

Te Akonga Early Learning Centre Newsletter

November
2020



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Key Dates

- ◆ Centre Xmas Party - Friday 18th December
- ◆ Last Day of Service - Friday 18th December
- ◆ First Day of Service 2021 - Wednesday 6th January
- ◆

Dear Whānau

Today we'd like to lead out with a HUGE thank you for your understanding, loyalty and trust throughout our shared COVID-19 experience. Thank you for following our lead and for trusting us with your precious babes. We are eternally grateful that you continue to choose our service and bless us with your presence in an extremely competitive market where you are spoilt for choice. On behalf of our team, we thank you xox

It's been a long while since our last newsletter and we would like to continue with our tradition of sending a BIG Te Akonga welcome to our new friends and their whānau. Since June we have welcomed:

Welcome to Pitau

Blair Griffin, James Edwards, Remy Currie, Kohana Peeters, Rory Pile, Sophia Kett, Leah Van Amelsfort, Mikaere Whare-Cherrington, Rosaiah Whare-Cherrington and Anne-Marie Aramoana.

Welcome to Koru

Alexia Parore, Eugene-Kellie Masiutama and Ali Gamaleldin.

Transitions

Several tamariki have transitioned from Pitau to Koru including: Maia Berridge, Kowhai Roberts and Ataahua-Manu Skipper. We are so proud of how well they have all settled into their new learning space.

Best Wishes

We've sung "Happy School Days" to quite a few of our babes since June including Frankie Farrell, Grace Ferguson, Cleveland Paeu, Poppy Brophy and Kora Adams who have all headed off to big school. We wish them all well as they begin their new adventures.



Renē Strydom
Our New Teacher
In Koru

Te Akonga Whānau

It's lovely to have so many new friends at our centre. Altogether we have 68 tamariki from 51 whānau. #feelinglucky

Staff News

Pitau - Congratulations to Jo who has completed her first year of her Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention. Well done Jo, we're so proud of you.

Koru - Congratulations to Angelique who has completed her final year of teacher training and graduates with her Bachelor of Teaching next year.

Please see the current roster of staff below:



Angelique Van Leeuwen Hietveld
Koru Roster

Staff Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Management Admin & Kitchen	Nikki Vanessa Amy	Nikki Vanessa Gloria	Nikki Vanessa Gloria	Nikki Vanessa Amy	Nikki Vanessa Amy
Opening 8 - 9am	Petty Sonya Amy	Wendy Sonya Angelique	Petty Sonya Tessa	Petty Waipouri Amy	Petty Sonya Waipouri
Team Pitau 9 - 3pm	Jo Karen Sonya Alle	Jo Karen Sonya Alle	Jo Karen Sonya Tessa	Karen Sonya Alle Nicolene	Jo Karen Sonya Tessa
Team Koru 9 - 3pm	Erin Wendy Petty Krista Tessa Renē Angelique	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Renē Angelique	Erin Robyn Petty Krista Waipouri Renē Angelique	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Krista Waipouri Renē	Erin Wendy Robyn Petty Waipouri Renē Angelique
Closing 3 - 5.30	Wendy Amy Karen	Jo Petty Karen	Robyn Waipouri Tessa	Karen Krista Amy	Jo Amy Petty

The names in **BOLD** are the staff members in charge of our service delivery during those hours of the day. Please feel supported to speak with them or our Centre Manager (Nikki) as needed ☺



Melissa Foster
our new relief
teacher



Dieu-Donne Van Der Walt
our new
relief teacher

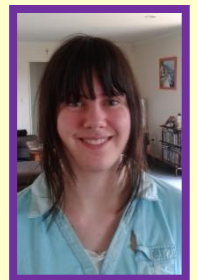
Staff News Continued

New Relievers - We have two new relievers in our team. Melissa Foster who has two beautiful daughters at our centre and Dieu-Donne, a friend of Nicolene's from the mighty Republic of South Africa. We know you'll join us in making them feel very welcome at our place.



Patricia Rosieur
Student Teacher

Student Teachers - We are also pleased to welcome Patricia Rosieur back to the floor in Koru. Pat will be with us on a Thursday and Friday as part of her ECE Teacher Training. She is already well known to many of our tamariki who will be super excited to see her back.



Justine Thom
Work Experience
Monday

Community Based Work Experience - At present we have volunteers completing work experience in our centre every day. On Monday we host Justine Thom a past pupil of our centre. Justine has a passion for following in the footsteps of her mum. She lives with autism and one day hopes to be an Early Childhood Teacher. On Tuesday and Thursday we welcome students from Parkside School who participate in work experience with the support of their teachers Johan and Suzy. On Wednesday we host Mia Fabrello and Alicia Watkins from Pukekohe High School. Both of these young ladies are interested in a career in Early Childhood Education. Mia is completing her work experience in Koru and Alicia in Pitau. Friday is Ainsley's day. Ainsley has been coming to our centre in her wheelchair for many years, at first as a student at Parkside School and now as an independent young woman with an interest in pursuing a career in ECE.



