

Education Program: Early Childhood Support to Mercy Care School YR 2021 Report
Donor: HOPE worldwide Australia

Introduction

On the 25th of January, 2021 Early Childhood Mentor under HOPEww returned to Mercy Care Grammar School at Erima. All students resumed on the 1st of February. The school is a privately operating organization located at Erima and is managed by Mr. & Mrs. Nelson.

The school first started with a total amount of not more than 300+ students. Most students that attend Mercy Care Grammar came from a vulnerable background. Mr. & Mrs. Nelson believed in the work of charity and through their heart in services they made a place for these vulnerable children to have an opportunity of education at an early stage. The motto of the school is ***"To Bring the Unfortunate to Fortune."***

The whole 2021 academic year felt like a brief due to a lot hiccups from the global pandemic to maintenance concern in the school.

Outcome

Through great partnership, Mercy Care is able to learn and grow to be a more successful and strong organization. The School is able to provide the type of quality learning to every child, from young as toddler to the Grade 5. Despite permanent resources such as classrooms or library the teachers gave every effort to develop and deliver essential knowledge that is enough for every child.

With the understanding of the child's background, despite their vulnerability they are able to understand and successfully grasp basic knowledge in order to pass a level whether it is a term or even a topic. This portray that the education program outcome is positively effective.

Objective

Our main objective is to deliver quality and all-inclusive education to every child. We believe in ensuring that our children are not just bombarded academically but also we consider them to have fun, eat well and build them spiritually. That is all about all-inclusive objective.

Through observation we have come up with 3 objectives, they are as follows;

a. Fun, Fun, Fun

Since Mercy Care Grammar is an Early Childhood the learning part has to be fun and playful. Because, the attention span of a child is limited only to certain time. Therefore, we encourage a lot of rhymes, singing & dancing for every grade level (Toddler- Grade 5).

b. Physical Wellbeing

The second objective identified was the children's physical wellbeing. We aim to have the children be able to;

- Identify ways to keep their body clean
- Identify Safety and Risk Management
- Involve in physical education curriculum
- Recognize proper healthy and balance food

We encourage our children to have a healthy balance meal and we give them ample time to have their meal. It is believed that when you eat well you are able to learn well so; we stress on certain types of food groups that contributes to their good health.

We teach students to identify and recognize basic ways to keep their body clean and keepaway from harm. We also encourage them to participate in Physical Education activities to keep them physically fit.



c. Behavior/Conduct

The third objective identified is the students' behavior and conduct in school. It has come to our attention that a lot of these children come from vulnerable background. We aim to have these kids be able to;

- Have simple good manners and knowing the magic words like; ***please, thank you, excuse me, sorry etc.***
- Understand certain virtues in life such as; ***obedience, caring, loving, sharing etc.***
- Imparting Religion Education as a curriculum to also boost their spiritual wellbeing

Most of their behavior presented in school reflects the kind of home that they come from. Whether it is an absenteeism of a parent, lack of time for the children all of these kids are affected in some way. Therefore, we aim to build an environment where children feel safe, love and cared for. By recognizing such, we created our own curriculum making it our business to drill these kids with something that is new to them. Which eventually will become a norm and helpful to them.

We also believe that imparting Religion Education is a way of boosting their knowledge about the Bible and their spiritual wellbeing. It also teaches them the value and significant knowledge about life which can have an impact on their lives.

Achievements

This year we have had a few accomplishments thanks to our donors as well as other helping organizations. Below are a few pictures of the few achievements that we have achieved.

a. Shoe box project

Early this year Mr. Ricaredo De La Costa organized a project called a "shoebox Project". The concept of the project is to donate in cash to help support the kids when they return to school. The project is a back to school project, therefore we purchase back to school gift packs for the kids from three specific groups; Badihagwa Play School, Port Moresby Church of Christ and Mercy Care Grammar School.

200 items each were purchase, packed and ready for presentation. Below is a table to show the break up.

