

& Early Learning Centre

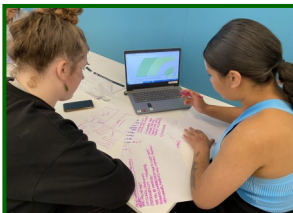
Tēnā koutou katoa,

Term One at a kura is usually a hectic time and 2023 at Karanga Mai has been no different. We began with three days on camp at the beautiful Okains Bay. It's such a fantastic location steeped in history. We were able to explore the Okains Bay Museum and learnt plenty about the local area. Another highlight of camp was the river float, which was plan B with the team from Surfwise. The weather gods were not on our side as we were hoping for a solid easterly swell to give us some waves to surf. However, we were met with ankle high waves on the Thursday morning, which dashed the plans of a session in the surf. So plan B began, with rōpū together floating approximately two kilometers down the river, through the estuary and out to sea on the outgoing tide. Ākonga dealt with some challenging situations really well and came out of camp with strong whanaungatanga throughout the rōpū.

A highlight of a completely different nature was our participation in E Whiti! E Whiti! This was a programme funded by the Ministry of Education and run by CORE Education. This programme was aimed to empower rangatahi to take the lead and come up with solutions for community partners. Our Karanga Mai ākonga worked extremely hard over the course of the programme and received accolades from the experts, to whom they presented their pitch about partnering with the Family Help Trust. Their pitch was based on an app they designed that supported young parents to get help when facing challenges with parenting and life in general. This was a great opportunity for ākonga to work with industry based experts, business mentors and to learn useful skills, whilst working on a project that they had a strong connection with. We were all very proud of the ākonga who worked on this project and look forward to celebrating their success at the celebration evening.

Noho ora mai. Ruth

Photos below: Left - E Whiti! E Whiti! Workshop. Right - Okains Bay Camp 2023



Term One - Student Voice ...

Okains Bay Camp 2023 - Student Voice:

During camp, I experienced a lot. I got out of my comfort zone and tried new things. I really enjoyed Surfwise coming out and seeing us and the activities we did. One of the best things we did, in my opinion, was the river float. Camp was not only fun, but also it was good having a couple of nights away with my kura whanau forming better relationships. Gypsy



Camp was very fun. I was able to form better relationships with the girls, since I had only met them a week before. On the first day, we went to the Okains Bay Museum and it was really interesting, all the artifacts and historical information. There were many beautiful waka there. On the second day, we went on a river float with the Surfwise team which was really fun, especially because I had only used a surfboard once before. We also cooked our own food that night with the trangia cookers. We made bacon butties and all made a contribution to cooking. On the last day, we just chilled at the beach, then packed up our stuff. I was glad I went to camp but very excited to go home. Haererangi



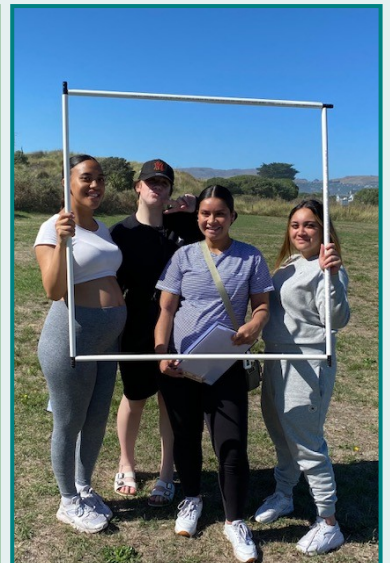
The level three biologists, Hikatia, Moana, Tasi and Reign have been very busy this term with three trips to Orana Park to investigate animal behaviour. There they collected five hours of behavioural data for their chosen animal.

"Fun, but tiring, but worth it. Do the mahi, get the treats." Moana



Not to be outdone, the level two biologists have also spent time away from kura collecting data. Haererangi, Sophia, Katana, and Amira chose the hottest day of the year to climb up and down the sand dunes at South Brighton recording the number of plant species that they found.

"I liked getting into nature out of the classroom." Katana



PRIZE-GIVING 2022 - Award Winners



Trophy Winners (L to R): Hikatia-Wairua Watson & Sefulutasi Tanielu - combined winners of the Dan Gordon Cultural Award. Nadia Frazer-Holland - Rachel's House Award, Awhina Award, & the Soroptimist of North Canterbury Reading Award. Cheyenne Boyd - Matt Doocey Award. Katelyn Loader - Lynette Brice Women of Courage Award.



Subjects Awards (L to R):

Hikatia-Wairua Watson:
English, Health & PE.

Gypsy Squires-Walker: Math-
ematics

Reign Atkins: English

Hikatia Watson also received
the Surfing award from
Surfwise Aotearoa.

