

WAIKATO KINDERGARTEN REPORTS

TERM 3, 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

The garden has undergone a make over this term with us entering the Tui Garden Challenge. The children have enjoyed digging over the garden, planting seeds and seedlings and caring for the plants. The development of our Taniwha has been a big part of this term learning also. The morning children were given bags to collect natural resources during the holidays and some amazing things were brought collected. Music has been another area of interest this term. The Rugby World Cup has turned out to be an exciting interest here at kindergarten as well. Many of our children excitedly shared their experience of watching the opening ceremony and attending of games. It has provided an opportunity to not only learn about the game of rugby but also about the flags of the different countries which are competing. Both sessions have enjoyed having their faces painted in support of a variety of teams not just the All Blacks. This interest sparked the idea of a rugby world cup themed disco and it was awesome to see the children dressed to support their favourite team having a fabulous time dancing.

BELLMONT

Sessional Kindergarten

The team have had a busy term and have had continued involvement from the families, whānau and community. We welcomed Diana Boyle as a long term relieving teacher and also Suzzanne Jones in the administrative support role. For several years Fadumo Fatah has been funded by the Ministry of Education to work in the kindergarten for two days a week. She has now completed her early childhood teaching qualification and is the first Somalian trained early childhood teacher in Hamilton. We are planning to landscape the outdoor area over the next term and as part of this project have replaced much of the waterplay and outdoor equipment.

CAMBRIDGE

Sessional Kindergarten

A soup luncheon was held to which we invited the principals and New Entrant teachers from our surrounding schools. 12 schools were represented and enjoyed the opportunity to visit our kindergarten and meet the children and parents and join us for lunch. The children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Cambridge East Primary school to see their Junior Performance of Toy-riffic. They were really enthusiastic as they watched some old friends perform and were a fantastic audience as they remembered to use the skills we had learned about appreciation of others efforts and applause. Many morning children have had a turn at doing their mihi, they have had such confidence standing up in front of ALL the children and teachers with a sense of pride and mana. The children know all about respect and acknowledging great effort and accomplishment. There is a huge amount of interest in the dressups-there are always fairies, doctors, princess, policemen and a friendly dragon. The first Sunday in September meant we went shopping! The children brought in their \$2.00 and carefully chose their gift for "Dad". We are very grateful to the Cambridge Lions Club who have donated \$1,500 to the kindergarten to purchase two laptop computers for the kindergarten.

CHARTWELL

Sessional Kindergarten

Responding to children's interests and community/world events has seen a variety of activities undertaken and focused around these. Prior to the start and excitement of the Rugby World Cup children were struck with Mooloo fever when Nathan White (captain of the Waikato team) visited and showed the children his kit, spoke about rugby and then gave handouts of wristbands and popcorn. A return visit occurred the day before the final when Nathan was accompanied by "Mooloo" the team mascot much to the children's delight, photo's were taken and free tickets given out to the game. This visit inspired a renewed interest in the children playing ripper rugby on a regular basis and with the Rugby World Cup underway this has continued and a variety of gross motor activities introduced to extend this interest. We have noticed through regular participation how much the children skills in these areas have improved. Mosaics have been introduced to the children, at present using only paper shapes but this will evolve next term with the purchase of some mosaic tiles to do project work. Sustainability at kindergarten has been highlighted through the re-cycling of scraps for the worm farm and paper making with children following the process to make re-cycled paper. Children are responsible for caring for the gardens and nurture these through weeding, planting and fertilizing.

CRAWSHAW

School Day Kindergarten

This term has been a very busy physically active one with the children arriving back with lots of ideas and skills to share. They have been engaging in games of cricket, hockey, soccer, croquet and of course lots of rugby! The replenishing of balls increased this interest to develop greater kicking skills and throwing and catching. We also made a visit to Newcastle Kindergarten, allowing our children and families to visit another kindergarten and to have a look at their ever developing out-door environments. Children got busy prior to the trip and baked cookies to take out to Newcastle and after waiata we all shared morning tea. Dramatic Play has been another keen interest for the children; this has been supported with the revamping of this area with nice bright wall coverings and the addition of nets to the ceiling. This made the area very attractive and inviting for children with lots of imaginative play happening within this area. The addition of a large card board door with a letter box supported the children with early literacy activities with lots of letters being written. A group of children requested help with writing to allow them to write letters that had meaning and share a message. Some of these letters travelled home to parents.

