

& Early Learning Centre

Newsletter Term Two 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

To think that as I write this, we are heading back towards summer. Having just passed the shortest day of the year gives me a feeling of optimism given how dreary the past few weeks have been. As we find ourselves in this period of Matariki, we are invited to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present and plan for the year ahead.

The past year at Karanga Mai has been full of lots of ups and downs. Through this, what I am most grateful for are the people. He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people. The ākonga (students), who show bravery in the way that they step up to the challenge of education and lifting their horizons for themselves and their tamariki. The kaimahi (staff) who give so much of themselves to ākonga and their learning. Our whānau, our wider Karanga Mai community who support our kaupapa and weave a network of support around our rangitahi (young people). Our people are our most valuable asset, therefore, it is imperative that we do everything within our power to look after them and to do this, we must look after each other.

When we celebrate the present at Karanga Mai this year, we will do it in the form of our community hāngī. This is one of my highlights of the school year, it truly fills my cup. I love the way that our whole learning community comes together with our supporters and celebrates the present with our māmā and their tamariki at the core. My challenge to all of you during this time, is how do you commit to being fully present? As busy people, the background noise can become overwhelming if we are unable to shut the door on it. So how do we “shut that door?” The way that I try to do this is based around engaging my focus and full attention on something, and importantly, putting my phone well out of arms reach. This can look like playing cards with my tamariki, cooking whilst listening to music or simply patting the dog. Giving myself permission to truly shut the door. We are also called to be fully present when listening to others. Being able to listen to someone with everything that you have, is to listen to understand. This is a skill that we could all do with working on. Listening to understand rather than to respond, to fix, to counter argue or to defend is a challenge that we all face. A wise person once told me, that you have two ears and one mouth for a reason.

Planning for the year ahead is something that gets me really excited. I get excited about possibilities, transformation and growth. For me it's all about focusing on our ākonga's needs and developing our programme around what will support them best to achieve success. It's about trying new things and not being afraid. Pushing through a zone of discomfort and uncertainty for both kaimahi and ākonga, to grow and develop through ako and as people. Potential plans for the rest of the year include; a ski trip, relationship workshops, and surfing with Surfwise Aotearoa. Definite plans of course include the daily excitement of learning in the classroom at Karanga Mai, a community picnic and prizegiving.

Kua rahi tēnei

Noho ora mai rā koutou. Ruth



KM Kaiwhakahaere - Ruth Robertson and KHS Principal, Jason Ried.

Matariki Celebration at Karanga Mai ...

One of our favourite times of the year has rolled around again - our Matariki Hāngī. This is a special event at Karanga Mai where together with the ELC, when invite our rangitahi and their whānau and members of our wider community to come together to share kai and to celebrate this special time of year. Photos below show a good time was had by all.



Term 3 Happenings ...



Student Achievement:

Congratulations to Moana for achieving NCEA Level 2 and a Merit in Level 2 Financial Literacy.

Well done for doing the hard mahi before going on maternity leave, to our student Haererangi who achieved an Excellence and Merit in Level 2 Financial Literacy, along with a Merit in both Level 2 Biology and Level 2 Health.

KA PAI TO MOANA & HIKATIA WHO BOTH OBTAINED THEIR LEARNERS DRIVERS LICENCE THIS TERM.

Best attendance in Term 2 went to Hikatia.

Lastly, but not least, a big congratulations to our students, Hikatia, Amiria and past-student Tasi, for presenting their E Whiti! E Whiti! Project work to a large audience at Tūranga in May.

Our students presenting at the E Whiti! E Whiti! Celebration Evening at Tūranga on May 12th.



Key Dates for Term 3:

Week 1: Plunket Visit Tuesday 18th July at 11am.

Week 4: TOD Monday 7th August.

Week 6: Mid term break Friday 25 August

Hauora Week date to be confirmed.

Tamariki Talks every second Tuesday afternoon.

Tērā koutou & haere nā

Nau Mai Haere Mai/ Welcome:

- Terri & Keely-Shaye

New arrivals:

- Tanemairanginui (Sophia)

- Mana Zephyr (Tyler)

- Tanemairanginui (Amiria)

Ka Kite Anō/Farewell to:

- Kristanna & Kamora-Storm

- Alexis & Leila

*A Community Kai favourite with everyone is the delicious **One-pot chocolate-chunk brownie**, made by our talented ELC cook, Eli. Here is the recipe - enjoy :)*

Ingredients: 250gms butter, 250gms brown sugar, 3 eggs, 1tsp vanilla bean paste, 1 cup plain flour, ½ cup self-raising flour, ½ cup cacao powder, ½ cup walnuts (chopped), 1 cup white and dark chocolate (roughly chopped), extra nuts and chocolate for topping.

Method: preheat oven to 170°C, grease & line base of 28cm x 18cm tin with baking paper. Melt butter and sugar in medium pan, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat, cool for 5 mins. With a wooden spoon, beat in eggs one at a time, then add vanilla. Sift in flours and cacao powder, fold in walnuts and chocolate. Pour into tin, top with extra nuts & chocolate if desired. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until puffed with crust on top but still soft in centre. Cool for 30 mins before slicing.