Items	Quantity
Backpacks	200
Exercise Books	200
Crayons	200
Stationary Sets	200



As stated the gift packs were organized to be presented to 3 explicit groups however Badihagwa Play School due to the pandemic was not able to continue operating. Therefore, the packs were evenly distributed to the other groups. Below is a table that displays the amount of gift pack to be distributed.

Organization	Quantity
Badihagwa	50 (evenly distributed to POMCOC & Mercy Care)
POMCOC	50
Mercy Care Grammar	100

Find below pictures of kids from Mercy Care Grammar & POMCOC receiving their gift packs.



Kids from POMCOC with big smiles after receiving their gift packs



Kids from Mercy Care Grammar showing their appreciating after receiving their back to school packs.



Grade 3, 4 & 5 students holding their gift packs.

Picture 1. The kindergartens showing off their back packs

Picture 2 & 3: Portrays when they realize that have crayon, books and stationary sets inside.





Grade 2 students with their new back packs and stationary.



Grade 1 student showing their excitement receiving their new back packs.

b. 11th Graduation

This event is captioned under achievements reason being that the school has achieved another successful year. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, a lot of kids withdrawing leaving the school financially insecure we achieved all the academic terms successful. This year we graduated 3 classes, the prep, grade 1 and grade 2. Prep class were the graduating class for 2021 the two other class were from previous years, since we decided to give attainment certificates this to certify the preps for successfully completing the stream of Early Childhood we included the class of 2020 & 2019. We also gave out certificate awards of good behaviors, punctuality, neatness, leadership and also to the student of the year.

HOPE has once again provided technical support by providing certificate papers and printed the certificated for the graduating students of 2021, 2020 & 2019. In addition, HOPE also did the academic awards certificates from toddlers to grade 5.





2. Special Events

Through the support of Brian Bell towards the Nature Park, we were able to have a day off from the classrooms and enjoy the outdoor nature at Nature Park. This academic year 2021 we attended two series of the Nature Park school theme program. Below are both pictures from the 1st and 2nd excursion trip to Nature Park.

a. Environment Week

During the Environment Week we took the day off from the classrooms to attend the “*Trash Treasure – Rethink your Rubbish theme.*”



There were two main topics that they talked to us about on our visit. The first one was about being responsible with your rubbish. And how what we think is rubbish can be recycled and be used for something else. They gave great examples which were very informative to us. Below are few pictures captioned on the Waste Management stall



Below : display pictures from the water usage stall where the lady talked to the students on how to use water wisely.





Other pictures showing students enjoying after their tour around the park.



b. Independence Fever – Culture Connects

The 2nd program we attended this year was on the 7th of September, through the support of WeCARE foundation we were privileged to go for another trip to nature park for their Independence program Culture Connects. According to Nature Park that was the third series of school theme program. During that trip, we had tour guides that gave us brief narratives of special species and allowed us to have a tour around to see other animals in the park. The park tour guide also have time for us teachers to take kids around to have time to look at different sections of the park after the narratives. The kids enjoyed the trip and lunch was provided by the WeCARE foundation.





C. Teachers Day

We celebrated Teacher's Day as a day to appreciate our hardworking teachers who gave their time and commitment in making sure that everything is in commission to continue day to day activities in school. On that event students came in with their gifts and cards to present to their teacher. Though it is celebrated every year it feels special.

It was a privilege to have two guests from the two partners Ms. Maureen from WeCARE Foundation and Ms. Pricilla Mal from HOPE Worldwide for being at the event to present speech and even encouragement to the student and staff of Mercy Care.



D. Class Party & Children's Day

Our 2nd final event that we celebrated was Children's Day. Children's Day is celebrated from November 14th-November 20th it is more like a children's week. Since the event fell on a weekend we have decided to combine our event with Christmas. Every child came in their Christmas fever code with a Christmas hat. The theme of this year was, *"Help Children recover from interruption and learning losses."* Due to the pandemic there were a lot of interruption, kids went on for long breaks causing a few to loss interest in school. However, teachers continued to keep the learning process going by providing the necessities for kids. Therefore, during the children's day program, we had items, short stories with moral of the stories for kids to take home as a lesson but main part of the event was receiving gifts. HOPE once again supported by providing and setting up sound system for the program.





