



NEWSLETTER

PANUI

TERM 4 2019

From Gaylene Brownlie

Tena Koutou

Welcome back to Kindergarten everyone. I hope you had a restful and relaxing break after our busy term three. Hopefully everyone has recovered from the illnesses that seemed to affect so many of us during the winter.

Term Four has traditionally been a very busy one and I do not think it is going to be any different this year. We welcome some returning families to Kindergarten over the next few weeks with younger siblings starting. It is wonderful to have you back as part of our Kindergarten Community. We also welcome some new families. Please feel free to ask if you are unsure about anything and for those of you who have been here for a while, please introduce yourselves to the new faces you'll see around.

Now that the weather is warming up, our sun safety policy takes effect. This means all children need to bring a hat each day. We shade our outdoor area as best as possible with umbrellas and shade sails, which will be installed over the next couple of weeks. Please remind your children to bring a hat each day. We believe they need to take responsibility for this as it sets up good habits for the future. After a couple of weeks - No hat no outside play.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The teachers are busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations. There will be two Christmas parties which involves the children watching a show and having a shared lunch. These are for the kindergarten children only and will be during session time - Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December. We will confirm the dates closer to the time. Also we will be having our Christmas concert in the Church on **Wednesday 4th December** so put this in your diary and let your extended family members know. This is an exciting event for everyone, especially because Santa pays us a visit! All the Kindergarten children attend this if they are able. They will perform some songs and a Christmas play for you and is something not to be missed! More details about the parties and concert will follow closer to the time.

FOOD ALLERGIES

We have a child starting this term who has severe allergies to milk, egg, almonds, salmon and pineapple. We have procedures in place to manage this as best we can but we would like to remind you about our food guidelines. Please read the attached Food Guidelines.

LOOSE PARTS

You may have noticed some added materials and objects in our block area. These are called 'Loose Parts'.

In play, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.



P.T.O



Loose Parts offers many opportunities for children to use natural or synthetic materials and objects in their environment. This allows them to make meaning of the natural world around them and manipulate materials however they would like. Loose parts provides many experiences for children to be creative, curious and imaginative.

Encouraging children to use resources as they choose can provide a wider range of opportunities than one that is purely adult led. Children playing with loose parts are using more creativity and imagination and developing more skill and competence than they would playing with most modern plastic toys.

The versatility of these materials provides children with virtually endless ways to create. Access to a variety of transient materials during play and exploration aids in the following:

Problem Solving

Engineering

Creativity - Imaginative

Concentration

Hand-eye coordination

Fine motor development

Gross motor development

Language and vocabulary building

Mathematical thinking - patterning, sequencing, classification, counting

Scientific thinking

Literacy

Social/emotional development - cooperation, negotiation

Dispositional learning such as perseverance and resilience



Many primary schools are now incorporating Loose Parts play into their classrooms as learning experiences. If you have any loose parts at home that we could add to our collection we would really appreciate them. For example - cups, driftwood, tubes, boards, wooden objects, curtain and napkin rings, bottle tops, etc, etc.

GRANT SUCCESS

We have had excellent success with our Grant applications this year. Thank you Rebecca Moyle for this! Recently our application was successful for replacing the vinyl in the upstairs toilet which is well overdue. This will be done over the next month or so. Fantastic!

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to those of you who took the time to fill out our Parent Survey. Our response rate was 75% which is fantastic.

We conduct a survey every two years to capture your thoughts and feedback in a variety of areas.

The responses will be summarised and put on the noticeboard for you to read.

We have got a really busy and exciting term ahead of us. In no time at all I am sure Christmas will be upon us. Thank you everyone for your continued support of Gardner Road Kindergarten.

Gaylene Brownlie



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IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES for 2019

Term 4 Mon 14 Oct—Fri 20 Dec

TERM DATES FOR 2020

Term 1 Mon 3 Feb—Thr 9 Apr

Term 2 Tue 28 Apr—Fri 3 Jul

Term 3 Mon 20 Jul—Fri 25 Sep

Term 4 Mon 12 Oct—Fri 18 Dec

IMPORTANT DATES

Labour Day

Mon 28 October (closed)

Bike-a-thon

Sunday 3rd November at ROPS

Annual Christmas Concert

Wednesday 4th December at 10am

Children's Christmas Parties
& Trixie Fairy Show

Wednesday 11th December &
Thursday 12th December

(If your child does not attend either of these days, then they can come along to the show and party afterwards. More details will come to you closer to the date.)

