

WAIKATO KINDERGARTEN REPORTS

TERM 2, 2011

This report is compiled by the Educational Services Managers, who each manage a select number of kindergartens. The information is taken from the community report.

ABERDEEN Sessional Kindergarten	
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The term started with a strong focus on the royal wedding intertwining dressing up, being a prince and princess and creativity with art, self expression and costume design. We followed the interest with the children extending their knowledge and encouraging them to choose the direction of the learning. The natural direction of interest flowed into making hats and linking in the popular interest of pirates, map making and treasure hunting. Accessories and maps became popular with children involved in designing and following their own designs with both making hats and also treasure maps that eventually lead them to treasure. Extending this interest with imaginative play has been the main focus along with leadership skills, communication, creativity and self-expression. Following an ERO review in Term One, we are closely focusing on ways to incorporate consultation with parents regarding children's interests and areas of learning. We have discussed at staff meetings ways to include both children's voices and whanau voices in learning stories.

BELLMONT Sessional Kindergarten	
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Our tamariki visited the Waka at Waikato Museum and to see exciting carvings, displays of taonga and hands on experiences with taonga. This visit is always special; we practice chanting Toia mai so we can do it as we walk down to the waka to wake it up; many of our whanau nga hau e wha join us; this year Koro David was well enough to come with us. Children always rise to the occasion, listening, singing, exploring peacefully and getting the most out of the visit. The excursion ties us to the wider whanau of Tainui and strengthens our whanaungatanga philosophy. Matariki at Belmont kindergarten was celebrated with Kaihakari which included hangi, boil up, food from all our different cultures enjoyed by almost all of our kindergarten whanau. The children did waiata ringaringa to entertain everyone. This was the best attended kaihakari we have had and lifted everyone's spirits as we shared kai together.

CAMBRIDGE Sessional Kindergarten	
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Term 2 began with new children very quickly becoming comfortable and confident in the kindergarten environment. Children are very conscious of keeping our kindergarten, community and the Earth **GREEN!** They have helped with the construction of new compost bins and have taken part in looking after our environment not only in the garden but by almost achieving our aim of zero waste and using our recycling rubbish bin with care. It amazes the teachers constantly the children's ability to retain song lyrics such as the three verses and chorus of the "Recycling Song". Quite an achievement. Teachers purchased some wonderful new resources for the children a big turtle, whale and manta ray for the science corner and a huge football/ball skills goalpost. With the rainy weather these last weeks the children have been busy enjoying some very creative play. The Family Picnic night was a roaring success with a huge turnout of families enjoying their Friday night tea with other whānau and teachers. The children showed pride in their kindergarten as they showed family their special books, introduced their friends to their families and played in the dark.

CHARTWELL Sessional Kindergarten	
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The royal wedding during the term break sparked a huge wedding interest with a large group of girls and a few boys being involved in their very own weddings. Dresses, veils, rings and cakes were made for weeks. Children drew pictures of Will and Kate and a royal wedding display was put up. The children have been really enjoying their role as kaiawhina at mat times and were supported in building their understanding of biculturalism by going on a trip to Te Puia in Rotorua and then being involved in various waiata, weaving and bicultural discussions. A large group of boys have been enjoying cause and affect experiments with volcanoes in the sandpit and worm hunts. The children enjoyed setting up our worm farm and have regularly checked it for "worm wees". We have started a plant experiment with corn and tomato plants, some have been planted with 'worm wees' and some without. We are interested to see how this progresses and eventually there is potential for selling "worm wees" to families for their gardens. Walking with Dinosaurs has sparked an interest in dinosaurs with a group of children bringing in various resources, books, and photos from their experiences at Vector Arena.

