



Christian Early Childhood Education
Association, Aotearoa Inc. est 1992



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The Link

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Professional Learning and Development Opportunities in 2020

As well as a national conference to be held in Auckland in May, we will also hold a number of regional PLD days run collaboratively between CECEAA and BTI throughout the year. Make sure you keep a look out for details of these opportunities and put them in your calendar.

Throughout 2020 we are hoping centres and individuals will continue working with the THRIVE document. The document is now available for download on our new updated website

<https://www.ceceaa.com/>

If you would like individualised support as your centre works with THRIVE or have specific areas that you would like PLD in please contact Melody at nco@ceceaa.com

As an Exec, we would also like to help in any way we are able, so if you would like a visit or phone call please do not hesitate to contact us.



Melody's Musings

Seeking Shalom

After reflecting on the notion of thriving at our recent CECEAA Hui I have been mulling over the word shalom. We were challenged by Cathryn Bell to take time out of our busy lives and really seek solitude with our heavenly Father. It is through this relationship with God and coming from a place of rest that we can then truly experience shalom. Shalom is much deeper than just gaining peace it is about wholeness, feeling safe, and flourishing (Brueggemann, 1976).

I was discussing the notion of shalom with a colleague recently and we both shared how we had been shown a glimpse of how God wants us to experience this full experience of well-being even through the difficult seasons. As we shared openly some of the struggles we had been through it was amazing to hear how God had still given us shalom. As we continue to grow in our understanding of this, I imagine we can expect more than just a glimpse! Goheen and Batholomew describe shalom as “a life of flourishing and prospering ... [where] our relationships with God, with each other, and with creation are luxuriant and thriving” (2008, p. 45). Shalom is characterised by justice, love, thankfulness and joy. I was challenged by this perspective from Woodley (2012) who talks about shalom being communal, holistic and tangible. He speaks about there being no private or partial shalom. The whole community must have shalom or no one has it. As we grapple with improving our Christ-centred organisational culture and engaging with the THRIVE document, what part are we playing to contribute to that sense of shalom for all? What a beautiful aspiration this is for our centres and whānau.

“Shalom is what love looks like in the flesh. The embodiment of love in the context of a broken creation, shalom is a hint of what was, what should be, and what will one day be again. Where sin disintegrates and isolates, shalom brings together and restores” (Arpin-Ricci, 2015, p. 150).

meSuckey



Individual Membership

Are you aware that CECEAA membership is not just for Christian ECE services?
We would love to be able to support and connect more Christian early childhood educators through the nation.

If you know other Christians working in, or with a heart for, Early Childhood Education in Aotearoa please tell them about CECEAA and invite them to become individual members send us a message and we will get in touch with them.

Highlights from the North and South Island Hui



“I have been challenged to draw closer to God – Be still in His silence”

“Love the THRIVE document and can’t wait to use it in the centre – especially the concept of well-being”

“A focus on the well-being of teachers was welcomed and refreshing”

There was “a sense of togetherness with colleagues and felt connected with the CECEAA Exec”

There were “opportunities for reflections, ownership and professionalism – moving forward in our unknown environment. Feeling touched, blessed and encouraged”

“There was a strong emphasis on bringing everything back to God and seeing things from that standpoint”



“Good to be able to stop and to build up our own well-being and to think of others’ well-being”

“Loved being able to connect with other Christians from around the country”

“Having the opportunity to explore Christian areas of ECE openly and honestly.”



Manaakitanga: A leadership of kindness

At the North Island Hui in Auckland, Terri Karaitiana-Bray shared some of her journey from her Postgraduate studies in leadership. Below are snippets of her presentation:

Through this formal process of growing as a leader I have been challenged to consider my identity and ways of doing as a leader. This led me to develop a leadership model based on manaakitanga – a leadership of kindness.

Having a deep understanding of our own identity is important to defining yourself as a person, and certainly as a leader. Research has shown that in early childhood there is very little formal training in leadership. Most leaders learn as they go, using cause and effect as the tool to improvement. This has certainly been the case with me. We begin to delve into identity when we are training to be teachers and develop a personal philosophy. This philosophy is generally based on developmental theorists, teaching pedagogy and personal values and beliefs. Through developing this philosophy we identify what matters to us in our teaching practice. Then we join an early childhood service and this service will have a philosophy. This philosophy will have identified 'what matters there'. It underpins what will be viewed as priorities in curriculum and teaching practice at that service.

So, what philosophy do we operate under as leaders? Our leadership philosophy should be developed based on leadership theorists, leadership pedagogy and personal values and beliefs. It will guide us in our leadership practice. Leaders who develop their pedagogical leadership knowledge are more effective at supporting people to grow and thrive. In my studies, I have been introduced to multiple leadership models: transformational, transactional, distributed, servant and many more, but as a Māori I struggled to identify to any with any of them. I began to understand that I need to develop a 'Terri' model that fitted within Te Ao Māori and reflected my identity as a leader.