Please pencil in these dates

NUMBER OF THE WEEK—4 Year Old Activity

Monday, Wednesday and Friday only

This term we are focusing on numbers rather than the alphabet.

From the week of 21st October we would like to encourage each child to draw a picture of one thing, write the number, name their picture and put it on the table at the beginning of the session to share at mat time. This encourages literacy/numeracy skills, fine motor control and the confidence to stand up in front of their peers. Due to time constraints your child can only have one turn a week. The following week will be number two, and so on.

We begin Week 2 with the number 1.

ANNUAL TEA TOWELS

Our annual tea towel is almost at the printers. All the Kindergarten children and teachers have drawn a picture of themselves which will be printed onto the tea towel. It is a great memento or Christmas gift for friends and family. They are good quality tea towels too! Order forms will be sent out soon.

COMMITTEE 2020

If you are interested in joining our Committee for 2020, please let Gaylene Brownlie know. We have several spaces available as many of our current Committee will be moving on to school. There are a variety of roles available, big or small. As a Community Kindergarten, our Committee is an important part of our structure. The new Committee will be elected at our AGM in February. If you would like more information please just ask. It is a great way to meet new people and get involved in the Kindergarten.



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DRINK BOTTLES

Just a reminder - although we have water freely available throughout the day from our water cooler, the children are now welcome to bring a drink bottle as well. This needs to be filled with WATER ONLY, named, and kept in their bag during the day.

DROP OFF/PICK UP TIMES

Drop off time—Our session starts at 8.45am. We would appreciate it if you are on time, quickly settle your child and leave. Not only does this help to free up parking but more importantly it helps the children settle into their Kindergarten day more quickly and ensures a quiet start to the day.

Pick up time - Because the children are on the mat having a story at the end of the day, we ask that you only come in earlier than 2.45pm if you would like to take your child straight away. Otherwise, please wait outside until the teacher opens the door at approximately 2.40pm. If you do come in, please leave as quickly, quietly and promptly as possible. Hopefully this will mean there is as little disruption as possible at story time. It is very difficult for the children to focus on the story and difficult for the teacher to sustain the children's attention with so many interruptions.

During a child's 'Graduation' ceremony it is particularly disruptive so please be patient if we ask you to wait. We really appreciate your cooperation with this.

PARENT HELPERS

As a Community kindergarten, we really need and value your help during our session, even if it's just for an hour. If you are able to help anytime between 9am - 12 please put your name up on our roster. Parent helping gives you a chance to see what happens at kindergarten but most importantly, your child loves having you here. You are welcome to bring younger siblings also.

KORERO/COMMUNICATION

We communicate with you in a variety of ways - email, noticeboards, communication pockets, Storypark, Facebook and Instagram. We try to keep these all updated and current. Don't forget to check your communication pocket at Kindergarten regularly!

Our Parent survey told us that you are enjoying the daily white board in the foyer explaining the days activities, so we are going to continue to do that for you.

You also told us that our Newsletter is rather repetitive, so we will be working on redesigning it, so that the format is better for everyone. That will happen in the New Year. Such great feedback from you all in the survey, thanks for your time.



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Now the Repetitive Stuff !!!!

SOME REMINDERS

Sunhats/Clothing

Sunhats are now compulsory for Term 4. Please ensure it is named. If your child forgets his/her sunhat - No hat, No Outside Play - we do not have spare hats at kindergarten.

Please apply sunscreen before coming to kindergarten. There are some great long lasting sunscreens available that should last for the day.

Self Management Skills

To encourage independence we would appreciate it if you could

- > Dress your child in trousers/shorts with elastic waists so that they can pull their own pants up and down.
 - > Provide a lunchbox that your child can open by themselves
- It is beneficial for your child to master these skills before leaving kindergarten.

Story Park

We love it when you engage with our posts on story park, please continue to comment and give us your feedback.

"Me Tree"

IS YOUR CHILD'S PHOTO ON OUR 'ME TREE'?

If not, please bring in a photograph of your child that we can cut up and add to our tree. If you are unsure what our 'Me Tree' is, just ask a teacher or come and have a look. It is an important part of your child's sense of belonging at Kindergarten.

SOME REMINDERS

Staff/Kaiako

Your full time teachers are Gaylene Brownlie, Susan Piaggi, Kirsty Fergus and Karen Day all working Monday to Friday.

Zara Anderson	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri.
Tania Wickens	Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri.
Kara McNeil	Tues, Wed & Thur.

Admin Email gardner.rd.kindy@xtra.co.nz

There are five teachers working each day in order to maintain our ratio of at least 1 adult to 8 children.

