

Whānau Newsletter 5 April 2023



Message from the Acting Executive Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. For the majority of our learners, term one started well. However, students in Auckland and some other parts of the North Island once again

had their learning influenced by events outside of our control, with floods and cyclones having an impact. I am incredibly proud of how staff and students coped with the disruption and prioritised keeping in touch and caring for each other. Being cared for is one way that we can foster feelings of belonging. If we feel valued and important, we can also feel as though we 'belong'. In our school, it is important that everyone feels they belong. There are many ways this can happen. Whether it be through belonging within their classroom, taking part in Keeping in Touch (KIT) days, being involved in NZSL day schools or language days, taking part in kapa haka as I know some of our students did as part of Te Matatini, or attending the enrolled school whānau picnics around the country. All these activities create a sense of belonging; you will see some of these included in this newsletter.

I would also like to draw your attention to a fabulous new piece of work which is part of the new Aotearoa Histories Curriculum and resources available on [Deaf People's History in Aotearoa](https://aotearoahistories.education.govt.nz/teaching-resource/tangata-turi-i-konei-matou/)! Tangata Turi – I Konei Mātou! Last year Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand worked with the Ministry of Education to produce some fantastic new resources for Year 7-10 students which look at the place of Deaf People in Aotearoa's history. Knowing who we are and where we come from is important to belonging. I encourage you to look at historical aspects of belonging freely available to everyone. These resources can be found here: <https://aotearoahistories.education.govt.nz/teaching-resource/tangata-turi-i-konei-matou-hoki-deaf-people-we-were-here-too>

That's it for Term one, take time to explore the newsletter, check out the exciting things happening at our school, and I look forward to seeing you all back here in term two.
Ka kite ano,

Dr Denise Powell
Acting Executive Principal



In Memory of Caleb Kupa

Strong as an Elephant - 24/09/2011 to 02/01/2023

Caleb was a student on the Bay of Plenty Central Resource Teacher of the Deaf (RTD) caseload. Sadly he passed away on the 2nd of January this year due to a long-standing battle with cancer.

Caleb was a strong person and wise beyond his years. He was kind, gentle and amazingly respectful to adults and his peers. Caleb would always take the time to check in with his friends and see if they were alright. He was a keen outdoorsman and loved fishing, fossil hunting and skydiving.

Recently, Caleb had the opportunity to visit and hug an elephant, which he really wanted to do.

We want to extend our heartfelt condolences to Scott and Rachael Kupa. We thought of Caleb as a true treasure, and our team will sadly miss him.

This is Caleb's Karakia which was read by Kelly Kupa-Marsh & Lee Kupa at his funeral.

Whakamānawatia, Whakamānawatia
Whakamānawatia i ēnei taonga ohohoho
He whakakai marihi
He kuru tongarewa
He taonga tuku iho
Āku Māhuri Tōtara
He ao te rangi ka uhia ma te huruhuru te manu ka rere ai
Tū te ihi, tū te mana, Tū te mauri o ō tatou tipuna
Haumi e, hui e, taiki e!

Bless, bless
Bless these treasures of immense value
This precious ornament
This prized greenstone
This jewel passed down
Our tōtara sapling
As the clouds adorn the heaven so feathers adorn a bird
Standing with ihi, mana and the essence of our ancestors
We come together to unite and let it be done.



We've been fingerspelling our way to reading!

Written language is made up of alphabetic letters that relate to speech sounds. What do you do if you can't hear speech sounds?

When speech sounds are not accessible, we need another way to understand how letters are combined to make words. For some of our deaf students, this has come in the form of fingerspelling. At the start of this year, a group of curious

teachers undertook specialised training to understand the theory behind this research-based fingerspelling programme to use it with key students. These teachers and students have been very willing guinea pigs and have seen improvements in students' confidence, sign language vocabulary and spelling ability. One student said he enjoys each activity and loves sharing his learning with his classmates. Another teacher reports that her student is beginning to connect with other phonetic words he sees through reading other texts.