CRAWSHAW School Day Kindergarten	
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.At the beginning of the term we acknowledged the three official languages of N.Z. Teachers talked about this with our children, introducing them to a new sign daily, making use of our new N.Z Sign Language dictionary. Teachers have been learning alongside the children; this allows the children to see teachers as learners too. Through this we are exposing the children to a different form of literacy. This has continued throughout the term with signing the alphabet and colours at mat time, and learning new sign phrases such as “tidy up time”. Children have enjoyed the new puppets and we have created a puppet stage that has been popular. There has been puppet shows at mat time by both teachers and children. The family people from the block area are also being used here. Children have also been creating their own puppets and decorating them with the cool melt guns and various resources. Teachers and children enjoyed another amazing Matariki celebration with our children and families, and as always we were delighted with the response and contribution that was made. Children are still enjoying the outdoor environment and we get out as often as possible, weather permitting. Skipping has become a huge interest, which has proved quite challenging for some children trying to coordinate jumping with hand, eye and foot co-ordination.

DEANWELL School Day Kindergarten	
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Programme Planning, Assessment and Evaluation. Term 2 has been a very busy and happy term that has included many visitors who have enhanced our programme and learning for all the children. All areas of the curriculum are appropriately extended and acknowledged. Special or popular interests that were recognized and responded to this term have included: butterflies, planting the winter garden, tikanga Maori, the whare nui, the Castle, Royal family members, cooking, aeroplanes and the airport, dinosaurs and the dinosaur game. The Perceptual Motor Programme continues on Wednesday morning with highlighted activities available and extended during the following week. Process Baking was successfully introduced this term. We have returned to the ‘Continual Morning Tea Time’ at the Food/Kai Tables to enable the process cooking to comfortably fit into the programme. Learning Notes - Following the Hukanui workshop, teachers are keen to use this impressive, objective and clear learning system within our Children’s Folders. Following the Whitiara teaching teams sharing – our team will be discussing this current and visually effective method to consult with parents /whanau. This professional sharing within the mini workshops is appreciated by the teachers.

DINSDALE Sessional Kindergarten	
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There was lots of enthusiasm and excitement as the children settled back into the kindergarten environment, enjoying the equipment and activities, as well as catching up with peers. The new landscaped area has been extremely popular with the children as they have explored this area utilising the trucks, balls and hula-hoops as well as investigating the stepping stones, stage and railway sleepers. The addition of the water pump has also engaged the children as they have problem solved together how to get this working and utilised the water. Art creativity and exploration has been busy as the children are developing their early literacy knowledge and skills. Lots of writing and dramatic play occurred as the children are making shopping lists and utilising the family area for this purpose. The Am children’s excursion to Butterfly Creek was enjoyed by children, whanau and staff. The children excitedly recalled this experience through art work, looking through photos and the slide show on the computer. This was also a valuable excursion to involve and include whanau into the programme as well as providing the tamariki with learning experiences in the wider world such as viewing crocodiles and the colourful array of butterflies.

FAIRFIELD School Day Kindergarten	
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The Incredible Years programme has really consolidated some of our practices and enabled us to refine this area of practice. We have been seeking to communicate some of this kaupapa to our whanau. A helpful tool has been the Teaching pyramid. We have a base of positive attention, praise and encouragement which are hopefully rewards in themselves. In some instances certificates, stickers, stamps and verbal contact with families is appropriate. Only in extreme circumstances do we resort to removing children from a situation or give them a “cool down time out “. The bottom line is safety for children. In between we look for the magic moments of exploration and problem solving, engagement and friendship and celebrate those!

FRANKTON School Day Kindergarten	
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It is always exciting to see children taking their understanding of characterization into an ‘acting role’ through our weekly nursery rhyme as well ... What clever children we have at Frankton Kindergarten!! Teachers have seen a strong emphasis this term on construction with varied equipment, Māori arts, waiata and tikanga, gardening and harvesting, sewing, both by hand and machine, cooking, baking and food preparation using our own produce and

produce from the supermarket, weather and the seasonal changes, story telling, gymnastics and physical challenges/strengths, shapes and numbers, painting on a range of surfaces including windows and OHP transparent sheets, helping others and welcoming new friends, name recognition and practice with writing names, producing a whānau wall, racing cars, rainbows, tea parties and dressing up.

