

## Yearbook 2021

### Welcome to our 2021 Online Yearbook

*Just a few instructions on how to navigate your way through this yearbook. Use the tags or article index at the top right of this page to browse. Once you have chosen an article either click back on tags, article index or go to the top left-hand corner and click on the school's logo. This will take you back to the main menu and you will be able to choose again.*

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### Hope you enjoy viewing some of the memorable events that have happened during 2021.

Tēna koutou, tēna koutou, tēna koutou katoa

What a year to look back on. An extraordinary year for our school, our education system, our country, and our world.

Covid-19 has dominated so much of our lives this year.

[Read more...](#)

### To honour the children's authentic voice we have not edited their work.



### Message from the Executive Principal

Tēna koutou, tēna koutou, tēna koutou katoa

What a year to look back on. An extraordinary year for our school, our education system, our country, and our world.

Covid-19 has dominated so much of our lives this year.

According to UNESCO data at least 1.5 billion students globally have been affected by school closures. Of course, here in New

Zealand we never actually closed as we have moved quickly to teaching and learning online, when, and where needed. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our staff that has had to move and adapt to this new way of providing teaching and support and of course most importantly to our students for their efforts to learn and engage online. This has come with its challenges but there are some positive aspects to this as well. Some recent research undertaken by our Ministry of Education has indicated some common themes associated with students' lockdown experiences. These themes are worth exploring as we know that our return to face to face will see a need for us to rethink some of our approaches.

Themes were:

- Students were showing greater independence and agency over their own learning.
- That some students had preferred online learning to traditional learning methods.
- Many students found they had less distraction than in the classroom.
- There was more family and whanau engagement with students' education.
- Many students felt they were provided with a better quality of learning materials fit for their specific learning.

We also have our own strong theme developed. The opportunity we have had to bring our learning communities together from across the country.

We know the great benefit of course of being together face to face. There is no substitute for that.

However, we now need to take our learning from online teaching back into our classrooms next year. We need to look to the positive aspects of this work and build upon together with our students and staff.

So, I thank everyone for the amazing efforts you have made together to make this year as successful as possible. I am certainly looking forward to getting away from the ironing board! (Lockdown Life Hack: An ironing board makes for a great fully adjustable desk!)

Ngā maanakitanga  
Noho ora mai

James Le Marquand



## Message from the Board Chair

Kia ora koutou

As we come to the end of our first full year as Ko Taku Reo - Deaf Education New Zealand, it is a perfect time to reflect on some of the amazing work we have been involved in throughout the year.

The Board is heartened with the progress being made by our school leaders who are developing new ways that Ko Taku Reo can deliver a range of nationwide services. This has involved working with staff to identify changes and programmes that have the potential to improve student achievement and wellbeing. Examples of these new initiatives include the opening of a provision in Wellington, Immersion day schools around the country where Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) learners enrolled at mainstream schools can come together once a week to access the curriculum, develop their identity, and NZSL skills with their DHH peers and a new Beacon School concept being trialled in Dunedin.

Of course, 2021 has also been disrupted by COVID once again. We have had to put our student Board member elections on hold for now but will let you all know when this is back on track. COVID, however, has also meant we have all been learning in new ways and has required our teachers to really think about the best ways to engage our students at distance. I was delighted to see photos recently of a number of virtual Hui organised in the Auckland region which allowed our learners to catch up and have some fun together from home.

Ko Taku Reo continues to share news and fabulous student stories with you already through our Facebook page and the Board takes much pride in the positive showcasing of students' achievements and experiences throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

I hope you enjoy this yearbook and manage some time with family and whānau over the summer to enable you to 'recharge your batteries and we look forward to another successful year of working together for the benefit of all our learners.

Na mihi nui,

Dr Denise Powell

Board Chair

Ko Taku Reo Board



## Message from the Director of Teaching and Learning

Kia ora – ngā mihi nui ki a kotou katoa

My respect and appreciation, to all our learners for their effort and successes in 2021. My gratitude and pride, to all our staff for their effort and successes in 2021.

Because *together* Ko Taku Reo students and Ko Taku Reo staff have formed wonderful learning-focused relationships.

And these relationships are the foundation for all progress and success in education.

*Ma te whitahi, ka whakatutuki ai nga pumanawa a tangata  
Together weaving the realisation of potential*

Learning focussed relationships are based on mutual respect.

They are transparent, they share understandings and language, they negotiate challenges and they are future focused.

Learning focused relationships trust, they make the most of opportunities and they allow us to take risks and be brave in our learning.

At Ko Taku Reo we know that when the relationships are right the student flourishes.

It is a privilege for us to enter into learning focused relationships with a wide variety of other people with whom we share the education of our rangitahi.

Whanau, other educators, and specialist support staff all work with us to surround our learners with a community of learning.

*"Learning focused relationships are about using the considerable potential in the relationship between teachers and student to maximise the students engagement with learning; about enabling the student to play a meaningful role in deciding what to learn and how to learn it; and about enabling the student to become a confident, resilient, active, self regulating learner" – Michael Absolum*

Many learning focused relationships have been forged or continued, this year.

I know that our students and our teachers enjoy and appreciate these because they tell me this.

It is these relationships that give meaning to the commitment and achievement our students and our teachers experience every day.

See you in 2022 to see this potential maximised further!



## Outreach School

Kia Ora Koutou,

What a big year this has been for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students receiving services from Resource Teachers of the Deaf and NZSL tutors in Outreach school. We have been able to progress implementation of our iterative service framework to maximise learning opportunities for many students. We have welcomed eight new team leaders across New Zealand and the formation of a new team located on the East Coast of

the North Island. Each of the 22 localised Outreach teams across New Zealand is committed to working with you and your child to maximise their access to learning, making progress with learning, and being an active participant in their school. Our values of belong, grow, choose and excel are at the forefront of our work in collaborating with local schools in supporting the mahi for your child's educational outcomes and inclusion.

Our suite of services now includes more robust planning for KIT Days, formation of a Beacon school in Dunedin, development and redefining of programmes for students within NZSL Day School Hubs in Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Christchurch, and Invercargill, and Language Days in Northland. Ensuring that we have more robust practices around children who are on indirect services and their access to learning in their local schools is a priority and I encourage you to talk with your local RTD with regards to how this looks and feels for your child. We encourage you to access Deaf role models and additional activities with local parent support groups that help to integrate NZSL and mixed mode communication within your local community and beyond.

Key areas of focus this year have included ensuring children who transition to school (primary, intermediate, and secondary) or transition to a school in a new area have priority for the term that this significant event is occurring. Investing time, resources, and personnel into your child undertaking school transitions and engaging the school team is of critical importance to us and we do our best to allocate our resources accordingly to support your child, the team around your child, and the wider school. We look for opportunities for your child to develop varying levels of independence at school particularly with the management of devices, classroom routines, playtime activities and celebrate the acquisition of self-determination and self-advocacy over time.

Direct service means that your child is on a regular timetabled service for the term. We encourage you to share your aspirations for your children and encourage your children to articulate their own needs and wants in determining how we can best support them to achieve. Having a friend to play with, learning a lunchtime game, joining a team, mastering homework routines, managing hearing aids, and

other assistive devices, regular exposure to prereading skills, high access to language and communication, belonging to a reading group, counting to 10, being in the school Kapa haka group, choosing suitable subjects for Yr 11 – these all make a difference for your children in their day to day learning and social-emotional growth. Please share with your local RTD what matters most to you for your child.

I wish to thank whanau and teachers who have gone the extra mile to ensure that their children have continued with meaningful learning over the challenging covid lockdowns many of us have endured this year. I recognise the added stress for many parents in trying to connect with RTDs over this time. It has been an important part of our role this year in supporting you and your child and to look for ways to support learning at home during the later part of the year particularly in Northern areas of New Zealand. On behalf of the Outreach School team and the Outreach Leadership team of Lynne Couling-Brown, Adrienne Chapman, John-Paul Oliver, CJ Lavender-Amyes, Alice Woodcock, Steph Jones, and Mark Bolger I wish you all the best for the holiday season and look forward to a more predictable 2022!

Nga mihi nui,

Lynne Guy  
Head of Outreach School

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## We are the Enrolled School Leadership Team

We are here, for working with and supporting our students and staff across New Zealand to connect and grow together.

In 2021 the Enrolled School Leadership Team included six members.

- Fiona Gordon, Head of Enrolled School
- Lisa Sharman, Deputy Head of Enrolled School
- Kaori Kobayashi, Assistant Head of Enrolled School, West Auckland
- Daniel Greenwood, Assistant Head of Enrolled School, South Auckland
- Karen Pasco, Assistant Head of Enrolled School, Christchurch/Wellington
- Sue Brewer, Director's Assistant

Angela Gordon, the Director's Assistant, took maternity leave in the middle of Term 2, and then Sue Brewer joined us.

The Enrolled School Leadership Team meets every Wednesday. We are always very busy discussing and deciding on a number of things.

The Assistant Heads of Enrolled School visit their Provisions throughout the week to support students and staff and teach in the classrooms. This is because of our philosophy, "Leaders in Provision", which means leaders need to know the real-life in each provision and to build good relationships with students and teachers, and if there are issues, try to solve them quickly.

The Enrolled School Leadership Team not only supports students to concentrate on their work and achieve their goals but also helps to organise events to ensure that all students connect with each other and enjoy their time at school. Our National events were; Meet the Teachers night, Matariki Whanau Event, Arts Showcase, and Prizegivings, and we had a School Hui every Term.

All of these events were fantastic. Thanks to everyone who helped to make these events a success!

The Lockdowns in 2021 were difficult and many events were cancelled; however, we did manage to get through it by keeping in touch with the team, sometimes organising fun zoom classes, and making sure everyone could see each other and feel safe.

Next year we will be a new team and we will be even more united and supportive of everyone at Enrolled School!

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## Amazing Year comes to an end

What an exciting and forward-moving year we have had in the Early Years 2021. So much hard work has gone in by the teams in a challenging year to keep our teaching and learning focus for our youngest learners.

The year started with an amazing set of interprofessional Hui hosted by Ko Taku Reo and Deaf Aotearoa for all working in the early years space. It included the First Signs facilitators from Deaf Aotearoa, Advisors of Deaf Children from Ministry of

Education, the Hearing House and Southern Cochlear Implant programmes, Deaf Children NZ, and local parent groups. Three hui were held in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch which were wonderful collaborative days where all involved found out how similar their work is, and clarified their services. What struck me was the heart and commitment that all of the organisations and professionals had to make a difference for our DHH learners. We understood our role at the beginning of the journey for the child and their whānau, and how important it is that we work together for the best outcomes for the child. This commitment was a recurring theme in the feedback, and the wishes of all to continue to work collaboratively.

Ko Taku Reo Preschool, Auckland, and the Early Years Whanau Centre, Christchurch have continued to strengthen their programmes and seen enrolments continue to be steady and increase. While the programmes are quite different in how they work with the children and their whanau, we have made the most of having regular meetings with all teachers to share practice. We are working hard at going through a process of a regular internal review, looking at aspects of our programmes and practice, and how we can improve these to provide better outcomes for our learners. Seeing the happy, smiling faces of our children when visiting both programmes is a privilege whenever I am visiting.

We have developed a much stronger relationship at a national level with Advisors of Deaf Children this year. Our regular and ongoing communication has helped us to develop effective working practices. We have been able to offer more Preschool Residential Courses for all preschool families in Aotearoa. These have been really well received and the families continue to value these courses, which are promoted by the Advisors. Alongside this, we have set up new playgroups in Dunedin and Auckland, supported by Advisors and The Hearing House. It is so great to be working in this collaborative space for the benefit of the children.

