

July 2019 – Hōngongoi

ISSUE # 46

THANK YOU

A **HUGE** thank you to:

- Hayley & Charli Harrison (Poppy & Willow's parents) for dedicating their whole weekend to paint and plaster
- Cathy Reid & Kylie Grieve (Molly, Jack, Freddy & Sadie's mum) for cleaning up after the plastering and painting
- Rachel Thomas (Leo's mum) for taking away all the rubbish after the working bee
- Dave (Nikki's Dad) for fixing all the toys



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FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Kia Ora Whanau,

Halfway through the year already! Time really does fly when you're having fun.

A huge thank you to Hayley and Charli Harrison who last weekend practically moved into Phoenix so they could prepare and paint the Kiwi Sleep room and prepare and paint the arch in the Kiwi Room. They have done such a fabulous job, pop your head in to have a look next time you are in. Thank you also to Poppy and Willow who allowed so much of their Mum's time to do this massive job for Phoenix!

Sadly, we have to inform the whanau community that the \$11,000 grant we got last year from the Lions Trust Foundation has to be returned. We have exhausted every avenue we could with the Council to get consent for the Pukeko sleep room build but without blowing the budget right out we cannot pursue this any further. However, all is not lost. We are currently waiting for a timeline regarding Phoenix and the rebuild at College. Once we have a timeline of expected events regarding Phoenix, we will be able to either wait for our new build or find an alternative project for the Pukeko sleep room. Our whanau community will be informed in due course. Thank you for your understanding with this.

This month the Board will be sending out a whanau survey. The objective is to get honest feedback and the feedback will help us form the new strategic plan. All answers will be strictly confidential. As a way to say thank you; all people who answer the survey will go into the draw to win a \$50 Chicago Joe's voucher. The survey will be sent out via EDUCA with a link to the survey. Please email me if you are having any troubles.

Following that we are excited to invite all whanau to our strategic planning evening on Monday 22nd July from 7pm-9pm at Phoenix. The evening will be run by Julia Cleland from the Department of Internal Affairs. The objective is to get everyone's ideas and thoughts on where we would like the Centre to head in the next one to three years. It would be great to see everyone there!

Finally, we would like to thank Shelly Robson who is farewelling the Board. Shelly has been on the Board for two years and has been a very valued board member. She has been active on the personnel committee and is always willing to go the extra mile with projects like the open day. We thank you very much Shelly for your huge commitment to the Board and we are very sad to see you go.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries please email me on boardchair@phoenixpreschool.co.nz

Kind Regards,
Cathy Reid

On behalf of the Phoenix Board of Governance
(Kylie Grieve, Kate Templeton, Tom Kearney, Kate Parkin, Shelly Robson, Greg Hubbard, Hayley Harrison, Rachel Thomas and Sue Johnstone)

[FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

"Don't forget to check out our new Facebook page – Phoenix Preschool INC Ashburton and leave a recommendation"

FROM THE PRESCHOOL MANAGER

Kia ora Whānau,

Phoenix Preschool was presented with the Supreme Award at the myECE summit in Auckland at the end of May. Hayley and I were so pleased to be able to receive this award in person. This is such an awesome achievement for our centre, and I want to thank each and every parent who felt they could pass on such heart-warming feedback about what we do and provide here at Phoenix. The feedback is ongoing so you are welcome to go to <https://www.myece.org.nz/find-ece/4832-phoenix-preschool> to leave your feedback at any time – note for some reason feedback is only enabled on computers not on phone devices.

In July we will have the Education Review Office visit Phoenix. ERO independently reviews and reports on the quality of education in ECE (and schools). Their focus is looking into the capacity of the service to promote positive learning outcomes with the purpose of contributing to improved wellbeing and learning for all children. We really look forward to showcasing what we do at Phoenix to our evaluators and to hear what they see as our next steps as a critically reflective centre.

Thank you to all our whānau that were able to make it to our soup lunch for our Matariki Week celebrations. The tamariki were incredibly eager and busy chopping and peeling vegetables each morning. A huge thank you to everyone for your donations of vegetables that enabled such a successful soup.

