



## Hōngongoi, July 2023

*Kia ora e te whānau,*

*Mānawatia a Matariki!* ★ ✨

*This past month has been a time for reflection, a time for celebrating and a time for setting our intentions for the future. As a centre, it has been a special time for tamariki, whānau and staff to connect with each other and our environment as we all learn more about the cultural traditions associated with Matariki.*

*We have enjoyed many activities such as weaving with harakeke, reading stories, having kōrero, singing waiata, creating stars, learning about our solar system, taking part in Whenuakite school's community hāngī, harvesting citrus from our orchard, kūmara from our centre māra kai, continued our regular EOTC learning in nature at Pukaki, Cooks Beach, connecting with and supporting our local reserve group in Cooks Beach, created artwork for loved ones who have passed, visited the Matariki educational programme at the Mercury Bay Museum in Whitianga and had a lovely Matariki celebration in the centre with friends and whānau to enjoy our baked kūmara and sausages around the bonfire together. We have been busy! It has truly been an amazing community effort, celebrating Matariki here at Whenuakite Country Kids. Ngā mihi nui! ♡ We really appreciate everyone's support and contributions. Arohanui from us all at Whenuakite Country Kids x*



### Centre Celebrations:

Rā whānau ki a koe, Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated birthdays in Hongongoi, July: Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to Rosie Grogan, Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Jack Carter and Beauden Clarke, Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Fletcher van der Vliet ♡ And Happy birthday to our lovely Kaiako Nicky and Antheena! We hope you all had lovely birthdays celebrating with friends and whānau. #

This month we said haere rā e hoa, farewell to our friends Jake McLaren and Lochlann Riddle who are starting at Whenuakite School and Fletcher van der Vliet who is starting at Hikuai School. We will miss you! We wish you all the best on your next journey of learning at school x We also said Haere rā to our Kaiako Jane, who is going back to Primary relief teaching and Haere mai, welcome back to Antheena East who is a Kaiako with us on a fixed term ♡

## Important reminders:

### Lost Property:

Ngā mihi for bringing tamariki to the centre dressed in warm clothing each day through these winter months ☺ As we warm up throughout the day, tamariki clothing can sometimes get misplaced, leading to an overflowing lost property basket. **PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BASKET FOR YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS,** there are some quality items in there!

### Kia Manawaroa:

Kia Manawaroa is the Ministry of Education's pānui for whānau Māori. Read the Hōngongoi, July issues of Kia Manawaroa here:

[kia-manawaroa-21-july-2023](https://kia-manawaroa-21-july-2023)

### Important Upcoming Dates:

**Zero Waste Education visit:** Rāmere, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Keep NZ Beautiful Beach clean up:** Rāpare, Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Whenuakite School Pet Day visit:** Rātū, Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September

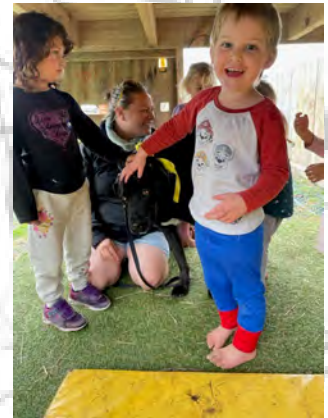
**2023 Cultural festival at Coromandel Area School:** Rāpare, Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September

### Holiday Closure 2023 Dates:

- **Labour Day:** Rāhina, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October
- **Christmas closure:** 4pm on Rāapa, Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December to Rātū, Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024



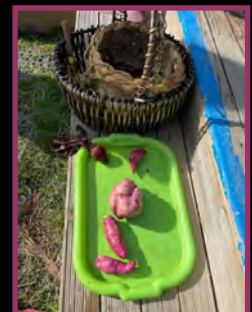
# Centre Happenings





# Mānawatia Matariki ♥

Matariki Hunga Nui, Remembrance  
Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki.  
Matariki Ahunga Nui, Celebrating the Present  
Gathering together to give thanks for what we have.  
Matariki Manako Nui, Looking to the Future  
Looking forward to the promise of a new year.



*Each year, we look forward to harvesting our Kūmara from the māra kai ♥*



Whenuakite School Community Hāngī  
2023 ♥ ♥ ♥







## Working with Harakeke ♥

We LOVED having Nico's Māmā, Anna, come in to share her knowledge and skills with us. It was such a lovely experience for ngā tamariki to work alongside Anna and Kaiako, working and experimenting with Harakeke, Flax. We made some ataahua, beautiful creations! We have some talented weavers among us!



Ngā mihi nui Anna!





# ✨★♥WCK Matariki Celebration 2023♥★✨

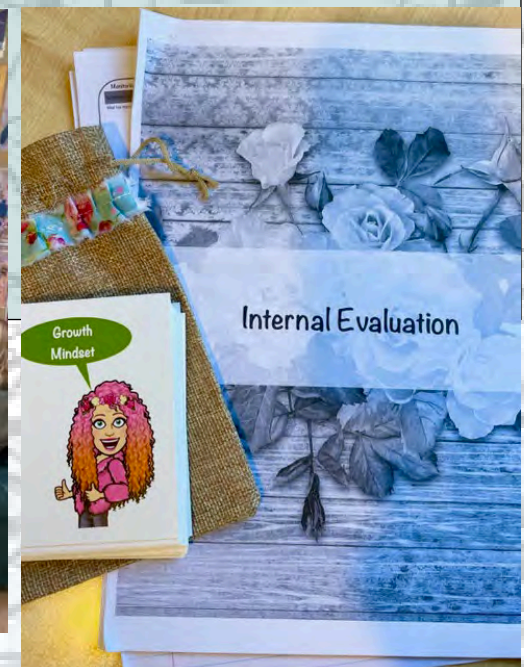




## WCK Centre Internal Evaluation 2023

We had a great pld session with Chrissy Leeper from Leap Education, who spent the day with us and provided MoE funded SELO support for community based centres like ours. We focused on building our centre's Internal Evaluation and Professional Growth Cycle processes. As a result of this pld, we have further reviewed the wording of our centre's internal evaluation question for this year. Our question is now: *"How well are we providing equitable opportunities for tamariki to learn through a responsive curriculum?"*