GALBRAITH	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Child initiated learning has again included huge interest in physical movement and gross motor activities outside - such as cricket, tennis, and ball play. This has seen, in particular, a strengthening of hand-eye co-ordination as the tamariki have worked hard to succeed in their self-initiated goals. Obstacle courses are still proving popular and are often being planned and placed by the children themselves. Their contributions are highly encouraged and supported by the teachers. The children have been consistently accessing mediums to support their writing and literacy skills throughout all areas of the kindergarten. Child initiated interest in rhyming books (such as Hairy McClary) and rhyming waiata (such as nursery rhymes) from which teachers noticed, recognised and responded to, have further supported key areas that underpin beginning reading. Adult supported learning included Matariki, The Mid-Year Concert, Enviro-schools programme, Tikanga and Te Reo Maori (especially through waiata) and Social Competency support and encouragement. Further to this, as a result of our involvement in the "LIFT" literacy project through the kindergarten association, we are currently looking at ways in which we can best implement this literacy project. We will begin implementation next term, starting with new enrolments. The goal of this project is to monitor an individual child's learning journey in relation to their literacy development; over the full duration of the time the child attends kindergarten

GRANDVIEW	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Excursions, Events and Visitors: Trip to Hamilton Gardens as part of Matariki and environment. Transition to school lunch with Nawton School. Parents have come to kindergarten to share making rewena bread, Whakapapa; making putiputi from harakeke. Matariki whānau morning tea and performance by children which was supported by parents and whānau. Hearing and Vision tests ERO review which was very encouraging and extremely positive in all areas of our programme. Kindy Rock session Animated Soundz show Farewell morning tea for Cheryl Positive Guidance: Encouraging co-operation, tuakana-teina relationships and team work. Teachers are working together with the support of Psychologist from GSE with one child. Changes/alterations to the environment: Beginning to plant native area; development of mud area; combat ropes between trees and rope swings in trees. Teachers are developing technology areas and a large blackboard in sandpit which is encouraging children to take literacy and numeracy outdoors.

GRASSLANDS	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Staff have focused on children's strengths and interests which has provided direction for planning in our programme over the past term. Construction of all kinds is still hugely popular, we have children constructing with the hot glue gun inside and outside, at the carpentry table, with the boxes in the outdoor and indoor areas and in the block corner. The children's creativity in the arts has also been a significant passion and is well documented and displayed throughout our kindergarten environment. Risk taking, rough and tumble play has been prevalent in children's play opportunities with the shifting of the carpentry house, the boxing bag and Donny knocker game. Children have been highly engaged in play and have developed their skills and confidence. Te reo Maori continues to be further strengthened in the kindergarten environment with the tamariki asking for the maori word for such and such...we are extending our vocabulary! Kapahaka practice has resulted in us performing with the junior kapahaka group to the Rhode Street school whanau celebrating Matariki. We are learning new waiata and performing with growing confidence. Literacy is being extended with access to the Rhode Street School library or our tamariki and staff.

HAMILTON WEST	
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Sessional Kindergarten	
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We are at the end of another busy term with the planning and implementing of a range of topics and interests. The community focus created a lot of interest in what goes on around us and our lives, including the people who help us, where we live and our place in the world. We would like to acknowledge the help and support of a lot of people with our trips and with the people who came and spoke to the children about their jobs. We enjoyed all our trips to the Air Ambulance, the Glenview library and supermarket and the Chartwell fire station. We included putting down a hangi while learning about Matariki. A very successful night and we plan a repeat next year. Also to coincide with Matariki, we had Kathy from Animated Soundz to perform her puppet show, another thing enjoyed immensely by the children and adults present.

