



Portobelo Kaiapoi News

Winter 2019



Special Person's Morning

What a great time tamariki had when we hosted a Special Person's morning recently. We had a great turn out with many grandparents, cousins, mums and siblings arriving to share the morning. The children enjoyed showing their special people around their environment. They proudly showed off their favourite things to do while engaging in play and activities alongside them. It was a great opportunity for teachers and tamariki to extend manaakitanga to all our visitors and strengthen the important relationships we have with our children's loved ones through whanaungatanga. Opportunities to visit Portobelo are wonderful for building connections with extended whānau, a chance for them to see where their loved ones go to learn and play, and to meet the kaiako who care for and teach them. Remember to share our new 'Kaiapoi' facebook page with your family and friends @PortobeloKaiapoi



Matariki

Thank you to whānau for donating vegetables to help make our Matariki soup. Unfortunately, due to some nasty winter bugs that the children, families and the teaching team caught, we had to cancel our Matariki evening. The children still helped make the soup and we ate it during kai time – it was whakawaiwai/delicious!



Group interests

Tamariki in the **infant room** have been exploring their new environment as kaiako have changed the room to challenge and build on the children's emerging physical skills. They have loved the opportunities to climb, hide and use the tunnel. As we welcome new pēpē into the infant room, teachers have noticed an increased interest and care for the dolls and real babies from the other children. It is lovely to see the manaakitanga and ako that has come from this change as children demonstrate care, respect and shared learning.



The **toddler room** has been on many excursions lately to further explore their current group interest in 'Imaginary play'. A shopping trip to Countdown Kaiapoi, a fluffy at Coffee Culture and to the Kaiapoi Library to watch a puppet show. All this fun has included real-life experiences of the play that they are expressing at preschool as they enjoy dressing up with shoes and a handbag, telling their kaiako that they are off to the shops, or engaging with the puppets, hiding behind the puppet theatre as they put on a show and sing songs. Kaiako have supported this play by creating a shopping area in the room with tills, shopping baskets and items of food to purchase. We have purchased new dress ups and had fun adding doctors' kits and hairdressing items to the play, and together with the children constructed from scratch a puppet theatre to support their puppet and finger rhyme interests.



A group interest in 'language and symbols' has recently blossomed at the **preschool**. Tamariki have been exploring literacy concepts through a growing love of books, story-telling, and an interest in letters and name recognition through group activities and resources such as foam letters, magnets and stamps. Kaiako have also been providing resources such as calculators, dominos and number matching games as an extension to a developing interest in sorting, classifying and counting. The most notable learning, however, has been a big interest in sign language, which is an official language of New Zealand. Our tamariki have been learning sign language for several stories and songs including "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and "I Can Sing a Rainbow," and have shown how quickly they pick up on the actions.



Upcoming events on our Cultural Celebrations Calendar –

- **Community connections month, August 2019** – we have many visits and visitors planned as we explore the people and places in our local community – let us know if you have any ideas or connections we could use to extend this further 😊
- **Māori language week 9-15th September** – the theme this year is 'Kia kaha te reo Māori – let's make Māori language strong'.

Remember to check out our **NEW** facebook page
@PortobeloKaiapoi

'Like' our page and the things we post at Kaiapoi to help show everyone what an amazing place Portobelo is 😊
Feel free to share the page, pictures and posts to your own page so family and friends can see what we have all been up to.

With getting a separate Kaiapoi page we have lost all of our amazing testimonials and reviews from both past and current families. If you are happy to post these again or write a new review, we would love to hear from you. Reviews help show anyone who looks at our page what our current and past families think about the teaching and learning at Portobelo 😊

Woooo Hoooo!! 😊

We are very pleased to announce that after observing and assessing us in May this year, the Education Review Office (ERO) has rated us **WELL PLACED** to provide positive learning outcomes for children.

Thank you so much to all our families for helping make us who we are here at our Kaiapoi Nursery 😊

We look forward to ERO visiting us again at our Preschool at some stage this year also.