2022 sees a whole lot of new opportunities for us to expand on, including exploring co-enrolment in an early childhood setting. I am excited about the new possibilities to work collaboratively with more organisations and we provide quality services for our preschool DHH learners.



## Residences - Christchurch and Auckland

We had another year with a difference for the residence.

We saw the return of Covid19, and NZ went into lockdown, and unfortunately, Auckland stayed on lockdown for the rest of the two terms. Unfortunate timing for our students taking

NCEA subjects.

During the year, "NCEA in Residence" was developed for students living in residence to take NCEA subjects to gain credits - extra support from the residences. We are starting to see the growth of students taking this on and will maintain this going forward, as one of our students has achieved credits for this year.

Earlier in the year, I appointed a Residential Lead for each residence. Michael May, based in Christchurch and Chantelle Enesa, based in Auckland, has taken on the role of Residential Lead, and I am pleased to say that they have been good support for their Residential staff and students. Thank you, Michael and Chantelle.

During Term 2 - Auckland Campus hosted the Immersion Hui for the first time as He Hui Turi for Maori Deaf akonga to learn together. The Marae was open for learning, and the boys have been sleeping in Marae during the week. Thank you to Deb Coleman (In-reach coordinator) and the Teaching team for allowing our Maori students to learn and understand who they are.

Nicki Morrison





## Christchurch Campus Residences 2021 Tribute Henry Tangiwai-Scott

Christchurch Campus Residential students and staff wish to acknowledge the journey and recent passing of Henry-Tangiwai-Scott

A few months ago, we said farewell to our much-beloved ex-student Henry Tangiwai-Scott, who was pretty much still well involved with the residences via sports and cheering upon rugby games on sky sports.

He was well known as the bright blue-eyed kid with a wonderful personality, that attracted so many friends of all walks of life within New Zealand and internationally, due to his representation with the Deaf Blacks Rugby Team. Henry was loved by many and still to this day, many friends and families talk about his journey from the day he arrived at van Asch Deaf Education Centre (now Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education NZ) in 2012.

Henry spent ten years of his life, developing and growing his own personality. For many, he was a role model often teaching the younger children the values that he thought were best. Henry had a positive outgoing attitude to life, in which he excelled in so many areas: sports, creatively, filmmaking, and building. He had passions and dreams and he knew what he wanted to do with these dreams. Henry worked hard towards gaining the experience of becoming a builder and saving for his first car, it was just unfortunate he was taken so soon. With his positive outgoing personality, he has given us all a very important message that we should not take life for granted and that we should be doing our very best in life by going forward and reaching out for the goals and dreams that we all want to achieve. As Henry would say "Have a Good Life" with thumbs up 👍 and a huge grin.



## A Smile that Captured Hearts

Te Pokoru a Year 9 student, at Tongariro Area School. He had a smile that captured hearts and a real gentlemen in the making.

Te Pokoru was a long time student on the Bay of Plenty RTD caseload. Sadly he passed away earlier this year. As part of his involvement with our team he would always participate in Kit and language days. Te Pokoru was a gentle and quiet person and well respected amongst his peers. He would always take the time to check in with his friends and see if they were alright. I had the pleasure to talk with him on several occasions and we would discuss what he wanted to do when he grew up. His goal was to become a mechanic and work on motors.

Te Pokoru was a gentle soul. He had a deep vulnerable innocence at his heart. Always the first to take a younger learner under his wing. Able to take a joke with laughter. He leaves behind a deep and dark hole for those he has touched. Living in the same community gave me the privilege of a continuing relationship and oversight and I will miss passing him in the street and checking on his schooling. He was a true treasure and he will be deeply missed by the Bay of Plenty Central Team.

Haere, e tama, e Te Pokoru, haere. Rupeke atu ki te tini o ō whanaunga e whanga mai ana i a koe i te Pūtahi o Rēhua. Haere, e tama haere.

Farewell son, Te Pokoru, farewell. Join together with your many relatives waiting for you at the meeting place of Rēhua. Farewell, son, farewell.

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## Auckland Campus Residence

Weekends in the residence are an opportunity to relax after working hard all week and spend some time hanging with your friends.

It can be difficult for thirteen young people to all agree on where to go and what to do. Every week the students take turns to run a meeting and one of the things they decide is the outings for the coming weekends. They have to factor in the cost of the events and make sure everyone gets a say in what

they do.

Without realising, our young people are learning how to stay active, how to share an opinion, how to live within their budget, how to negotiate, how to explore their environment, and the importance of connecting with friends. They are GREAT at it!

This is why, as we say farewell to Anuishka, Harry, and Adam at the end of the year, we are confident they are ready to move into bright futures. We trust they'll look back at their time in the residence with fond memories.

### Anuishka says goodbye

I wanted to say the biggest thanks to the village staff for being in the village. I heard getting closer to next month for finishing by this year. I want to say from my dream. I have my bags are ready to go but I saw village staff and students were standing and having a nice conversation with others. It just feels like wanted to have a long chat with us but suddenly I heard the train is coming. I want to say thank you for looking after me in the village and being kind to you all in your heart. I just want to back to see those memories in the village from last year and this year. I want to give you kind words. (You are the best and bring kindness to the lovely staff who are amazing and give you the biggest heart for you all.) The train officer came out and did a loud whistle near the train that signal in my ears that I have to go now. One thing to tell you that I will see you in the future and I will keep in touch with you all. I grabbed my bags and went inside the train and sit on near the window. The train is closing the door and ready to go to see my future in real life and ready to take off. from Anuishka

### Harry says goodbye

Hey everyone,

I don't want to say goodbye because it sounds too cringey. But I'm glad to get my chance to share my message to remind you of the good and bad memories we lived in our village. I'm delighted that I have no regrets after graduating high school in the village. I started learning how to sign language and with support from the village. I never laughed so hard from that time when I was learning sign language and still laughing hard now, and my tummy hurt because it was hilarious to see people use facial expressions to resemble other people and many jokes. You can see them every day, and you get to know them more than meeting them at school. It feels like they are a second family to me. Of course, sometimes there was lots of drama in the village, and after that, we grew mature. We did lots of cheeky things. One of those foolish things is, we stole milk from the fridge and ran away like crazy thieves without staff knowing because we love milk. Despite this, if it were not for dramatic or cheeky stuff in the village, I feel that it is not an authentic village. It shows they are real themselves and interesting to see them differently. It is not always perfect every day. We all were not too fond of our duties in the village but think about a good way that it is worth it to learn lots of new things and improve better habits in the future. They always can build a better future with maturity. The activities are my favourite part of the village. I love seeking new adventures. We all must go out and seek fun times rather than boring life in our comfort zone. Too many memories I couldn't tell. We went shopping, ice skating, bowling, golf, swimming, museums, cinemas, big arcade games, zoos, cultural festivals, amusement parks, meeting new people, and many other things. It was unfortunate we couldn't go further anymore because of covid, but I have no regrets.

I was waiting for the day to arrive. We, who are going to leave the village; I can see we are happy, knowing that from tomorrow onwards they do not have to do duties, long meetings, sleep-restricted, filling the leaving form to go shopping or somewhere, no more village rules. Still, we feel like when we thought that they were going to miss all the wickedness, unnecessary gossip, times we laughed, cried, screamed in joy, devoured food fast, and all that. Lastly, I don't know what to say anymore. It's just... the village is so unique and unforgettable. I'm grateful for the friends who helped me and kept me in good company from stress for some reason. Lots of ups and downs, but they always cheer me up

without hesitation. I was a bit irritated but grateful at the same time. Thank you for your support, funny times, long conversations, and everything. I would like to thank all the staff members. I admire you for your hard work, motivation, positive kindness, respect, sharing moral values, sharing stories about their life, ensuring we are safe, and driving us to the activities. They drove a long way to drop us at home on their off work before the covid lockdown. I want to thank everyone. I was actually trying to be a good person to you all; I tried to be. I want to sincerely apologize for my acts, deeply thankful, deeply grateful for you all. You are all awesome.  
See ya later, cool, swag, peace out!

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## Christchurch Campus Residence

Christchurch Campus Residential student and staff activities, outings, sports and achievements for the 2021 school year.

2021 has been a quieter year than usual in the Christchurch Residences. Covid has had an impact, especially on the activities available, but we have continued to have fun with some real highlights in the sporting arena.

We had two new students this year Abodi Loulou and Rivohtay Broomfield. Smaller numbers in Crawford (girls)

and van Asch House (boys), plus two senior students Ryan and Thomas McLiskey were in the flatting programme.

Term 3 we started new homework sessions three times a week. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 4.15 pm to 5.15 pm. Students have got real value from this - feedback from Students and Teachers proves it has been worth it. Students agreed on how these nights would be structured. Lovely afternoon teas made by our Youth Workers have also helped.

Our students have been involved in a local Sumner Touch Rugby Tournament over Terms 1 and 4. Amazing progress and growth in their game over the year. Starting back in term 4 we won the first game. Steve Hira is the Coach and other day students, past students and family members also help us out as substitutes when needed.

As well as Touch Rugby our students have played in an Indoor Netball tournament during terms 2 and 3. Weekly sport sessions and practice in the gym on-site have been great for the student's confidence.

Many of our students are keen basketball players and Jayden Edwards organised a mini residential tournament. He planned the whole event from draws, teams, referees to prizes. It was a very competitive event.

The Christchurch residences have been very connected to the Sumner community. This year we were asked if a student would like to volunteer to be involved in the local Fire Brigade practice night. Sumner Brigade do drills on-site and they needed a volunteer patient. Jayden Edwards happily stepped up to be rescued.

We have also reconnected with the local FUSE Youth Club. The Team at FUSE hosted a pizza night for us at their rooms and we are planning another dinner in Term 4.

We held a MasterChef competition in Term 3. This was won by Thomas McLiskey and Liberty Francis who cooked up a very tasty version of pork ribs with a fantastic sauce. The judging was not just about the food but also teamwork.

Some students have been studying for their Learners Drivers Licence this year and we were delighted for Ryan McLiskey who passed his first attempt as he did a lot of study to achieve this.

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## Preschool in 2021, the Year of Lockdowns and Connections

2021 has been a tough (three lockdowns!) yet an amazing year of connections in the Ko Taku Reo Preschool in Auckland.

A preschool is a special place where we welcome and join new whānau on their child's learning journey. We only have their tamariki for such a short but precious time and it is a place where they learn to grow, belong, choose and excel. This year we have welcomed 12 tamariki and their whānau and are

looking forward to meeting Mahdi, Alexia and Lukas who are joining us before the year is over.

Haere mai to Amaia Rose, Kyra Jade, Umar, Isabella, Praise-Kamarley, Omni, Tonu, Montana, Marcus, Viha, Katrinamarie, and Charlie!

In Term 1 and 2, among 2 mini lockdowns, Preschool said 'See you later!' to Zaheen, Penelope, Benji and Samson who moved onto either Ormiston or Kelston Primary Deaf Provision. We also farewelled Benoit and Jack as they moved on to their local schools. It is always a proud moment to see them wearing our Preschool korowai cloak.

Highlights of the Year School visits, Bader the rabbit, Sensory Play (gloop is a favourite!), new monkey bars, Interactive Family Fun Day at Auckland Deaf Society, Construction Play, making new friends, Vivaldi's The Four Seasons at the Pumphouse Theatre, Sing and Sign and Playgroup sessions at Hearing House, new Communication Board, and Earthquake drills!