HILLCREST Sessional Kindergarten	
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The family play area has been very popular this term but teacher after noticing that the same types of games were being played they were challenged at looking at ways to foster learning. Teachers offered different types of themes into a small space of the room. This gave children continued access to their family type games as well as offering new experiences. The new focus props in the family play have been vital bringing children's own experiences into play. Interests in Super Heroes lead to children being introduced at mat-time real life heroes in our community. Teachers have had conversations with children about super-heroes being super learners. Creative arts have opened up many learning opportunities this term. Children have explored the many different options available for them. Box construction, hot glue guns, mask making and the amazing creations made for the umbrellas which depicts the multicultural kindergarten Hillcrest Kindergarten is. Teachers are very aware of the importance of providing resources that offer opportunities for children to extend their interest in creative ways. During the term teachers started to make an extra effort to record 'children's voice' on their art work. This helps to develop children as confident learners, their ideas and imagination are valued and supported.

HUKANUI Sessional Kindergarten	
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We have had a very busy start to term two, with loads of fun planned for the weeks ahead. During the term break teachers made some environmental changes to support children's interests in different areas of the programme. In response to a strong interest for children teachers created a new library area, combining literacy activities with books. This is a lovely cosy space that we know will be well utilized during the wet days to come. Already children are asking for many books to be read to them and in addition literacy and numeracy games are being played in this area. Our Letter of the week has been re introduced to children, so we look forward to some great writing and researching from home. Information for parents regarding children's early literacy development is also on display in this area. Both the morning and afternoon children are thoroughly enjoy the new playhouse. Inside the house has had a makeover with paint and nick knacks added to give a homely feel. We are currently asking families and children to comment on the house to judge its success. The addition of the playhouse has meant freeing up space inside the kindergarten, enabling us to create a much more interesting science area, better placement of the play dough/messy activities and a whole new space currently referred to as the curiosity nook – this is a work in progress. Matariki celebrations were a great success, we had a good turn out of families for the breakfast and the children joined in enthusiastically with kite flying, weaving and soup making and sharing as well as planting our flower gardens. The family disco at the end of Matariki week was a highlight for all that attended, families gave very positive feedback saying how much they enjoyed the evening and what a great time the children had.

INSOLL Sessional Kindergarten	
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The changes in the gardens and playground have inspired children to bring Autumn leaves to kindergarten. Activities emerging from the leaves have encouraged language that is synonymous with Autumn e.g. hibernation, deciduous and evergreen. Music and waiata have provided a strong link with language and literacy as we have introduced new songs to enhance the time of year and children have learned appropriate signs for seasonal change giving them a wide signing base. Our celebration for Matariki began with the Matariki calendar. Each day children have marked the start of Maori New Year with fun and creative activities. Our initial step was to follow the calendar of Matariki looking at harvesting, fishing, cooking, harakeke, kites, stars and family connections. Reflective discussion has enhanced children's knowledge about Matariki stars, lunar eclipse, and the constellations. Children have enjoyed the geometrical shapes associated with full and half-moons and stars. The last two weeks of the term children have enjoyed talking about dinosaurs. This was inspired by one of our children bringing in dinosaurs that he bought at the production of "Walking with Dinosaurs". Wonderful dramatic play has been enjoyed by all. Foundation skills continues to be a strong feature of our programme with children having the opportunity to become skilful with resources such as bean bags, hoops, balls, scooter boards, skipping ropes, etc, dance, movement and obstacle courses.

JAMES GRAY Sessional Kindergarten	
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The Dance-a-thon! The children really loved everything about it!! There has been a huge interest in Dinosaurs so far this term so we have planned some fun activities to cater for that interest. The children have been enjoying participating in Maths and Literacy learning...the morning children tell us that everything is too easy...so we have had to be creative and find some harder or trickier activities for them to do which has been fun. The new sustainable, edible garden is fabulous and there has been a huge interest in it from a group of parents who are very keen to get planting with the children and teach them about sustainability. Our kindergarten environment looks amazing with children's amazing artwork adorning our walls. In the morning session: Dinosaurs, maths, baking, shapes, as well as our letter land literacy programme have been the focus this month as well as learning about