Prize-giving was once again held onsite at Karanga Mai, as we find our students enjoy the familiarity and intimacy of our venue rather than the vastness of the KHS auditorium.

Tēnā koutou & haere nā

Nau Mai Haere Mai/ Welcome:

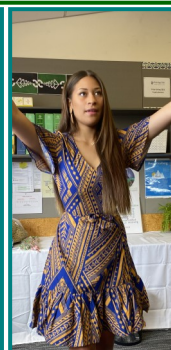
- Sophia
- Kristanna & Kamora-Storm
- Alexis & Leila
- Haererangi

New arrivals:

- Azaleah-May (Gypsy)
- Kaiser (Danielle)

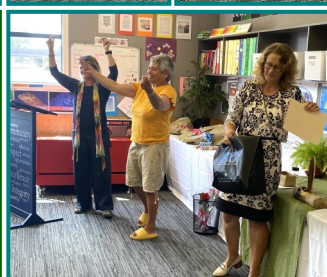
Ka Kite Anō/Farewell to:

- Erica
- Emmer-Lee
- Chloe & Lilly
- Maddison & Willow
- Katelyn & Dakota
- Cheyenne
- Nadia
- Tasi, Fred & Brilly-Anne



Key Dates for Term 2:

24/4 Plunket Visit @ 11.15
25/4 ANZAC Day - no kura
05/6 Kings B'Day - no kura
Community Kai - Tuesdays



Need to contact the school? Here are our details:

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Our Kaiāwhia - Nicola, does some thinking about School Camp ...

Kia ora Koutou!

During this last term we were lucky enough to be able to go on camp with our rangatahi. I say 'lucky enough' but I know that when I say that, many people (including me) have times either before camp, or during it where being on camp may just be the last place you want to be!

I think back to my experiences of school camp back in the 1980's and I was never a 'school camp girl'. I was the class clown, a little nerdy (hard to believe!) and was struck very firmly with the 'uncoordinated stick' when it came to nearly all physical pursuits. Even though I say this with an air of self-depreciation, I don't think poorly of myself because of it - it was just never my jam. However, as much as I never liked the thought of camp, I always went (mainly because Mum was looking forward to her three-day break and made me!). But even though I never wanted to go to camp, I never regretted going. In fact, I still have in my memory box, the award that I got in my Form Two (Year 8) Arthurs Pass camp for 'Most Improved Boulder Hopper'. To be fair, it didn't take much for me to improve considering I started from a cringe-inducing bum-shuffle over the boulders, to a wobbly, hand-held stumble....these things aside I still felt pretty proud of myself... and therein lies the magic of camp.... It's about feeling some sense of pride for stepping out of your comfort zone and giving it a go.

The purpose of my wee stroll down memory lane with you is not to 'out' my camp awkwardness but to tautoko and show awhi for our students who went on camp with us this year to Okains Bay. For me, back in the day (not for this camp so much), yes, I had my nerves, but I only had to pack my bags, have a cry to mum, get on the school bus and arrive at school for camp..... For our young mums, even if you were the biggest 'school camp fan', there was so much more to think about. There was the job of organising care for and leaving their tamariki and whānau for the three days. There was the uncertainty of what this space would look like, what the food would be like, what the activities would be, what the 'vibe' between your peers would be like. For our students, having some sort of predictability and stability is super important in feeling safe and they were showing great courage in even making it out the door.

Sometimes camps are a wonderful, 'sun-shiny all the timey' type affair and sometimes they are cloudy with a few spots of rain, then a bit of sun, then an unplanned storm, then some more sun type of affair. And in all honesty, it's better to have some clouds turn up from time to time rather than have sunshine all the time because that is when we really have chances to get out of our comfort zones and weather the storm.

Putting all weather analogies aside, it reminds me of this picture

Staying home and not giving camp a go keeps us in our comfort zone, which to be fair is a pretty sweet spot to be but can get a little stale pretty quick. It's important to say that those who were unable to make this year's camp had their own very relevant reasons, so this is in no means a negative reflection on these decisions. It just means that on this occasion, they missed out on some chances for personal growth. The good thing is, there is always a next time.

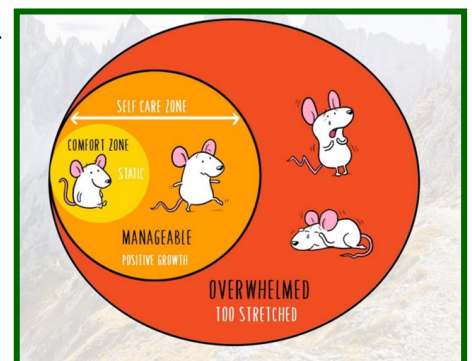
Hanging out in the self-care zone is giving camp a go. It's getting on the van and stepping out of your comfort zone. It feels uncomfortable, but it is manageable. It is here that we experience lots of the good stuff life has to offer in regards to self reward. We may feel a sense of pride in being able to put up our tent, of achievement at boarding down the river, of belonging to a group that have a common purpose, of bonding and creating deeper relationships with our class mates and staff. Whatever the reward is, it's there because we gave it a go.