DEANWELL

School Day Kindergarten

Term 3 warmer spring weather and 'the garden tidy up' has provided an amazing interest in growing. An indoor growing area has now been established to include: lawn growing 'hair' characters, cress creatures, bean, kumara, carrot top and onion growing. Daily caring for the plants, investigation and discussion on the growth of each plant has provided wonderful reporting to the larger group and sharing with families. Exciting dramatic play has evolved on and around the three very large beautiful rocks that have now been included in Stage 2 of the development of our 'natural environment' project. The rocks have provided the base for 'Dinosaur Land' and dramatic play. Process Baking continues to be hugely popular – with 15 - 20 children baking most mornings. 'Writing your names is required and many parents are now happily encouraging their child with this literacy task each morning. A number of parents have shared how the daily baking has inspired their own cooking! The Rugby World Cup has provided much interest and sharing of news, photos and rugby memorabilia. Our 'Black Out Rugby Party Day' was so enjoyable with a terrific sense of pride for our All Black Team and New Zealand. Further learning about New Zealand – Aotearoa, our culture and natural identity has been so valuable

DINSDALE

Sessional Kindergarten

The fantastic weather has allowed lots of outdoor exploration providing opportunities for the children to make full use of the playground, providing multiple learning experiences. The obstacle courses and swings continue to provide challenges and extensions for the children as they manipulate and manoeuvre with these, building their confidence, agility and skill. The indoor environment has also been extremely busy as the children explore the art area developing their knowledge of the different mediums and their creative abilities. Baking opportunities have been provided inviting lots of interest as the children develop their knowledge and skill with food preparation and the ability to work within large group situations. Our morning excursion to the kiwi house was a fantastic outing providing parents an opportunity to be involved in the programme. This supported the children's knowledge and understanding of birds as they made bird feeders and observed the features of birds, such as their feathers, beaks, two feet, colours and the meaning of nocturnal. It has been absolutely amazing to see and hear the morning children's recollection and knowledge of the flags for the countries participating in the Rugby World Cup as we have introduced these during mat-time and noticed and discussed these during activities and the session.

FAIRFIELD

School Day Kindergarten

We have had a few erratic attendance issues but have been most fortunate to keep up with all the necessary paperwork to satisfy the Ministry Audit which was carried out during the term. This was also attributed to good management, and a supportive whanau network. The winter chills contributed to the occasional absenteeism from staff and children but on the whole we have had a busy fun term. Natural science opportunities were popular and we also built on these thanks to technology. We attended to the weeding and preparation of our strawberry and vegetable plots and enjoyed a winter and spring harvest of vegetables cooked in a variety of ways. Soups and pizzas were by far the most popular meal and because we had a lot of food focused children we also planned a breakfast for our families to attend. Of course this gave everyone an opportunity to wear PJ's for the day and the staff served up waffles and a laugh for those in attendance. The healthy food policy we continue to employ certainly has our parent's full approval and the additional starch and vegetable foods that we introduce intermittently seems to find favour with all. These cooking units always provide excellent numeracy, literacy and social science opportunities for the tamariki as well as an insight into their general knowledge, motor co-ordination and ability to listen and follow instructions.

FRANKTON

School Day Kindergarten

We have seen a strong emphasis this term on; getting to know our community, which has included a visit from Frankton primary school and Bi-cultural aspects of our community. This has led us in to exploring our other cultures within our community, such as Pacifica. Children were able to experience a concert of the Frankton primary Pacifica group. Foundation skills with a focus on positional and directional language and social skills have been part of our programme this term. There has been encouragement of news sharing and the introduction of our kindergarten camera, which children are able to take home and bring photos to share of their home the following day. Children have gained awareness of signs, we have extended on this using math and literacy skills, looking for signs in our community and during our bus trip to Auckland. Many rugby world cup activities are happening within the kindergarten including flags, face paint, rugby games and many discussions. With the arrival of spring, we have planted sunflowers and pumpkins. Teachers continue to use planning and the emergent curriculum to work with children as they strengthen their knowledge and understanding in a range of areas.

GALBRAITH

School Day Kindergarten

The tamariki have been extra busy and engaged in different learning opportunities both in and outside. Music and movement has continued as the tamariki enjoy many different music and dancing styles, beats and rhythm. Face painting, 3D construction, instrument making, decorating parcels and masks have been a huge interest as the tamariki extend their creative thoughts. There have been celebrations for the Coronation/Koroneihana, continuing support to extend nga tamariki understanding of tikanga, te reo Maori and waiata. The teaching team attended a sustainability conference in Tauranga where topics included sustainable practices, arts, literacy, health and well-being and the latest in ECE assessment. We continue to have an enviroschools focus working towards creating and maintaining a sustainable kindergarten environment and looking to set up a recycling area that is whānau and tamariki accessible. Teachers are also involved in the Incredible Years programme.