Matariki. Varying emerging interests have included pirates, fire fighters, and dinosaurs continue to be an interest. In the afternoon sessions we have started introducing the letter land literacy programme, and we continue to foster children's sense of belonging as they become comfortable with routines. Teachers have had a very busy term and in the last month we have spent time celebrating Matariki (the Maori New Year). Teachers have introduced many new waiata to the children, made Rewena bread, woven flax spoken and written our mihi, drawn and written our whakapapa and held a breakfast at kindergarten. Children attended a theatre trip to "Songs of the Sea". The children had been practising their acting in preparation for this and the interest in drama still continues. The teachers have performed to the children a couple of classic stories, The Three Billy Goats and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The new garden is looking fabulous and our shared lunch and grand opening was a great success. The children are enjoying our new garden and even going to check on the growth of their plants!! The teachers have had many helpers to keep our garden and kindergarten looking tidy outside i.e. sweeping, raking and collecting organic matter for composting!

JAMIESON	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Learning that has occurred for the term has included: Music in particular Justin Bieber!!!. We have supported this by having a Rock Star Day, Dance-a-thon, including Justin's songs in our end of term performance and having lots of impromptu concerts both inside and out. We have had some real stars, in particular boys who have shone thru, so this has been a fantastic opportunity to develop the boy's confidence. Autumn leaves were also a big hit and were incorporated into artwork and science experiments. Hot Wheels were again very popular and we were able to encourage lots of fine motor development with our boys by providing recourses pertaining to the new cars 2 movie. Socio dramatic play included lots of fire trucks, and play would span over several days with many of the same children re-visiting it each day. We have focused on Matariki and Maori Language Week and had a visiting puppet show. Happy Feet the penguin was of great interest to the children and we were able to support lots of self and whanau driven learning. Our end of term performance was a great success despite having 7 children away on the day and it was enjoyed by all. We are making the most of the dry spells to get outside and play before the rain comes down again so are getting very good at packing up fast!. Visitors to the Kindergarten have included Robin Polley who ran several workshops for parents on encouraging children to exercise, and Animated Soundz who did a puppet show for the children supporting Maori Language week. The annual Dance-a-thon, a Rock Star Party and the termly performance and shared kai were held.

LEAMINGTON	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Teachers continue to use our planning and assessment format, finding that it captures the children's learning along with connecting links to Te Whāriki and current theorists. ERO commented on the robustness of this planning and evaluation, complementing us on the high standard we achieve. Once autumn arrived at kindergarten the children were able to enjoy the sensory feel of the leaves under foot along with tossing them in the air and raking them up. Constructions are a continual interest; we were amazed at what creations evolved, especially out of what is considered junk materials. Because of our construction and tool interest a building frame was sourced. After lots of measuring, cutting and nailing, a roof and cladding was added over the weeks. This house had provided to be a wonderful place where children can be alone or with others, as they explore and participate in different play. Teachers noticed that after our visit to the theatre the children re-kindled their interest in drama and storytelling. After reading the story of "Where the Wild Things Are" the children made props and acted out the story. This was videoed with the children taking delight in watching themselves on the big screen. Children are encouraged to set their own goals we have noticed an amazing growth in their creativity. Parents have been supporting this as well with shared communication through notes on child's expectation for that days creation as well as making things at home and bringing them in to share at kindergarten.

MELVILLE	
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School Day Kindergarten	
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Teachers had a big clean up around the kindergarten in readiness for our ERO visit. Before Tarn left on her vacation, she had sent ERO all the documentation they required. Keith Alexander and Julie Dorafaef came on Tuesday 5th July 2011 and spent the day with us. Teachers had a de-brief meeting on Wednesday to hear their findings. Teachers are very proud of the strong relationships we have formed with our tamariki and whanau and this was highlighted as strength. They also picked up on the strong bi-cultural component of our programme; commenting that it was "embedded naturally into the programme". Other areas that were highlighted were our "rich" profile books, transition to school booklet, high quality conversations with tamariki that promoted learning and a well maintained indoor/.outdoor learning environment. It was an awesome review and one that we are all very proud of. Teachers had their whanau event this term at The Taitua Arboretum, where all celebrated Matariki. Teachers had a yummy morning tea followed by a sing-a-long. Following a leisurely walk through the Arboretum, everyone ended our time there with Te Hapuku reading the story of Matariki; ending with a waiata and karakia. Once all arrived back at the kindergarten we all took part in a gorgeous shared kai.