Alicia Watkins
PHS Student
Wednesday

Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter - Brian Solis

* INFANT SPACES AVAILABLE *

Pitau Vacancies - We have some spaces available in Pitau for our 0-3 year olds. If you know of anyone looking for a space for their beautiful babe, please invite them to pop down and see us.

In the meantime, we are happy to offer the available spaces to our current Pitau babes, on a casual basis, FREE of charge, until they are taken by permanent bookings. If you would like to know more, please see Vanessa at reception.



Mia Fabrello
PHS Student
Wednesday



Ainsley
Williamson-Nolly
Work Experience
Friday



Wetbags for
wet and dirty
clothes

Samosas



Gravity

gravity^{NZ}
TRAMPOLINE PARK

Gentle Reminders

Winter is here - Warm Clothes Needed Everyday

With the cooler weather settling in, we need to request lots of warm clothing for your child each day. 3 full changes of clothes in their bag every day would be wonderful, including jerseys and warm hats. Likewise, could we please ask that all clothing is named, so we can return them to you each day.

Wet Bags Please

Every day it is possible that your child will get their clothes wet and/or dirty. When this happens, we would like to change their clothes and return them to you. For this purpose, can you please send a named wetbag to preschool each day. This ensures that we are not putting wet or dirty clothes straight into your child's bag. You can purchase a cute, lightweight wetbag from reception for \$4 and support one of our ex students Reid. For Reid's story please see his Facebook Page: Steps For Reid.



Fundraising News

Our Fundraising Committee We're so grateful for our fundraising committee who work hard to raise funds for our centre all year round. Sending big love to our committee members Jo Moller, Nan Cameron, Shanae Thompson, Sarah Hughes, Monique Brown, Cushla Storey and Amy Baker. If you are interested in joining this amazing team, please see Jo ☺

Samosas Thank you all so much for supporting our recent Samosa Fundraiser. Together we have raised \$1397.80 which will be used to top up our van fund, and continue to pay for EDUCA and our Envirokids subsidy.

Our samosas will be collected on Wednesday 1st July and packed ready for collection from the centre at 2pm. If you are able to assist with packing our samosas, please let us know at reception. 4 volunteers would be amazing. Packing usually begins at 12.30pm and concludes at 2pm.

Gravity Trip - Thursday 2nd July

This Thursday 2nd July we are jumping on a bus and heading off to Gravity Trampoline Park for two hours of jumping fun. This trip is free of charge thanks to our wonderful fundraising efforts at The Trikeathon early this year.

We're on Insta
@teakongaelc



We're on the Web!



www.teakonga.co.nz

We're on
Facebook!



Te Akonga Early
Learning Centre



Upcoming Events

Matariki Festival: 20th - 24th July

Robyn and Krista have begun to lay plans for a fabulous Matariki celebration. They're hoping to do it a little differently this year with a week long celebration. We are also excited to have another beautiful korowai raffle coming up and can't wait to put it on display. More will be revealed a little a closer to the time.

Pasifika Week: 2nd - 8th August

This year we'd like to celebrate our Pasifika cultures with a week full of tasty, musical and creative fun. We're hoping to have our Cook Island drummers back and we invite any whānau with a tasty, musical, creative or fun Pacific idea to share, to let us know all about it.

Working Bee - Sunday 16th August

As a community based not for profit centre, we depend on the support of our community to keep costs to a minimum. This permits us to keep our fees low and channel our funds directly back into our children. With this in mind, we have held regular working bees for as long as we can remember and have always been grateful for the whānau who have helped out on the day. Recently support has dwindled so our governance board has adopted a suggestion mentioned in our latest parent survey. All parents will be rostered on to one of two working bees per year. If you can't make it, you will be invoiced for \$50 which will go directly towards the cost of repairs and maintenance projects facilitated at the working bee. A separate notice will come home with more information about this next month. Thank you for your understanding.

Bacon Butties - Friday 4th September

Every year we celebrate Fathers Day with a bacon butty breakfast for our dads. This year we'll be cooking up a storm on the morning of Friday 4th September. With 2 months notice we're hoping to see all of our dads there for bacon, hash browns, coffee and juice. It's an awesome way to start the day with your babes.

That's all for now. Thank you for your continued support.
Team Te Akonga xox