Gaylene is available in the office on Wednesdays if you would like to make an appointment to discuss a specific issue or to find out how your child is progressing. Karen Day is now working in the office Monday to Friday during school hours. If you do not catch her then, please email her on gardner.rd.kindy@xtra.co.nz and she will respond as soon as she is able.

Please feel free to talk to the staff at any time about any issues or concerns you may have or if you need information about anything, no matter how large or small. We are here to help you and really value your feedback.





USEFUL INFORMATION

CHILDREN LEAVING TERM 4

Our leavers this term are:

Thea, Ava, Eli, Jeffrey, Holly, Niomi,
Samuel Spargo, Cameron, Freya, Hugo,
Matthew Cheong, Melody, Odette, Ollie.

We wish these children all the best for their next step in their life journey. We know they will do very well at school. Please see Ms Brownlie if you would like to have a parent discussion prior to your child leaving.



Please remember to refer us to friends and family if they are looking for a Kindergarten



Fees and Funding Rates

Our funding rate from the Ministry of Education is \$11.61 per child per hour and \$6.81 for non 20 hours children respectively.

Our session charges are:

\$18.60 per session for 20 ECE or part thereof @ \$3.10 per hour

\$47.40 per session for non 20 ECE or part thereof @ \$7.90 per hour

We welcome paying your term fees in instalments during the term if you prefer and we prefer payment by the internet banking option:

Include your child's initial and surname.

A/C no. is 12 3025 0190983 00
(ASB Bank)

A/C Name: Gardner Road Kindergarten.

Please include child's initial and surname and their info-care account number (on invoice) as your references.

**FEES ARE DUE TO BE PAID BY:
Friday 14th December**

IN CONCLUSION

We look forward to another exciting term with your children. Any queries or concerns you have please talk to any of the staff members as we are here to help in any way we can.

We thank you for your ongoing help and support.

Regards, Gaylene, Susan, Kirsty, Tania, Zara, Kara & Karen.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON, SUMMER HAYCOCK

Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you well rested following the holidays, and ready to launch into term 4. It's hard to believe this is the final term for 2019!

Our committee has been busy behind the scenes - organising more funding applications, that were both successful last term. The Teachers all have new iPads with keyboards, thanks to the generosity of Four Winds and we are about to upgrade the vinyl in the upstairs toilet area, thanks to the generosity of The Lion Foundation. The organisation for the annual bike-a-thon is well underway and a sponsorship form should have arrived home by now. This is a great family day so we do hope you can come along on Sunday 3rd of November.

We have a lot of fun on the Committee, and love supporting our amazing teaching team. If you haven't met me yet, I'd love you to say hi - I'm usually staying well past my welcome at drop off, wrestling my toddler away from the playdough table. Our Parent Liaison, Tracey Spargo (Samuel's Mum) is also happy to chat at any time, and help out if there's anything you need.

We are looking for new committee members next year, it is a lot of fun, not too much work and often where you make friends for life.



Tracey Spargo, Your Parent Liaison

Our Wonderful 2019 Committee Members (from left):

Front row: Phoebe Wen (Fundraising), Sonia Pinto (Fundraising), Tracey Spargo (Parent Liaison), Alicia Menzies (Marketing/Communications), Alex Botha (Secretary), Summer Haycock (Chairperson), Bex Moyle (Grants 2019).

Back Row: Sarah Collins (Fundraising), Angela Pearce (Management), Debbie Dow (Management), Paula Milne, James McQueen (Maintenance and DIY extraordinaire!), Anna Mackey (Grants 2018), Qiuqing Easterbrook-Wong (Fundraising).



TERM 4 2019

Term 4 2019 - Calendar and Topics

Week No	1	2	3	4	5	6
Monday's date	14/10	21/10	28/10	4/11	11/11	18/11
Visits, Trips Important Dates			Labour Day Mon 28 October Closed			
Letter for week		1	2	3	4	5
Week No	7	8	9	10		
Monday's Date	25/11	2/12	9/12	16/12		
Visits, Trips Important Dates		Wed 4 Dec Christmas Concert Church 10am	Wed 11 Dec Thr 12 Dec Shows & Parties			
Letter for week	6					

Programme topics for this term

During the term, these are the topics we hope to cover:

Spring/Summer
 Christmas
 Loose Parts
 Numeracy
 Sun safety

Internal Evaluation for this term

Induction procedures for new staff
 Induction procedures for new children
 Assessment and evaluation practices