GRANDVIEW

School Day Kindergarten

This term we have been following the children's, whānau and staff interest in the Rugby World Cup. We have decorated the kindergarten inside and out with photos and posters, international flags and bunting, and balloons and streamers in team colours. We have a world map showing the flags of the participating teams indicating where their country is. We have made our own rugby goal posts using PVC down pipes which the children enjoy using for goal kicking practice and our own Grandview Kindergarten flag. Children have been working on learning the New Zealand National Anthem in te reo Māori and English. We have been learning the haka and Poi E for our "pre match entertainment". On Thursday 6th October this will all culminate in our Grandview Kindergarten World Cup Day where whānau have been invited to come along and share a morning where we have a march past of teams with their countries flags to "World in Union", singing the national anthem, watching the haka and Poi E and being entertained with a demonstration of our ball handling skills. This will finish with the children singing our Karakia Kai and a shared morning tea. This focus has provided opportunities for children to develop the following skills and knowledge: Geography, where countries are in the world, where our families' come from, international flags, their colours and patterns, Te reo and Tikanga Māori,. Following other interests including: Paper plane making, Children's interest in reading and writing, spring and growth, extending art work, caring for our environment, visits from pets drama and pretend play.

GRASSLANDS

School Day Kindergarten

We have focused on children's strengths and interests which has provided direction for planning in our programme. Constructions of all kinds are still hugely popular. We have children constructing with the hot glue gun, wood and boxes inside and outside, The children's creativity in the arts has also been a significant passion and is well documented and displayed throughout our kindergarten environment.

Te reo maori continues to be further strengthened with our fortnightly Kapa Haka visits to Rhode Street School. Our gardens are looking great with all the spring flowers about. The children have planted the magic beans again. There is a real interest among the children in fairy stories and we are asked for Jack and the Bean Stalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Three little pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff daily by the children. This has led to some wonderful drama and literacy work.

HAMILTON WEST

Sessional Kindergarten

It has been another busy term filled with learning and fun. Our planning and assessment has been focused on using traditional stories, both Maori and European as a basis for literacy and dramatic play. The morning children have really embraced the drama and have been very enthusiastic about volunteering to act out the stories in front of the audience. We are finishing the term with a dress up and cupcake party. The cup cakes are to include a fundraiser opportunity that we have been registered for to go into a draw to win \$5000.00. We will be getting the children to set up a café, making signs and organizing to earn some money for the kindergarten. We are asking those who don't donate cupcakes to give a small donation to validate the fundraiser aspect of the morning. We have been so thrilled at the children's participation in the dramatic play, they have continued the interest right throughout the sessions. They have increased their literacy skills and developed in confidence. It's great to see some children who are otherwise reticent, joining in.

HILLCREST

Sessional Kindergarten

Origins of food and recycling have been ways in which we children and teachers have explored ideas around responsibility as guardians of Papatuanuku. There was encouragement for children to take part in garden related activities which builds their awareness of the natural world and their role in it. The enviro-box has been used well by families who have taken it home for a week at a time and made fabulous contributions to it. These stories and pictures are then shared with all the children and the resulting book is a valuable resource for the kindergarten and is used as a reference. Children are developing independence for group games and they love their running races. These are now organised by the children themselves. With the improvement of weather teachers have been offering challenging outdoor activities which promote specific techniques such as forward rolls, cartwheels, bat and ball skills. Carpentry has provided children to consider real projects which, whilst they gain skills, produce useful things to be used in and around the kindergarten. For example bird feeders. Teachers have encouraged curiosity and inquiry by using expressions such as 'how does that work?' "I wonder...." And "what happens then?" Children already have knowledge of and take pleasure in using puppets. Bringing in an expert takes the use of puppets to the next level and children have benefited hugely from these experiences.

HUKANUI

Sessional Kindergarten

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. There is never a dull moment at Hukanui Kindergarten and with the hype of the Rugby world cup and kindergarten rugby match All blacks vs. Waikato chiefs brought about great enthusiasm for them to participate and learn the National Anthem and Haka at mat-times. The teachers have incorporated ICT by using the laptop to access the internet and show these performances on our flat screen T.V. This has encouraged tamariki to continue with their passion for performances and shows, with lots of thought the tamariki set-up chairs and distribute tickets to the manuhiri (visitors). Great for problem-solving, turn-taking and organizing the choreography or sequence of a show.

