

Ōtūmoetai Community of Learning/ Kāhui Ako (CoL)

Update for Parents and our community

19 October 2017

Dear Parents and caregivers,
Tēnā koutou katoa. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Since the last update you received from me as the Lead principal for the Ōtūmoetai Community of Learning/ Kāhui Ako, we have continued to move from the establishment phase to working with teachers and students across and within our nine schools on our achievement challenges.

These are:

- STUDENT WELL-BEING / WHOLE CHILD** (over riding focus for CoL)
- ORAL LANGUAGE (English) / KŌRERO** (priority focus in the ECE to Year 3 area of our CoL)
- KŌRERO TE REO MĀORI** (priority for Maori medium classes and Te Wharekura o Mauao and an area for development in mainstream classes.)
- READING / PĀNUI** (One of our challenges which goes hand in hand with writing)
- WRITING / TUHITUHI** (Priority focus in the year 4 to year 13 areas of the CoL.)
- PRIORITY LEARNERS** (These are students with learning support needs and Maori boys in particular.)

Community of Learning/ Kāhui Ako working groups

Our Community of Learning/ Kāhui Ako is organised into four broad levels:

Early childhood education (ECE) through Year 1 to Year 3
Year 4 to Year 6,
Year 7 and Year 8,
Year 9 to Year 13.

The focus for the ECE to Year 3 area is the development of oral language and good progress is being made in linking ECEs with our teachers in years 1 to 3.

The main vehicle for this is the professional development in Oral Language provided by Jane Van der Zeyden and coordinated by Cherie and Amy our across-school teachers. (AST's)

The opportunity for early childhood teachers to mix professionally with year 1 to 3 teachers in the Kāhui Ako has been well received.

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The focus for Years 4 to 6, Years 7 and 8 and Years 9 to 13 is writing. Emma and Rachael our across school teachers have brought together student data from across the Community of Learning/ Kāhui Ako and are now developing actions for building teacher capacity in specific areas of writing.

Professional development provided by Dr Ian Hunter and his team is the catalyst for collaboration and expanding teachers' skill sets.

The three B schools: Bethlehem, Brookfield and Bellevue have got underway with their Teacher Only Day followed by 3 days personalised coaching from Ian's team.

Year 3 to 6 teachers in Otumoetai, Matua and Pillans Point Schools can expect the same professional development commencing in the new year. By May 2018, all year 3 to 6 teachers in our Kāhui Ako will have come to the same stage in their writing pedagogical development. From here, another Teacher Only Day followed by personalised professional development is planned.

Teachers at Otumoetai College, Otumoetai Intermediate and Te Wharekura o Mauao have also been involved in PLD tailored to the various needs of these three schools. Again Dr Ian Hunter and his team are providing this professional development using "Write that Essay".

Students and their families.

The intent is to have all teachers and school leaders working collaboratively within and across our schools in partnership with our key stakeholders: parents and students in lifting student achievement in the achievement challenges above.

Student well-being / hauora as an overall focus

A big thank you to all teachers and their students who participated in last term's well-being survey.

The results are being analysed by a Kāhui Ako subcommittee who will prepare an action plan for us to implement in each school and classroom.

An emerging theme arising out of student Hauora is the need to focus on dimensions such as confidence, self-efficacy, growth mind-set and "grit".



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ERO Case study

The Kāhui Ako steering committee have accepted an invitation from the Education Review Office to work with their research team in Wellington to develop a case study on how we are going as a Kāhui Ako. As part of this work we have asked them to help us develop a tool to track these dimensions in student hauora.

Their team led by Dr Ro Parsons, have looked at background literature in these areas and a number of related scales. They are now in the process of developing a tool for us to use.

The ERO team hope to come up to Tauranga in November to carry out their field work and meet with as many teachers, leaders and parents in our Kāhui Ako as time allows.

Nga mihi nui,

Henk Popping
Lead Principal.



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