In Term 3, we had just over 3 weeks together before COVID-19 struck again leading to our current long lockdown. This has affected some of our children who were transitioning to school - we wish you all the best on the next step of your learning journey and hope we can get together soon - Aron, Maria, Taane, Te Kanawa, and Steiny.

At the time of writing, we are in week 10 of Lockdown in Auckland, so we are missing the kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) but the teachers have been working hard to support connections on Storypark.



## Poipoia te kakano kia puawai - Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

Tamariki and whanau quickly develop a sense of belonging with each other as they identify similarities between themselves and their peers, while whanau discover shared experiences.

Many times a year we celebrate tamariki as they move on to school. Over the last 12 months, our Korowai was worn by Connor Burcher, Logan Tilson, Arlo Thian, Jackson Ormsby,

Kayla Caesar, Otto Stokell, Blake Williams, Aaliyah Wates, Holly Berry, Stella Robinson, Mikaere Jerry-Mihaka and finally Jax and Iris Agnew.

We have also farewelled tamariki and whanau Ronan Skinner, Winter Buzzard-Boote, Vincent Rawlings, Imogen Smith, Libby Berry.

Each of our tamariki and whanau bring something unique to our service and we value the time they share with us.

2021 has allowed us the opportunity for some new experiences, the first was at Tumbles Times, where

we experimented with how we can use our bodies in different spaces and with different equipment.

We also took advantage of having the Sumner Fire Service move down the road from us and made two visits with our Wednesday and Thursday groups. The firefighters were wonderful, talking to us about what we could expect if there was a fire in our homes. We had a tour of the station and a play with the powerful water hoses.

Each term also sees us opening our doors to Preschool Course families, visiting from all over the region, many fast friendships are developed through these weeks. Families bring their own knowledge and values to us and leave with some of ours.

Our main goal and reason for being here is to support our tamariki and their whanau to develop their communication skills in their chosen language/s. This is woven in throughout the morning from music, to our inside and outside play, our shared storytimes, and when we are busy creating arts and crafts. We celebrate as many languages and their focus weeks as often as we can and are always supported by our whanau, tamariki, and our wonderful supporters; Olivia Townshend, Jenna Holland, Sarasha Naicker, and Maria Best.



## He Hui Turi 2021 the Immersion of two cultures

Eleven excited students from all over New Zealand independently fly to Auckland from their hometowns.

Immersion Hui had all but stopped in its tracks for 2021. Not only did Covid19 take its toll on the possibility of these going ahead, but also affected student numbers and where these could be held safely for our students. However, the Māori Deaf Immersion Hui named He Hui Turi was thankfully able to commence on Monday 21st June this year and saw 11 excited students from all over New Zealand independently fly to Auckland from their hometowns.

On arrival at Ko Taku Reo in Kelston Auckland, these students congregated at the Rūaumoko Marae and were welcomed by way of a powhiri, which saw the entire Kelston provisions turn out to welcome the participants. From day one, the ākonga, most of whom had never met before, really gelled as a group, and by the second day, they had written their own class treaty, to guide them and set the standard of expectation for their week's journey ahead.

This particular Immersion hui consisted of workshops and presentations on Māori and Deaf culture, history, navigation, traditions which encompassed beliefs, moral values, language and tikanga. This gave our ākonga a concise programme to build and strengthen their mana and cultural identity as both Deaf and Māori. During one workshop a student asked, which do I identify as first? Am I Māori/Deaf? Or Deaf/Māori? The answer given was "both are correct", opening up discussion on the immersion and fluidity of both cultures. This then led to the exploration of key moments in history for both Deaf and Māori culture which the students studied through storytelling, acting/drama, song, and traditional games. All the while, the learning being intertwined with whanaungatanga and further, the preparation and cooking of a traditional 'boil up' and on the last night a hangi which was part of the festivities to celebrate Matariki with the enrolled school.

A pivotal moment of the Hui according to the students, was while practising their Pepeha during the week, some students found that they were distantly related or belonged to the same iwi and so the family was formed, and the group's sense of community strengthened.

The Hui ended with an amazing presentation from each student of their Pepeha in NZSL and Te Reo Māori, and feedback on other aspects of their learning over the week, in front of invited staff, who were deeply moved by their stories of transformation and belonging. However, in upholding the Marae protocols these could not be videoed from inside Rūaumoko. There was, however, footage taken of them earlier, practising their Pepeha outside the Marae, which I can now share with you all.

Feedback from the Students and their resource teachers since attending He Hui Turi was positive and since then two of the students have arranged to have placement visits at Ko Taku Reo, with a view to joining the provisions. Furthermore, Noelani and Anahera were placed first and second in the recent speech competition, with Anahera sharing her pepeha, as videoed direct from the hui.

Lastly, I would just like to add what a pleasure it was to be part of this group and watch their growth in such a short space of time.

Immersion Hui, Creating future leaders through Learning.

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## NZSL Tutors

I am pleased to see our NZSL Tutor team growing with many old and new faces on board this year. We have an exciting announcement, we have three new NZSL Tutors Co-Leading in North, Central and South with new visions and services in 2022. Congratulations to Pixie Naeme, Janet Stokes and Jenna Holland.

We celebrated our NZSL Week along with Deaf Aotearoa. It was terrific to see our Ko Taku Reo staff join us for our NZSL Taster class each morning tea and lunchtime. Our Digital Resource team created awesome posters with QR codes, when scanned showed NZSL video translating a phrase from English to NZSL, the staff went into a draw to win prizes such as SLICNZ NZSL cards to use in the classroom.

What a rollercoaster 2021 has been for us all, our second lockdown, this time we were familiar with what to do and quickly adapted from face to face to teaching online through Zoom and Google Meet with our classroom students and RTDs. Many of our NZSL Tutors have been working at the Provisions, Day School, Beacon School, Outreach, Early Years Whānau Centre, Preschool Courses, Assessments and Ko Taku Reo staff to support our NZSL to widespread in Aotearoa.

NZSL@School is continuing to support our CESWs to have NZSL Tutor and NZSL accessible support to be able to provide for our students to be able to gain their voice and participate in the classroom. Ka Pai to their hard work and commitments.

We sadly farewell to some of our NZSL Tutors who are taking up different roles:

- Meghan Coppage - Dunedin
- Miggy Javier - Christchurch
- Karla Smith - Auckland
- Alana Best - Whangarei

Congratulations on your new roles.

We would like to say a big farewell to our long-time staff member, Ann Croy who has been working here for 25 years who during this time has had several roles. Ann was our first Deaf teacher at van Asch Deaf Education Centre to develop a bilingual language classroom, Resource Teacher of the Deaf, NZSL Tutor Lead for Christchurch NZSL, and many other roles. We wish her all the best with her new adventure in Taranaki.

Thank you to Becky West, Matthew Flynn and all NZSL signers for their hard work in developing NZSL resources such as PM books and the wonderful NZSL videos on Turi TV.

Thank you to all NZSL Tutors who help us with our outcomes this year and to Ko Taku Reo who continues to provide accessible services.

Wishing you a good year of health and happiness for 2022.

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## Eyes on the Horizon!

Tu Kokiri students have spent the year working hard towards gaining the skills, confidence, attitudes, and independence to enter the adult world.

Tyrese, Jonathan, Charlie, Sebastian, Whiti, and Tane were lucky enough to gain work skills, confidence, and pride working alongside Deaf community members to complete maintenance on the Auckland Deaf Society building. They painted, sanded, demolished, and installed alongside skilled

Deaf tradesmen. Lots of laughs and fun were had and relationships built. Tyrese, Sebastian, Whiti, and Tane all gained full-time paid employment through the work experience programme and have left

school to begin their work lives.

Both Harry and Rahui took up part-time tertiary study at the beginning of 2021, Rahui in Deaf Studies and AUT and Harry, a bridging course leading to a future goal of Architecture. Both young men juggled school and university programme, navigating public transport, deadlines, and university life with maturity and independence. Anuishka also began tertiary study in Semester 2 with an IT course through Open Polytechnic.

A Learners Drivers Licence is always a keenly sought after prize, that requires commitment and sustained focus. Charlie got his licence early in the year, while Whiti worked tirelessly to get his Learners Licence before leaving school. Both Courtney and Anuishka hope to have their licences by the end of the school year too. Jonathan and Kingi are working towards gaining theirs early in 2022.

Levi and Alafati have both benefitted from, and look forward to their weekly crossfit gym sessions in New Lynn. Alafati has impressed with his commitment and enthusiasm for his weekly work experience in the preschool, and Levi has taken responsibility for plant maintenance and the Fruit in Schools distribution.

Our Deaf Lives programme gives students the opportunity to meet and gain inspiration from a varied and interesting selection of Deaf community members who generously shared their life stories, adventures, and advice. After one such session, one student commented that it was the most impactful thing ever in his life!

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## Kelston Boys' Provision

When you look at 2021, it immediately conjures hardship, lockdown, vaccination, and challenges. However, there were lessons to learn. Kelston Boys' have managed to excel and do well at school and throughout their online learning.

We started the year by welcoming 3 new students and a new Teacher Aide. Elijah Kira, Zen Tamihana, and Callan Waters joined us from Kelston Intermediate School.

We also welcomed Holly Laurin, who hails from Canada and is very enthusiastic in working with Deaf students. She replaced Alex Pegg who has gone for further studies. The other students in the provision were Destyn and Holden - Year 10, Fiero and Brooklyn Year 11 and Walter Meke in Year 13.

During the lockdown, the boys worked really hard and the three year 9 boys and Fiero were commended by their Whanau teacher for being punctual and attending online classes, completing their assignments, and doing excellent work in all subjects. The boys were really happy that in this lockdown, Ko Taku Reo had provided them with new laptops which made life much easier for them to communicate amongst themselves and with staff using Zoom and Google Meet and complete online work satisfactorily.

During the NZSL week, the staff and students helped in promoting and teaching Sign Language in the whanau class. The boys' have also been very supportive in taking part in School hui's throughout the year and performed a haka for the Term 3 National Hui.

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## 2021 Kelston Intermediate Provision Happenings - what have they been up to?

We were busy this year! We were lucky to have many day trips at the beginning of the year!

In Term 2, we went to Skycity. We went all the way up to the tower and we had to find different landmarks. Some of us were afraid of heights and it was scary. We learned about navigation and using a compass. We talked about all the

volcanoes around Auckland. The same afternoon, we went to Mount Eden to see a real volcano - we even got ourselves a McDonald's treat! We climbed to the top to look at the crater - wow the walk was



harder than we thought. The winds were so strong it almost blew us away! We also had to spot landmarks and know if our school was North, South, West or East.

Later in the term, we created an NZSL club at our school to teach our friends the alphabet, fingerspelling words, and names and numbers! They learned fast and now more people want to join! Even teachers!!! We were so happy that our hearing friends wanted to learn our language.

In Term 3, we visited the Auckland Museum. We discovered Māori history, learned how our ancestors navigated to New Zealand, and saw different artifacts that they used to do so. We were so excited to see the museum! Later, we also experienced an earthquake in the Volcano exhibit - we were so shocked at how shaky and scary it was! During our free time, some of us really wanted to see the War exhibition - so glad we did because it was awesome!!!

In Term 4, we were in lockdown. But it did not stop us from learning and having fun in class. We have had many hui with Kelston Primary too. It is nice to see our friends, even if it is only online :)

What a whirlwind year it has been.