We are excited to research and investigate this topic. We will be looking at what best quality ece curriculum looks like and how our intentional teaching practices and collaboration with tamariki and whānau contribute to this. We are currently exploring what our curriculum looks like if we align our centre planning and experiences more with the seasons. If you have any questions or ideas about our internal evaluation, we would love to hear them! Please get in touch with us x







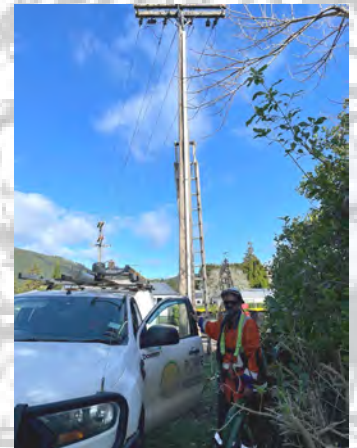
## **POLICIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW:**

HS19 Kai- Provision and Record Keeping, HS20 Kai-Preparation, Serving and Storage, HS21 Drinking Water, HS22 Supervision While Children are Eating, HS 22 Appendix 1 Choking.

We value your contribution, so please share your ideas and suggestions for our policies under review. These are located in the 'Policies Under Review' folder in the whānau bookshelf at the office.

## **Community Contribution :)**

*Check out all of the awesome koha which our community have given to WCK this month ❤️ We really appreciate the generous support which our community-based centre receives. You are AMAZING! Thank you! ❤️*



***Ngā mihi nui mo te tautoko me te aroha,  
a BIG thank you for all your support and love x.***



# EOTC

We LOVE taking part in the Preschoolers race at Whenuakite School's Cross Country Day each year. Amazing effort by everyone this year, and some really FAST runners here at Country Kids! 😊



Our eldest tamariki exploring together in our natural playground ❤️





# Haere ra e hoa, Farewell our friends

## Fletcher



## Lockie



## Jake





ISSUE 5



FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

This months Book Club has arrived! Look out for your copy of Book Club in your child's pocket! It's packed with hundreds of books from just \$3.50 to support your child's reading journey.

Orders are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, to ensure you receive your books before the end of the school term.

Did you know that every purchase you make through Book Club earns our centre 15% of the order value in Scholastic Rewards? We use these to purchase more books and educational resources for WCK. We appreciate your support, it all helps! Ngā mihi x



Dear Parents and Carogivors

Movement and play are the way young children learn best. Not only does active engagement immerse them deeply in the learning, it builds confidence, courage, persistence and resilience in young learners.

We're so happy to introduce you to KANDU, a new website that offers insights into your child's learning and development as well as a wide range of fun, fast, and easy activities to try anytime, anywhere!

Please visit [www.lookwhatikandu.com](http://www.lookwhatikandu.com) and on social media @lookwhatikandu on Facebook and Instagram.





# 1:4 FOR UNDER THREES

## PETITION TO IMPLEMENT A 1:4 RATIO FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS OF AGE ATTENDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) 1:4 -U3!

### SIGN THE PETITION HERE:

Landing page with downloadable resources and information: [ecnz.ac.nz/u3ratio-petition](http://ecnz.ac.nz/u3ratio-petition)  
page: [chnng.it/pqQgLGjr7k](http://chnng.it/pqQgLGjr7k)



### THE CURRENT RATIOS

The ratio is currently one teacher per five children under two and two teachers per twenty children over two. We are proposing 1:4 teacher to child ratio for under three's. 1:4 -U3!

### THE WORDING ON THE PARLIAMENTARY PETITION

I respectfully request: That the House of Representatives implement a 1:4 ratio for under threes (one teacher to four children under three years of age attending Early Childhood Education) supported by realistic funding so that the Early Childhood Education sector can affordably deliver this ratio.

### 1:4 U3!

If you can't make it to our conference but would like to join in with our advocacy hikoī or join us on parliament lawn

we welcome you, your tamariki and whānau to join us. Take photos or videos and post online with this hashtag: **#makeanoise4ECE**

On Friday 25th August, we will walk from Te Papa from 9am and arrive at Parliament around 9.30am to deliver our petition for better ratios.

### FROM 9.30 – 11.30AM WE WILL PLAY!

Free family fun for everyone will include Pippity-Pop twisting balloons, Daisy Design painting faces, and Doctor Bob blowing giant bubbles. Maggie Dent (author and speaker from Australia) will be speaking about parenting for our parents who join us. There will be songs, ukulele, chants, parachute games and we will show Aotearoa what a proper playful protest can look like on parliament lawn. For those of you who are attending our ECE conference, you can choose to listen to the political parties in the Beehive as they answer questions posed by you. If you have a question to put to the MPs that hold the ECE portfolio, send it to [media.enquiry@ecnz.ac.nz](mailto:media.enquiry@ecnz.ac.nz)

**STAND UP FOR TAMARIKI, WHĀNAU AND KAIAKO, AND MAKE A NOISE FOR ECE!**

  
**Childspace**  
Early Childhood Institute

**60** years  
with mokopuna at heart  
**Te Rito Maioha**  
Early Childhood New Zealand

Arohanui from us all at Whenuakite Country Kids x

