

GLENFIELD EARLY LEARNING CENTRE (GELC) MANAGER'S REPORT

It has been an exciting year for the teaching team at GELC with a few changes since the report last September. On the 6th of November our dedicated leader Jenny Boyd left for a very well-deserved retirement after 22 years of commitment and loyalty to the GELC. While the teaching team were sad to say goodbye, we are grateful that her legacy is a Centre that is loved and respected by the local community.

Jenny's leaving created other changes within the team too. Our previous student teacher Almira Martinez became first a reliever, and then a permanent member of our teaching team as a Newly Qualified Teacher. Stacey McIntosh moved from the role of Qualified Teacher to the role of Lead Teacher, and I (Paula Tra) moved from the position of Head Teacher into the position of GELC Manager. At the end of 2015, we restructured both session times and the role of GELC Manager. As a result of this we said goodbye to our regular reliever Teresa Williams.

In early December, shortly after Jenny left, the Education Review Office (auditors for education providers) came for their scheduled visit. We were very pleased to get a rating of being "Well placed" to promote positive learning outcomes for children and have our next visit scheduled for three years' time (the same as our previous rating).

The start of 2016 saw the team begin to settle together and adjust to their new roles. This year we have had a big focus on professional development in various areas for the whole team. Verneese Ioane (Vee) and Almira have both started the process of teacher registration and are now both provisionally registered. This has a positive effect both on the quality of their teaching and on the income our Centre earns from the Ministry of Education.

In May, we had some items stolen from our playground. While this was disappointing, we were very pleased at the positive response from the wider community that resulted in the prompt return of our items. We have since had security lights outside.

We have celebrated a few firsts this year with our first bus trip out of the centre (which was a huge hit with families, children and the teaching team), our first (to our knowledge) GELC disco, and having our Living Eggs hatch into chicks (something we will repeat every couple of years). As part of our community values and identity, we fundraise for the community, and raised money for the Mental Health Foundation through 'Pink Shirt Day', for the Heart Foundation through 'Jump Rope for Heart', and for the Cancer Society through 'Daffodil Day'. Support for these causes from our families has been pleasing.

Another first for us was the 'Health and Wellness Expo' we hosted at the community centre in partnership with Plunket in May. Despite torrential rain and very chilly temperatures on the day, the advertising must have worked as we did get some brave souls through to check it out and get some freebies! We will repeat the Expo in March 2017, with a few changes to attract more punters.

This has also been a year of upgrading some of our tired (or dead!) resources. Thanks to the Lion Foundation we now have a new working heat pump, the new shade sails will go up in the September holidays, and we have funding to re-cover the large outside squabs the children use for physical play. In our efforts to spruce up the centre we have made many improvements including new desks in the office, improved lighting, general repairs and enhancements. We are grateful to our Centre Manager, Nigel Green, who has been working hard in this area, and our working bee with parents early in the year achieved lots too.

We are still a very culturally-diverse centre in a culturally-diverse suburb. We are fortunate that our teaching team reflects this with Mandarin, Cantonese, Samoan and Tagalog being the extra languages they are happy to converse in. We are proud of the fact that we attract most of our children by recommendations from other families, and that the main reasons for children leaving GELC are to go to school, or are moving out of Auckland.

Once again this year there was no increase in government funding for our centre. This represents a significant loss of approximately \$3,400 each year. We see this as an opportunity to get creative. We aim to cut our reliever teacher cost by training selected parents to fulfil this role, and are looking at partnerships with businesses and other ways to fund-raise. We have also been selected by Rotary Glenfield as an organisation they would like to help, and work is due to start on the first project in the September school holidays.

Since the last AGM, we have made some changes to processes and practices ensuring we comply with the new challenges brought on by the Vulnerable Children's Act as well as the new Health and Safety Act.

Finally, I would like to thank both the GCC team for their support, the teaching team and especially their leader Stacey for their energy, loyalty, dedication and commitment this year.

It is amazing what we can achieve together, thank you.

Paula Tra
GELC Manager

September 2016