



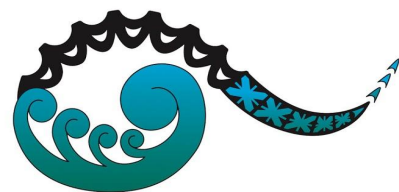
*“Naku te rourou, nau te
rourou ka ora ai te iwi”*

*“Taaku raurau, taau raurau
ka ora te tangata”*

*“With **your** food basket and
my food basket, the people
will live”*



Tokoroa Kāhui Ako



Strong minds | Strong heart | Strong community

Newsletter Edition: February 2021

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa Lava and Greetings,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021 and what a fabulous time to celebrate what we have accomplished and acknowledge the pathway that we will be paving this year to continue our shared mahi across our community.

2020 was definitely a year of trials and tribulations. It was a year that was challenging to navigate due to the uprise of Covid-19. As a community we supported our colleagues, students and whānau through the unknown territories of lockdown. It is with absolute confidence that we acknowledge the mammoth amount of work that teachers pursued leading up to and during the lockdown period. It was a time to collaborate and take up the challenge of learning online, putting our best foot forward to ensure that our students were safe, and well learning from home.

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Nigel Te Hiko, a prominent Kaumatua within the Raukawa Trust. His wealth of knowledge and connection with our local schools and community will be immensely missed. Nigel was an avid historian and gave so many of our young people the gift of narratives and a sense of belonging within our rohe.

We farewelled Louis Armstrong at the end of last year. Louis was a crucial part of the development and collaboration in the Cultural Kete. We acknowledge and appreciate the mahi and guidance during his time with us. We wish him all the best in our local endeavours. It is our absolute pleasure to welcome Tāmara Rochford - Kerr to the position of Programme Lead for Culture and also Missy Lord who has been appointed as our new Curriculum Specialist at Raukawa. Our Kahui Ako team are very excited about the experience and skills that they bring to their new roles and look forward to working closely with both of these ladies.

As we journey throughout 2021, we hope that you will continue to be with us through this journey. If you aren't doing so already, you can follow us on facebook - Tokoroa Kāhui Ako and view our website via www.tka.school.nz.

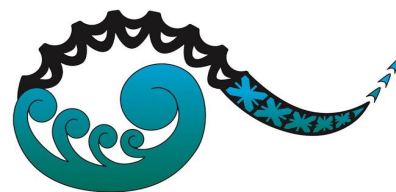
Ngā mihi,

Rachel, Charisse, Jaemie & Tania

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Kāhui Ako Across School Lead Team

This year we have welcomed a number of new teachers into our community and we wish them well in their new roles. We would like to reintroduce our team to you all. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead in our journey this year. It is always a pleasure to serve our community with our students at the heart of all that we do.



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Kahui Ako Within School Lead Teachers

We are very lucky to have an amazing team of Within School Leaders who drive the mahi in our schools. They continue to show passion and dedication to the foci areas and values of Kahui Ako. We introduce our Within School Leaders below and wish them all the best in their roles this year.

Amisfield School (Full Primary): Maggie Clarence

Tainui Full Primary School: Mata Tuau

Central School (Primary): Tracey Morgan

Strathmore School (Primary): Noa Tereu alongside Jaemie Sheck

Tokoroa Intermediate School: Ron Creigh-Smith

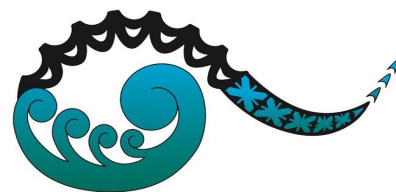
Forest View High School: Kotiau Joseph & Jason Jowett

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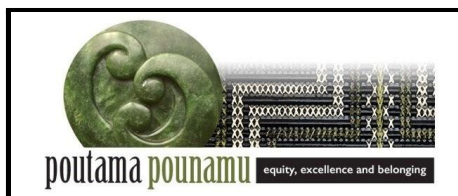


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POUTAMA POUNAMU



This year we have engaged with Poutama Pounamu which is an amazing programme developed within Waikato University. The programme promotes contexts for change where equity, excellence and belonging can be realised. We are very fortunate to have the expertise and guidance of Therese Ford, Catherine Whelham and Johnson Davis and look forward to the teaching and learning that educators in our community will undertake.

Recently we launched Poutama Pounamu at our Kahui Ako Teacher Only Day. This was an opportunity for teachers and support staff from across the sectors to be confronted and challenged with understanding the history of colonisation and the impacts. It was a fabulous day that lit a fire of passion for our teachers to implement local and national context that will develop and improve learning outcomes for our Maori students. The programme underpins the idea of what is good for Maori is good for all. As teachers we will continue on the journey this year collecting data and evidence which will become the foundation for the next steps in developing programmes that improve the success of our Maori students.

