergarten

It has been an exciting year at Waimea Kindergarten filled with new experiences and opportunities. We continued our mahi for embedding kaitiakitanga within our programme by exploring the monarch life cycle and creating further opportunities to observe and learn more about metamorphosis.



We increased the monarch butterfly numbers in Aotearoa by hatching and releasing over 200 monarch pūrerehua. This year we added another feature to our pūrerehua garden with a monarch butterfly mural. Mitre 10 MEGA Nelson Helping Hands generously supplied us with the paint for this project. We were very grateful for their support. Our tamariki loved watching Kate work her magic over a couple of days with this artwork.



We joined Mayor Tim King at Jubilee Park to help plant a *Tilia Europaea* tree to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Our tamariki were very excited to be part of this event alongside the Mayor. When our tamariki go to Jubilee Park from now on, they can proudly remember how they helped plant that tree with the Mayor.

Our kaiako engaged in whole team professional development workshops with Emma Matthews (music therapist) over five months. We learned new strategies for using music to support children's learning, development, and self-regulation. Emma created personalized waiata for our kindergarten that reflects our philosophy and values. A career peak for Emma was when one of our pet frogs, Jeremiah, sang along with her when she introduced these waiata to us.

We got up close with Spike the tuatara when he came to visit us at kindergarten. Spike is a resident at Victoria University but was here in Nelson to visit some local colleges. Our tamariki learned some amazing facts about tuatara including their diet, lifespan, habitat, and what threatens their survival. They also learned how they can help be kaitiaki for them. Spike hatched in 1986 and he could grow up to half a metre in length.

We were officially recognised as a Green-Gold Enviroschool at the end of 2022 and celebrated this a few months later with a shared morning tea with our tamariki, whānau, and wider community.



Our Matariki evening with whānau was a wonderful gathering where we ate and shared kai together, shared stories and laughter, sang waiata, and spent time around the fire. It was a magical time of connection and reflection to remember the past, celebrate the present, and prepare for the future.

Transitions continue to be a curriculum priority for us, as we have many transitions into and across our kindergarten, and then onto kura. We have transitioned 45 tamariki into a variety of local kura. We value the transition to school visits we do with our tamariki as they make connections between kindergarten and school. Through these visits, we maintain our relationships with the kura and new entrant kaiako.

Being located on the education campus, we have had opportunities for connection and participation with the schools including Waimea College. The Year 13 PE students facilitated gym sessions for our tamariki, which focused on fundamental movement skills. It was great to see how our tamariki interacted with the older tamariki and engaged with the physical programme they created and led for them.

We had ERO come at the beginning of August. This was an opportunity to showcase our mahi and environment at Waimea and we had wonderful verbal feedback on the day.

We have been focusing our evaluations this year on tūrangawaewae and local pūrākau, where we have explored how we provide an environment where all feel empowered and connected, knowing and acknowledging tūrangawaewae can be different for different people depending on their tribal affiliations, ancestral connections, and personal experiences.



'He waka eke noa - We are all in this together!'



Waverley Street Kindergarten



It has been another busy year at WSK. A large focus has been at the Ngahere Whare Rākau, our adopt-a-spot site at the Richmond Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Starting earlier in the year with planning and a working bee, the WSK whānau set the wheels in motion for this Kindergarten lead community project. We have been very lucky to have generous support behind us with businesses, neighbours, schools and even strangers getting on board. With the sad news of the Teal Valley Forest Kindergarten closing, we hope this will add a bit of Teal Valley to WSK.



Tamariki from WSK have been active throughout the whole process and are a real driving force behind what we currently see. Their enthusiasm and commitment has been unwavering and the hope of bringing our community together really drives the kindy. Keep an eye on the Ngahere Whare Rākau as it blossoms.

Other highlights for us are the ongoing gym visits with Just Gym, Active Little Learners and getting out into our community.

