



WAITAKI ARA KĀHUI AKO

TERM 4, 2021 WHANAU NEWSLETTER

Collaborate - Create - Contribute

2021 Waitaki Ara team

Kahui Ako Leader

Margaret Williams (DP WGHS)

Across School Leaders

Sarah Caldwell (Fenwick School)

Victoria Forrest (Oamaru Intermediate School)

Within School Leaders:

Fenwick - Shannon Moore, Renee Webster

OIS - Gavin Baumber, Rebecca Taylor

WBHS - Ian Cathcart, Andy Lane, Laura Crane

WGHS - Louise Lane, Sonya Hull, Sonia Hudson

Learning Support Coordinators

Christine Lewthwaite

Sue Johnstone

Lena Klenner

Stewardship group

Cara Tipping Smith, Helen Algar, Nola Tipa, Hana

Halalele, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Darryl Paterson

(Principal rep) Julie Craig (Kindergarten rep)

Our work

Research shows that education systems that are collaborative and support teachers to share effective teaching practice across and between schools and services improve the quality of teaching and the outcomes for learners. Our Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning), is made up of 5 kindergartens and 5 schools (2 primary, 1 intermediate and 2 high schools). The purpose of our Kāhui Ako is to collaborate together to create contributing citizens in our community.

As a collective we meet together twice a term to form relationships and develop our teaching practice.

In addition to this we have groups of teachers working together to streamline learning progressions in the key areas of math and literacy.

Next year we welcome Te Pakihi o Maru to be part of our Inquiry groups and they will also begin the journey to work with the Curriculum Progress Tool. Our work continues into the understanding of our Capabilities framework and how this will be applied across the Kāhui Ako.

Lead - Margaret Williams

Reflecting on 2021 and the mahi undertaken across the Kahui Ako is enormously satisfying. There has been a significant shift in collaboration across the Kahui Ako and the reports from our Across School Leads in their focus areas exemplifies this shift and momentum. One of the highlights for me was listening to our Within School Leads give feedback about their Inquiry groups to the whole Leadership Team specifically focussing on the positive gains made by the teachers within the group and also to identify where their focus is in 2022.

Another highlight was hearing our WSLs from OIS share the rich data and their understanding around our Curriculum Progress Tools and being able to identify areas of strength as well as gaps in the teaching and learning of our akonga.

I firmly believe that we are becoming a true 'Community of Learning' as we enhance teaching practice and leadership and meet the intent of the Kahui Ako in encouraging and enabling collaboration between schools and between teachers. The work undertaken by all staff in our schools, facilitated and supported by our Principals, our ASLs and WSLs and the LSCs is always professional and has our akonga at the centre.

The Stewardship group as representatives of our wider community support the work of the Kahui Ako and share community initiatives that we know our akonga and their whanau are benefiting from.

I am looking forward to the challenges of 2022 as we continue with our understanding of the Curriculum Progress Tools and focus more of our learning around local curriculum.

Our values of collaborate, create, contribute inform all the work that we are undertaking and through our Kāhui Ako, we are making a difference for our ākonga.

He waka eke noa

Learning Support Coordinators (LSCs)

Sarah Sharpe PD sessions were well-supported- thanks to the Waitaki Ara Kahui Ako. To Otepoti o te Raki Kahui Ako, *nga mihi nui* for sharing this opportunity with us. The parent evening was particularly appreciated. We know whanau walk the long road with their children over the years and are very invested in what happens.

Sarah's message to both parents and educators:

- *Highlight the strengths* - Literacy and other challenges make life difficult enough and low self esteem can set in early. Students need to know and be known for their strengths and achievements rather than defined by their weaknesses.
- *Partner with whanau* to get to know students in the wider context of their lives:
- *Talk directly to students* to hear their observations and perspectives about what helps or what blocks learning:
- *Have school systems in place* that *identify difficulties early* and have supports in place, especially rich multisensory structured literacy practices:
- Talk about *learning differences as part of normal variation* between us as learners
- Offer a *range of alternative means for expression* and communication in responses to learning.

Her lasting reminder : what works well for dyslexic students works well for all.

Recommended Sites:

<https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/>

<https://sharp-minds.com/>



Teacher Inquiry - Collaborative work

This year staff at the 5 schools have split up into 10 different groups. These groups are made up of a range of teachers from each school and meet twice a term to discuss and delve deeper into supporting students' needs and developing their pedagogy. These are the overarching topics that were covered by the different groups this year.

1. Supporting students in maths, by making sure the expectations from primary to intermediate to high school flow.
2. Developing student agency through collaboration and using digital platforms.
3. Understanding individual differences to develop tools for relationship building and achievement.
4. Making real life connections to better engage learners.
5. Meeting the needs of the students by looking at ways to increase motivation and engagement.
6. Supporting students to form relationships and communicate effectively with each other and adults.
7. Providing more opportunities to teach cooperative group work within the class and to develop their skills of working together.
8. Supporting students to make connections across learning areas and with the wider world.
9. Increasing engagement and to create purpose for students by making connections to a wider range of students' knowledge and experiences..
10. Looking at the diverse nature of learners so see what improvements we can make to our teaching practice to improve outcomes for students.

Recent leadership meeting at the Oamaru Opera House



Collaborating . . . Teachers from the Waitaki Ara Kahui Ako meet at the Oamaru Opera House last week for the final time this year. PHOTO: ASHLEY SMITH

This term we started our leadership meeting with each Within School Leader sharing their focus and wins from their groups this year.

It was a great chance to reflect on how far we have come as a Kāhui Ako in the past 4 years.

The leadership team then discussed our next steps going forward. In 2022 we will be continuing our work with the Curriculum Progress Tool. We will also look to build the transition between schools and look at ways the capabilities can support students. Discussions were had regarding our upcoming teacher only day on March 11th 2022 and workshops were decided on. Planning for Professional development and supporting our work across the schools is well underway and very exciting.