

Te Kākano Hub Newsletter #11

Term 3 ~ Week 7 & 8 ~ 2019

A warm welcome to Nilton Mazive & Frans Faber who have joined Mikimiki.

Thank You!

Thanks to all the parents who came and went with us to swimming. We were absolutely blessed by you all and the weather held out to keep us all dry there and back. Also thank you to the parents who were able to assist by supervising some children to Rolleston college last Thursday to meet some All Blacks. It was a fun event and we were lucky enough to have four children win a turn playing ripper rugby with the four All Blacks we met. Indy-Rose and Livia from TK participated in that game and Indy-Rose scored a try!



Start Times

We are noticing that some of our children are getting dropped off very early. A reminder that the **TK block is not open until 8:30 am**. If your children arrive earlier than this, it is expected they will wait with an adult outside until opening time. Learning Through Play takes a lot of time to set up and the TK teachers have a meeting every morning except Friday. By keeping to these times, you are allowing the teachers space to ensure they are ready for the day.

On the reverse of this, we are also noticing that a number of children are coming to school late. A reminder that **school begins at 8:55am** and that the **roll will be done by 9:00am**. Teachers do begin teaching when the bell goes so it is important that your children are here on time. If you are later than 9:00 am, it is expected that you go through the main office BEFORE coming to the classroom block.

Learning Through Play Spaces

When designing our new Te Kākano building, there was a lot of thought given to the layout of the space. How could we use what we loved from the original RCS building and add in more specific elements for our Learning Through Play philosophy? The architects did an incredible job in taking our ideas and turning them into the building we teach and learn in today.

In the planning process, we had many discussions about flow. You'll notice that the outside space, flows into the middle space which flows into the LTP space. The play space is clearly visible from many angles. This is helpful for supervision but also allows the children to travel easily between activities. The outdoor space is visible from the inside classrooms too and it is easy for children to move between inside and outside. We are looking forward to the main door being left open as it gets warmer outside. The main teaching space (Mānuka room) has glass doors to allow us to see out but also concentrate on teaching our groups. It gives a visual clue to the children that this is a room that isn't to be played in.

Having two kitchen spaces was us giving thought to our tikanga Māori practices. It isn't customary in Māori culture to mix food with anything else, hence why there are separate spaces. On one side there's a space for our children to eat their kai in and opposite that our children are able to create their own 'playdough food'.

The toilets were a hot topic! We really wanted internal/external access and everything to be 'junior sized'. It was a long way for our wee 5 year olds to go in the main building, and now they're right there for them.

The outdoor space was designed by a friend of someone on the PCG. We were so thankful that he was able to bring to life what we were thinking. We wanted a 'natural barrier' where

our children knew where to stop because of safety. That is why the bark is curved. The outdoor space is far from being complete. We are still waiting on the completion of the 'mound'. This will eventually be covered with artificial turf and there will be a slide coming down the front. Some wonderful dads are in the planning stages of our mud kitchen which will go over by the sandpit. Fraser's dad is helping us to be sustainable and install a rainwater tank so the kids can play with water in the sand and in their water play. Mason's family are planning a big surprise too (we are so grateful!). And the kids will be sorting out that massive dirt patch - more about that below!

So why is the space so important? Firstly, we noticed a massive shift in the 'atmosphere' of our Learning Through Play time when we moved over here. The children seemed more settled and we felt like some of this was because the space 'made sense' to our kids. They quickly learned the boundaries and felt safe to roam, explore and create within them. Secondly, it's important because a space can change the teaching. Teachers now have so much more freedom to set things up, leave things out ready, and be creative in their teaching decisions (we will look more into this in our next newsletter).

So next time you're in our building, thank God. Thank Him for the dreamers, planners, architects, builders, plumbers, electricians, sound guys, heat pump guys, drainlayers, roofers, painters, landscapers and most importantly the Christian Schools Trust. Without these wonderful people bringing their gifts and talents to our school, we wouldn't be able to have our and your child's second home in all its glory. Thank you Lord for the Te Kākano block!