We also had our class closing party where we celebrated where we cooked and brought food to have our last final celebration with our students. Since academy year was winding down we also wanted to wind down on a good note with our students, due to other upcoming events like our graduation



Awareness

We had a visit from Colgate Company who came in to make awareness on the how to keep our clean and health. Also stressed on the importance of washing hands. All these are essential towards the learning for every child and a friendly reminder to us. We often forget the importance of such petite things but it contributes a lot to our life. In addition, they donated a box of colgate toothpaste and toothbrush for both adult and kids, along with 6 protex anti-bacterial soap.





Donations

This year we had a few donations to the school were we supported for both use of teachers and students.

1. Stationeries



2. The Shoe Box Gift Pack

This was one of the achievements of the year that pulled through this year. The Shoe Box Gift Pack was a donation made to the kids to support them with back to school gift packs.

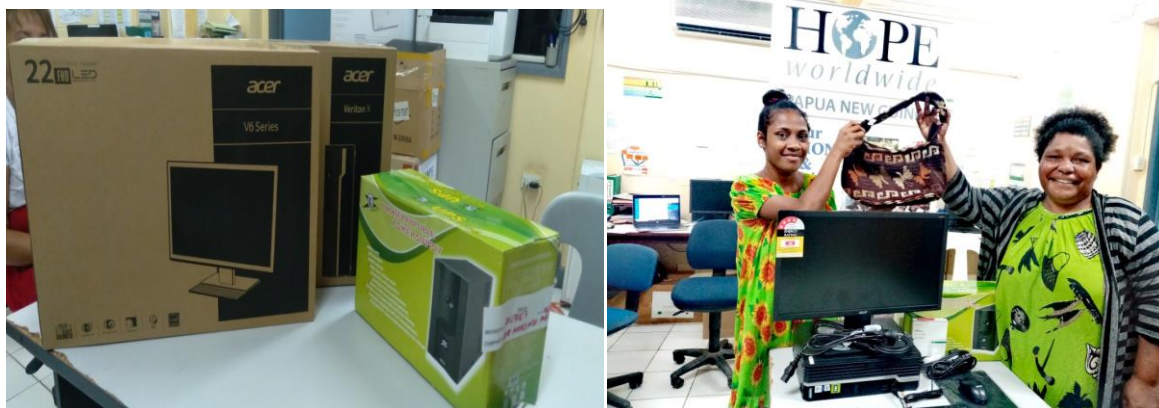


3. Masks and Sanitizer

Since the outbreak of the global pandemic we have been alerted to keep ourselves safe by following specific rules. Keep our distance, wash/sanitize our hands, cough into elbow, and wearing of face masks. This year we were able to donate a box of mask and also a bottle of hand sanitizer to support the school in terms of helping to keep our teachers and students safe from spreading or being affected. Also, since it was a health concern schools that do not apply to any of the following rules would be asked to close school.

4. Desktop

On Friday the 3rd of December, a donation was made for the school to use. The school has been struggling with technical support since the school has started. There have been concerns raised by the staff of the school to have quality support to meet the needs of the school and students. HOPE Worldwide through their support has donated a desktop and USP to help the school run their programs generally in terms of technical use.





In-Service/Training

1. WeCARE Foundation

This year we had 2 successful in-house training by the WeCARE foundation. Ms. Maureen talked to us on Classroom Management and Safety. She informed us about the importance of managing a classroom and also how to keep our kids from getting harm and if they are how do we approach such an incident. During that in-service we had a guest that gave us an in-service also on the first-aid kit.

The second in-service was about lesson plans and overviews. Ms. Maureen again gave us an informative training on ways to create an effective lesson plan and overview. She also mentioned about reporting and how it is not necessary for student to be given a ranking/position especially in an early childhood.