There are times of course that we get into the 'overwhelmed' section and this can happen to all of us when we have pushed ourselves too far out of our comfort zone. This happened on camp too for some of our students and staff. But rather than viewing this negatively, it's a good chance to put some things in place, be it support from others or boundaries or space or self-reflection and get yourself back into that sweet spot of self-care. We all juggle with this sometimes.

So all we can ask of our students is just to get on the van - give it a go, and I am so proud of our young mums who did just that this year, especially our new mums. You guys are awesome, courageous and brave wahine. I want to send a big thank you to Brigid and Ruth for doing the lions share of organising this years camp and ensuring we were 'lucky enough' to all get a chance to give Okains Bay camp a go.



L to R: Kaiāwhina - Nicola Mckinlay-Clark, Maths Kaiako - Wendy Alabaster, Kaiwhakahaere - Ruth Robertson at Okains Bay Camp, Feb 2023.



Kia ora te whānau

What a wonderful start to 2023. Our tamariki arrived back after the raumati holidays refreshed and ready for learning. We have been spoilt with the summer weather, enjoying lots of fun water play and gardening experiences on offer for our tamariki to engage in.

This term has seen our learning community adapting to several staff changes; including Gillian Chappell's step-up as Acting Kaiwhakahaere, and Nicola, Selene and Bonni as our new 'treasured' casual relievers. We also had a very proud farewell just recently to our beautiful kaiāwhina Brooke, who left us to pursue her career path in law. As a teaching team, our focus this year is to evaluate our curriculum and explore how well we are meeting our tamariki learning needs in planning, presenting, and evaluating learning.

Nau mai haere mai welcome to all our new tamariki and whānau who have joined our learning community in 2023. This term we are thrilled to have a number of new whānau – Myra & Mokotūariki (Ardie's little sister & cousin), Mana-Huia (Manaiyah's little brother), Manatia (Maharatia's little brother), Tangaroa, Azaleah, Leila, Georgia, Kamora, Nature and Ivy. Settling in to a new place and space of learning, and establishing new relationships can be daunting for everyone involved, so we are always very appreciative when time is given to settle your tamariki at the centre.

LIFE AND LEARNING IN OUR HĀPORI (COMMUNITY)



Gardening Life at Karanga Mai: Our garden at Karanga Mai has been a hive of activity all term. Tamariki and whānau have enjoyed the delicious fruits from the harvesting of our: pears, apples, peaches, grapes, strawberries, blackcurrants and passionfruit. Feedback from whānau such as, "he only eats pears from preschool, not anywhere else", confirms the taonga that we have growing amongst the love and laughter. Any surplus harvest not eaten by our tamariki or used in our wharekai was shared with whānau and our wider hāpori. It has also drawn in our tamariki fascination with the other life-cycles within our garden, including our monarch butterflies and other insects found in, over and under our gardens.

Early Learning Centre continued . . .

Athletics Day at Kaiapoi High - Beginning of March saw a small group of our older tamariki go across to the High School to watch and encourage their athletes. To our surprise we were treated as honorary guests and invited to have a go at both running and the long jump. It was an opportunity that our tamariki relished and it fitted well with our 'challenge me' focus that we had been building onto.



Community Waiata - A highlight of every Thursday morning at 9:30am is our Community Waiata session which we share with YPC. This is a great way to come together at the start of the day and share karakia, waiata and plenty of smiles with each other! Aside from those important social connections, sharing enjoyable moments moving to music with our tamariki engages their brains, extends their physical skills, and grows awareness to languages.



Haerenga to Sumner – Our end of term outing was a picnic lunch for whānau at Sumner, and what a stunning day *Tāwhirimātea* put on for us. It was made even more special by the number of whānau who were able to attend. When asked what they liked best about the outing, Te Ataraupo said 'the beach 'cos I loved painting with the shells", and Marlon liked the "green and yellow slide". Other tamariki enjoyed the play equipment, paddling pools and beach.



Communnity Support - Over the past 3 weeks we were honoured to be in a position to be able to help out HoneyBeez Preschool & Nursery, while their centre was out of action due to a small fire in the staffroom. We were so proud of our tamariki (and kaiako) who opened their arms and our Centre, showing beautiful whanaungatanga and manaakitanga to our visitors.

No reira whānau mā, have a safe and happy Easter Break, and for those of you taking some time away over the school holidays, we will see you when you return.

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

Need to contact the Early Learning centre? Here are our details:

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