## Meet our Kelston Primary School Whanau! Whakawhanaungatanga, Pono, Aroha, Manaakitanga

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, Engari, he toa hakatini Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

### Room 22

This year has seen many happy and sad occasions! We welcomed Peter, Camila, and Chris to our class and farewelled Josie and Luisa!

The highlight of the year was Matariki where the whole provision came together to work on our whetu, we learnt how to cut the Harakeke, weave and work together as one big team. We really enjoyed the sense of tuakana - teina that this activity promoted, and the pride that the children took in their work - they took responsibility for the entire process and were kind and patient with their peers (and their teachers!!)

### Room 20 - Kymmie, Ash, Trent with Amelia, Benji, Briiaan, Franky, Ryda & Samson

The great 2021, full of laughter and fun. We adventured to the outdoors - when Auckland loaned us the sun. We visited local playgrounds, swam and watched amazing shows diversifying our cultural experiences, we even watched tatau. The culture we enjoyed the most, was definitely home-grown with raranga of kōrari which became ngā whetu and put on a show. Ngā tamariki worked tirelessly and they produced some beautiful stars. We put them all together to create our work of art. The unity and aroha was precious to see with every child at KPS working tirelessly. Kotahitanga was evident and aroha abound as each tamaiti turned and twisted their flax all around.

It was a tricky process, but nevertheless, mana grew. For in their toil and learning, understanding renewed of how beautiful our culture is, our land, and not least of all the tangata at KPS that make up our awesome school.

It has proven another interesting year and taught us all so much. Seeing the resilience of tauira has been inspiring. I hope that 2022 will be a great year and wish to commend whanau for your amazing contributions and ngā tamariki on your awesome spirit during the lockdown.

*Hurihia to aroaro ki te rā, tukuna to atarangi kia taka ki muri i a koe  
Turn your face to the sun & the shadows fall behind you.*





## Kelston Girls College Bilingual Deaf Provision

This year, we had 10 students at our provision. We have had some challenging (but positive) and unusual situations this year - working at home online for a big part of our year, gaining NCEA credits, welcoming new staff, entering the Talent Quest competition - to name but a few. In each case, the students rose to the occasion.

In this article, we have recorded a few of our significant achievements. However, all achievements - no matter how large or small - are very special. Unfortunately, our photos are limited, due to the lockdown.

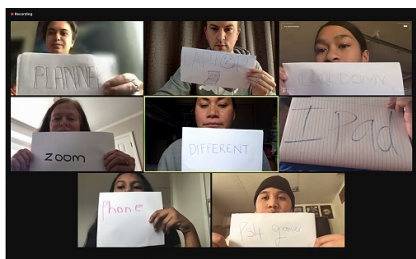
This year our hospitality students got to work in the famous NZ Food & Wine school commercial kitchens alongside some very experienced chefs. One of these chefs was the famous Peter Gorden.

One of our Yr12 students worked alongside Rutherford College students who are completing the tertiary component of the Mahi-a-Toi academy. The whakaaro behind this was to allow the students to express their Te Ao Māori concepts through the Arts.

Our junior students started the year learning about 'Safe Food Handling Practices' and extending their cooking skills. They began to create a recipe book using recipes from their practical cooking lessons. Here at the provision we also held our very own Masterchef competition.

This year we were very proud to have two of our students enter the KGC Talent Quest, dance and drums. It was exciting to learn that both of them were selected for the finals. However, due to COVID we were unable to complete this competition.

The year 2021 has been very different (spending a proportion of our time in lockdown). It has been a year that has taught us to be resilient, the importance of gratitude, and appreciating the time we have with the people that surround us. We are proud of how our students have engaged with so many activities and represented our school in different ways. They certainly have made us proud to have worked alongside them.



## How was 2021 at Ormiston Junior College (OJC) Provision?

Read on to find out what the OJC Deaf ākonga have been up to in 2021...

We'll start with MAC (Mentor, Advisor, Coach) time that involves KĀINGA. Learners belong to a MAC group within a KĀINGA. See photo's where pārekareka and many laughs were

had in KĀINGA group challenges throughout 2021.

MAC Day Out was GREAT FUN! Learners got to connect with others. Term 1 a whole school trip was spent walking along the coast of Maraetai...lovely weather!!!

In Term 2, Whānau-Ora (WO) - otherwise known as 'PE' - saw the whole school enjoy a 'Whānau-Ora Day Out' at Pullman's Park. Netball, Turbo Tag, Volleyball, and Gymnastics were great opportunities for our Learners to be active, develop skills and build relationships with their Mainstream Mates.

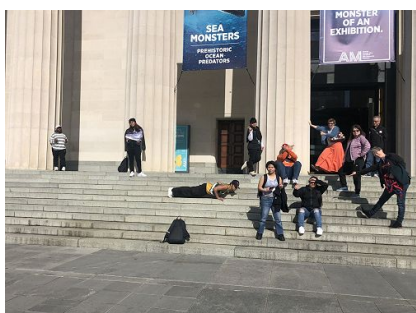
NZSL Week – ka mau te wehi!!! to our OJC Learners! They created videos for each day of the week where Mainstream MAC's watched and learned basic Signs. Ka pai Mainstream ākongā for using the Signs they learnt in the morning to communicate with Deaf ākongā.

### **Who wants a Badge?**

OJC Learners have the opportunity every Term to collect evidence of their work and make a bid for a digital OJC Badge. Their evidence is compiled into a digital Learning Journey. As our Turi Learners Present their Learning Journey and bid for Badges, Staff are blown away by the māia we see develop in each Deaf ākongā. KA PAI!!!

Distance Learning Term 3 to Term 4 WOW!!! Learners showed AMAZING RESILIENCE!!! Great attendance to Zoom workshops and focused minds was a cause for much celebration at the end of these Terms. We end now with giving hōnora to our Year 10 Turi Learners moving on to Senior College. Angelena, Lui, Jona, and Hayden – like a flower that blooms in the Spring – Poipoia te kākano kia puawai, you each have brightened up OJC. From OJC to you “Haere tu atu, hoki tu mai”.

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## **A year full of loose change**

All our students enjoyed successfully trying new subjects this year.

### **Ormiston Senior College**

We farewelled Mary Courtney at the end of Term 1. Mary has given many years of service to deaf education.

We welcomed a new teacher to our provision in Term 2.

The students pursued their passions. The subjects they selected are interesting and varied.

We all enjoyed getting to improve our use of digital technologies through 2 very different lockdowns! We have become fluent in Zoom, Google Meets, Kahoot, Screen Shares, etc.

Students developed their leadership skills by leading our LA times. LA= Learning Advisor times. Another highlight was Janet organising guest speakers from the deaf community in term 3. These speakers visited our school. One guest per week. This was substantial organising, very generous, and opened the students minds. We learned how to access WINZ supplements, what the Deaf Association offers, how to overcome difficulties in their life. We also had disability services representatives visit from the University of Auckland. We really appreciated the time given to us by these role models from the deaf community.

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## **Competencies are Key**

The five New Zealand Curriculum Key Competencies feature in our local curriculum at Oteha Valley Provision.

Key competencies are the capabilities that students have and need to develop, live, and learn today and in the future. The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five competencies: Thinking, Relating To Others, Using Language, Symbols and Texts, Managing Self, Participating, and Contributing.

2021 has been a year that has presented us with challenging contexts for learning. In a mix of online and face-to-face learning, our Oteha Valley Provision students have shown resilience and flexibility. We are ready, willing, and able to

learn. Our photos show Alphonso, Blaze, Kaya, and Susan developing their key competencies as they learn, communicate and collaborate together.

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## Robots, Matariki and More!

The Ormiston Primary School provision has had a busy year with a lot of learning and fun!

We started the year off by learning how to code with robots. The senior learners created patterns of movements that the little robots followed. We had to be careful the robots didn't crash into each other!

We celebrated Matariki later in the year, the junior class learned about harvesting food from the ground and made our

own recipe for vegetable soup. We then made soup and bread and shared it with the senior learners. It was delicious!

We were excited to welcome new entrance students Penelope and Zaheen from pre-school and Ida in Year 5. The junior class also had a big change in the middle of the year and merged with an Ormiston Primary new entrance class. The Ko Taku Reo students have taken pride in teaching their new peers NZSL.

We have been immersed in sports this year. We were lucky enough to have P.E lessons provided by Counties Manukau Sports. The learners had a lot of fun and gained movement and ball skills. Thank you Counties Manukau Sports! We had swimming lessons at Otara pools and all the students gained confidence in the pool. We celebrated the Olympics games with Ormiston Primary and had an Olympics medal ceremony, cross country and team challenges.

Then lockdown happened! Our learners were ready to start Zoom lessons and showing off their work on seesaw once again. We had weekly Thursday "zuis" with the wider Auckland provisions. It has been great seeing different faces, sharing news, having conversations and playing Kahoot.

Our Year 6 learner Jean-Baptiste is moving on to Ormiston Junior College next year. Jean-Baptiste is a generous, caring and kind learner. He looks out for his friends and always enters the classroom with a big smile. We wish you all the best Jean-Baptiste!



## Linden Bilingual Primary Provision

Wow! What an amazing year of learning and fun at the Linden Bilingual Primary Provision!

The Linden Bilingual Primary Provision opened this year at Linden Primary School in Tawa, Wellington. We have had such a fun-filled year with discos, tree planting, science experiments, plenty of art and crafts, and lots and lots of learning. We use technology in the classroom to help our learning and even managed to stay connected through the

lockdown. We are already looking forward to 2022 and the new challenges that await us!



## Learning and Connecting at the Hillmorton Provision

2021 has been a jam packed year at the Hillmorton Provision. Here is snapshot of all the exciting learning and connecting we have done this year!

2021 started with much excitement for all at the Hillmorton provision as we were extremely lucky to have two brand new learning spaces. Staff and students alike have loved having more space to work, learn and connect.

At Hillmorton, our students have taken part in a wide range of exciting subjects from English and maths, right through to robotics, culinary arts, textiles and woodwork. Senior students also had some great opportunities to visit tertiary providers and explore options for their future. Across the board students have thrived this year, overcoming challenges to succeed with their learning and achieve



goals!

Outside the classroom, students took part in some awesome events like Athletics Day, Swimming sports, Year 9 Big Day Out and the Halberg Top Team event. During all these events, students loved getting involved and cheering on their classmates from the side-lines. Students dressed up in their best red gear to support Mahuika firehouse!

In terms 2 and 3, some students in our provision were very fortunate to have the opportunity to form a Ko Taku Reo basketball team and compete against other teams for glory on the courts. Every Friday night, students would gear up and give it their all. Win or lose, the team loved every moment, especially the opportunity to connect and meet with other students from schools across Christchurch.

Another highlight was our year 9 camping trip to Orton Bradley Park at the start of this year. Students were tested to step outside their comfort zones and take part in some awesome challenges where they connected with other year 9 students at our partner school.

Overall, 2021 has been a great year full of learning successes at Hillmorton. Bring on 2022!

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## A fresh start at Hagley Provision

Rivvohntay came to Ko Taku Reo, Christchurch in term 2 this year. She is enjoying being a boarder at Sumner and making the most of her time at Hagley, gaining credits and making new friends.