2. Mercy Care Teachers

We also had about (4) four mini in-house in-service. The first one was delivered to us by Ms Kave on the 13th of August 2021. She talked about the importance of **“Assessment”**. Assessment is an ongoing process that helps us to gather, identify and interpret information about students. The teacher in charge of assessment is Ms Ellyne Kave; she briefly talked to us about three (3) main points. The in-service was from 1pm to 2pm, only 5/6 teachers attended the in-service.

The points she covered was on;

1. Recording
2. Reporting
3. Evaluation

All three are range of assessment methods that every teacher use to ensure that assessment is fair and balance. With these, we are able to see the progress of every individual child in our respective classes.



Ms Maureen and Meagan from the WeCare Foundation. Ms Maureen has come in to Mercy Care for a lot of in-service training. Meagan assists to get any information or concern from the school to raise up to be further looked in to.

3. League Bilon Life.

We had a visit from the League Bilon Life group where they came and gave us a mini-in house training about the value of healthy development of kids at an early stage. The drive that they used in getting the kids interest was integrating sports into learning. They came in on a Wednesday which was also the sports day, and took each class out to have a chance to learn the basics of their training in League, from the basics of catching the ball, kicking,

passing to running and many more. The topping of the visit was the kids getting milo, milo was the sponsor beverage. While kids did the practical part of the training the teachers had the theory part of the training.



Learning & Program Activities

In our program activities we make sure that the children are given holistic and balance learning, from simple circle times and their normal academic, to manners and hygiene including their physical fitness. We also believe in spiritual wellbeing, therefore we teach Religion Education and additional memory scriptures for their spiritual health.

Mentor/Teacher/Assistance.

We have 4 class and 1 class is a multi-grade class with consist of grade 2,4 & 5. We have 6 teachers for each class, however there are classes with more than 20-30+ students therefore we were in dire of assistant teachers and so on. In the beginning we were short with teachers, after adjusting we were settled and all classes had 1 teacher per class. There is yet to be a permanent curriculum, something we the teachers are working hard on making it possible by the end of this year to come up with something long-term for the school. However, we have overviews that are been equally distributed into terms to help guide us in our weekly/daily lessons.

There are 6 teachers allocated in each class and contributes effortlessly making sure that every activity and activity of the day/week is done and complete. Each teacher is given extra curriculum activity such as sports, in-service, special events, assessments and etc.

The lesson plan is done for a week, since it is an early childhood we go by the phase/level of our class. Our lesson plans are sighted by our supervisor Ms Kave, who is also the principle of the school. Below is an example of the overview, lesson plan outline we use for our weekly teaching.

Teachers Weekly Program

Overview Outline

Lesson Plan Outline

Date: 2nd-6th/08/21 Week: 3 Term: 3 Class: Kindergarten Subject: Phonics Awareness

x	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Introduction	Here the topic and focus for the week is introduced to the students.				
Content	<div>ActivityActivity</div> <div>Two Activities are given per for each subject</div>				
Conclusion	<div>Assess the children on</div> <div>Assess them on identifying and recognizing of the consonant letters</div> <div>Assess their individual worksheet.</div>				
References	<div>Pinterest</div> <div>Jolly Phonics</div> <div>Pre-Kindergarten Jumbo Worksheet</div>				

Date: _____ sighted by: _____

Personal Daily Time Table

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:30-8:00am	OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY	RE	OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY	RE	OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY
8-8:30am	RE	PHONICS	READING	SIGHT WORDS	RE
8:30-9am	PHONICS	SIGHT WORDS	PRE-WRITING	PHONICS	C/C ENVIRON STUDIES
9-9:30am	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
9:30-10am	C/C (HEALTH)	C/C COMM-LIVING	C/C ENVIRON-STUDIES	C/C COMM-LIVING	C/C HEALTH
10-10:30am	RECESS TIME				
10:30-11am	Pre- Writing	READING	SIGHT WORDS	PRE-WRITNG	PHONICS
11-11:30am	ARTS COLORING				
11:30-12pm	Free Writing				
12pm-1pm	LUNCH TIME				
1pm-1:30pm	FREE TIME				
1:30pm-2pm	HOME TIME				

Budget Expenditure (Refer to Finance Report)

Challenges

Challenges are something that we cannot avoid but they do play a role to help us to improve. They were a few challenges that we faced during the time frame. Below a few of the challenges identified. 2021 academic year felt pretty brief due to the global pandemic that thumbed in around the month of March. The pandemic again caused a lot of confusion, panic and complaints. But it did not stop the country to go in for another month of lockdown, which clearly affected the education program. The first term ended around the 8th week of the schooling period.