MIROPIKO Sessional Kindergarten	
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Term two and everyone is raring to go. Our tadpoles have been intriguing as we are watching them change into frogs. Raewyn has had many interesting discussions about this at mat time. We want to involve the children in an in-depth investigation about frogs. Anna has had a group of willing helpers to look after the worm farm and re-pot our new indoor plants. Parent partnership meetings last week and we are very pleased with the number of parents taking this opportunity. Miropiko Kindergarten often uses the reserve at the rear of the kindergarten. This has led to discussions with the Hamilton City Council and the kindergarten has been appointed the kaitiaki/guardians of the Miropiko reserve. This month a joint planting of low canopy plants under the Miro trees involved many parents, the morning children and Gerard Kelly from the Hamilton City Council Parks and Reserves. The afternoon children have been involved in a trip to Taitua Arboretum. We have celebrated Book Week with a book display and guest readers, Pink-a-licious and Valarie Langley, ex Head Teacher of Miropiko Kindergarten. We celebrated Book Character day by dressing up as our favourite characters. Grandparents' Day was another successful event and it was lovely to meet so many grandparents, hear their favourite stories and talk about the "good old days". We had a great trip to the zoo with the morning children. This was an event with many positive outcomes; it was a chance for families to get to know each other, for some people it was their first trip to the Hamilton zoo, for the children to increase their understanding of their local community and of animals, to reflect on existing knowledge, to be independent and to learn from peers. The age of our children coming into both sessions has dropped again so we are constantly reviewing whether the programme we run is still meeting the needs of our children. We have during the term changed around our afternoon session routines so that children had more time to do what is important which is to explore and make meaning of the world around them, to express themselves and to develop skills for relating to others. We have been very happy with the change so far. The teachers recently attended the ERO early childhood literacy review launch in the Ministry of Education offices in London St. We listened to some excellent speakers who included two teachers from our association, teachers from the Steiner kindergarten, and other teachers from early education centres. The strong message was to keep literacy activities meaningful and developmentally appropriate. We were provided with lots of food for thought which was excellent timing when a few days later we worked on Strategic planning for the upcoming year.

NEWCASTLE School Day Kindergarten	
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Matariki celebrations included planting more natives, making kites and celebrating with a shared lunch – soup and rewena bread. A local artist Lyndy Wilson visited the kindergarten and showed the children how she paints on canvas. The children were really inspired and completed lots of lovely art work as a result. Lyndy kindly donated some artwork as a fundraiser for the kindergarten which was really appreciated. Newcastle Kindergarten are involved in a transition to school research project which looks at supporting transition and how useful assessment information can be shared between kindergarten and schools. We have had such a fun filled and busy term. The main focus for Term 2 has been connecting links with our whanau and the wider community as part of our 2012 strategic plan. This resulted in regular excursions and events organised to encourage whanau participation and involvement. What a rewarding and enriching experience it has been to have such wonderful support to make this possible. After reflecting our tamariki interests and whanau feedback from Term One, we were flooded with ideas and support on ways to be involved in the community ranging from visiting parents work places i.e. Fire Station, to parents and locals sharing their skills and talents with us at Kindergarten.