Serve with raspberries and cream for an indulgent dessert.



Need to contact the school? Here are our details:

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Our Kaiāwhia Nicola, talks Matariki ...

Kia ora Koutou!

As we pass the shortest day of the year, I love the promise of warmer weather and longer days that comes with this time of Matariki. Matariki being the start of the Māori New Year makes sense to me as I feel that a new year brings promises of growth, new beginnings and spending time with people we love, all the things that we have to look forward to as we start the slide into Spring.

This year at kura, to celebrate we have tried to include activities that acknowledge the stars of Matariki. We started with a really lovely video that incorporates the Matariki story in sand art. Here is the link if you are interested in watching (or rewatching!):

https://youtu.be/30V9_BUPt50

Beach sessions at Waikuku, Hāngī with whānau and the community, Hikoi at Whites Road Reserve and special activities run in class all paid tribute to the salt water (Waitā), the fresh water (Waitī), the food from the earth (Tupu-ā-nuku), the food from the trees (Tupu-ā-rangi), the rain (Waipunarangi), the wind (Ururangi), our departed (Pohutukawa) and our hopes for the future (Hiwa-i-te-rangi). All of this is nestled in the spirit of celebration (Matariki) and being connected with our community. With Matariki finally being recognised as an official holiday it's a good time to start our own traditions (if we don't already have them) with our whānau and loved ones. Perhaps it's an opportunity to have a midwinter feast with people close to us, perhaps it's our own time to set goals for ourselves, or perhaps it's just a chance to get back and connect to the nature that provides and sustains us.

Whatever you decide to do, from all of us ... Mānawatia a Matariki.



Nicola Mckinlay-Clark enjoying Hāngī kai with students Haererangi & Katana.



Surfwise Matariki Session:

We were lucky to gain access to the Waikuku Surf Club for our Matariki session with Tammi & Averil.



During our time together we explored what the season of Matariki means for us. For many it is about slowing down, connecting with whānau, taking stock of recent events and setting new goals. We talked about where we see others performing as their best selves, as well as identifying what we each need to be able to achieve for ourselves.



A stunning morning was perfect for a Hikoi to Whites Road Reserve, where in honour of the Pōhutukawa Star we sent walnut boats into the water to remember those who have passed since the last rising of Matariki.

Photo: top row—staff Wendy, Nic, & Brigid and students Hikatia & Moana.

Mānawatia a Matariki!! Kia ora, Talofa lava, Kia orana,

Wow, time just keeps on flying here at Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre. On any given day and at any given time, our centre is a hive of learning. This is beautifully showcased around the Centre, not just in the moment of observing but also in the Centre's displays of photostories of tamariki enacting Ngā uara, contributing and involved in life long learning.

Before we capture the learning from last term, nau mai tauti mai to our new tamariki and whānau who have joined our learning community over this school term. This includes our beautiful new ākonga: Kaiser (5mths), Isobel (1.7yrs), Katana-Mia (6mths), Keely-Shaye (11mths), Riley-Jayde (2.5yrs), and Tanemairanginui (2mths). A special welcome back to our wonderful Ringawera Beth and her kōtiro Ataahua Wynter.



Community Hākari - The essence of Matariki and it's associated Stars is something we honour and acknowledge all year round, however once a year we get to celebrate a special Matariki day with our whānau and hāpori. For us, it is a time to gather as a special community and celebrate what has been and what is to come, to celebrate new life and to remember those who have passed on. Thank you to all those who were able to spend this day with us, and especially those whānau members who helped us prepare the kai. The presence of whanaungatanga and aroha only added to the divine taste of the hāngī and fried bread.

Celebrating Hiwi-i-te-rangi - also known as the 'Wishing Star', we use this whetū to guide the setting of our desires and dreams for the year. This means finding out what aspirations our tamariki and whānau have - both short and long term. These conversations help us to support individual learning, as well as giving us insight into the values and aspirations of our community. Please check out our 'Matariki Aspiration' display and add your aspirations to a whetū if you haven't yet had a chance to.



Exploration- Creating a learning environment that is supportive of our learners emerging interests and developmental progression is something we believe is hugely important to a child's learning. For our older tamariki this has been revisiting construction type materials and creating some very complex models. They are also enjoying the space to role-play some of their favourite hero characters, including making some masks and other props.

What lies ahead for Term 3: Next term we are recommencing 'Tuakana Time' for our older tamariki. This is a dedicated time to provide a specialised curriculum for our older tamariki. We will also be supporting our curriculum with more planned excursions and of course, continuing with community waiata on Thursdays. For our teaching team, we are looking forward to fortnightly staff workshops to keep progressing our te reo. We are also beginning an internal evaluation on our curriculum, with a particular focus on our planning and assessment cycles. Seeking feedback from our tamariki and whānau is always a big part in improving our processes and practices, so we look forward to gaining your feedback for this.

No reira whānau mā, and for those of you taking some time away over the school holidays we will see you when you return for more fun and learning in Term 3.

Cint, Gillian, Sue, Cyd, Chris, Amanda, Jojo, Anna, Deb, Lou, Nic, Eli & Beth

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