

Making life long memories



15th May 2017

Kia ora Kia,

You came into Kindy today with a spring in your step, you were singing the 'matariki song'. "Kia I have something to tell you" "what is it?" you replied. "It's Keely's birthday today and I wondered if you could make her a card and get your friends to sign it?". "Ok" you said and scurried off to the art table and set to work. With your Mum's help you made Keely's card and ran from person to person telling them "this is Keely's birthday card, you need to sign it, it's a surprise don't tell her". I know that you have an innate drive to please others and make them feel loved and I could see that you poured your heart and soul into this esteemed job. I watched you with great interest as you took this special job so seriously asking almost each and everyone of the children to sign Keely's card.

Wanting to further extend you in this area and knowing you were up for the challenge I asked you if you would like to take Keely's birthday mat time. "Yes" you replied with great enthusiasm. "Shall we write a list of the songs you would like to sing at the mat time?" "Yes" you replied with a thoughtful expression on your face. "What's that song about the trees that Keely really likes?" You asked "Etu Kahikitia" I replied. "We will sing that one, the matariki song and Choochanana, because they are all songs that Keely loves" you replied with great certainty. You most definitely didn't need me much advice and guidance on preparing for mat time as you gave instructions "Liz we need the blanket, the cake, the presents, the music maker" Kia you are quite the little organiser and I know for a fact that this something that you get from your Mum as she has lent us her organising skills for many a Kindy event. You ran about busily and hid all the things under the chair, reminding the children not to tell Keely about her special mat time. You even wrapped a rose for Keely and put that under her chair as the final touch.

When everything was finally ready you ran off and rang the bell.

You sat proudly up the front next to me and waited for your friends to settle. Once you were sure you had everyone's attention you said "Can you come sit up the front please Keely?" Boy, oh boy did Keely have a look of shock on her face. "Why do you think Keely is up here?" You asked with an air of confidence about you. There were shouts of "It's her birthday, it's her birthday". Kia it was clear to me that you knew this birthday ritual to a T. You had Keely taking many a dive under the chair "Take another dive under the chair Keely" you would roar. Once all of the birthday rituals were completed. You led the children in singing all of Keely's favourite songs and at the very end as per Amalia's suggestion Keely got a group hug. Wow Kia you really did make this mat time so special and memorable for Keely and I'm sure this day will be etched into her heart forever.

Read on for a letter from Keely and more about the amazing learning from this experience!!

Hi Kia,

Oh my wonderful kind friend!
You made my day & my kind birthday
truly special! I so loved my
mat time with you as an
amazing mat time leader.

I will forever remember you saying
"Take another dive under the
chair, Keeley!"

You are so capable, Kia as
well as filled with kindness &
cheer for. The songs you picked
for me were perfect!

Thank you so much for making
my birthday so wonderful.

♡♡♡

xxx○○○○○○○○xxx xx ♡♡

Love,

Keeley

Kia over the past few months I have seen you establishing a strong sense of identity as a rangitira (leader) with a strong yearning to take on extra responsibility and please others. This has been a real time of Maatauranga (growth) of your knowledge and your sense of identity. Your ability to easily organise rituals of this magnitude reflects who you are and what you bring with you (Mohiotanga) as I know that organisation is a strength of your Mum's as she has helped us at Kindergarten to organise many events.

Your mauri (life force) is vibrant and strong as you sparkle with your kindness and your love language of gift giving. Kia I recognise that you are born with an amazing gift which is your ability to know people on such a deep and personal level, you sure showed this today as you specifically picked out songs that Keely loved.

You thrive from the meaningful rituals that are a part of you and a part of our kindergarten. I was so proud of you today for planning, organising and conducting this super meaningful ritual. It is just about time for you to spread your wings and have your own special graduation ceremony. I wonder if you would like to help me plan this.

Arohanui,

Kim Callis

**He taonga te mokopuna. Kia
whaangaia, Kia tipu, Kia Rea. A child
is a treasure, to be nurtured, to grow,
to flourish.**