NEWTOWN KINDERGARTEN

1944 - 1994
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

Although in looking back over 1941-42 we feel well satisfied that Kindergarten work has been maintained as well as it has, we still find many of our ambitions unrealised.

It is a matter for regret that, owing to staffing difficulties and the temporary closing of Newtown Kindergarten in June, fewer children were able to enjoy the benefits of Kindergarten life.

Approximately 400 children were admitted.

It is difficult to sum up in a few words the value of a work such as this. To say it increases a child's joy in living infers quite a lot. To be wholly alive one requires physical buoyancy, mental vigour and a spiritual conception of life. How can we give children that joy of being wholly alive?

The inheritance we give our child is vitally important—but the seed has not only to be prepared for, it has to be nourished. There cannot be successful development without conditions conducive to growth.

The Kindergarten offers children good development conditions. By 3 years of age, however, the young plant has already developed strong roots, but its health may have received the twist that will mar its beauty all through life. Every impression for good or evil the child receives leaves its mark. Although even by 3 years of age the scar may be deep, subsequent experiences may heal, even though they cannot eradicate.

Thus the Kindergarten has an important function in the community and the Nursery School, which admits children at an earlier age and for longer hours, has a more important function.

New Zealand has been slow in making provision for the education of the pre-school child. Now, in the present crisis, young life takes on a very much greater value.

As individuals and as a community we have two sacred duties: (1) To do all in our power to bring the present conflict to a successful conclusion. (2) To act as guardians of the children.

Not only must we strive to preserve the life and health and well-being of every child, but we must encourage young life.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

In reviewing the past twelve months, I have been very conscious of the selfless service that has characterised our activities. Most of our Kindergarten workers and friends have suffered sorrow and loss since our last Annual Meeting, and there are few, indeed, who are not anxious in these days of war. We would share in some measure with all who suffer, and express our deep sympathy.

The significant thing is that no one has allowed personal problems to be reflected in our Kindergartens, and the work has, in no way, been robbed of its joy and efficiency. This is no small thing to have achieved, and to my, besides myself, has, I know, proved an inspiration and spur to greater service.

Madam Montessori, referring to one of her schools, says—"It seems to exert a spiritual influence upon everyone. I have seen men, oil affairs, great politicians, pre-occupied with problems of trade and of state, cast off like an uncomfortable garment the burdens of the world, and fall into a simple forgetfulness of self." This happens wherever one's interest is centered in meeting the needs of little children. It carries one beyond the present into the eternal future.

Model Kindergarten.

Although the Model Kindergarten, at Newtown, is not yet completed, it has, at least, reached the stage where it has the appearance of a Kindergarten. From time to time labour has been called away, and all building operations suspended, owing to the urgent claims of war work. Still, it is not anticipated that the job will be held up indefinitely. We were glad to accept the tender of £2,176 from the Fletcher Construction Co, for the erection of this building, and are grateful to the Education Department for their promise of a further subsidy of 750 pounds towards this cost. In the meantime, Miss M. E. Grobin has returned to us from Melbourne to undertake the work of organising the Newtown Kindergarten when it is opened. We warmly welcome her back to The Association.
The Kindergarten opened in Nov. 1944 on land given by the Governor General. The land was originally a paddock, then a vege garden. The Kindergarten at the exhibition was brought by the RNZAF and the original design modified to suit the Newtown site.

The Kindergarten opened at Newtown on Saturday afternoon. In the inner picture, from the left, are Mrs. D. C. Peacock, the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, declaring the building open for use, Mrs. F. F. Wilson, the principal, Mr. and Mrs. R. McKern, M.P., and Mrs. J. A. Docter, president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association.

Model Kindergarten At Newtown

After a year of construction, the first kindergarten of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association was opened on the9th of November, 1944. The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, declared the building open for use. Mrs. F. F. Wilson, the principal, Mr. and Mrs. R. Mckern, M.P., and Mrs. J. A. Docter, president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association.

