

# Te Akonga Early Learning Centre Newsletter

May 2019



## Contents

Dear Parents	1
Staff News	1-2
Staff Timetable	3
Governance Board	3
Fundraising News	4
Are You On Educa?	4
Gentle Reminders	5
Upcoming Events	5

## Key Dates

- ◆ Butterfly Creek - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Mother's Day High Tea - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- ◆ Matariki Celebration - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June
- ◆ Samosa Orders Due - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June
- ◆ Working Bee - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June
- ◆ Samosa Orders Collected - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June

## Dear Parents & Caregivers

On behalf of everyone at our centre, we would like to send a BIG Te Akonga welcome to our newest friends and their whānau:

### Welcome to Pitau

Maia Berridge, Liam Brown and Eoin Pile.

### Welcome to Koru

Uriah Iererua, Harrison Mills, Pranon Niemeyer, Dallas and Evie Jones and Aadya Arora.

### Te Akonga Whānau

It's lovely to have so many new friends at our centre. Altogether we have 58 tamariki from 46 whānau. What a lucky centre we are 😊

### Happy School Days

We've recently said goodbye to a large group of 5 year olds who have headed off to big school including: Haji, Harry, Olivia, Maeva, Indi, Julia, Nikau, Liam, Isla, Teokura and Matthew. We wish them well in their adventures at Parkside, Hill, Valley, Patumahoe, Paerata and Puni Schools.

We've also said goodbye to Kaid and Silas, and their mum Sara who have headed off to begin a new adventure at Dandy & Lion. We wish them well at their new centre.

## Staff News

### New Teachers

We're so happy to welcome the beautiful Petty Moyo to team Koru. Petty is from Zimbabwe and lives in Pukekohe with her husband, daughter and son. She is a recent graduate from the Open Polytechnic and has settled nicely into our Koru family.

We would also like to welcome Nicolene Viviers, Morgan Barnes, Rachel Taylor, Marga Visagie and Shanae Thomson to our relievers list. Their photos will be placed on the whiteboard in our reception space, when they're working and we hope you'll introduce yourself to them 😊



**Petty Moyo**  
Our New Teacher  
In Koru



**Rachel Taylor**  
Our New Reliever



**Morgan Barnes**  
Our New Reliever  
& Henny's Mum



**Nicolene Viviers**  
Our New Reliever

## Staff News Continued

**Pitau** - Jo continues to lead Team Pitau together with Karen, Sonya, Alle and Roslyn. We would like to congratulate Karen who has recently received her full teacher's registration. This takes a lot of time and commitment, and we are very proud of Karen's achievement.

**Koru** - Erin continues to lead Team Koru with the support of her two new Assistant Head Teachers - Wendy Cole and Robyn Whare. Congratulations to both Wendy and Robyn for stepping into their new leadership roles. Koru team also includes Petty, Waipouri, Patricia, Tracy and Roslyn. Yesterday Petty graduated from the Open Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. Congratulations Petty. We are very proud of your achievement. We would also like to wish Patricia a Happy 21<sup>st</sup> birthday for earlier this month. 21 is a special milestone worth celebrating 😊

**First Response Community Contract** - Sarah is enjoying her new role as our First Response Facilitator. Her primary role is to support tamariki who have additional needs in other centres across our community and we are very proud of her knowledge and expertise in this area.

**Early Intervention At Our Place** - Erin leads our Early Intervention team, for our children who have additional needs. Together with Robyn's assistance, they facilitate 1-1 sessions and play based strategies everyday.

**Kitchen** - In the kitchen we have said a sad goodbye to Nan who has served our centre for 30 years. She didn't want a big fuss but she left in a cloud of smoke (literally - the fire engine arrived) with lots of love, gifts and sweet memories. She leaves behind a legacy of loyalty, hard work and great times, and will never be forgotten here at Te Akonga. Moving forward, we are very grateful for Amy Baker who has stepped in to continue sharing this role with Gloria.

## Our Volunteers

It's a pleasure to have Grace Payne volunteering at our centre on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 - 3pm. Grace hopes to begin her Early Childhood training later this year and is enjoying her experience in preparation. She volunteers in both Koru and Pitau. We also welcome Justine Thom every Wednesday from 10:00 - 12:00pm and Ainsley Williamson-Nolly every Monday and Friday from 11:00 - 2:00pm. Ainsley is studying to become an Early Childhood Teacher and because she is in a wheelchair, her support worker Paige, joins her from 12 - 2pm every Monday and Friday also. It is also a pleasure to be supporting Millie Norman with her Duke of Edinburgh hours every Monday afternoon from 3.30 - 5.30pm.

## Staff Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Team Fantastic</b>	<b>Nikki</b> Vanessa Amy	<b>Nikki</b> Vanessa Gloria	<b>Nikki</b> Vanessa Gloria	<b>Nikki</b> Vanessa Amy	<b>Nikki</b> Vanessa Amy
<b>Opening 8 - 9am</b>	<b>Petty</b> Sonya Tracy	<b>Wendy</b> Sonya Tracy	<b>Petty</b> Sonya Patricia	<b>Jo</b> Petty Tracy	<b>Petty</b> Sonya Patricia
<b>Team Pitau 9 - 3pm</b>	<b>Jo</b> Karen Sonya Alle	<b>Jo</b> Karen Sonya Alle	<b>Jo</b> Karen Sonya Roslyn	<b>Jo</b> Karen Sonya Alle	<b>Jo</b> Karen Sonya Roslyn
<b>Team Koru 9 - 3pm</b>	<b>Erin</b> Wendy Petty Patricia Tracy Roslyn	<b>Erin</b> Wendy Robyn Petty Patricia Waipouri Tracy	<b>Erin</b> Wendy Robyn Petty Patricia Waipouri	<b>Erin</b> Wendy Robyn Petty Patricia Waipouri Tracy	<b>Erin</b> Wendy Robyn Petty Patricia Waipouri
<b>Closing 3 - 5.30</b>	<b>Wendy</b> Patricia Tracy	<b>Jo</b> Petty Tracy	<b>Robyn</b> Waipouri Patricia	<b>Karen</b> Patricia Tracy	<b>Jo</b> 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 ☺



