

NAPIER FREE KINDERGARTEN (Inc.) NEWS LETTER



JULY, 1973

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year for the first time, Kindergarten teachers and Associations have combined throughout N.Z. to hold a 'National Kindergarten Week'. The idea being to let people know just what the aims and work of the Kindergarten Movement are. Here in Napier we had a very active and hard-working Publicity Committee which was headed by Mrs Dot Sorenson. You have seen the results of their work — the displays, the posters, the model Kindergarten in Magills, articles in the paper and interviews on the radio. You will now be able to judge for yourselves just how successful the week has been.

Having heard so much about Kindergarten from the Publicity Committee there is little I can add except to thank them for their efforts and hand over to Mr Graham Beattie for the latest news in children's literature

Two of the most popular books for pre-school children in recent years have been 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham and Eric Carl's 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. These books are loved by children everywhere and it is pleasing to see two new titles from these authors. 'Mr Gumpy's Motor Car' and 'Have You Seen My Cat!'

A recent development in books for the pre-schooler are books without words in which the children are encouraged to invent their own story to relate to the pictures.

Another pleasing development is the increasing range available of posters and wall friezes from such outstanding illustrators as Brian Wildsmith, Ezra Jack Keats, John Burningham and Dick Bruna.

A child's growth towards maturity is assisted in countless ways by frequent exposure to good books especially when the stories are read aloud by Mum AND Dad. Please make good use of the Public Library which has an excellent range of books and when wishing to purchase books as gifts never hesitate to consult your kindergarten teacher, librarian or bookseller as to the most suitable book for your children.

JANE TYLER, President.

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Around the Kindergartens

CARLYLE

Head Teacher: Mrs Ruth Good. Teacher: Miss Janette Blackbourne.

The new term began well with fifteen new children entering the afternoon session. We are holding a continuing pre-entry group of 10 children which is proving to be most successful.

Excursions: We have been to the Marewa Kindergarten and the Airport. Interests have been centred around these excursions as well as the Clive Zoo. Mrs Tyler has lent us her mice which have been the topic of much discussion.

New Equipment: This term we have purchased blocks, puzzles and sandpit equipment. At the moment we are having our Dolls' Corner redecorated. Miss Turner visited us regarding the planning of an adventure playground and left the committee with many ideas.

Fund Raising: A Cabaret is to be held on the 18th August in the War Memorial Hall.

The Mothers' Club held a Social Evening on the 25th June.

MAREWA

Head Teacher: Miss Hilary Monk. Teacher: Miss Juliet Jamieson.

There have been a number of visitors to the Kindergarten including Miss Turner, Mr Dine and a mother who bathed her baby during a morning session. During Kindergarten Week we held a Visitors' Day and Grandparents' Afternoon. Two classes from Marewa School and Tiny, a large sheep dog were welcomed. Themes of Autumn and Winter were deepened by visits to the Rose Gardens and the Botanical Gardens.

Pets: Henrietta, the hen, began to lay eggs recently, creating much interest amongst the children. Touche, a red-eyed turtle, was donated to the Kindergarten during the first term.

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New Equipment: A new and larger water trough was constructed by one of our fathers, and is of great benefit to the children. We have purchased some new small toys for use in the block corner, and several new puzzles. A number of mothers helped to construct some musical instruments.

Committee: So far this year our fund-raising efforts have been a most successful Ball. Forthcoming efforts include a Jumble Sale next month, and a Cabaret to be held at the War Memorial Hall on the 13th October.

We are at present gathering ideas for re-modelling the Kindergarten grounds, in order to provide a more exciting and challenging atmosphere for the children.

Mothers' Club: Mr G. Cass, Principal of the new Tamatea school gave an engrossing talk to the March meeting on the open-plan form of education on trial there.

An enjoyable birthday party was held during Kindergarten Week with entertainment provided by the Mothers' Club Committee.

ONEKAWA

Head Teacher: Miss Wendy Lee. Teacher: Miss Catherine Minehan. Pilot Scheme: Mrs Sheila Jamieson. Teacher of the Deaf: Mrs J. Robertson.

Excursion: Recent excursions have been made to the Botanical Gardens and a Farm. We are anticipating taking the children flying in the near future.

Playground: Plans for the development of our playground are now under way, we look forward to our playground being an exciting, challenging, learning experience.

Mothers' Club: Hobby Groups are running extremely well. At present the series is 'Interior Decorating'. Our next hobby group will be on 'Pre-School Education'.

Local Committee: Our Champagne Cabaret was a tremendous success. We are now looking forward to another to be held later this year.

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MARY RICHMOND

Head Teacher: Mrs Irma Higgs. Teacher: Miss Joycelyn Smith.

The theme in the Kindergarten at the moment is Autumn and the Weather. A trip to the Botanical Gardens to observe the various aspects of Autumn was made. Autumn leaves and acorns, pine cones and nuts were collected for the science table.

The children are keeping a weather chart, a symbol is entered each day representing the children's observations of outside conditions.

An excursion to the city to see the Police Station, Library, etc., was held during National Kindergarten Week. We experienced a visit from a Policeman before then. Also planned is a 'Snow Trip' during the winter. On Saturday, 23rd June, we will have a Fathers' and Grandfathers' Day.

Local Committee held a successful hangi in April and finalised arrangements for a Cabaret at the Deerstalkers Hall on Saturday, 23rd June.

Mothers' Club is organising a series of Hobby Classes, starting with Hairdressing. These evenings are open to anyone interested, a small charge is made for the evenings' instruction.