INSOLL

Sessional Kindergarten

The beginning of the term children enjoyed the re-telling of traditional stories which are age old tales that have been told over many hundreds of years. The traditional stories have provided learning opportunities in the following areas: Dramatic play, literacy, numeracy, cognitive thinking, and creative skills. Nursery Rhymes have also played a major role in children's literacy this term. The importance of nursery rhymes in language and reading skills has been supported by current research and we continue to include these rhymes within our programme as well as supporting our lift project. This is to enable children to develop a playful interest in repetitive sounds and words and, further skills in rhyme, rhythm and knowledge and skill in syntax. A visit from Samuel's hen to kindergarten gave children a hands on experience and knowledge as to what hens eat and where they live. In Sam's case his hens live in a Chicken Tractor, which led children to investigate what a chicken tractor does and its purpose in the garden. Conversation about chicken tractors has been reinforced by our visit to the Hamilton Gardens where children had a hands on opportunity to see how chicken tractors have a roll in sustainable gardens by reflecting and learning about the cycle of preparing the soil which the chickens do by scratching and fertilizing in preparation for growing. This in turn inspired children through art medium to construct a chicken tractor of their own.

JAMES GRAY

Sessional Kindergarten

The children are currently learning how to make paper with Karla outside, and developing interests in rockets, making a shop and using money. There has also been an interest in recycling and reading the newspapers this, and the interest has stemmed from having our article in the newspaper. Our community and countries of the world has been the big focus of our morning programme this past month! From the beginning of the term the children

have been interested in learning about where they live and making connections with the wider world of work and national events. This interest fits very neatly into the Belonging strand of our curriculum Te Whāriki. We have helped the children find out where their house is in relation to the Kindergarten and each other. We have 'Goggled Earth' using the data projector and screen and flown around Cambridge checking out our houses and the familiar landscape and businesses that make up Cambridge town. This was particularly exciting as you felt like you were flying in on a space ship and landing outside your house. The children were fascinated to see their houses in this way! The Kindergarten environment has really changed over this past week with the Flags of many of the World Rugby Cup nations on display and the children in both groups buzzing about the rugby games ahead! We learnt the Ka Mate Ka Mate Haka during the week.

JAMIESON

School Day Kindergarten

The term began with a child initiated interest in whānau which was extended with children bringing photos and Special Persons Day where children were able to bring a special friend to share our kindergarten day. We talked about different make up of families and this led to discussions about different types of housing. As a result lots of work has been done at the carpentry table including great bird houses. Soccer has been a big interest with lots of games taking place. Kite making over several weeks with lots of different materials for children to experiment with has been exciting with some flying successfully. We were very proud of the children's efforts in our first art exhibition which the whānau really enjoyed viewing. Of course the rugby world cup has been a great opportunity to talk about different nations and flags. Recent parent interview have been very successful with 90% of parents making the most of this opportunity to talk to us. We were invited to Forest Lake School Production which was a fantastic experience with the children being transfixed from start to finish.

LEAMINGTON

School Day Kindergarten

Our term began with an emergent interest on dinosaurs, supported with resources such as books, puzzles, bones, figurines, music and dress ups. We had noticeable support from our parent with resources from home to share with us. We introduced mosaics which is a follow on from our patterning interest last term. Children were encouraged to plan and draw their ideas in order to establish the ability to move into actual mosaics. We now have some fantastic creations happening. We have noticed that our children revisited lots of experiences that they have had at kindergarten in the past. This revisiting helps them to cement their knowledge along with increasing confidence as they perfect techniques, games and such like along with demonstrating *Tuakana/Tenia relationships*. Because of where our children come from farms and farm animals were popular once again and our grass area was turned into a farm with standards and "electric" fences. New resources were purchased for our family area to enhance the social and fantasy play. These resources are being well utilized with lots of dramatic play happening especially in our afternoon session. Children enjoyed our focus of the Rugby World Cup. We acknowledged our families from different cultures believing it is important to have a sense of pride in their cultures while developing a sense of pride in Aotearoa—New Zealand.

MELVILLE

School Day Kindergarten

We 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 Dorafaeff came on Tuesday 5th July 2011 and spent the day with us. We are very proud of the strong relationships we have formed with our tāmāriki and whānau 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.