If you would like to read our full report for our Kaiapoi Nursery the link is below -

<https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/portobelo-otaki-street-18-07-2019/>

See more about this from our Directors on the last page of this newsletter.



At the Nursery we welcome Casey, Neave, Sully, Katie, Lily, Sam and their families.

At the Preschool we welcome our transition children from the Nursery and their families – Ātaahua, Conrad, Tobi, Levi, Zoe M.

Farewell and best of luck on your ongoing learning journey to Rafael and his family who have moved to Kapiti.

Big congratulations to

Kristy, James and Casey on the arrival of Levi.



Booking Changes

Please speak to or ring Jo (Centre Leader) on the Nursery phone

3279113

or

text the nursery cellphone

0273439943

Or email

kaiapoportobelo@xtra.co.nz

Remember – we need at least one week's notice due to rostering requirements 😊

Upcoming public holidays

Labour Day

Monday 28th October

Show Day

Friday 15th November

All Portobelo centres are closed on public holidays

Ū ki te ako, tū tangata ai āpōpō

Excel in teaching so our learners will excel in the future



Nursery Team - Jo, Stacey, Jenna, Nikki, Martine, Sharon, Kerry, and Anna.

Preschool Team - Jo, Michelle, Leslie, Rebecca and Rachel.

Relieving Team - Lisa, Christina, Elaine and Lizzie

Keeping in touch 😊

- Please text the centre cellphones if your child will be absent. The numbers to use are: **Nursery** 0273439943 **Preschool** 0275422272. These phones stay at the centre so you can flick a message through outside our opening hours and know that we will get it in the morning when we arrive. We often have children waiting for days to become available, so knowing in advance or as early as possible on the day, is a big help for these families and for us to plan staffing to meet our ratios.
- The teams also use our cellphones to text you any non-urgent messages specific to your child eg how they are settling, more nappies needed, or reminders of events.
- If you need to chat with us or pass on an important/urgent message please **ring our landlines**. If the Preschool landline 3279114 goes to answerphone, that means we are busy with the children, so please ring the Nursery landline 3279113 instead. **The Nursery landline is the best landline to ring for ALL children** – we can easily pass messages onto the Preschool team, or get them to call you 😊
- The centre landlines are still the quickest and most reliable way to contact us in a hurry.
- Our email address for both buildings is kaiapoportobelo@xtra.co.nz

From the Directors



Most of you will know that the Education Review Office [ERO] visited us in the Nursery at Otaki Street recently.

I had high expectations for their report, and I was not disappointed. I am so proud of our teams, and will quote some of the report below, so that everyone can appreciate why.

Children experience warm, positive and respectful interactions with teachers. These foster children's sense of belonging and wellbeing and effectively promote their learning. Teachers.... encourage children's language acquisition and early literacy understandings. They support [children] to explore, take-risks and challenge themselves physically, responding sensitively to children's non-verbal and developing communication skills.

Infants benefit from learning in a rich sensory environment that encourages their active exploration, physical and cognitive development.

Children with additional needs are very well supported to participate in learning programmes and make progress towards their individualised learning goals. Teachers adapt programmes, practices, resources and the environment to promote positive outcomes for these children.

As Portobelo whānau you can be proud that:

Leaders and teachers make meaningful links between children's lives outside of the centre and their care and learning in the centre. They do this by learning about, celebrating and incorporating families' values, experiences, language and knowledge into learning programmes. This supports children's transitions from home to the centre, enables teachers to build on children's past learning and support their sense of belonging.

We are blessed to have Jo, Stacey and our Principal Leader, Mel:

Leaders are improvement focused and have high expectations for quality early childhood care and education. They promote and sustain effective teaching practice.

This shows why Portobelo is the place I want to play, work and be!

We are looking forward to ERO coming back sometime later in the year so we can showcase our preschool at Wesley Street, with Michelle and her great team and children. 😊

Ka kite,

Lyn