In the Square in Palmerston North stands a statue of my ancestor Te Peeti Te AweAwe and underneath him is written this whakatauki: *"Kua kaupapa I au te aroha, mā koutou e whakaoti I have laid the foundation of love, friendship, peace for you to build upon"*. This is the expectation of manaakitanga that he set for the people of Rangitāne o Manawatu. It is my whakapapa. A kaumatua once told me it is the obligation of us, as tangata whenua to manaaki all who choose to visit or settle in the Manawatu. He didn't mean I had to roam Palmerston North offering manaaki to everyone I met. He meant that the people I am given responsibility for, I need to manaaki. For me this is my whānau, friends, children in the centre, their whānau, the staff and the Trust Board.

Jesus told us to lead you must serve like a slave. Slaves took care of others. As a Christian, manaakitanga is part of what the Lord asks of me. My whakapapa, my culture, my identity as a leader is embedded in manaakitanga. **The obligation of manaakitanga in leadership is to ensure all within your care thrive;** that you support them to succeed and grow. Kind leaders care about the growth of their people and teams. They don't avoid the hard stuff but accept it as part of their role in showing kindness. It is not kind to allow someone to do a substandard job, or let someone's actions damage their work relationships, or damage their wairua by working somewhere that does not speak to their heart. **Kind leaders have a sincere desire to help an employee become their best.**

Jesus told us and showed us how to lead with manaaki, he cared for others without selfishness, without ego. He lifted others up and supported them to thrive. Manaakitanga gives me a leadership model that acknowledges interdependence, where through the enhancement of others mana I can enhance my own. It is a model that is true to my Māori and Christian culture. I am still on this journey of developing this model. I intend to delve deeper into the domains of manaakitanga and hopefully create a framework but already through this process I have developed a deeper sense of identity as a leader, a philosophy to underpin my leadership practice and confidence in my 'place' as a leader. I have been developing this model for myself, it will not suit everyone. ...it is important as a leader to develop your own leadership model. So, do you know your identity as a leader and what is your leadership philosophy?

To read more from Terri's presentation got the CECEAA website www.ceceaa.com



Faith the Fantail visits CBK

We have loved having 'Faith the Fantail' visit us at CBK. She has had the opportunity to visit all four of our areas. It has been lovely watching the tamariki share our CBK value of manaakitanga with her; that 'we are kind and caring, we are warm and welcoming, we take care of one another'. She has had many opportunities for kai beginning at Crèche where she took part in their 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' whānau event. Then she flew down the road to Kidz@303 to spend time in the peaceful environments with the pepe and kaiako there. The tamariki in our Kindy and Kindy House spaces researched fantails, created houses for Faith, shared stories, fed her with pikelets and cupcakes (the real and playdough variety) and introduced her to our other native birds and other animals that could be her friends. Faith got to experience our transition process as one of our kotiro who had loved caring for her at Kindy helped introduce her to the older Kindy House group wafter her transition there. We explained to the tamariki that Faith flies all over Aotearoa, visiting our friends at centres who love God like we do, and now she is ready to fly south. Nga Mihi Faith! God Bless all who you visit next...

Tania Cogan, Whanganui Central Baptist Kindergarten



Faith would love to come and visit your centres, so keep a look out for her as she might just come flying your way.

Prayer focus for Term 3

What a privilege it is to be a member CECEAA as we come together as a wider body of Christians all working together “in the best interests of children” and for the glory of God. As we stand together to fight for the hearts and minds of the precious children in our nation, let’s support each other through prayer and encouragement.

Throughout the rest of this term, please take time individually or as a team to pray for the following services in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Region:

Agape Christian Preschool

Rotorua

Amazing Place Preschool

Rotorua

Bethlehem College Kindergarten

Tauranga

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute

Tauranga

Chapel Hill Kindergarten

Hamilton

Country Kids Preschool

Tauranga

Ezekiel Trust Community Kindergarten

Morrinsville

Olive Tree Education and Care

Mount Maunganui

Shalom Kindergarten

Tauranga

St Andrews Preschool and Childcare Centre

Te Puke

St Peters Childcare

Tauranga

Te Whanau Putahi

Hamilton

Tower Road Christian Preschool

Matamata

“May God’s delightful grace and peace rest upon you. We are grateful to God for your lives and we always pray for you. For we remember before our God and Father how you put your faith into practice, how your love motivates you to serve others, and how unrelenting is your hope-filled patience in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1Thessalonians 1:1-3 (The Passion Translation)