

Dear Parents and Whanau

2017 is nearly at an end and as the New Year approaches it is time to share a few achievements and highlights that Childhood Concepts has had during the year.

On reflecting recently, we are so fortunate that even after nearly 13 years of operating Childhood Concepts, it still feels like our second home. It is where we are able to completely instill our vision (culture) to create a respectful learning environment for all children and a home like atmosphere for families, while always advocating for children. We have to say thank you to the team for keeping this alive and supporting us to foster this in both of our centres.

This year has been packed with learning and development by the children, teachers and the environment. The centres have been involved in many different experiences and have included connecting with the community. We enjoyed having parents share their job roles with us, visiting local businesses, being involved with raising funds for The Mental Health Foundation, Red Nose Day and Daffodil Day. Daffodil Day was a real hit where the children made the daffodils at home with their families and the beautiful products were donated to Te Omanga Hospice. Grandparent day this year was celebrated by the children performing a concert at Shona McFarlane Retirement Village, this again was a great success!

Other highlights were the centre focus on supporting well-being and resilience of all tamariki. Individual families made their own korowai (Maori cloak). This was celebrated at a fish and chip evening where all the korowai were on display. These beautiful cloaks now adorn our centres.

As Birch Street is nearing its 13th birthday this March, we have spent time this year revamping the centre paintwork, the heat pumps and the tables. Next year will bring new kitchen benches and carpet replacement. We will continue to upgrade the furniture and equipment in both centres.

As the year draws to a close, we are already preparing for an ERO visit, expected next year. We have just received notification, that they will be in attendance in both centres the week beginning 19 March 2018. We encourage parents to let us know if they would like to be involved in the review process.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your continued support during the year; we also appreciate your custom and trust. We feel privileged you have chosen us to educate and care for your child. Also, a reminder to parents, that we welcome input to help us improve our service. Plus, to keep us informed of further improvements, issues or concerns you may have. Any suggestions will be considered.

Lastly thank you to our teachers. Without you all, we would not have achieved all we have so far in our family business. So, thank you all for the hard work this year, we appreciate the dedication you show and are very proud to have you as part of our Childhood Concept's Family.

We wish all teachers, children, parents and whanau a very Merry Christmas and a safe and restful New Year!

Warmest regards

Michelle and Glen Robertson