Shortage of Teacher

We still experienced shortage of staff in the beginning of the year. Grade 1 and 2 were without a teacher, which affected them in their learning in term one. They were far way behind which caused them to be a little hectic. We have 6 classes toddlers, kindergarten, prep, Grade 1, 2 and the multi-teaching class Grade 3, 4 & 5 however a few class have more number of students which needed at least an assistant. Therefore, we need about two teachers in class however we could not meet our expectation but we did manage to have 6 teachers for each class.

Proper Guidelines/Child Protection

Mercy Care deals with children who come from sensitive backgrounds that need very special attention. Often there are cases where as teachers we feel like we do not have the power. However with proper guidelines in place we can be able to have some form of order to have the child be protected from any form of situation that can be a course of concern. These guidelines should be in place to protect both the kids and also the school from getting into other serious matters.

Nutrition

Food is known as one of the factors that contribute to the proper growth and development in a child's life. The school does provide a canteen for the students to buy, however the food prepared does not completely 100% beneficial to the growth and the student's development. Also, the canteen is seen from a perspective that it makes parents lazy in preparing something healthy for their kids, instead they are given lunch money to buy anything in the canteen which a kids' choice is never on a healthy path. Another disadvantage about the canteen is having the same type of food being prepared for the school every day, it is considered as unhealthy reason being that kids need a 3 type of meal to be measured as healthy and balanced.

Health

Another challenge concerns the health state of every child in the school. There are concerns raised by children that they may have been undergoing certain health concerns that their parents are not aware of. Kids are coming to school with open sores and major skin diseases. It is a challenge because it is not taken seriously and it could easily be passed on to others, it also affects the kids in their daily attendance and academic performance when we tell them to stay off from school.

Pandemic

The global pandemic once again hit us during the first months of school. Due to that we all went off early for our term break. The pandemic has affected the learning of students causing them to fall back or even loss interest. The pandemic has also affected the attendance of the students; most students did not return after due to health concerns. But we did provide extra learning handouts for students to keep them busy during the pandemic so that no child will be left behind.

Way Forward

Certify Early Childhood Teachers

A way forward for the school is to ensure that all teachers at least have a certificate to certify them that they are qualified Early Childhood teachers. Mercy Care teachers are qualified; they are able to carry out every plan however it is a requirement that they need to have a form of qualification to prove that they are experienced. They also, need more training or in-service on other specific areas for instance sign language for special need children including first aid hands-on training for safety wise. This are just something that can be a great weight onto their normal teaching which can be a great impact on the school to push the school to another level, to make it be an example school of excellence in the settlement area. The reason it is a need to help the school is because Mercy Care deals with a lot of vulnerability kids and of course it is a path of concern for parents and also for the teachers. Teaching is a professional therefore, there is a demand that those who are involved and called into this field be fully equipped and prepared to deal with kids holistically.

Open to Partnership

Another way forward is through the right Partnership. Mercy Care is a small group of body who know how to get things done. They have done so much for themselves, that with this small amount of time frame that HOPE has been part of them it was an impact journey working with them. This year we were privilege to have the Papua New Guinea Education Institute (PNGEI) to come in to the school. We had 7 participants, who came into do their training to be certified as Early Childhood graduates. With this partnership building it can be an open door for greater opportunities.



Engaging in programs/courses/trainings

Another way for the school to strive is to get involved in any upcoming course that is beneficial for the school. We want to be part of something that will not only build our school but also build us as an individual to ensure that we are capable of being an operating body. The school has so much interest in learning and is always ready to be engaged.

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