

## Who we are—the whakapapa of our community

As part of the focus within the kindergarten we are using a theory of education called Place-based education. Place-based education (PBE) has four main areas of focus – connecting children with the community they live in, becoming ecologically aware, breathing life into history and understanding and celebrating the cultural life of our local community. These panels celebrate our history and who we are today.



Māori legend tells of two taniwha who lived in a lake – one of the taniwha - Ngake decided he wanted to be free of the lake so leapt over the land that separated their home from the open sea – his friend – Whātaimai tried to follow him but became trapped between the land and the ocean – as he tried to free himself he created an opening between the lake and sea and the water rushed in. The lake was now a harbour and Te Whanganui-a-Tara was formed. Early Maori explorers included Kupe and the first iwi to settle in the area where the Ngai Tara people, later iwi from Taranaki migrated to the Wellington region and made contact with the early European settlers. Early Maori called the hills around the western edge of the harbour – Papaparangi – which means 'folding hills' – European settlers shortened the name to Paparangi. This area was used as an access way between the harbour and the west coast beaches at Makara.

Painted by Amanda Butcher



The hills of Newlands, Johnsonville and Paparangi were densely forested but from the 1880's as European settlers arrived the land around Paparangi was opened up and was divided into small farms – mostly dairy and pig farms. A local farm was also the first to raise Romney sheep which became New Zealand's most important sheep breed. Sir George Grey' built a stockade during the campaign against Te Rauparaha in 1846 on Middleton road to protect settlers in Paparangi, Newlands and Johnsonville.

Painted by Lauren and Robyn Mockett



In 1885 the main train line north ran through Johnsonville and Paparangi – the train ran through 7 tunnels and across the Belmont Viaduct (now Seton Nossiter Park)– at the time one of the world's largest wooden rail bridges. Soldiers travelling to WWI (represented by the red poppy's in the painting) used the train to meet their ships at Wellington Harbour. The concrete pillars can still be seen and the train would have passed close to the kindergarten until 1953 when it was no longer needed and was blown up in a controlled explosion by the army.

Painted by Michael Robinson



The kindergarten was opened in July 1970 after the local community worked for 2 years to raise \$11,000 of the \$33,000 needed to build the kindergarten. At the time it was the most expensive kindergarten in New Zealand due to the crib walls and excavation of the land. The handprints with 3 generations of the Steel family with the word family in different languages represent our individual families coming together as one kindergarten family. The puzzle pieces complete the picture of the core elements needed to make our kindergarten such a special place.

Painted by Tracy Steel



### Pepeha of Paparangi Kindergarten

Ko Rangituhi te Maunga	Colonial Knob is our mountain
Ko Kenepuru te Awa	Kenepuru is our river
Ko Tainui ke Waka	Tainui is our waka
Ko Ngāti Toa te Iwi	Ngati Toa is my tribe
Ko te whānau a Paparangi te hapū	The families of Paparangi are our community
Ko te māra tamariki te papa kāinga	The kindergarten is our home

Tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou,  
tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

Pepeha gifted to us by Mikaere Paki  
Painted by Toni Jack