I enjoy coming to Hagley to support people at the gym. In Art classes, I have been working hard on my paintings and I hope to achieve NCEA Level 1 Art. I have been painting a traditional Maori story of Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

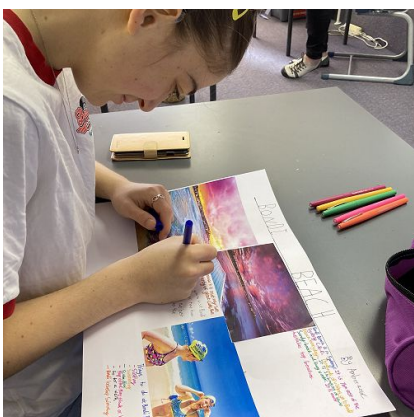
In English Learning Languages class I have been making friends and they have been supporting me if I hurt myself.

They are very nice and friendly.

During terms 2 and 3, my English class has been to different places around Christchurch. I have not been to places around Christchurch and I am enjoying them. Sometimes we go and buy things.

I like the staff at Hagley Provision because they make sure I understand what is going on.

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## Year at Ko Taku Reo

Amber-Rose has come from Mairehau High School and this year is her first year being at Ko Taku Reo. Amber-Rose has been attending both mainstream and homeroom classes.

This year, I started at Ko Taku Reo as a day student based at Hagley College. At the start of the year, I didn't know much NZSL because I wasn't involved with Ko Taku Reo and I only knew the basic signs like the alphabet. Now since I started at Ko Taku Reo, my signing has improved, and I have a better understanding in signing now.

It's been such a great year at Hagley and Ko Taku Reo. I love all my teachers and teacher aides who have been helpful to me this year. I've met a lot of new people and some amazing friends.

Thursday morning is my favourite part of the week because I have hospitality and I enjoy cooking a variety of foods and teasing another staff, Al.

Hopefully, I will keep on learning sign language for the rest of my life. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and a happy holiday.

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## What an unusual year!

Thomas has expressed some of the many challenges he has experienced throughout 2021.

Hello, everyone

It's my pleasure to introduce myself, I am Thomas, this year has been a roller coaster ride with a lot of things happening such as I broke my thumb, had surgery, Henry passing, and lockdown.

Before school started I went on camp with the other leadership. On this camp, I learnt about Leadership Skills. We went to Hamner Springs for 4 days. I learnt a lot and have developed my skills with other classes at Hagley.

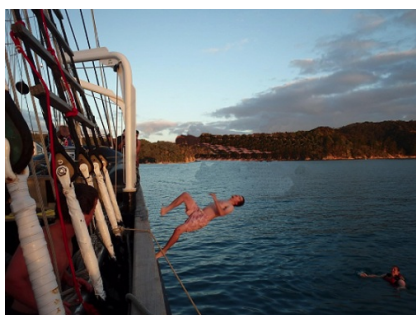
So far, I've enjoyed going to Ara doing the Cookery Level 3 course. This is dual enrollment.

At the beginning of the year, I went to Auckland to join the Spirit of Adventure voyage for 5 days on a ship. We were learning how to put up the different kinds of sails. Our 'housework' was to tidy up the ropes. It was a useful year for me, with many accomplishments and learning from my mistakes.

Thanks,

Thomas

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## What a messy year

Ryan shared his journey of the year. He started with a positive journey at the start of the year and then things did not go well for him. He did not give up.

2021 it started smoothly by going to Hagley three days a week and two days a week at Ara. My course at Ara is called Introduction to construction. I have been learning about joinery, paving, wallpapering, painting, and learning how to use the water blaster. I have chosen my pathway for 2022 to

do Level 3 Joinery.

At the beginning of the year, in week 2 I flew to Auckland to do the Spirit of Adventure. I got to see other deaf people on the boat. I really enjoyed doing a lot of things on the boat. Every morning we had to get up very early in the morning to jump off the boat. I did backflips and the water was warm. I would love to return to become a buddy and work on the ship.

At the end of term 2, I went downhill with personal situations. I was off school for 15 weeks. I was at home in Invercargill and I carried on working online with Ara. Joni was supporting me with my Ara work.

While I was at home for 15 weeks I felt bored. I enjoyed hanging out with my dog, Cooper. Now that I am back at school, my dog is sulking. He is missing me.

This year, I have completed most of my Ara work. I have completed a wallpapering course which I enjoyed. I am booked in for a joinery course for next year that will be three days a week. This will possibly include some work experience.

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## Wharenui Provision we learned that **CHANGE** happens and it is **POSITIVE**.

This year has for us and many, been a year of 'CHANGE'. Changing how we think, how we act, how we do our learning and connect with our friends and how people move on and how we look at this change in a positive and encouraging way.

### Olympic Games

We learned about the 1st Olympic Games and where they were held and also learned about the Paralympic Games. As they were being held in Japan we learnt a little about Japanese

culture, language, and foods – not as much as we had wanted because of lockdown. We also learnt about many amazing New Zealand Olympians and what they have achieved through trying their best and pushing through adversity.

### Zoom Lockdown

We did our learning for 3 weeks on the computer via zoom. We did reading, writing, maths, science, and art. Who would have thought we could cover all these different learning areas.

Watch the students sign singing the song 'We are One.

### Cultures

We celebrated Matariki with all our Ko Taku Reo family. This was via zoom and we connected with all our schools in Christchurch out at Sumner. We then linked in with the rest of Ko Taku Reo via zoom. It was so much fun. We did a lot of singing and crafts linking to Matariki – Maori New Year.

### Supports

We took a stand and said “No to Bullies” and wore pink to show our support on Bully Free Day. We celebrated different cultures -Samoa, Filipino, Te Reo Maori, and our very own NZSL week - through appreciating and acknowledging the language and values. We showed empathy and support for Yellow Cancer Day by wearing yellow clothing and donating to the cause.

### Celebrating

We also celebrated two new babies to Ko Taku Reo's family. Ruth – Teacher Wharenui Provision had a little boy Seth, and Lauren TAoD – Wharenui Provision had a little girl named Isla. They are both so beautiful and we love when they come to visit us at Wharenui.



## Massey High Building Trade Academy

Adam Baillie and Mohi King-Whakaue attended Massey High this year and completed The building Trade Academy Level 3.

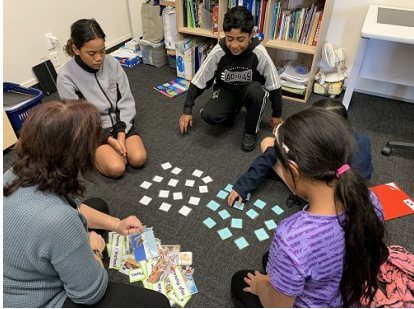
They attend Massey High full time all year with their building Tutor, Teacher Aide Michelle Keenan and their interpreter. The students learn how to build a three-bedroom house while gaining credits towards NCEA level 3, as well as gaining

Building Constructions and Allied Trades certificate.

As part of their training, Adam and Mohi also completed work experience twice a week for Term 3 and 4. Even with the COVID restrictions, this has not stopped Adam from continuing with his work experience through the school holidays and Level 3 in Auckland. Both students have also completed and achieved their Forklift Licence early this year.

Congratulations to Adam. With his hard work, great attitude, and willingness to learn he is on his way to gaining an apprenticeship next year. We wish you every success in your new endeavors!

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## Bay of Plenty Central Highlights of 2021

What a year 2021 has been! We have been fortunate to have held several fun educational outings to benefit our students in the Bay of Plenty Central area.

Kia ora katoa

In Term 1, the Bay of Plenty teams attended the annual Lake Rotoma KIT Day where the Deaf and hard of hearing students had fun socialising and developing their skills in kayaking and using the stand-up paddle boards. It was evident that this outing supported their physical, social and emotional development and well-being.

An awesome learning experience was enjoyed by all at the Hamilton Zoo. The language and vocabulary around animals were made relevant through the sensory experiences of getting up close and personal with animals. The language and vocabulary around animals were followed up at the Language Day in Term 2.

In Term 3, the Bay of Plenty Central Team had students investigating volcanoes and related concepts with the goals of stirring curiosity, promoting positive behaviour and improving their matauranga and vocabulary. Fifteen Deaf and hard of hearing students from Rotorua, Reporoa and Taupō visited Wairakei Primary School for the Language Day - a follow-on activity from the Duck boat Tour of Lake Tarawera. The Language Day was made more enjoyable with local stories and hands-on activities provided by Matua Benoir and Whaea Anne-Marie.

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## The day I got STUCK

Things to do at school.

I love climbing trees but last week I got stuck in a tree at school. My teacher had to get me out. But I'm not scared. I climb trees every day.

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## My Sister - Jack

Jack was born in Hastings and now lives in Nuhaka. She has two puppies, their names are Joda and the little one is named Patch. Jack plays netball and basketball. Her birthday is on 24 June.

### Appearance

Jack has black, brown and straight hair. She has brown eyes and is medium height. She is 21 years old and she likes to dye her hair. She puts her hair up into a bun and likes to wear t-shirts, shorts and jandals.

### Why is Jack special to me?

Jacks loves her Maori language and Kapahaka. She gives me presents. She is very nice, kind and funny. She supports my whanau. She likes to do Tiktok and copies the Tiktok dances.



## Bright Sparks in the Waikato

Getting to visit the Museum was such a fun day for our outreach students.

On Friday 13th August we held a KIT Day at the Waikato Museum. The day was spent exploring Bright Sparks, where we learned about Bridge building and got to create our own massive structures from foam. Some of the teachers enjoyed this more than the students!

Next, we headed into the Excite exhibit where we created a grain factory, changed magnetic fields, and challenged our friends to a game of Mario Karts.

We stopped for lunch and were lucky enough to have pizza gifted to us from Diana at Red Bricks Real Estate. There was so much pizza that the students and the staff had a very full puku.

We then played some games getting to know our new friends. It was hilarious watching some of the students pretend to be animals and try and guess what they were.

For the remainder of the afternoon, we got to explore the rest of the beautiful museum. We had an Eye Spy Challenge and we needed to find a list of exciting things that are in our beautiful local museum. When we completed the challenge, we got a certificate and a beautiful badge.

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## All Creatures Great and Small

A visit to the Hamilton zoo for the Waikato Outreach students was a true highlight this year!

On Wednesday 17th March the Waikato RTD's and outreach students visited the Hamilton Zoo. It was a fun day with stunning weather and it was fantastic to be able to see the new chimp enclosure. We were also lucky enough to meet up with some of our friends from the Bay of Plenty who had a KIT day at the Zoo on the very same day! How great it was to reaffirm these connections. Some of the highlights include the meerkat talk, seeing the lemurs up close and the mighty rhinos stomping around. The day was topped off by enjoying an ice block, some of us ended up being lucky enough to have two

ice blocks! It was a fun day and we can't wait to go back next year.

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## Wonderful Waikato

What has been happening in the Waikato Outreach Team?

The Waikato Outreach team is based in Hamilton but we travel far and wide to visit our wonderful ākonga. From Taumarunui to Te Kauwhata! From Raglan to Tokoroa! We will always travel to see the happy smiles of our students.

This year we have been lucky enough to have enjoyed two successful KIT days - read about them in our other articles. What should we do next year? Let your RTD know some ideas that you might have. It is so fun to get to connect with our friends.

We have welcomed several new RTDs to the Waikato team this year: Te Aroha Carnachan, Anne Rodden, Nikki Whitehead, and Kathryn Metcalfe (who we stole from Auckland!) We also welcomed Eileen Raynel-Haine back to the RTD team.

There has been some fabulous teaching and learning happening as seen in the photos. We are looking forward to more exciting times in 2022!