Happy school holidays to our older siblings – thank you to those who have gotten in touch with Hayley to let us know if your child will be attending or not as it helps us for ensuring we are meeting our staffing needs while also enabling some Kaiako to have some time off with their whānau.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī, that's all for now

Arohanui, Ange

WELCOME,
BIRTHDAYS
& HAPPY
SCHOOL
DAYS

WELCOME

Harper McBride

Harper Clark

Bear Lee

BIRTHDAYS

Georgia Morrison (3)

George Hurst (1)

Millie Hubbard (3)

Freddy Grieve (4)

Ruby Carr (4)

James Watherston (1)

Amelia Fowles (4)

HAPPY
SCHOOL
DAYS

GETTING TO KNOW THE STAFF AND BOARD

Kate Veint (Kiwi Room Teacher)



Tell us about your family – My family consists of my mum, my younger sister and her son my nephew, my dad passed away 8 years ago. We enjoy getting together and enjoy a nice meal and spend time together.

What's your favourite food? My favourite food without a doubt is anything that is salted caramel flavoured. I am a sweet tooth from way back.

Describe your life in a movie title – I would describe my life as the movie, just go with it, life can get crazy but just roll with it, what will be, will be.

What's your favourite book? My favourite book is, the notebook. It is such a beautiful story.

If you could be any animal what would it be and why? If I could be any animal, I would be a tiger so I could prowl the jungle.

What's your favourite board game? I enjoy trivial pursuit because I like to test my general knowledge.

If you won 20 million dollars, what's the first thing you would buy with it? If I won 20 million dollars, I would build a zoo so that I could indulge my love of animals and invest in conservation. I would also travel, another activity I love to do.

Name one thing you take with you wherever you go? I take my phone where ever I go as it allows me to run my life.

What's your favourite song? My favourite song is slice of heaven by Dave Dobbyn, I remember hearing it when I was young.

What is your most favourite thing about Phoenix Preschool? My favourite thing about Phoenix Preschool is the way that the teachers and families have become my extended family to me

Rachel Thomas (Board Member)



Tell us about your family – My husband James, Leo and I live on a family farm south of Ashburton. I grew up in Wellington though, so we often travel up there to see family. Leo's cousin baby James, who is also in the kiwi room, lives just across the road with his mum Rosa and dad Johnny.

What's your favourite food? I find it hard to choose between peanut butter and chocolate

Describe your life in a movie title – Clueless

What's your favourite book? The Alchemist - it is inspirational

If you could be any animal what would it be and why? An elephant - they are social and friendly but no one messes with them

What's your favourite board game? Guess Who

If you won 20 million dollars, what's the first thing you would buy with it? A Weimaraner puppy

Name one thing you take with you wherever you go? I seem to ALWAYS have a dummy in my pocket

What's your favourite song? I hate to say it, but I am a Bieber fan

What is your most favourite thing about Phoenix Preschool? I love the welcoming community environment at Phoenix. The teachers always go out of their way to care for Leo which makes me feel assured he is in good hands :)

PUKEKO ROOM

Welcome to our Pukeko Room Lauren Templeton, who has turned 2 this month, and welcome back to Harper Clark. Great to have you and your family back in the Phoenix Whanau.

We have had to wait until around 10 or 10.30am to get outside these mornings, with the very hard frosts that we have been having. It certainly lets us know that winter is well and truly here! This means lots of layers, hat, warm jacket, even gloves. Please ensure these items come along everyday and that they are named, as our lost property is very full at the moment.

We are very lucky to have some new pieces of play equipment in our playground. A new rope bridge has arrived to challenge our tamariki in the outdoor play space. Inside we have a new puppet theatre and block shelves to brighten our space, and support and extend learning for tamariki. Thanks to the fundraising committee and our board for funding these amazing pieces of equipment.

On 12 June, Lesley from Eco Education, visited Preschool, and alongside the tamariki, checked on our worm farm and compost, setting them up for the winter. Tamariki are learning about Kaitiaki, caring for the earth, with sustainable practice.