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OPENED BY PRIME MINISTER

Model Kindergarten At Newtown

After a series of vicissitudes, the new kindergarten of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, which was promised to the Canterbury Exhibition in 1918, was at last opened on Saturday afternoon by the Prime Minister Mr. Fraser. With the ceremonies, Mr. Fraser said the "taps" of witches and apples were knelt, and thus the building was consecrated.

The first duty of the new kindergarten was to provide a nursery for the children of Wellington who were left without care when the original building was destroyed by fire. The Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, under the able leadership of Miss E. T. Wilson, the principal, and Mrs. R. McKern, M.F., and Mrs. J. A. Doctor, president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, had been at work for many months, and the official opening, therefore, was necessarily a joyous occasion.

The building was designed by the architect, and the problem was to find the means for it, with the assistance of the Prime Minister. The government, it was said, was unable to provide the necessary funds, and the building was opened in accordance with a public appeal. The building was a great success, and the children were well cared for.

Typical of the happy children at Newtown Kindergarten
TRAINING COURSE FOR STUDENTS.

Requirements and Qualifications for Entrance.

Applicants must be at least seventeen years of age, and must be able to satisfy the Council that their general education is good. A testimonial from the Headmistress of the College applicant has attended is necessary. Applicants not holding the Matriculation Certificate are required to sit for an entrance examination arranged by the Principal.

In determining an applicant's suitability for the training, her character and attitude for the work will carry weight.

A medical examination is given all applicants by the Health Department before they enter upon their course of training, which is subject to a satisfactory health report.

Each student has to provide herself with at least two overalls each year, made to order by someone recommended by the Association, and such test books as are required. Students attend the Free Kindergartens for practice every morning from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The lecture work is carried on at the Taranaki Street centre, from 2 to 4.15 p.m. in the afternoon, with the exception of Thursday, when students remain in their kindergarten for lunch and teachers' meeting.

Students must attend all lectures arranged by the Principal, and sit for the necessary examinations. Students whose music is not up to the standard are required to take private lessons by a teacher recommended by the Council.

Students are required to make 90 per cent. of all possible attendances, and to notify the Principal of any absences in writing. A doctor's certificate is required for absence of over five days.

Homework.

The time required for homework is not less than one hour daily.

View from Government House, circa 1910

NEWTOWN

Hospital Rd, Newtown.
Telephone 24-266.

Director for 1949: Mrs. Baker.

1949 has been quite a good year for Newtown. Both the Local Committee and Mothers' Club have worked hard and in harmony, and their combined efforts have helped the Kindergarten both in its Social Welfare and Financial affairs.

The Street Day again proved what can be done by the combined efforts of the two Committees working as a team.

A quantity of new toys have been purchased this year.

The men of the Committee have once more given valuable assistance in the cleaning of toys, and plaiting is in hand for the erection of a porch and further outdoor equipment.

Certificate.

At the conclusion of the second year's training, all students are required to take the examination in theory, practice and handwork arranged by the Principal.

The Wellington Free Kindergarten Association's Certificate is given on all marks gained throughout the training course, and in awarding this, a student's personality as well as her scholarship and practical ability will be a determining factor.

The Council, of course, undertake to find positions for all students who have gained their certificate, but a Register is kept, and on payment of a small fee graduates are notified of all vacant positions which come under the notice of the Association. Graduates of the Free Kindergarten Association are qualified for positions as Kindergarten teachers or governesses to young children.

Subjects Studied During the Training Course.

- Study of child nature
- Principles and practice of education
- History of education
- Nature study
- Hygiene and first aid
- Story work
- Music, singing, games, rhythm
- Illustration—pencil, crayon, chalk, paint
- Handwork
- Committee organisation
- Children's diet

SCALE OF SALARIES.

Director of Kindergarten and Trainer of Students, $210 to $190 per annum.
Director of Kindergarten, $110 to $140 per annum.
Assistant Director, $80 to $100 per annum.
Principal, minimum salary, $130 per annum.
Secretary to Council, minimum salary, $120 per annum.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for Year ended 31st December, 1949.