## Be a Changemaker!

Taranaki Team - Eden, Brianna, Riley, Noah, Mia, Benji, Tom, Thomas, Mackenzie, Kordy, Sadie, Honey, and Aayan are changemakers for the future!

Truckloads of mixed recycling are emptied at the New Plymouth recycling processing facility every day. We watched the recycling getting sorted on a machine - paper from plastics and tins from aluminum cans. We must keep our paper and cardboard flat, take lids off bottles and containers, and only

one, two, or five of our plastics can be recycled. We practiced sorting some recycled items and learned that recycling has to be bigger than the palm of your hand to go through the machine properly! After visiting the recycling centre we went back to the office and we reused materials to make our own creative changemakers art.



## Fun at the Maritime Museum Auckland! North Shore Outreach Team KIT Day

Developing friendships and new learning experiences. We love KIT days!

Boy, Auckland really did turn on the weather for our KIT Day!!!

Towards the end of Term 1, the North Shore Outreach team and the Oteha Valley Provision were lucky enough to spend our KIT day at the Maritime Museum, Auckland. Have you ever been there? If not, you should!

On this day we set sail for an hour-long cruise on Auckland's harbour. We traveled on the heritage scow, TED ASHBY. For some of us, this was our first time sailing. Onboard, we learned how to hoist the sails and worked in teams to do so. We kept our eyes peeled for fish as we splashed through the waves. We were hoping to see a clean ocean beneath us.

When back on the shore, we lay on our tummies and observed the different sea life that lives under the museum. We were shown the different types of rubbish that can be found in our oceans. There are so many different sea animals in our harbour and we want to help protect them.

This was an action-packed morning, but the excitement didn't end there. We also witnessed the cannon being fired. It made such a loud BANG! We counted down from ten and shouted, "Fire!"

As America's Cup had just ended, this was a very timely trip. Before leaving for the day we had free time to explore the museum and read all about Sir Peter Blake. He was a famous New Zealand yachtsman. This KIT day had been a long time coming with all the lockdown disruptions in Auckland. We were so grateful to see our friends again and to learn the importance of keeping our oceans clean.



## Talking about our past to build a better future - March 25th, 2021

Understanding the relevance of the three founding documents, He Whakaputanga/Declaration of independence, Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ToW, Women's Suffrage Petition, to the citizens of Aotearoa NZ today.

We had been planning this day since the end of 2019. Lockdowns in 2020 postponed it, but finally, six students and their outreach teachers finally made it to the He Tohu

exhibition at the Parnell National Library.

When we arrived, we were greeted warmly with hot drinks and comfy couches to wait on. Well, most of us waited on the couches - there was a lively Tik Tok corner too!

Finally - time for the presentation. We were led to the He Tohu exhibition area and sat down on seats with tables to lean on and take notes. When the blinds were opened on the far wall - we could even see the building where the original treaty document was stored (and saved from fire) while it was in Auckland.

The next two and a quarter hours were riveting. We traveled through time as the presenter used a PowerPoint, and narration to present us with a historical narrative that began when British sailors first arrived, right up to the occupation of Bastion Point. There were opportunities to role play actual historical events with costumes and props, and many opportunities for lively discussions.

Finally, it was time to say goodbye to the Library and its amazing staff and to leave for lunch at Bastion point. There, at this historic landmark, new friendships continued to blossom and old friends continued to chat and catch up. It was a remarkable day, and we were all sad to see it end.

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## Wellington Outreach Team

Read all about the Wellington KIT days and the successes of some of our students.

This year the Wellington students have enjoyed two KIT days. The first one in Term 1, was a fun day at Avalon Park, doing rock painting, treasure hunting, and building relationships with

each other. After it was postponed a few times, everyone was happy to finally get together.

In Term 2 we had a Make and Create Day at the Wellington Office. The students got to experience slime making and bubble making. They also made some amazing box construction creations and paper planes.

Madison Kiri is a Year 7 student in Naenae and she has been having some amazing success with her writing this year. She has produced an excellent piece of writing about the Skypath, using a picture prompt and letting her creativity run wild. Madison has been working hard on adding descriptive language to her writing and was really proud of this story.

Olivia Clark, who is based in Masterton, has attended van Ash and Ko Taku Reo since she was a pre-schooler. This year we will be saying goodbye to her, as she is completing Level 3 NCEA. She has excelled in many sporting areas and just last year she played Cricket for seven teams, in particular, the Maori Secondary School Girls' team and Central Districts under 19s. Olivia also plays football for her school's First 11, as well as competing in the North Island secondary school athletics competition in Javelin. Olivia hopes to start a Building Apprenticeship next year. We wish her the best of luck for 2022!

Lockdown proved a challenge for us this year, but we made the most of it by setting some challenges for our students. We had a fort building challenge, where students sent photos and wrote descriptions about the forts they had built.

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## Southland NZSL Immersion Hub

One of the most exciting endeavors in Southland for 2021 was the development of our Southland NZSL immersion hub. Creating a hub was something that we in Southland had been hoping and planning for many years. Through the support of the Ministry of Education and Ko Taku Reo we have been able to make it a reality.

It has been exciting to have the opportunity to be part of something special and to see it develop strength to strength.

We have 18 children from around Southland attend our hub on Wednesdays at Wallacetown Primary School. We aim to provide a safe learning space that supports the educational goals of our learners



while providing an environment that nurtures their culture and identity. We are a bilingual learning space where learners are immersed in NZSL and provided with authentic learning opportunities to develop NZSL.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to engage in a variety of learning experiences. These learning experiences are focused on the development of literacy and language. We also provide our learners with experiences for 'what's on top', this supports their understanding of events happening around the world.

A huge thank you to Wallacetown Primary School who have welcomed us into their learning community and also to our learners and their families who have embraced this exciting new venture.

We are excited to continue our hub for 2022 to create some more memorable experiences for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners.



## Building Connections Central Auckland Style

One of the key focuses for the Central Auckland RTD team this year, following on from 2020 and all the disruptions was on making connections.

This started off with a joint KIT Day with the West team, holding an NZSL fun day with a "Bear Hunt" theme. After watching the NZSL Bear Hunt video and practicing the signs and movements. We created our own Bear Hunt course and performance, using resources provided, e.g. cardboard tubes, blankets, sheets, etc. The performance was enjoyed by the Ko Taku Reo Preschool at Archibald Road. The students throughout the KIT Day enjoyed meeting up with their friends, making connections and learning new things.

Another time, some students went to the Pumphouse Theatre to watch a performance of Vivaldi's 4 Seasons Instrumental, accompanied by dancing and acting. They were able to meet the musicians and had the opportunity to touch and play the instruments. Everyone was enthralled during the performance which cleverly matched dance movements to the beat and tempo of the music.

During the Lockdowns, the team collectively set up Group Zoom sessions that appealed to both the younger and older students. The focus was on language, learning, critical thinking, social and emotional awareness, wellbeing, turn-taking and connection. The options included, beginner Te Reo Maori, listening games, how words work, mathematical challenges, Minecraft magic, NZSL games, NZSL storytelling, philosophy for children, singing, themed storytime, and Tongan Language Week. Students enjoyed meeting up regularly to learn and socialise together, to listen to the opinions and experiences of others and share their own ideas about diverse and fun topics. Over time the students learnt to take over more of the lead and conversations and the teachers stepped back. Going forward, the Central Auckland team hopes to find ways to continue building/fostering these connections between the students when they return to school and into the future.



## Telling Our Stories

Bringing all our learners together to tell their stories using traditional Maori symbols.

Our students came together for a fun art day. The focus/big idea was 'My Story through Traditional Maori Symbols'. The children learned the names and meanings of eight different traditional Maori symbols and then choose some to tell/draw their story on an A3 piece of paper. Using pastel and dyes, their drawing was completed and shared with a small group.

This activity is beneficial in fostering identity; the students saw the power of symbols and their facility in conveying meaning. They also witnessed their peers sharing their stories and saw how all people have different stories.



## Southland Team News

Wow, it has been a super busy and successful year for the Southland Team in 2021. We created a one day Southland NZSL Immersion Hub at Wallacetown School which has been very popular. A big thanks to Emma Clarke for taking the lead on this. We have been able to host some events to connect with our learners and whanau. Thrown back into lockdown, our team navigated innovative ways to engage with our students and worked well collaboratively to make things fun for our students. There were competitive streaks coming out

between Staff Members too which made for fun times.

Our fabulous team see students all over Southland, from Tapanui to Stewart Island so we have to be innovative with the ways we work with students when distance can be a challenge.

At the end of Term 2 we sadly farewelled Jill Meikle who had been our wonderful Lead Teacher. Fortunately, the very capable Helen Gibbs from our team stepped up to become our new Lead Teacher and is doing an amazing job of keeping us in line. A big thank you to Alice Woodcock who took on the role of Lead Teacher in the interim.

In Term 1 we welcomed our Whanau to an informal evening to meet and greet others. It was a great night to meet up with families and see past students.

We were lucky to be able to hold a KIT day in term 2 at Wallacetown school so all students could get to see our lovely Hub classroom. During this day we split into groups and did a rotation of activities to celebrate NZSL week, such as; making pizzas, icing biscuits and NZSL games.

Covid 19 has again created uncertainty with planning events but we have plenty of ideas for our future planning.

We would like to thank our wonderful students, our wonderful whanau and Ko Taku Reo for giving us all these opportunities to make learning better for our students.

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## Southland Lockdown Learning 2021

How did you find learning during lockdown? Check out what the southland students got up to during lockdown and the online learning fun we had.

Level 4!! oh no, time to start learning from home and time for whanau to take on the teacher hat AGAIN! Many were worried when the news broke but the Southland Resource Teachers didn't panic because we knew this wouldn't stop our students

from engaging and connecting from home.

During this time learning took on a new dimension with teachers finding their creative sides. There were many online learning activities to be had from scavenger hunts, Art lessons, Science lessons, Reading games and who could forget Kahoot challenges.

With the uncertainty of not knowing when we were going back to school, Zoom was a great way for everyone to stay connected. We all worked hard to try to keep some normality for our students and plan sessions together to make learning as fun as possible. It was awesome to see students picking up new hobbies and having the opportunity to share these with us. Keeping in touch was crucial for the Southland team as we value whanaungatanga and fostering relationships with our students and their whanau.

By Working collaboratively, the Southland team were able to connect students from different schools, and as you can see from the photos engage in some fun!

Nga mihi maioha to all our students and whanau who helped us get through this challenging time. "He waka eke noa" we are all in this together.

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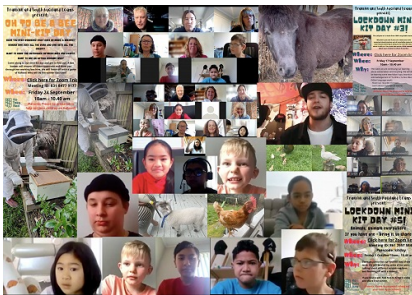
## Rawiri Wins Rakau Design!

Rawiri (age 8 from Hawkes Bay), had a competition at his school to design a cover for their 'kapa haka' rakau!

In term 4, Rawiri's school needed to make their boring magazine rakau way more exciting! The teachers decided to have a competition to design a cover for the rakau. The children all worked really hard, but, Rawiri's design was chosen as the winner!

He was so excited to find out that his design would be covering all of the rakau to use in his kapa haka group when they sing "E Papa Waiari"!

