

## Green/Gold award for Greenmeadows Kindergarten

Greenmeadows Kindergarten, one of the 16 kindergartens managed by the Napier Kindergarten Association, received the highest award from the EnviroSchool Foundation on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

A heart warming traditional Karanga began the day, welcoming school principals, kindergarten colleagues, parents and Māori advisors to participate in a day where the children's work was show cased and celebrated. Children welcomed their visitors by singing a waiata especially composed for them by Haana Wilcox, their EnviroSchool facilitator.

Greenmeadows kindergarten has been part of Enviro Schools since 2011, working their way through Bronze and the Silver Reflections with the Enviro School curriculum which weaves beautifully with *Te Whāriki* the national early childhood curriculum.

The philosophy of Greenmeadows Kindergarten is;

*We are a nurturing and welcoming community of learners who fosters partnerships.  
We value children as leaders of their own learning.*

*He taonga te atawhai, te manaaki, te whakawhanaungatanga.*

*Ko ā tātou Tamariki mokopuna ngā rangatira mo āpopo.*

At Greenmeadows children learn how to live sustainably at a deep level. This includes interactive projects such as collecting rain water from the roof for sandpit play, bug houses, planting, growing and harvesting traditional vegetables, recycling and composting. One of the guiding principles of Enviro Schools is to value Māori perspectives. Teachers have taught children Māori legends such as *The Creation Story* and *Matariki and the Seven Little Star Fish* which they then dramatically perform with hand made props. Another principle is valuing diversity. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June the kindergarten held a Cultural evening for families which celebrated their diverse languages, cultures and food.

Eileen Kennedy, Education Manager commented;

*'The expertise and motivation of the Greenmeadows fully trained and registered teaching team led by Alison Dench is impressive. They continually pursue new knowledge which they bring to life for our children. The Green Gold EnviroSchool award recognises their leadership to other early childhood services and the school sector.'*