PEACHGROVE School Day/Kindergarten	
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The learning happening at Kindergarten continues to come from the children's interests, as well as teacher led, as we learn about different cultural celebrations. A huge focus this term has been Matariki, the Maori New Year. We have celebrated this special time by planting vegetables, making displays, holding a family disco, talking with the children about what Matariki means and by reading lots of Maori legends. We will finish off the term and our celebrations by taking the morning children on a walk to the Hamilton Gardens to see Te Parapara, New Zealand's first public Maori garden. We began the term with a strong interest in construction. Teachers supported this interest by providing different resources in different areas for the children to be creative. This interest led onto the children creating their own props and becoming involved in lots of dramatic play. In turn we have made an awesome display of Jack and the Beanstalk to show-case some of the children's work. Teachers have attended workshops facilitated by colleagues within the Association and they have been hugely beneficial.

PUKETE Sessional Kindergarten	
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Teachers and children have been developing the environment for our Matariki celebrations. The children / tamariki have been using the screen printing table to create screen printed stars. We will continue to develop our environment as we lead into our Matariki celebrations. The children have developed discussions about the moon,

solar system and space; we will also follow these leads and incorporate stories about the myths and legends which link to Matariki. This will be a continuing focus of interest and development over the next few weeks. Another area of focus has been incorporating a specific letter of the alphabet for a week into the programme. The children are great at sounding and naming the letter, this is then extended when we think about words which start with the sound of the letter we have been focusing on. We are also sourcing books which have language in them developing further links to the letter being focused on. To follow on from our Matariki celebrations Chrissy organized for Cathy from Animated Soundz to come and perform. The show focused on different stories surrounding Matariki and was enjoyed by all. Glue guns, as always are continuing to be a strong interest, and the donations of glue sticks continue to be very much appreciated. A number of our children were privileged enough to attend the Walking with the Dinosaurs show in Auckland. This contributed and further extended a strong interest in dinosaurs that was emerging. Sina and the children made a fantastic paper mache dinosaur land which has proved very popular. Lots of books on this topic within the learning environment has also supported this interest. There has been lots of fantastic dramatic play and games: detectives, pirates, Scooby –doo, Doctors to name a few. This is great for the children and really helps them to make meaning of the world around them. Catherine unearthed some dress-ups today which will further extend this interest.

RAGLAN Sessional Kindergarten	
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MATARIKI week was held from the 30th May –10th June, the first week being Kai week and the second being Grandparents/Whanau visits. During the first week children had the Matariki stories read to them at Mat-time, Seven Stars were made with the children to hold up and walk around while the ‘Waiata Matariki’ song was sung. We had pyjama day on the 1st June in which children and teachers wore their pyjamas to kindergarten. On this day breakfast was served for children including toast, cereal, scrambled eggs and milo! We had shared Kai on the 3rd June for morning tea, in which families contributed some lovely Kai! During the week some lovely parents did some baking including cheese straws and pikelets! In the second week we had some lovely visits from Whānau members who enjoyed participating in active play during the sessions!

ST ANDREWS School Day Kindergarten	
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Teachers and children have had an exciting term with lots of exciting events and our environment with its vibrant visual. Displays have reflected how and what the children are learning and involved in. The focus this term has continued to be directed at our Ministry of Education contract on Transitions. Teachers have undertaken parent surveys and been interviewing children about to transition to school to get their views. The information from these have been collated and shared to School information evening with 5 of our local schools coming along to share information about their school with our families. This term we celebrated Matariki with a puppet show explaining about Matariki’s significance. We also did various activities to support learning about the stars and planting and harvesting crops (in particular the kumara). The kindergarten had a very successful Trike-a-thon with fantastic parent/whanau support. Parents helped with baking cakes for the cake stall and them helping on the stalls and with organisation on the day. We got some great feedback from parents so next year will be even better. The Transition to School Evening was well supported by our local schools who enjoyed the opportunity to network with other schools and perspective parents. We have had some very positive feedback from our families that attended the evening and plan to make it an annual event.