Phoenix Preschool ran a very successful workshop around school readiness, on 19 June. It was well attended by local new entrant teachers, early childhood teachers and Phoenix parents. Our facilitated from Moving Smart, Fran van Dillen, took us through the stages of brain and body development and the skills and knowledge needed to enter a formal learning environment at primary school. 6 important areas were discussed and explored. Memory, auditory, visual, physical, social and language. These areas of development are all enhanced at early childhood and home, through real, authentic, experiences with people, places and physical movement. Phoenix Preschool is so blessed with an amazing outdoor play space that fosters many of the school readiness areas. Monkey bars (for fine motor development for pencil grip) a huge selection of swings (for the vestibular system that supports balance and eventually sitting still) our tunnel and hill (which enhances proprioception, {the bodies GPS} and spatial awareness) our great selection of bikes and ride ons, that develop laterality (different parts of the body doing different things, balance and risk taking) All these things build stamina, fitness and endurance, needs for a school day.

We have been celebrating Matariki this week and have had a great response from whanau, visiting during the week to share our wonderful vegetable soup for lunch. Thanks for the vegetable donations that were very generous and plentiful!

Our annual bus trip on 27 June was well supported with 31 Tamariki, 17 Parents and 4 Kaiako, a total of 52 travelled on the bus to Tūranga – the new Library in Christchurch. Our group was treated to Imagination Station Lego and Duplo, story time, a guided tour, robotics, dress ups and lots of fun was had on the circular slide and cave, on the children's library floor. Many thanks to our host, Andrea Lord, the children's librarian, for making our visit so memorable and educational.

On Monday our Pukeko Explorers group (4 & 5 year olds) will walk to the Art Gallery where they will undertake a Matariki craft experience.

Arohanui, The Pukeko Team – Nicole, Nikki, Sharon, Ange, Diana, Rhonda & Sarah

KIWI ROOM

Over the last month the Kiwi Room tamariki are been having all sorts of fun. We have had walks in the community with our big stroller, we have been busy doing lots of sensory activities and really using our curiosity to explore the exciting world around us.

We have also been enjoying celebrating Matariki with the tamariki, we have made and painted lots of beautiful stars that can be seen hanging in the Kiwi Room and the tamariki all enjoyed eating the soup and coming together/kotahitanga to share kai. Even some of our tamariki that refuse veges at home enjoyed the vege soup 😊

We have a large group of tamariki currently really focusing on their social skills with each other and interacting through respectful play. These tamariki through social interactions, are building their communication skills and growing their vocabulary skills. They are growing an understanding of how they treat each other and how they like to be treated.

This month we have farewelled Lauren into the Pukeko Room, though still love our visits and cuddles from her, we also see Quinn, Hazel and Freya will all be starting their transition this month and we wish them a very successful transition into the Pukeko Room. We also welcome Bear Lee to the Kiwi Room.

Arohanui Gayle, Kate, Jess and TeAwhina



TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

SCHOOL READINESS TIP THIS MONTH:

A Pre-schoolers' brain and memory is developing all the time. It is important not to give too many verbal instructions at one time. The rule for this is AGE less 2. So, your 3 year old, may only be able to remember, and follow one instruction at a time; $3-2=1$. The memory part of their brain is still developing the long term memory part. A child starting school should be able to remember and follow up to 3 instructions given by the teacher. Games can support this memory development. Memory card games, stories, remembering a sequence of items and touching them in order, a memory tray of toys/items and one is taken away, recalling the days happenings at Preschool! All positive interactions and communication with another, is supportive of brain development. NOTE it could take up to 7 seconds for your child to process the instruction and respond to it, so be patient. This is the same for asking questions and having conversations. Always pause for an answer, while tamariki hear and process the words, before the develop, and respond with an answer.



Strategic Planning Hui

The Board of Governance would like to invite all staff, whanau and affiliates of Phoenix Preschool to attend a hui to assist in developing our Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. This is an opportunity for everyone to provide their ideas on the direction they would like to Phoenix Preschool head.

**WHERE -
PHOENIX PRESCHOOL -
PUKEKO ROOM**

**WHEN -
MONDAY 22ND JULY
7PM-9PM**

**RSVP -
boardchair@phoenixpreschool.
co.nz**