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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
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<th>net d.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance Brought Forward</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Savings Bank Account</td>
<td>5 17 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts, Donations, etc.</td>
<td>149 2 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers Club Expenses</td>
<td>41 4 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Club Expenses</td>
<td>37 4 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>303 5 5</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>net d.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Centre Assistant</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Xmas Party</td>
<td>14 10 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers Club Expenses</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>66 22 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance Carried Forward—National Bank of N.Z. Ltd. | 127 2 9 |
P.O. Savings Bank Account | 59 15 7 |
1955. an outing to Petone. One small boy got lost on the way home, thankfully found at Petone Station! (alive well on the platform!)

1950's

EARNEST IS AS ERNEST DOES.—Not for one instant belying his name, little Ernest Divall applies all his concentration to the serious business of carpentry. Cutting a fine design, cut is part of the daily routine for this little fellow and 51 other youngsters at Newtown Kindergarten.

Kindergarten ‘At Home’

On a recent afternoon, the council of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Council held an ‘at home’ in the Newtown Kindergarten for the mothers of the students who are at present in training. The kindergarten was attractively decorated with pictures of little birds, place setting and pictures of the kindergartens which had been arranged by Mrs. Anderson, secretary of the council. One corner of the kindergarten had been set aside for a display of students’ handiwork, art, and nature study.

After being welcomed by the president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten, the mothers were addressed by the principal, Mrs. M. W. Neilson, and by the principal of the Wellington Free Kindergarten, Mr. G. D. Neilson, who said that the students met the parents present with a programme of singing, dancing, and puppetry, which the students had spent the morning preparing. The programme included a visit to the kindergarten by Mrs. R. P. Neilson, and Mrs. G. D. Neilson, respectively, who had walked the streets of Wellington, as well as from Wellington, had spent the morning visiting the kindergartens where their daughters were receiving practical training. Both the morning visits and the afternoon function of the ‘at home’ were very much enjoyed by students in training and by staff members.

As the head of the association’s of kindergartens, members of the education committee, teachers, and wardens of schools had been invited to hear the parents, who were all interested to discuss informally a number of items.
Busy Children In Novel Kindergarten

1955 The Taranaki St Nursery School was demolished and Newtown Kindergarten became a nursery school as well.

Some leave

NURSERY SCHOOL COMBINI

Busy Children In Novel Kindergarten

The only centre in Wellington which offers a kindergarten with nursery school facilities is the Newtown kindergarten.

Some leave

All the children are present at recess time for milk and apple juice at the middle of the day before the recreational meal. As the children go back to their houses, and only 10 are present for afternoon tea.

The daily programme includes group games and songs.

There are 13 other kindergartens under the jurisdiction of the Kindergarten Association in the Wellington district, as is the routine, these are open for half the day. Boys and girls were busy at a multitude of occupations, either sitting in groups, and two little girls were putting a stick doll to bed under the guidance of thenicktoys provided. A painted little boy was sitting on the floor, a little girl was using a battery of toys which included a toy coach, and under the guidance of the nursery school. The children were busy, and the result was that the nursery school is a success, where the children have a happy and healthy environment.

Many skills

Many skills, like awareness of numbers and letters, are learned by the children in their hours of outdoor play. Guidance and assistance are given on a wide scale, as the kindergarten helps to fill in the essential requirements of early childhood education.

Whilst the children have an opportunity to develop their motor skills, they are also encouraged to express their creativity through drawing, painting, and creating the story of their own experiences and imagination.

This is not a new concept; nursery schools have existed for many years, driven by the research and understanding of early childhood education. However, the need for such programs has only increased in recent times, especially with the emphasis on early childhood development and the role of nursery schools in providing a safe and nurturing environment for young children.

The nursery school provides an environment that encourages creativity, learning, and socialization, fostering a love for learning and exploration from a young age. This foundation is vital for setting a strong base for future academic and personal success.

The nursery school not only prepares children for school but also for life. It is a space where children can learn to interact with others, make new friends, and explore their surroundings. It is a place where children can express themselves freely, learn from their mistakes, and gain confidence. Nursery schools play a crucial role in shaping the future of children, and it is essential that we continue to invest in them.