MIROPIKO

Sessional Kindergarten

The ERO report we received was very positive about our curriculum planning and implementation and we are working at linking this learning by adding an evaluation section. Invitations and verbal invites are out about the Shared International Dinner and recipe swap. People are asked to bring their own crockery and cutlery so we can work towards zero waste. We have also planned a Special Guy's to coincide with the Rugby World Cup as well as to show working guys what happens at kindergarten. The plan is for Special Guys to bring their child along and have breakfast with them at kindergarten and to see what learning their children do. We have had several visitors - Policemen Scott and Denis visit with their police dog Coal. The children observed how Coal can climb boxes and learnt about his important job of finding and chasing the criminals. Next visitor was Veronica with her puppy Lucy. She came to talk to the children about the job of a mobility dog. Veronica demonstrated how Lucy is learning to help a person undress or fetch items that have dropped to the floor. The next week we had Susan and her dog Jae.

Susan is partially blind and she demonstrated to the children how her guide dog helps her to see. These visits have given the children an idea of what working dogs can do and has had an influence on their dog dramatic play, making it more complex. Also it has taught the children about people's disabilities.

NEWCASTLE

School Day Kindergarten

Rochelle and Melanie have been attending the "Incredible Years" professional development programme and have been excited to learn new techniques and ideas and share these with the team. We have attended 2 sessions and are currently focusing on developing individual behavioural plans for children, focusing on: proximal praise, authentic positive praise, rewards, building and strengthening relationships and much more. It has had a positive impact on our practice and we think it is a worthwhile programme for the whole team to experience. We had a shared trip with Galbraith Kindergarten to participate in River side planting. Tanz has organized guardianship of a plot of land where we are planting native trees to help rejuvenate the native flora and fauna in our community. Our involvement with the Computers at Home has been really successful. Out of the 6 families who were nominated for this programme, 5 have attended the training courses and due for graduation on Friday 7th October – 83% uptake which is great. We have continued to incorporate gardening and landscaping as part of our lived curriculum. Children participate in authentic ways such as replanting strawberry plants and reselling, routinely feeding the worms and the guinea pigs, re-planting the vege garden, striking seeds, repotting, planting natives and our involvement in the river project.

PEACHGROVE

School Day/Kindergarten

The planning and learning that is happening for children at kindergarten this term has come from a combination of children's interests, parent feedback and teacher lead interests. Children have shown an interest in investigation. They have been exploring how magnets work and through this have been posing their own questions to be solved. With the frosty weather we have been looking at the different properties of water becoming ice. The children have also been exploring chemical reactions through making volcanoes in the sandpit. These interests in investigation also led to children making their own kites to fly in the windy weather. From there children have been investigating making other flying objects such as paper planes and paper helicopters. After reflecting upon Matariki and Māori Language week we found that the children were very interested in Māori Legends. They are able to retell many of the stories as they are being read. To support this interest (and due to fine weather) we were able to take our trip to the Hamilton Gardens to see Te Parapara, New Zealand's first public Māori garden.

PUKETE

Sessional Kindergarten

We have done the curriculum review of term 2, which links with our 2010 strategic plan and philosophy, which is on the planning wall. This focus was on our outdoor environment and foundation skills. They have made some great carpentry rugby games, used numeracy resources in shapes of rugby balls, sung the national anthem and watched the haka on You tube (internet). The morning children have even been doing rugby activities in their homework books. The kindergarten is decorated to support the All Blacks and we had a great Black Out Day on Friday to celebrate the first game of the 2011 Rugby World Cup games, where children and staff dressed all in black, did face painting, tried doing the haka after singing the national anthem and we made black muffins – yum! What a great team spirit we had. We look forward to the next game and black out day. Since the beginning of the year our waiting list numbers have dropped, which also means the age of children. We are now taking children in as young as 2 years and 9 months old, which is a real concern as well as we have less than 20 names on the waiting list

RAGLAN

Sessional Kindergarten

The tamariki have been engaged in many areas of play. Group interests have included real and pretend cooking, puzzles, physical challenges, and imaginative play. The interests derive from the children and are extended by the teachers. The real and pretend cooking experiences have involved and developed a variety of skills and techniques, such as measuring, mixing, sprinkling, stirring, pouring and sharing. Lots of imagination was used in the pretend cooking, such as imagining the sand/water/slime etc as certain ingredients and creating cakes, soups and poisons etc. The tamariki also enjoyed juicing fruit and baking real foods that were shared among the group, giving a real sense of community. They even baked kai for our dress up and shared kai day! We have been involved in the community, going on trips to the Raglan Trust Hospital, Raglan Area School, and the beach. At the Trust Hospital, tamariki sung songs to the residents and handed out daffodils. We collected rubbish and recyclables at the beach with Whaea Celia's and Whaea Liz's classes for 'Keep NZ Beautiful Week', plus this linked to our Enviroschools programme. These were great trips, as tamariki, ngā kaiako and families/whānau were able to establish and/or extend connections they have with other people, environments and experiences.