SHIRLEY MUIR School Day Kindergarten	
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There have been a variety of emergent group interests over the term. This has included interesting block construction, children regularly looking at their portfolios, writing and caring for the environment by raking the many leaves falling from our very large tree. A morning parent inspired Jayda to expose the children to the recent royal wedding celebration. Jayda and Malecia set about creating a royal wedding theme in the family corner with wedding dress ups and props. A large group of morning and afternoon children have displayed an interest in the royal wedding through discussions, dramatic play and art work. Some of the children shared in great detail what they had watched on T.V. Our integrated curriculum focus for this term (Establishing links between whanau, community and Kindergarten) is in full swing. Our visit from K-9 sense was a great experience and Matariki and Field days activities and visitors are taking place. The kindergarten celebrated Matariki with the morning children and school day children. This included discussions, looking at phases of the moon (daily), stories, art work and we finished our celebration with a shared morning tea on Thursday 30th June. We acknowledged our annual celebration of Fieldays through discussions, the children were involved in creating a mural, puzzles, books and construction sets were displayed around the kindergarten to extend the children’s interest.

TE KOWHAI School Day Kindergarten	
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Matariki is a celebration of the Maori New Year. Families and whānau came together and shared kai, rituals, entertainment and hospitality while giving thanks to the land, sea and sky. Matariki embraces diversity, family, language and people and we celebrated this year with a shared breakfast for our families and whānau. This celebration was followed by a trip to Te Kowhai School for a Kapahaka exchange. Native birds, bugs and spiders have been an interest within our programme and our trip to the Otorohanga Kiwi House further extended these interests. There have been lots of literacy activities involving dramatic plan, story telling, puppets, magnetic stories and the use of the whiteboard. The Head Teacher recently presented at the Ministry of Education Literacy Hui in Hamilton – the kindergarten having been recognized by ERO as running an excellent programme that supported children’s developing literacy skills. Teachers and children have been working with musical instruments and have made drums from recycled materials and shakers. We have been learning to take care of ourselves, learning about hand washing, nose blowing and coughing into our elbows. We were sent a new early childhood dvd on how to protect ourselves in case of an earthquake. Ask your child to show you how they can curl up like a turtle and ‘drop, cover and hold’. We practice fire and earthquake drills monthly. Our literacy and numeracy learning has included making our reflective book on our trip visit and making flying saucers for a counting song. The interest in planets and rocket ships continued and new resources including inflatable planets and books were bought. Alison gave a presentation on ‘transition to school’ literacy at the Ministry of Education. Teachers were especially invited on the recommendation of ERO to show examples of best practice. This was a HUGE honour and was attended by various Ministry of Education and ERO management and staff as well as University professionals and management and teachers from across the early childhood sector. They enjoyed learning about how we implement our holistic curriculum and we have been asked by several professionals if they can come and visit our Kindergarten to see how we do things here.

WHITIORA School Day Kindergarten	
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Corey returned as our coach of Kelly Sports. He is an amazing addition to our programme. Kelly Sports provides an opportunity for children to develop key skills which they are able to transfer into their own games Embedding literacy throughout the programme has resulted in children creating many of their own books recording their ideas and sharing their interests. Whānau have contributed to tamariki profiles giving a wonderful fullness to the stories. Teachers have been introducing elements of the Incredible Years. This is a very positive programme that builds the self-esteem of children as it enables them to take control of their emotions. Maori language was celebrated; all learnt new te reo ,a big celebration for Matariki including the harvesting of veggies we had grown –this became a yummy soup we invited members of the wider community and extend whanau including those that had left. Around 100 people attended with one of our pupils, who is only 51/2 leading a waiata for the Whitiara School children. Children have been learning to care for the environment, harvesting seeds from our plants for replanting in spring and nurturing Monarch Butterflies. Fortnightly visits to Whitiara School are taking place. Parents whose children are going to start at different schools have asked if their children can go on the visits because many schools have limited visits. We gain signed permission for children to attend these visits to Whitiara. We were joined by the new entrant’s teacher, some children and the Principle of Whitiara School Paul Cooper at our Matariki celebration. The oldest children finished the term by making pancakes at the school; this provided a very social and happy way to reconnect with children who have moved to Whitiara School including some siblings.