



BETHLEHEM
EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Relationship is the heart of learning

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This wholly owned subsidiary of the CET governs the five early learning centres: Bethlehem College Kindergarten, First Class Education and Care, St Andrews Preschool, Amazing Place Preschool and Olive Tree Education and Care. Currently 281 children are enrolled in these preschools, with 256 other children having left to move on with their education throughout 2016. We have had the opportunity to minister to over 550 families throughout the past year, where they have received education and care, which is both Christ-centered and biblically based.

Report from BELC Manager to Board April 2016 – April 2017

Our vision as a company is to encourage and provide opportunities for children to learn and develop their individual strengths and interests. As part of this, we continue to provide care and education that reflects strong Christian values as well as sharing and demonstrating Christ's love for all people.

We aspire for our children to grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind, body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society.

We have continued throughout this period to build recognition in the community with our rebranding and new website. The strategy has included the utilization of social media as a marketing tool. This has proved to be very successful with regular enquires coming in through our website and whanau feedback coming in through Facebook. Kathryn Overall from Engage Communications has overseen this process and we continue to use her services to oversee this strategy and to create blog stories designed to connect with parents in the local area. Successful blog posts from this period have included: "Five Nature Walks You Can Do With Your Preschooler in Tauranga" and "All Four of our Children Went to Bethlehem College Kindergarten. Here's Why."

As a company, we continue to focus on our relationships with whanau and the wider community. Their feedback to us emphasizes the importance of our values-based education. Each of our centre communities has developed good relationships with local schools, churches and other preschools.





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Over the year, the teams have supported families with children's health needs, family depression, poverty and needs for clothing and food support to name a few. With the support that we have accessed through our local communities, pressure has been removed from family circumstances giving families opportunities to regroup and move forward from their circumstances.

This has of course always been for the benefit of the children under our care. We give thanks daily for the opportunity that the CET and our BELC directors have given us to fulfil our vision for our children.

It is with gratitude that we look back on the year's achievements, and with anticipation, we look forward to another successful year. Once again we acknowledge our exceptional staff and the privilege it is to work with a team who continue to strive to attain high levels of excellence. With three further excellent ERO reports in 2016, it is noted that the quality education we have provided has been recognized by the MOE.

On behalf of our team, I would like to thank, BELC directors led by our Chair Tim Lee, and the CET for their encouragement and belief in the mission of BELC. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the support services that the CET provides for their support through the year. This background administration has provided the ongoing support, which empowers our teams to perform their role to a standard of excellence.

Lorraine Schou
BELC Manager