It is exciting to also have Raukawa on board and travelling this journey alongside us. A very prominent opportunity within our community and one that we wish to cherish and embrace.



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NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY Term 3 2020-2021



FOREST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

It was a great pleasure to watch the students receive awards at our final prize giving in 2021. The students stood proud on the stage as their names were announced and it was testament to the hard work, perseverance and determination that they displayed throughout the year. The head students for 2021 are Faith Healey, Juliette Hill and Shirley Glassie - Ginns; and the Dux was Deklin Taumata. We are very proud of the students and the calibre of achievement that happened in a year where students were forced into Lockdown and learning online. The NCEA results from a year of such turmoil were exceptional.



STRATHMORE SCHOOL

Covid-19 Alert Levels meant a reshuffle to our gala day which usually takes place in Term 3. Once again our school whanau joined together with their donations of goodies and their time. This all added up to a fabulous day for the Tokoroa community. In a year of lockdowns and alert levels it was an absolute privilege to mahi hard and strong for Tokoroa. Our Juniors had their own Market store where they produced beeswax wraps, reusable bags and indoor plants to sell. The world's cutest entrepreneurs.

In Term 3, we learnt about the Elections and the role of government. The first four weeks of Term 4 were spent revisiting our studies on Parliament, Suffrage, Te Tiriti, Gallipoli and the 1835 Declaration of Independence. We were so excited to visit Te Papa, the National Library, the NZ Police Museum and Parliament. Our Seniors sang to our tupuna in the Waka Huia that contains our Treaty, the Suffrage Petition and the Declaration of dependence. It was a touching moment where we remembered our past and looked forward to our future.



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TOKOROA CENTRAL SCHOOL

For the past 3 years our school has had a bike track that has been well used by our students. Our plan has included the creation of a new pump track for our students that will enable them to be able to ride not only bmx bikes but also scooters in all weathers. This year that plan came to fruition.

On Friday the 15th of May the Staff welcomed Papa Mac to our school to bless our Bike Track so that when our tamariki returned under level 2 they would be able to ride it. On Tuesday the 19th May we took our tamariki out to the field for their first ride on the track. Our track provides a great way for our students to have additional exercise during the school day and our students absolutely love it!



AMISFIELD SCHOOL

The students from Amisfield Primary School in Term 4 2020 were busy with a number of amazing opportunities. They have been involved in learning all about Kiwiana, National Shake Out day, Life education trust and meeting Harold the Giraffe, Ag Day, Te Wiki o Te Reo and Science Fair.



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TRANSITIONS TO SCHOOL

Last Thursday at Tainui Full Primary, we had our very first Transitions to School hui for 2021. We were able to pick up from where we left in 2020 and really reflect and unpack the question:

"What makes a successful transition to school's programme?"

We had representatives from our punanga Te Ara Metua and Ra Itu as well as our transition teachers from Mangakino school, Tainui Full Primary, Strathmore and Amisfield school. A massive ngā mihi to you all for coming and sharing your knowledge with our roopu.

Some key messages that we listened to were:

- Making connections with whānau is an important element. Teaching practice from Te Ara Metua was shared and we got to see a snippet of a transition to school profile that they use to give to both whānau and teachers in their new schools.
- Sharing about a child with a principal can be extremely powerful too. Ra Itu use this approach to share information as well as strategies that they have used that has worked for the transitioning learners.
- A sharing of resources across our spaces would be awesome. The idea of a resource that had Cook Island Māori waiata and beats so that our schools /other ECE had the same waiata for the purpose of creating a feeling/ a sense of home for our tamariki was discussed.
- The autonomy we have within our schools/ centres is what our whānau chooses when they enrol them into a learning space. Sharing of practise and resources across our Kāhui Ako community will help us to create a space of continuation- and it is best for all of our tamariki. We are not in a competition with each other. We are working together to create strong hearts, strong minds and a strong community.

Our next hui is all about collaboration.

It is a space where educators can come, share GOLD, listen to ways of being and take elements that they see fit into their own school/ centre's strategic goals. This will be held at the following:

Thursday 11th March

Purpose: Sharing of practice. The Ark will have the opportunity to share their GOLD and show us around their spaces. This is an opportunity to meet new educators, form connections and share awesome practise and resources.

Venue: The Ark, Tokoroa Childcare Centre, Mossop Road, Tokoroa

Time: 5pm- 5.30pm

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