PIRIMAI

Head Teacher: Mrs Bobbi Dowling. Teacher: Miss Irene Woodhead.

Much of the interest and creativity at the Kindergarten has centred around our recent excursions to the Children's Zoo, Clive, the Deer Farm and the Napier Botanical Gardens.

In conjunction with 'Kindergarten Week' we held an Open Day at the Kindergarten on June 18th, a most successful Grandparents' Day on June 21st and a Fathers' Morning on June 23rd.

Pets: Two new zebra finches, Fred and Harriet, a canary, Goldie, and two mice, Brenda and Sally.

Mothers' Club: Meetings this year have an excellent attendance of mothers and new members are always welcome.

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Mothers' Club are running a Grocery Raffle to raise money for new books and manipulative equipment.

Fund Raising: Crochet classes are held every Thursday evenings to raise funds for the Kindergarten. A 'Five in One' Electrical Raffle is at present under way as one of the Local Committee's major fund raising projects.

TARADALE

Head Teacher: Mrs Catherine Marr. Teacher: Miss Wendy Mabin.

Work has started on the construction of the mound with some of the retaining walls having been erected. Working bees shall continue regularly until all is complete. Already the children are most delighted with their new form of play.

A very successful Beer and Curry Evening was held on the 5th May with a profit of \$98.61c. The same evening the Grocery Raffle sponsored by parents was drawn. This raffle brought in \$70.00.

The dollies corner is being redecorated by committee members and is beginning to look much more cheerful. We have also purchased a new set of tables and chairs.

Kindergarten Week has been an exciting one at Taradale. Tuesday 19th, the morning children visited the Fire Station and had a very stimulating morning. Much exciting and creative work has resulted.

Thursday 21st was Open Day and about 30 people came and looked around. Friday 22nd, twenty children from the Taradale Play Centre visited us for the morning and much fun was had by all. Mothers' Club held their birthday party on the 11th June and a very enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance.

BETTE CHRISTIE

Head Teacher: Miss Sheila Mayell. Teacher: Miss Angela Littlewood.

Mothers' Club: Enjoys good attendances and interesting evenings. Convener, Ruth Todd; Secretary, Heather Cullen. Held fourth Wednesday of the month.

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Fund Raising: Toy Rabbit Raffle netted \$80. Grocery Raffle in progress. Lucky Number Cabaret 28th July at the Deerstalkers Hall. First prize, \$100.00. Five prizes of \$10 to be drawn at the Cabaret.

Equipment: There is of course a lot of equipment needed for the Kindergarten, but we are all working hard to raise funds to fill this need.

An excursion to Marineland was enjoyed by all who took part. A trip to the Model Railway and the Aquarium is planned for the near future.

Staff: We are disappointed that Miss Littlewood will not be finishing the year with us. She is returning to Nelson. Children and parents will be sorry to see her leave at the end of this term.

GREENMEADOWS ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs M. Ellis. Secretary: Mrs J. McLaughlin.

With building on the Osier Road section well under way, and the first public meeting over, the Greenmeadows Establishment Committee is seeing the results of the past two years steady fund-raising.

Without the help of this community during the highly successful Mayoral Contest last September, there would have been little chance of holding the first public meeting to open the waiting list, almost exactly two years from the date of the inaugural meeting to form an establishment committee.

We are also pleased that the meeting should coincide with 'National Kindergarten Week'. About 120 people attended the meeting, with 154 children's names being entered on to the waiting list.

This week the interior decorations are being chosen for the new building, and the Greenmeadows Kindergarten is rapidly becoming a reality.

The Committee held a very successful Barn Dance at Puketapu on Saturday, June 16th, and with expenses paid there should be a tidy profit to put toward equipment.

The Committee hopes to run a Cyclethon on the first Saturday of the August holidays, similar to that held last year, with a substantial prize for the child winning the biggest sponsorship.

TAMATEA ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr Tony Watt. Secretary: Maureen Lawrence.

Tamatea Establishment Committee have held successful fund-raising projects in the past which consisted of a Cake Stall that netted \$90.00. They extend thanks to those who assisted their committee with stocking this stall. Their Nursery Sales a success also in spite of the weather, and their Raffle, '\$10 worth of shrubs', was generously donated by Richmond Gardens.

Coming Events: A Cabaret to be held on the 10th of November at the Napier Sailing Club.

A Bavarian Festival will be held on Saturday, 2nd February, in the Centennial Hall.

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH OF THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

From Thursday, 28th June, to Sunday, 1st July, the H.B.F.K.T.A. organised a course for Kindergarten teachers which was held in Taupo. Subject: 'What Are We?' 'Why?' 'Where Are We Going?' Without a doubt this was an extremely worthwhile experience for all who attended.

Principal Speakers included:

Dr W. D. Barney—Senior Lecturer in Education at Auckland Universities

Mrs M Bell—Lecturer at Wellington Kindergarten Training College

Mr G. Cass—Principal of Tamatea Open Plan.

Also attending the course was Mr Mike Cooper—Lecturer in charge Hamilton T.C. Pre-School Unit; Miss Heather Turner—Pre-School Advisor; Mrs Kathy Watson—President of N.Z.K.T.A.; Mr Peter Comby—National Co-ordinator N.Z.F.K.T.A.; Mr Rigglesworth—Principal Dannevirke Primary School; Mr Graham Beattie—Expert in children's literary field.

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