LIGHTS is now LIGHTS through Play

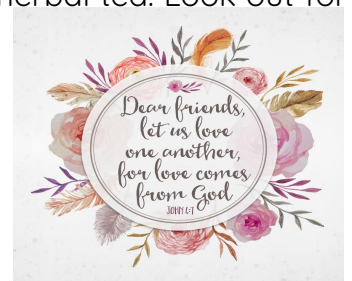
For those of you who have been with us for a while, you may have noticed that LIGHTS has been missing from our updates. TK has gone through a transformative time of thinking and learning with regards to our LIGHTS programme. We really wanted LIGHTS to be authentic and less reflective of the old 'Topic' days. We wanted a programme that was there for the kids who were interested and engaged, but also provided space for those children who weren't (there are a variety of reasons for this but mainly it's age/stage). We wanted our programme to be manageable for the teachers too. Kendra and Liz visited some Enviro-school kindergartens to gain a better picture of how to fit this into a play based learning time-table.

So this term we re-launched LIGHTS in Te Kākano as **LIGHTS through Play (LtP)**. We believe that all of our children are going through the LIGHTS process in some shape or form, as they engage in authentic play and this is valid and valued. We also believe that is our role as educators to facilitate targeted discussions/activities around our whole school LIGHTS focus with the aim of completing a project. The interesting thing about this is that our children are given autonomy to choose to engage, which helps to keep our programme authentic. Every child is given the opportunity to engage in LtP daily and each teacher has a difference focus in order to appeal to different things in children.

We are in the beginning stages but believe that this has wonderful potential. So far we have had children out in the food forest looking for food, creating art out of herbs, designing our future gardens which will cover the dirt space and making their own herbal tea. Look out for updates in the coming weeks as we learning more about FOOD.

Living Christianly

Our theme this fortnight is Jesus brings Hope to us when other people have given up on us. Our stories that we will be learning about is when Jesus heals the woman who was sick. Jesus brings Hope to us when we are sick. We will also look at the story of when Jesus healed the paralyzed man.



Guided Learning - Circle Time

Every Friday our children have circle time. During this time teachers have a time to explicitly teach restorative skills. Thinking and behaving restoratively does not come naturally to all kids. Restorative Practice is a way of thinking about people and events and it is a frame of reference that we can teach to young people. What is the result? Calmer, more peaceful and more productive classrooms and playgrounds. Evidence shows that schools that actively teach Restorative Thinking and Behaviour to students report less bullying behaviour; less anxious kids; less anxious parents and happier teachers.

Reminders

- Name all clothes and provide spare clothes for accidents in a waterproof bag.
- Please have a named water bottle for school.
- Please insist on the correct uniform being worn to school. This includes black shoes, black socks, black tights, long hair tied back, and black base wear for under the shirt. Also, only school hats which are compulsory in the 4th term.
- Please check the Lost Property basket outside the main TK door. It's starting to really pile up with stuff.

Up-and-Coming Events

Week 7	Thursday 5 Sept Friday 6 Sept	Te Kākano Assembly at 2:30pm in Te Kākano. We invite you to join us! There is no Whole School assembly this week. NZ Agricultural Show: FORMS & PAYMENT DUE TODAY!
Week 8	Thursday 12 Sept	Te Kākano Assembly at 2:30pm in Te Kākano. We invite you to join us! There is no Whole School assembly this week.
<i>Week 9</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Please be aware that there is a Kelly Sports day in Week 9</i>
Weekly	Monday/Tuesday	Meetings: Please be aware TK teachers have meetings on these days, so please pick your children up promptly so we can get ready for these.
Weeks 1,5,10	Friday	Whole School Assembly: at 9.05 am in the Te Pihinga building. There is no Te Kakano assembly on those weeks.
All Other Weeks	Thursday	Te Kākano Assembly at 2:30pm in Te Kākano. We invite you to join us! There is no Whole School assembly on those weeks.



Blessings,

Mrs Lynda Siave - Mānuka

Mrs Lynn Alcock - Mānuka

Miss Kendra Liggett - Kōwhai

Miss Emily Langridge - Mikimiki