ST ANDREWS

School Day Kindergarten

We have had a busy term with lots of different weather including snow at kindergarten! Now with the warmer weather the sandpit had once again become very popular! There has been lots of interest in fairy tales and dramatic play with many traditional stories being acted out. Our 4th annual lantern night was held in September and was a wonderful event for the whole family as we walked around the neighbourhood with our lanterns. We had a World Cup celebration morning tea and cheered on the All Blacks with everyone dressing up in their favourite countries colours and eating some wonderful food from many countries. We also had a trip to the YMCA as an extension to our PMP programme. We are all looking forward to our extensions which are planned for the Christmas break. As a result we have shifted out veg gardens and worm farm with the help of several parents.

SHIRLEY MUIR

School Day Kindergarten

We have had a busy and exciting term with lots of children's interests, dancing is very popular, water play in the sandpit now the weather is warming up, exploring in the new science area and recently pirates has become a huge interest. Our trip to the Hamilton gardens was a huge success and the spring weather brought out the perfect day to look at all the beautiful flowers and gardens, Anna sent us all on a treasure hunt which was enjoyed by all. We celebrated the opening of the Rugby World Cup at Kindergarten by getting dressed up in the teams we were supporting and had a very yummy shared kai! The Kindergarten is looking fantastic with all the flags and display areas, all we can really say now is "Go the All Blacks". Over the past 3 weeks the morning children & staff have thoroughly enjoyed the rugby world cup action, this has included children sharing photos of themselves with all blacks, & a large group of children making 2 world cup rugby murals with Meghan. The morning & school day children enjoyed a fantastic agricultural morning at Rukuhia School, it was a wonderful experience & we are very grateful for the kind generosity of the principal Kevin Drury. Balls & puzzles have been an area of interest for the afternoon children. With balls this has included soccer, shooting hoops, catching & throwing.

TE KOWHAI

School Day Kindergarten

Our main areas of learning this term have been Literacy (visit by author Jenny Hessel, learning around the Owl Babies story and a new Māori legend magnetic story). We have been very physical and have had the local dance teacher support us in learning a dance routine and we have also visited the gym. Springtime in a rural Kindergarten has given us lots of opportunities to learn about baby animals and pets, with lambs being brought in, a display of pets from home, and hatching baby chicks and ducklings from an incubator. We have been supporting the All Blacks with a 'blackout' disco, decorating the room and one of our families surprising us with decorating the front entrance with flags one night. We have also been involved in many types of art processes this term. We have continued to review 'How we involve parents in our planning and curriculum', building on what we have achieved in the last two terms. We have introduced new strategies and have visited other kindergartens to see how they do this. Mel and Megan have now completed their 'Incredible Years' for teachers' course. The course covered aspects such as praise, limit setting, boundaries and consequences around behaviour management, and promoting children's social and emotional competence. One of the course co-coordinators who came out to visit our kindergarten as part of the course framework, acknowledged us as having a real strength in our centre in the area of behaviour management and positive guidance.

WHITIORA

School Day Kindergarten

Some big boxes were the inspiration for this term's community event. On the first Friday of the term, Molly, decided to transform her box into 'Sophie the Robot' other children soon decided to make cars, robots and superhero costumes. This was the beginning of an amazing project that lasted 6 weeks. It moved from being the interest of a few children to becoming our very first Wearable Arts Show. Families supported the show by coming into the kindergarten on a regular basis to help create masks, sewing costumes for children to decorate and donating lots and lots of resources. We had a huge audience at the show which was followed by a shared lunch. Recycling was a feature of the show with many of the costumes being created out of 'junk' which was given a new life. No soon than we had finished with Wearable Arts and the Rugby World Cup began. We decorated the kindergarten inside and out. Children have arrived each day wearing costumes that supported their home country and of course the All Blacks. We learnt about the colours of the different flags and showed our national pride by singing the New Zealand anthem and practicing the Haka.