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## Franklin Zoomers - Looking at alternative ways to connect online!

In a year of uncertainty due to Covid, the Franklin team made connectivity a prime objective; ensuring there was time to get together, share learning experiences and build friendships.

We looked at a variety of topics to focus on with our online zoom meetings; Beekeeping, farmyard animals, pets, conservation and music among others. With each topic came a wealth of language (te Reo, NZSL, English) plus a focus on building previously established relationships as the zoomers began to recognise each other from previous sessions. We loved seeing the excitement on our learner's faces when they spotted a familiar face. Given the success of these remote meetings, we all agreed that we wanted to keep them going, whether we are in lockdown or back to school. Keeping in touch with each other is so important!

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## Chocolate Hail Sandwiches

Three Year 4 students learning how to make their own Dutch chocolate sandwich, with the focus on sharing their ideas about taste and about halves and quarters.

Starlette, Rhyleigh and Armaani were creating Dutch chocolate hail (sprinkles) sandwiches. We had to spread the butter on our piece of bread, then we could sprinkle the Dutch chocolate hail and the vlokken (grated chocolate) on our slice of bread. Next, we cut our slice in half and half again then we could eat it up. Starlette said, 'I like the hail the best'. Armaani said, 'we ate it and it was yum'. Rhyleigh said, 'the chocolate was so yummy and it was with bread, butter and chocolate'.

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## Why NZSL should be compulsory at school

Millie is very passionate about NZSL and would like it to be an optional subject if not a compulsory subject in all schools. Here is her speech.

Millie Read is a Year 10 student and had to write a persuasive piece of writing for her English class during Lockdown. Then the prescribed writing had to be used for a 5-minute speech to be presented in class. Millie's class and teachers have been very impressed with her speech that she has now performed it to over 11 different people or classes at her school. She even went to share it with the school principal. It is amazing to see the growth and confidence and passion in Millie's presentation.

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## KIT day at Pukemokimoki Marae

In April, this year we visited Pukemokimoki Marae. We learnt about the Marae, each other and how to communicate with our Deaf and hard of hearing friends. We had a go at weaving, playing with rakau sticks, and making Manu iti. We played games and enjoyed our lunchtime together. We also learnt about Ko Taku Reo and some deaf history.

### Korowai

We made feathers that represented ourselves and put these all together to make a korowai

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## Being a School Leader

Hi, my name is Jannah I go to Ebbett Park School. I am 11 years old and I am in year 6. I am a house captain and a school leader. I have a communicator that helps me understand things.

As a school leader, we have to help the teachers and set up assembly. As a house caption, we help the principal make sure the kids are doing the right thing at assembly.

I am a road patroller my job is to keep the kids safe while they are crossing the road. My favourite things to do are karate,

gymnastics, going to the gym and Cook Island dancing.

At school, I like to play with my friends and classmates. I play Ki-O-Rahi and I was chosen for the school team.

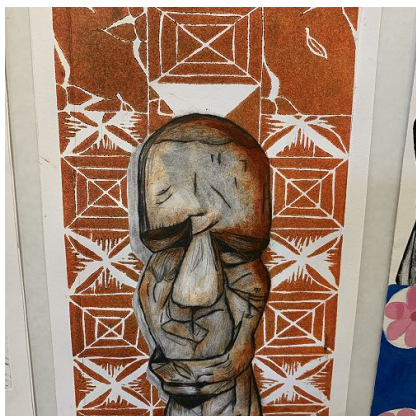
Every Friday we have Deaf Hub with kids from other schools. We do lots of fun things like signing, learning about new things, stories and talking about being deaf. When Covid started we had our Deaf Hub on zoom.

I have one real sister and three step-siblings. My mum is deaf too.

Next year, I will be going to Hastings Intermediate. I cannot wait to meet new teachers and new friends.

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## My Art Board

### Maloleilei

Hi, my name is Molini Pailate, I am at year 11 at Hastings Girls High School. This year I've been working so hard to finish all my work. At the moment I've been working on my painting every day after school to finish it because it is worth 12 credits and I need it for my NCEA level. I enjoy art because art is my favourite hobby to do and I hope that I'm going to get it finished! Molini Pailate

The Hawke's Bay Ko Taku Reo team, know that Molini will finish her artboard. She is very motivated, diligent and focused on achieving her goals. Her school team are also very proud of Molini and they recognise the effort Molini goes to complete her work and focus on her goals.

### NEWSFLASH...

The FINAL Product!



## Tweet, tweet... chirp, chirp... sqwark, sqwark!

Northland Teams visit 'The Parrot Place', Kerikeri, Term 1!

Knock, knock. Who's there? A parrot A parrot who? 'A parrot-ly' some birds can talk!

On the 14th of April, Whangarei and Mid Far North learners met at The Parrot Place in Kerikeri for a combined KIT Day.

Standing outside of the cages, we could hear the loud raucous calls of what was awaiting us and see the trepidation expressed on the faces of our learners. On entering, everyone was handed a small metal bowl, containing bird food. Initially, most of our learners were apprehensive to step forward and feed the birds. Slowly their confidence increased as we wandered freely into the cages. We were able to hand feed a variety of bird species, and the brave even allowed birds to use them as perching posts! Within such a short amount of time, the RTDs (Resource Teachers of the Deaf) were in awe of the growing confidence of our learners!



## Hear ye - Oyez... Oyez... Oyez, Language Days held at Moerewa School!

Whangarei and Mid & Far North learners travelled to Moerewa School to join up for Northland Language Days!

2021 has been disruptive but also an exciting and busy year. Our learners were engaged in a wide range of language day themes and activities. In Term 1 we focused on native birds and bees, (the native bird focus led us nicely to our KIT Day visit at The Parrot Place), producing information booklets, 3D birds and bees labelling their body parts, bird feeders, native bird cookies, NZSL story telling - Te Waka Waka and weaving

flax Piwakawaka.

We also looked at physical & chemical changes in solids and liquids. We encouraged learners to use 'future tense' when describing their predictions and to record these down on their science experiment sheets. After writing this down they carried out experiments to confirm or disprove their predictions.



Learners also had an opportunity to develop their financial literacy. We studied New Zealand Currency and practiced buying and selling items which prepared our learners for their Market KIT Day.

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## Amazing prices to be had at the Northland KIT Day market!

Market themed KIT Day, at Whangarei Sensory Centre, goes viral!

At the end of Term 2, Northland learners travelled to the new Sensory Centre Offices based at Tikipunga High School, for a market themed KIT Day. Learners were divided into five groups and spent the morning designing and creating products to be sold in the afternoon, at their market stalls.

A group of senior learners worked with Floyd & Lyn to design and make smoothies. Learners needed to choose at least four different fruits and nuts. These were blended with yoghurt & milk; some learners even topped their smoothie off with whipped cream! Yum!

In the kitchen area, Alana, Rebecca, some parents, and teacher aides helped learners to decorate a variety of different shaped biscuits with icing and sprinkles. These were beautifully packaged along with chocolate balls in cellophane and sparkly ribbon.

A group worked with Claire and Nadine in the lecture room, to design and create jewellery. A variety of different coloured, shaped beads was carefully selected and threaded onto the elastic cord to make necklaces & bracelets.

'Star Struck' was the name of Jan and Michelle's market stall, this is where learners weaved and created Matariki stars and decorated recycled plastic milk bottles into fabulous lanterns. Using cardboard and ice block sticks as the base, learners selected different coloured wool to create eye-catching stars!

Another group worked with Penny to make lavender bags. With Penny's expertise, they practiced sewing techniques and used their fine motor skills to make gorgeous little bags, filled with lavender and rosemary!

In the afternoon, to reinforce our financial literacy focus, learners were given time to spend ten dollars on the items that were made during the day and experience the 'giving and receiving of money.'

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## Celebrating Bay of Plenty (BOP) East Learners

Showing diversity amongst our Learners

Once again BOP East enjoyed the wonderful KIT day at Lake Rotoma, using the Standup Paddleboards and kayaks. Many thanks to Brigitte Hoskins for organizing the day and to Sophie, her EOTC trained teacher daughter, for giving up a day to be our expert on hand.

All our students have embraced their mainstream schooling opportunities and have taken responsibility for their own learning. They have participated in school speech competitions, art competitions, sport, school productions, and camps. Reluctant learners have become engaged learners. Some senior students have already passed NCEA L1 and L2 prior to their exams.

Other highlights are Riki learning the guitar, Jordan and Prabvir getting places in the digital learning class at Tauranga Intermediate, and Cleo and Ryder being trillions of times happier in their school environment.

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## Student Achievements October 2021

### Well Done Gracie!

"So proud of our girl Gracie, awarded Most Valued Player (MVP) for Rugby this year 2021. Gracie scored a massive 25% of all tries this year, a total of 44 for the season", said mum, Jendi Chin.

(Gracie Chin, Year 3, Elmwood Normal School)

Huge Effort!

**WOW, pure dedication and passion!**

Daniel Lin, has studied piano for three years, from the simplest notes to now when he is able to play beautiful music. He made a lot of effort and was very determined sometimes ending in tears, said his mum Coco Cao.

(Daniel Lin, Year 3, Elmwood Normal School)

Your Whanau are so proud of you!

### Super Effort Kimerah!

Kimerah, has been working incredibly hard, practising all her new and existing skills to achieve her Yellow Band in Karate.

(Kimerah John, Year 1, St Joseph's School)

A very proud Whanau!



## Junior Team Award

Louie Chin, Year 2, Elmwood Normal School. Your whanau are super proud of your dedication and achievements this year. Louie you have had an amazing season of ripper rugby, fair to say it's your passion! Your team got rewarded over all best Junior team 2021.

Huge congratulations.



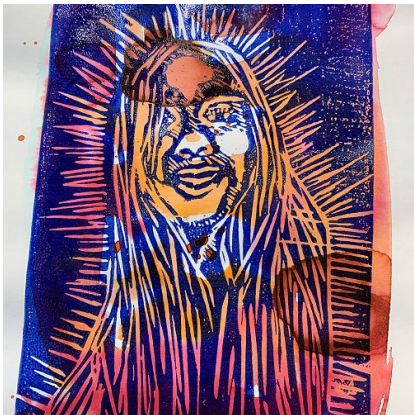
## Christchurch Term 1 KIT Day - Orienteering at Victoria Park

During term one of this year the Christchurch students, teachers, and whānau had a very fun outing to Victoria Park for our Kit day.

The activity for the day was orienteering where we worked in teams to locate the controls on our map. However, to begin the day the children enjoyed playing on the playground together. There was lots of fun equipment to explore, such as the big slide. The steep steps didn't bother them at all as they bravely went up them and down the slide. The children also enjoyed catching up with their friends and having morning tea together.

After a play on the playground and with full tummies to give us energy, we then moved into our teams for the day. Each team was handed a map with different controls (markers) that we needed to find. Then we read our map together to decide the best way to complete the course. Once the team had formed a plan we set off to locate the different markers. This was not an easy task, as the terrain of the course was always changing. We had to go up and down steep hills and climb over branches and rocks, as we looked for the controls. The students were clearly up for the challenge, remaining focused on discovering the different markers. The older students also took a leadership role supporting and guiding the younger students around the course. The activity was a great way to promote problem-solving skills and knowledge of mathematical concepts, such as numbers, measurement, and coordinates. All the teams managed to locate several of the markers successfully and were clearly proud of their efforts.