Other students have commented:

"It helps me write more words in my writing because I know first sound, last chunk."

"It helps me know how and where to fingerspell the words- where to spell [clearly] on my body so people I am talking to can see good".

"It helps me to learn NZSL for the different words. I like learning about the last chunk because it helps me know new words."



We all belong at the Early Years Whānau Centre

We've been exploring Ko Wai Au? - Who am I? How do we belong as part of our Deaf Community, and what and who are important to us?

In the Early Years Whānau Centre (EYWC), we have been exploring Ko Wai Au? Who am I, All About Me; who we are, what, and who are special to us, and how we belong as part of the EYWC. We've decorated whānau (family) leaves and added

them to our whānau tree. We all belong here and are part of a great big whānau at the EYWC!

We've been delving into our local Cultural Narrative and local history on-site at Sumner exploring how we fit and belong as part of this Deaf Community. There is an amazingly rich history here in Sumner, and we have been lucky enough to hear some stories of van Asch from when it all started in 1880! We have all learned so much, and we want to extend a very big thank you to Janet Stokes for supporting us

with this journey and to Hayley Ahpene for leading our history walks.

Tane and His Children and Fantail have been the focus books for storytime. Through these books, we have explored the ideas of creating plants, animals, and insects and where these creatures belong. We had a great time acting out and retelling the stories. We've been apple picking at the old Orchard at the Sumner site and have made apple pie just like the pie in the Fantail, Fantail story. It was delicious!



Welcome to the Ko Taku Reo Preschool Whānau!

Our Preschool is a dynamic place, with new children starting every term. Sometimes the adults change too!

This term, we have welcomed Chelcie to the Preschool team as our new Education Assistant and Stephanie and Grace to the Integrated Services team as Speech and Language therapists. We are delighted to have these new team members on board to support our students' development. We have also welcomed several new tamariki to our Preschool whānau. Anouk, Florence and Katisha are our three new two-year-olds.

The first step for everyone at our Preschool is to develop a strong sense of belonging. We all need to know we have a place we belong. This term, we are helping the new ākonga learn that they belong here at Preschool and can say "goodbye" to their parent, knowing they will be safe with us until their parent returns. Talking about where their parents are and what they might be doing is often reassuring during the transition.

This term, our learning focus is whānau. Below are photos of staff and student whānau learning family words and signs like "my day" and "your sister". These activities help all of us know we belong - here at Preschool with our friends and at home with our family.



Enrolled School Whānau Evening

Enrolled School had a fantastic opportunity for whānau and staff to gather outside the classroom to socialise and get to know one another in term 1.

West Auckland

Our Kelston Provisions, Tu Kokuri, and Residential students met at the nearby Archibald Park. The Tu Kokuri students oversaw the barbeque.

Families and staff spent time getting to know each other and ended the evening with a lively game of cricket. Both sides claimed victory. There was even a guest appearance by Winston Paws!

South Auckland

The South Auckland Provisions families met at the Barry Curtis Park playground. Parents and staff enjoyed getting to know each other while the students played on the playground. Ginny Neal and Sarah de Heer from Christchurch came along to enjoy the fun. Nibbles, sweet treats for the adults, and ice blocks for the students were the perfect way to end a lovely summer's evening.

Wellington

The families from Linden Primary took the opportunity to meet at the Aotea Lagoon to catch up and have a pizza party. Some mainstream school students came along and got to know the Provision staff and students better. The water park looked like a clever way to cool down after all the socialising and playing.

Christchurch

The staff and families from our Christchurch Provisions, along with the residential students from the Sumner campus, held their whānau picnic at The Botanical Gardens. Again, much fun was had by the students on the playground, and the staff enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other. Some staff brought their children along to enjoy the event.

A huge thank you to everyone for working together to make this happen.

We want to welcome as many whānau as possible to our future events. Keep an eye out for upcoming events throughout this year.