**Marga Visagie**  
Our New Reliever  
& Arno's Mum



**Shanae Thomson**  
Our New Reliever  
& Josh and  
George's Mum



**Farewell Nan**  
We will miss  
you!!!



**Amy Baker**  
Our New Kitchen  
Assistant

## Our Governance Board

Te Akonga Early Learning Centre is a Community Based, Not for Profit Centre, governed by staff, parents and caring community members. We would like to congratulate and thank, the following people who have recently been elected to our Governance Board:

Board Chairperson: Richard Eggleton

Secretary and Treasurer: Vanessa Moloney

Licensee: Robyn Moloney

Centre Manager: Nikki Tarapa

Staff Rep: Jo Moller

Parent Reps: Shanae Thomson, Amy Currie, Tim Brown, Amy Baker, Jess Redmond and Shannon Mainey

Community Reps: Lizzie Farrell and Anne Boulton

## Fundraising News

Butterfly Creek  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May



We are so grateful for our wonderful fundraising committee - Jo Moller, Nan Cameron, Shanae Thomson, Amy Baker, Nikki Tarapa, Sarah Hughes, Michelle Farrell and Pam Macpherson, who organized a fantastic Trike-athon and Easter Raffle last term. The funds raised from these two events were put towards our Butterfly Creek trip and to subsidise the cost of Educa and Envirokidz.

This term we have our Mother's Day Raffle full of wonderful goodies from: Beauty on Birch, Home and Harry, The Sugar Shed, Red Shed Candles, Oohlala Jewellery, Whittaker's, Franklin Massage Therapy, Poco Loco, Ecostore and Shakti. Tickets are only \$2 and each family has been asked to sell 10 tickets. More tickets are available at reception as needed.

Mothers Day Raffle  
Drawn 10<sup>th</sup> May



Next month we will begin promotion of our Annual Samosa Drive. These tasty treats will be available for sale in June so let your regular buyers know it's Samosa time again 😊

## Are You On Educa?

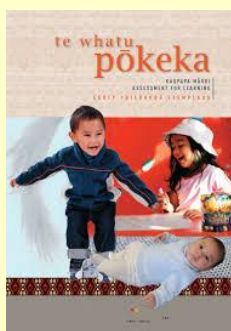
Educa is an early childhood education platform that permits us to share your child's portfolio and latest learning stories online. We can also share them with family members of your choice, all around the world.

If you are not receiving notifications and accessing your child's learning stories, please let us know at reception, so we can ensure this is happening for you.

You are able to upload photos and stories too, and our teachers love it when you comment on a learning story they've written. You can also thank them by clicking on the heart button at the top of the page.

Shortly some of our staff will trial writing learning stories within a Māori learning story framework called Te Whatu Pokeka. Whilst the learning stories will look very similar and be shared with you in the same way, some of the headings may include Māori words. We hope you will be willing to explore this new assessment tool with us. We are excited about using a different cultural lense to view learning and assessment, and welcome any questions or feedback throughout our trial.

If you would like to know more, please let us know and we'll be happy to share more with you.





Farewell gifts  
from Kaid &  
Silas. Thank you  
so much boys xx



We're on the Web!



[www.teakonga.co.nz](http://www.teakonga.co.nz)

We're on  
Facebook!



Te Akonga Early  
Learning Centre



## Gentle Reminders

### Winter Is Here!

With the cooler weather setting in, we would like to request lots of warm clothing for your child. 3 changes of clothes in their bag every day, would be wonderful. Likewise, could we please ask that children's clothing is named, so we can return them to you each day.

### Fruit For Morning Tea

Our tamariki enjoy a shared fruit platter every day for morning tea but lately there has not been a lot of fruit to share. Could we please remind everyone to place one piece of fruit or a vegetable into the fruit bowl each morning.

On this note, many of you may have seen the story about the babe who choked on a piece of apple in Rotorua, not so long ago. With this in mind, we wish to reassure our parents that all hard fruits and veg are grated or par boiled, prior to sharing with our infants.

## Upcoming Events

### Butterfly Creek

On **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** we would like to invite all of our children to join us for a trip to Butterfly Creek. Notices have been placed in pockets and return slips are due back today.

### Mother's Day High Tea

On **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May** we would like to invite all of our Mothers to a High Tea, hosted by our centre. Invitations have been placed in everyone's pockets and we look forward to celebrating Mother's Day with our mums. Our Mother's Day Raffle will also be drawn, during this event.

### Matariki Celebration

On **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June** we will be celebrating Matariki - Our annual celebration of the Māori New Year. Plans are underway for another wonderful evening of waiata, kai and storytelling like never before. More information will be coming home shortly.

### Working Bee

Please save this date in your calendar **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** and come on down to help us out. A flyer with more specific needs and details will be sent home soon.