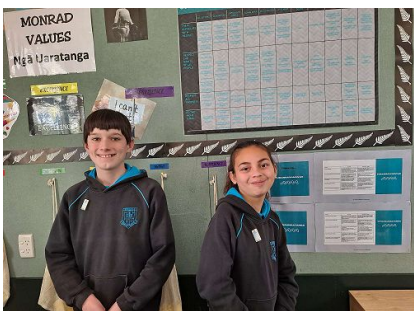
We finished the day by having lunch together, as the children were clearly hungry and tired after finishing the course. The day had been a great success, with lots of fun and laughter and many friendships made. Ka pai tō mahi tamariki mā! (good work children!).



## Self Portrait

Favourite Subject Art

Hi, I'm Yr 10 at Whakatane High and really enjoying Art at school this year. I chose a self-portrait for my woodcut print. I'm very happy with the results and colour contrasts.



## Student Highlights from Manawatu in 2021

What a year we have had here in the Manawatu region. Our students have enjoyed many successes at their schools, kuras and Early Childhood centres.

Our year began with a fantastic KIT Day held at the Esplanade in Palmerston North. It was great to have our learners from Manawatu, Taranaki, Whanganui and the Horowhenua regions come together and catch up with their friends. We also

enjoyed coming together in Term 2 for a fantastic Arts focused KIT Day in Whanganui where we learnt about the art works and paintings around the town as well as developed our creative skills at the

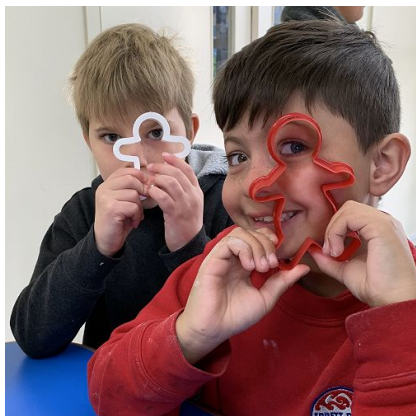


Sarjeant Art Gallery. Because our students come from all around the Central North Island, KIT Days are always a great opportunity to connect with deaf or hard of hearing learners and make new friends.

Our students in the Manawatu region have enjoyed many successes in their mainstream schools and kindergartens during 2021. This has included sporting achievements, values awards, academic success in gaining NCEA credits and learning new skills as they begin their learning journey in Early Childhood.

Enjoy the highlights from some of our students and their achievements in 2021 here in the Manawatu area.

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## Hawke's Bay NZSL Deaf Hub 2021

Hawke's Bay NZSL Deaf Hub is a group of 10 students aged between 7 and 15 who meet once a week at Ebbett Park School.

We come together to learn more about ourselves as deaf learners. Continuing to upskill in NZSL and participate in themed activities throughout each term such as learning about our New Zealand Native Birds and being able to create the bird using play-dough. Sharing with the group facts learnt about their chosen bird and having this video recorded to share with whanau. The retelling of the Gingerbread Man story both individually and in small groups, having fun mixing,

baking and icing our gingerbread men. Using NZSL hand shapes and bodies in imaginative ways to show 'It's Not A Stick' with a stick, from the book with the same title.

During Lockdown and for the rest of the term we met on zoom from our various homes or schools. We also have Nash who is 5.5 hours travel away from us, who enjoys catching up with his friends on zoom during our meetings and when we are all online.

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## Wellington NZSL Immersion Hub 2021

We have had a fantastic year in the Wellington NZSL Immersion Hub. We love getting together to learn and play.

Every Tuesday students from the Wellington region gather at the Linden Primary Provision classrooms for a day of learning immersed in NZSL.

This year we have made our own coat of arms, learnt about different sign languages from around the world, measured playdough worms, read plenty of books, created our own dance, and, of course, played lots of games. We love our Tuesdays together!

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## Christchurch NZSL Hub

Every Thursday, students aged 5 years to 12 years come together at the Christchurch NZSL Hub based at Redwood School.

We have had a wonderful year of learning at the Christchurch NZSL hub. Deaf studies have been a big part of our programme. Some of the topics we have explored have been: Deaf Rugby - Max brought jerseys that his Dad has worn representing the NZ Deaf Blacks and Southern Zone and

shared photos of his Dad playing rugby. Many of our students were excited to see their whanau, fathers, uncles, and grandfathers had represented NZ and their Zone in Deaf Rugby. Go Southern Zone!!

Nurturing Hands - We found out about why the Nurturing Hands sculpture, in Sumner, is important to the Deaf community and learnt about Donald Gibson, a Deaf Blind sculptor who created the artwork.



Deaf Astronauts - During our Space and Matariki Topic we found out about 11 Deaf astronauts that helped with the testing of the first spaceships in America.

Deaf Role Models - we have learnt about Deaf Role models like DHH Olympians and Paralympians, Helen Keller, Thomas Edison, the Incredible Hulk- Lou Ferrigno, and of course our very own Ann Croy!

This year we have been lucky to be right next to the kitchen so we have had some yummy language experiences. We have found out where bread and butter come from and how it is made. We even made our own bread and butter. We have followed recipes to make brownies in a cup, pancakes, and pinwheel scones.

We have learned a lot about ourselves and our own identities, our emotions and feelings, and of course, our beautiful language – NZSL.

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## Deaflympics KIT Day South Canterbury

Students enjoyed the different sports for Deaflympics in Term 3.

South Canterbury students from Ashburton, Geraldine, Glenavy and Oamaru took part in our Deaflympics KIT Day. There were many sports for the students to play including badminton which was a new sport to many. The students also got to meet a Deaf Olympian, Gillian Ramsay, who has represented NZ in both the hearing and deaf world.

Students made the flag for their chosen country and completed the opening ceremony, the 'king' officially opened the games and the fun began. Students were in teams, supported and encouraged each other to take part and also had friendly competitions between themselves to win. At the end of the day, Gillian presented each team with a medal for their performance and expertise in their successful event.

All the students had a lot of fun and can't wait for the next one.

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## Run, Jump, Throw

The local school holds athletics day under a cloudless sky.

Claire Wang, Year 3 student at Hampstead school in Ashburton, shows us how to successfully throw a shot put and jump over the high jump at their recent Athletics day.

Claire competed in all events of track and field. When asked which was her favourite she replied "All of them."

What a great attitude!

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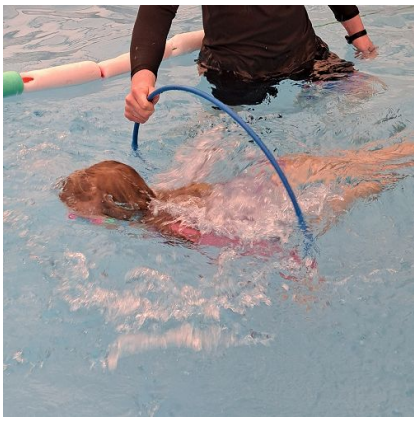
## Romy Takes on a Challenge

So many activities to choose between so Romy chose more than one.

Romy Hurst, Year 5 at Bluestone School Timaru. Romy enjoyed another year at school fully participating in a range of opportunities available to her. Some of these included being Class Councillor, learning to play the ukelele, and performing with the school Pasifika group.

Ka pai Romy!

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## Off for a swim

Students take to the pool to learn to swim.

In Term 4, Macey Smith (6y) from Woodbury School took part in swimming lessons at the school pool. She practised blowing her bubbles while swimming through a hoop, and mastered floating on her back!

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## Let's go swimming

Time for our daily swimming lesson to begin.

Phaegan Gordon-Patterson started school at Bluestone School, Timaru at the beginning of 2021.

Here he is participating in swimming lessons at the town pool with the junior school. He was so proud of himself for learning the new skill of floating on his back!

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## Let's go fishing!

A good catch. Mythias catches his first crab in front of a stunning backdrop at his kindy in Oamaru.

Mythias from Kindy in Oamaru joined our South Canterbury caseloads in Term 3 this year. Mythias can now use the fishing rod and hook to catch sea creatures in the pool.

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## Athletics Day at Lagmhor school was a success

A young student in Ashburton shows his athletic ability at local school athletics day.

Benji Sheehan participated in his school's athletics sports day in Term 4. His school, Lagmhor in Ashburton, were lucky to continue with their plans to hold their Athletics day due to level 2 restrictions. Other schools weren't so lucky.

Benji enjoyed all the sports and demonstrated his expertise in 4 events. He placed 2nd in the long jump, 2nd in the high jump, 2nd in discus and 3rd in sprints for his age group.

Congratulations Benji. You are a star!

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## Gaining confidence and starting school

A young Ashburton student takes big strides in her learning.

This year Stella Robinson has gone from strength to strength in her confidence. She drew a piano keyboard on her card and then shared it for her first-ever 'news' at Allenton Kindergarten in Ashburton. It takes courage to stand up in front of a group to speak and you did it so well, congratulations.

In Term 4 Stella started school at St Joseph's in Ashburton. She has made friends, enjoys playing on the monkey bars and already knows the classroom routines. Stella is well-liked by her classmates and has performed in her first school

production.

Nice work Stella.



## A year of new opportunities in Otago!

This year the Otago Team have offered new learning environments at the Beacon School and Playgroup and continued quality Hub and Outreach Services.

The Beacon School gets off the ground at Halfway Bush. Ko Taku Reo students learn and play alongside hearing peers with the support of a full-time Resource Teacher of the Deaf, Communication Education Support Workers, NZSL tutor and class soundfield systems. The whole school learn about sign language and Deaf Culture.

Jamieson Skinley listens and watches Poppy

Janelle talks to school using Roger Technology with Poppy Interpreting

Classroom Soundfield Systems at Halfway Bush

Gemma Ellis and Beca Harper have enjoyed setting up the new playgroup which takes place every Thursday from 9am until noon. We have a growing number of families attending who enjoying coming together each week for music and stories and a chance to connect.

Beca Harper shows Charlotte Oliver her dog, Winston.

Gemma Ellis and Charlotte Oliver share a joke.

Melanie-May Taylor-Connell enjoying the Halloween scavenger hunt.

Sadie Houston and Edison Moore playing with Duplo together.

The Otago Hub has continued to provide the one day a week program. In Term 4, Turi Kids have great fun learning about the topic 'Transport'.

Turi Kids Otago Port Trip

- Paige Clarke, Jorgia Bizco, Oliver Harper  
Hunter Darling, Sio Tofilau, Betty Skinley, Jamieson Skinley, Emily Doidge  
Linkin Soal, Zantos Marsh

Turi Kids Otago Truck Visit

- Linkin Soal, Hunter Darling, Jorgia Bizco, Betty Skinley, Sio Tofilau, Oliver Harper, Tristan Miller, Emily Doidge, Jasper Skinley

Exciting projects happen in the classroom too.

Hunter Darling and Oliver Harper upcycling our new Hub cupboard. (Photo).





## Whakatane Learners

We have been doing lots of learning inside and outside the classroom this year!

### **Te Hurahanga age 9**

I love playing with my rugby ball and other kids. I love running fast.

### **Tumokai age 8**

I love drawing and art. When I make mistakes, I keep going.

### **Tumakoha age 8**

I am learning my sounds, so I can learn

Learning about measuring

When I throw the plane it goes far. You throw near Whaea.

### **Chase age 7 and Dezaiaha age 9**

Another great Keeping in Touch Day at Lake Rotoma with kayaks and stand up paddle boards.

### **Maia-Lee age 13**

By the side of the lagoon by using the binoculars and we saw a baby coot with a red head and it was so small. It keeps following it's mother.

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