Belonging to the Hillmorton High Provision

Welcome to term 1, 2023, with the Hillmorton High Provision.

Term 1 has been busy and productive so far - we've been involved in a range of activities such as:

- The Hillmorton Athletics day
- Year 9 Camp
- Site Safe Workshop
- Outdoor Ed – Surf Camp
- Toby's Immersion Course
- Whānau Evening at The Botanic Gardens
- NZSL Club, which is led by two of our senior students

In this term's newsletter, we have taken a closer look at the core learner value of Belonging and what this looks like for some of the students at the Hillmorton Provision.

What does it mean for our students to belong?

We asked a couple of our Year 10 students what this means to them, and they shared:

Ethan

"Belonging means being around others who are just like me, so there is no space for putdowns. It also means communicating better in a way that suits my learning style."

Starr

"Belonging means being around people I can talk to and work co-operatively with."

What are some of the student pathways that our learners belong to?

Some of our students attend "Girls' group", and this is what they have to say:

Anise

"I enjoy socialising with different people at Girls Group, and my favourite activity is horse riding!"

Lily

"I like going to Girls Group; my favourite activity is Lazer Tag!"

Another of our students goes to both Girls Group and is studying Level 2 Outdoor Education.

Noelani

"I go to Girls Group every week; this is where both deaf and hearing female students get to socialise and do different activities such as walking, bowling and more! I'm also involved in L2 Outdoor Ed, and it's great trying new things like hiking and biking because this helps with my confidence."

What difference has it made having somewhere and people to belong to?

After interviewing a couple of students about this, they responded with the following:

Giordyn

"I feel more connected with and better understand my learning."

Anahera

"I like to call the other students in our provision family because they are like my brothers and sisters. I am so grateful for the opportunities and our staff's support."



Belong isn't just about self - it's about working together

At Wharenui Provision, we enjoy learning, and we enjoy it even more when we have our friends and teachers helping and guiding us.

This is what Belonging looks like to us at Wharenui Provision - We hope you enjoy seeing and reading about our learning and the support we give each other.

Be friendly and kind
Encourage others and be encouraged myself
Learn alongside my friends

Own my culture and know who I am
Never give up – keep trying
Give everything a try, even when it's tricky

Be friendly and kind

Being with our friends at Wharenui is fantastic. We like sharing, having fun, playing games, especially UNO and reading books quietly. Being friendly and kind shows respect for others.

It's so nice being friends with others as we can laugh with them, learn with them and most of all have a lot of fun at school. We also love being friendly with our partner school students as well.

Encourage others and be encouraged by others

Encouraging others is such a nice feeling. We can help them with skills we have or something that we feel confident in doing, and then they get confident as well. When we do this, we are helping everyone feel awesome. In the pictures, we are helping with reading, swimming and retelling the story of The House that Jack Built.

Learning alongside my friends

We love learning at Wharenui Provision, and we especially love learning with our friends. We can discuss what we are doing and get their help if needed. We have so much fun in our learning.

Owning my culture and knowing who I am

Lyla, Jannah and Maraia are part of the Wharenui School Kapa Haka group. They love going to this every Wednesday. The girls dressed in their Kapa Haka uniform at Riccarton High School for the Cultural Festival. We were so proud of them for performing on stage.

We have also been learning about our history and that of the pakeha and Māori through the Aotearoa Histories Curriculum. It's been fun looking at what New Zealand was like many years ago.

We then made a play of all we had learnt so far.

Never give up and try new things

Sometimes the work is tricky, and sometimes we think, 'I can't do this'. But we keep trying at Wharenui Provision and "Never Give Up". We learn new things and become successful. It's great that our friends also help us along the way. When we have friends, we feel like they want us to be successful and happy.

Give everything a try because our friends and teachers will help us

Sometimes our learning is tricky, but we must not give up. Our friends help us to do this. Friends show respect, and kindness, work together, and build encouragement.

We could never do it alone, so we need our fantastic friends and teachers.
