Issue #12 - Sep/Oct 2026

# The Kindy Chronicle

## Polyfest 2026

Polyfest is always an absolute highlight of the year for our kindergartens, offering a vibrant and joyful platform for tamariki to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our community.

Throughout the year, our tamariki pour their energy into learning waiata, action songs, Pasifika items and traditional dances. Weeks of practice in the kindergarten environment help build confidence, teamwork and a deep sense of pride in our tamariki as they prepare to share their heritage with whānau and the wider community.

This year, more than half our kindergartens participated in Polyfest. Our involvement directly aligns with our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, providing essential experiences for our tamariki to perform in front of hundreds of people and to be on stage.

Highlights of our participation include embracing identity by connecting meaningfully with roots through performing and visual arts and strengthening whānau and community connections by bringing families and kaiako together. It also involves building lifelong skills such as resilience and public expression while having fun through music and movement.

Whether performing live or sharing recorded waiata and storytelling, our kindergartens consistently demonstrate an inspiring commitment to bicultural practice and multicultural celebration. It is a privilege to watch our youngest community members shine so brightly!







# Te Whā o Mahuru

Rakaunui/Full Moon - 27 September 2026

Whiro/New Moon - 11 October 2026

## Te Reo Shines on the Global Stage

A special Māori word central to our daily kindergarten practice has just been named the world's most beautiful word: kaitiakitanga. Celebrated globally for its distinctive sound, rich meaning and cultural significance, it speaks powerfully to the responsible guardianship of our environment for generations to come.

For our tamariki and kaiako, kaitiakitanga is far more than a concept; it is lived every single day. Rooted in our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, this protection of the natural world weaves seamlessly into Te Whāriki. Through the Mana Atua (well-being) and Mana Whenua (belonging & contribution) strands, children connect deeply with Papatūānuku.

Whether tending gardens, exploring local nature or embedding sustainable habits, hands-on experiences bring our values of respect and community to life, honouring our collective duty to protect our living world.








### Pat's Corner

Kia ora whānau

Two questions we get asked regularly are **"Can my two-year-old attend kindergarten?"** and **"How much does it cost?"**

The answer is simple – **yes, two-year-olds can attend our kindergartens, and we provide up to 30 hours a week free for tamariki aged 2–5 years.**

Once your child turns three, we ask that you bring all of their Ministry of Education **20 Hours ECE** to us. For two-year-olds, we simply ask that this is your intention once they become eligible.

We do ask whānau to consider supporting us through **voluntary donations**. These donations help us continue providing this service, while also supporting the many other great things happening across Southland Kindergarten Association.

Want to know more? **Get in touch - we would love to help you with your ECE.**

### Kupu o te Marama

## Kaitiakitanga

(ky-tee-ah-key-tar-nah)

= Guardianship

Southland Kindergarten Association
Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Murihiku