

KEJORA Newsletter October 2025



Kejora growing in mind, body and spirit

Last quarter we updated you all on Kejora's plans for the beginning of the school year, and a lot of exciting things have been happening since then. The new school year has been running for 2 months now, with 60 children split into three groups of varying ages; the caterpillars, the cocoons and the butterflies.

Teachers have stepped into their new roles, and behind the scenes lots of changes and developments have been going on too, from physical builds, to team expansion and future planning. Read on to find out exactly what Kejora has been up to.

*Kejora
Karimunjawa*

Happy 4th Birthday Kejora

The Kejora Karimunjawa Foundation celebrated it's 4th legal year on the 29th of September. We just so happened to have a meeting on that day, so we celebrated with a fruit cake! We are so proud of how far we have come, all the support we have received from both our readers here and the local community. We appreciate all the time people have given voluntarily to make all we do here on the island possible.



In this newsletter you can expect:

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with 3 classes

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Back to School 60 Students - 3 Classrooms - 6 Teachers

The first two months of school have gone surprisingly smoothly. There was the anticipated needed adjustment time for some of the newbies, yes you guessed it, the caterpillar group, children have been enthusiastically coming to school and keeping their fingers busy with a range of activities. Some have dissected fish, others have been getting curious under the microscope, a whole range of nature creations have been made and children have been taking time to make new friends and get acquainted with their new teachers too.



They've even had the time to go on nature excursions nearby the school, the cocoon class went on an outing to a lobster and fish farm, to learn about food cultivation, and the butterfly group went to a small 'squid jerky' factory to learn about food production.



On the teachers side, we have been busying expanding the team. Kejora successfully hired a new lead teacher, perfect for the cocoon group, Pak Kisman from Central Sulawesi, with a background in counseling and guidance. We have also hired three new passionate assistant teachers, all native to the beautiful island of Karimunjawa, Bu Nila, Bu Lila and Bu Widyaa. Our mission is not only to provide quality education to children, but to facilitate adults to grow and flourish in their educational careers too, so we always prioritise hiring locally where possible.

Our butterflies, getting ready to fly off to primary education, have been patiently schooling in our authentic, but smaller spaced library, while their new classroom is being built. That being said, the library has been transformed into a cozy learning hub, with a wide range of new learning materials donated by our long-term supporter Pleun, and his generous network.

We wish them all the best at the start of a happy and prosperous career at Kejora Karimunjawa.

Read on to find out where their new learning space will be...



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Kejora's Basecamp is expanding

So yes, the new building...

A huge thank you to AFAS Foundation, who has sponsored the build of two classrooms with a shared storage room and private WC in each class, is almost complete. As you can see, the first meter of the walls has been made with cement, 'but you're an eco school' I hear you cry! Yes, but long-term durability and the safety (from flooding) of our school materials is also a priority. From there on up, bamboo pillars, bamboo weave and natural ventilation complete the building, with a sturdy and leak-proof roof.

Second to this, we have built a sports field in front of the new building, which will be topped with flexy pave, making a soft, durable space for the children to develop their ever broadening ball skills. And finally we have invested in two new wooden playgrounds. The playground with the dark green side is for the latest building, complete with monkey bars, hideout spaces and swings. The double slide playground is for the younger groups, complete with a wobbly bridge and more. We invested in quality wood to keep inline with our eco concept and comfort for the children playing there too.

A huge thank you again to Jean-Marc and his wife Bu Ndaru for finally leasing us an even larger piece of their land for 25 years, so we could fit both the building and the sports field on the new land. We can continue to grow and provide quality education to more children for the longer term.



One of the two new classrooms will soon be taken over by the butterfly class, so the library can be reinstated for its original use, where there are plans to hire a librarian, and offer a variety of social programs such as parent and child reading sessions, to open up our resources to the wider community.

If you're wondering what are plans are for the second classroom, keep on reading...



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SHEnergy

As our school expands, we continue to be more formal and responsible in other ways too. One of these ways is with the creation of Kejora's own PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Not to miss this as an opportunity to collaborate, craft and have fun, our PTA has been given the name 'SHEnergy', a space where both mums and dads can come together and (not only play musical chairs), but share their passion and creative skills, or just give a little time to connect with other parents and teachers. So far we have had a yoga session, made authentic batik pieces, baked together, played games and crafted bracelets, hairbands and the like.



Independance Day

Within the first month of school, SPS Kejora joined the island's annual Independence Day Parade, and what a participation it was! The children's dress code was to craft any kind of costume using recycled materials, and the parents were to make theirs using real leaves. Families did not disappoint, and although we didn't win a prize... we were a very creative and colourful crowd. Think golden eagles, cardboard gowns, warriors and plastic princesses a plenty, just to name a few. It was a fun, collaborative moment for sure.



Primary School here we come!

The educational department has been busy researching and making informed decisions about Kejora's options regarding Primary Education, meeting with both the Head of Education for pre and primary school as well as independent educational bodies to see what is the best fit for Kejora. Providing bilingual education in a nature based setting, where children learn through their curiosity about the natural world around them, in a formally recognised establishment is Kejora's priority.

We are still very much in the beginning stages of preparation, but we are confident that we will be accepting first year students to primary education at the beginning of the school year in July 2025.

We believe that all families have the right to choose, to choose the quality of their child's education, and we are proud that we are able to fill some of the gaps and provide a certain quality and style of learning that families here are looking for. We will also offering scholarships for Primary students, so please get in touch if you'd like to support a child's education.

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Kejora's Team grows too

Over the summer, the Kejora team participated in a 3 day workshop, to help us overcome obstacles, reassess our goals and values in the midst of all this rapid growth, and restructure so that we can be a solid foundation moving forward. What started off as a handful of passionate volunteers and a couple of full-time paid staff back in 2021, has now expanded to a structured system with no less than 34 individuals completing the team. The organisation has not only expanded, but clear roles have been assigned and we are positive that as a well-formed team we can continue to best serve quality education to the people of Karimunjawa.



Growing in Spirit

As you can see, a lot has been going on in Kejora, from our students and teachers, the buildings and team behind the scenes. Most importantly, through all of this, we are gaining spirit and enthusiasm for what we do, why? Because it is clear that our goals and actions are aligned with the wants and needs of families here on the island, and that's what makes it all worthwhile.

As you may well know, everything we do here is no profit, so whether you've attended our cultural night, donated books, sponsored a child, or fundraised in your network, we are so grateful for your support, for believing in what we do, and helping us to provide quality education in the beautiful island of Karimunjawa. We are always looking to expand our Kejora network, so if you know anyone who can help us with their time, experience or resources please do get in touch. Again, thank you from all of us.



Thank you for reading!

'Small Steps, Big Impact' you can help us grow from anywhere worldwide!

Dutch Bank Account
NL66 RABO 0189 6488 05
Stichting Kejora Karimunjawa
RABONL2U (Rabobank)

Indonesian Bank Account
758701010527536
Yayasan Kejora Karimunjawa
Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI)