

## Term 2 Whānau Newsletter

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### Message from Executive Principal

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

**E tū kahikatea whakapae ururoa Awhi mai awhi atu Tātou tātou e.**

*Stand tall like the kahikatea, surrounded by strong saplings. Give love, receive love. All of us.*

Welcome to our Term 2 whānau newsletter which focuses on our learner value of GROW.

The kahikatea is our tallest native tree which can grow to heights of over 60 metres and has a life span of 600 years! The whakatauki above points out that this journey of growth is not alone – it takes place in the company of younger trees, saplings. By standing strong together they can give and receive love and strength to each other, and weather the storms of life.

This is a great metaphor for our school. We draw tremendous strength from our learners. When we walk together and lean on each other for support, we will grow the most.

As a school community, we continue to travel through difficult times with Covid still interrupting many of our plans and impacting our staffing. With winter upon us we also have the flu season and a range of other bugs and sicknesses to stand strong against! I encourage all staff and students to continue with effective hygiene habits and healthy lifestyles to keep sickness at bay. As a school, we have given all our staff the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine, which is just one of many ways we can help protect our staff and students.

### School Attendance

Earlier in the month, Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced a \$88 million package to tackle school attendance issues, particularly due to Covid-19 impacts. One of the issues is that average attendance rates across the country are currently sitting at about 60%.

For Ko Taku Reo, our Enrolled School average is at 70%, which is the Government's target for 2024. For secondary students, our rate is slightly higher at 75%. While we still would like to see this improve this is encouraging to see.

### NZSL@School Funding

This year's budget has seen a significant boost to funding for NZSL in Schools. This extra funding is going to be dropped in increasing increments over the next four years. It will help support more early years access to NZSL through Deaf Aotearoa's First Signs programme and a portion of this will come to Ko Taku Reo to support the ongoing development of the NZSL@School programme. This is a really exciting area of the school that will benefit us as we grow and develop NZSL amongst our staff and students.

### Matariki Taonga

On the 8th of June, I had the great pleasure of travelling with some of our Turi akongā and staff to Wellington to be part of a very special Matariki wānanga for our school.

Dr Rangi Mātāmua (Tūhoe) gifted us mātauranga Māori taonga which had been passed to him from his ancestors. He spoke of ancient Māori hand actions associated with Matariki, the gods, the stars and the phases of the moon. He was keen to see these gifted to our Turi community, not just for our Matariki celebrations this year, but as taonga from which Turi Māori can develop their own signs.

Dr Mātāmua is a Professor of Mātauranga Māori at Massey University and a leading scholar and researcher in Māori astronomy, tikanga and te reo Māori research and revitalisation. He has been a driving force for the recognition of Matariki as a national holiday – a world first this year and an important part of our national identity.

I'm grateful to our Māori Strategic Lead, Dr Kathie Rifle, for organising this event and the support of many staff who made it happen. It was a fantastic opportunity to be a learner and grow my knowledge, and to see Turi Māori and Māori coming together with shared language and stories to be part of this experience.

### **Board Elections**

An important event in the school calendar next term is our Board elections, which happen once every three years. This is an important event in the life of the school and those elected have a big responsibility for their three year term.

The Board doesn't get involved in the day-to-day running of the school, but has governance responsibilities which include: helping to set the strategic direction for the school; monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes; approving policies; and financial stewardship. More information is available on the [School Board Elections website](#).

Start thinking now about who might be a good person to nominate for election. We'll call for nominations towards the end of July and will communicate more about the election timeframes throughout Term 3.

Student representatives on the board are elected every year. Although these elections were held earlier in the year, the timeframe of these is changing to come in line with our parent representative elections. This means we will end up having a second round of student elections this year, and those elected in September will be on the board for 12 months as usual.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy winter break and am looking forward to a busy and fulfilling Term 3.

Ngā mihi nui,

James Le Marquand



## **Message from the Board Chair**

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I'm so pleased to be able to provide this update on behalf of the Ko Taku Reo Board. The theme of this newsletter is "Grow", which is vital for all of us; our students, staff and our school. Ko Taku Reo has been growing into a new and exciting school with definite goals. The Board's primary focus is on improving student achievement. It has been a privilege to see the way

our staff and students are embracing, in a positive way, the future path of deaf education in Aotearoa New Zealand.

I want to take the opportunity to remind you that our Board elections are coming up shortly. Being part of the Board is a privilege, and we are currently looking for people who can contribute to Ko Taku Reo's continued growth. Parents can nominate parents/caregivers and other people in the wider community to be their representatives. Our Board must represent the diversity of our school community to ensure a bright future for all our Deaf and Hard of Hearing children.

Board elections allow us to nominate and vote for candidates who will make a positive difference in our DHH student's education. Every board member brings their own unique set of skills and experiences to the Board. Board members need to work well in a team and have good communication skills. Understanding the education sector, having financial skills and experience in managing people, knowledge and understanding of particular communities within your school, or experience working within wider communities are all extremely valuable.

If you, or someone you know, are willing to use their skills and experiences to benefit DHH ākonga in Aotearoa New Zealand, then we want to hear from you!

So for now, noho ora mai - stay well, look after yourselves and enjoy the fantastic range of articles in

this newsletter!

Denise Powell  
Board Chair

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## Early Years Whānau Centre

Term 2 has been action-packed for our young tamariki. We have had New Zealand Sign Language Week, Samoan Language Week and Matariki packed into one term.

We have focused on the story "The Enormous Turnip" and "Row your Waka". Our young learners grow confidence to participate in their way, facilitated by the repetition of the story and drama activities. Our language is repetitive throughout, so children can develop vocabulary and retell some of the stories.

Our NZSL week and Samoan language week celebrated the two languages. We sang songs, made "I love you" biscuits and created crafts linked to the languages. These activities supported the children's growing identities and awareness of other whānau that attend our centre that they might not have met.

Towards the end of term, we have started celebrating Matariki with children and their whānau creating their own Pepeha, which also celebrates and grows identity.

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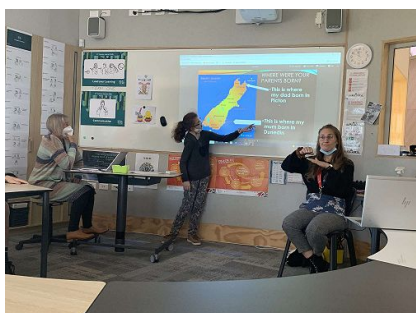


## Communicating at Auckland Preschool

We believe our preschool is a safe place where our tamariki have plenty of opportunities to grow and learn. Our tamariki are exposed to different languages and ways of communicating. We have noticed that they express themselves in many different ways. They can communicate

their needs using sign language, gestures, spoken language and the core board (AAC). While interacting with their environment, our tamariki are developing their confidence to connect, tackle new challenges, and persist with difficulties. We are delighted to see our tamariki progressing in their learning and abilities.

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## Hillmorton High School Learning Opportunities

All of our students are enjoying a variety of teaching and learning opportunities, both within the Provision and partner school classes.

A term highlight was students and staff from the Wharenui Provision spending the day with us when our partner schools had a Teacher Only Day. Students from the Hillmorton Provision organised a wonderful day of different activities to

suit all ākonga, and we were able to grow the connections between our staff and students.

Every year, we have NZSL Week in the second week of May. Our students at the Hillmorton Provision are always keen to set up activities and run some fun NZSL events throughout the week. This year some students were involved in making presentations and teaching NZSL to their peers! We hope to continue this throughout terms 3 and 4.

In June, there are growing opportunities for our students to connect with the meaning of Matariki, Māori culture, and better understand this celebration. During week 8, our partner school, Hillmorton High School, is running some Matariki activities, in which we look forward to participating. We are also excited to join the Ko Taku Reo Matariki event on Thursday, 30 June.

Two Year 12 students, Anahera Strongman and Noelani Ritchie, have been awarded Leadership Blazers. Hillmorton High School will support them in growing their leadership skills.

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## Showing our Growth in our Learning and Beyond at Wharenui Provision

How we are growing in everything we do in so many different areas of our learning day.

### Grow at Wharenui Means

- Asking questions
- Putting it all into practice
- Having projects and hobbies
- Measuring a student's (our) progress
- Accepting responsibility
- Creating our own learning
- Trying new things

We have a lot of fun in our learning in and out of the classroom.

We grow:

- in our new skills by trying new things and not giving up.
- by accepting responsibility for our own learning.
- by asking questions to extend our learning.
- by extending our skills and hobbies.
- by meeting new people.

**This is us at Wharenui Provision showing how we have 'Grown' in our learning day.**

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## Growing at Linden Primary Provision

At Linden Primary Provision we have been growing our leadership as well as our healthy bodies.

Early in Term 2, we all participated in the school cross country. We put in lots of effort and ran hard while growing healthy bodies. We have also been growing our leadership skills. We take turns being the teacher and sharing the big book with the rest of the class.

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## The Incredible Growth of the Theatre Group

We can see the huge growth of their tuakana-teina relationships, in the Youth Theatre Project Group.

Some of our Auckland Enrolled School students are working on the Ministry of Education's, Creatives in Schools "Youth Theatre Project". We are working with Tim Bray Theatre Company's professional theatre staff, developing our dramatic/expressive skills.

A total of 19 students, from Year 1 to Year 13+, participate in this project from eight provisions in Auckland.



The project was initially planned to take place in 2021 but was postponed due to this year due to COVID. We were able to start in early Term 1; however, under the red traffic light setting, we had to take a long pause. Finally, we could restart in Term 2.

Even with the long pause, our students were keen to continue what they had learned in Term 1 from Tim Bray Theatre Company's drama tutors. So, they agreed to continue to meet every Friday without tutors. They have practised the skills they had learned and developed their relationships. Tu Kokiri Students took the lead, and they have grown their dramatic/expression skills and leadership skills. They supported the younger students and have become great role models. The younger students enjoyed working with the older students, respected them and grew their communication and social skills.

Here, we can see the enormous growth of their tuakana-teina relationships, too! They look forward to showing everyone their growth on the performance days.

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## Provisions School Hui

Provisions presented their CREATIVITY in our Term 2 Hui

The Term 2 school hui has seen all 12 Kō Taku Reo Deaf Provisions in New Zealand come together to celebrate all the creativity throughout Term 1.

See pictures from our Deaf Provisions in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. We enjoyed doing Karakia's at the School

Hui's, and it's always great to be with our Deaf friends sharing things we've seen and watched.

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## Welcome Home

During term 1, 2022, the NZSL Day School couldn't run at Redwood Primary School. So when we were given the green light to return this term, the Redwood School community wanted to celebrate. On Sunday, 20 May, at 1 pm, everyone was invited to a free event on the school grounds. Deaf and Hearing adults or children from Redwood school, Ko Taku Reo, Canterbury Parents of Deaf Children, Deaf Aotearoa, the Deaf community and NZSL Day School enjoyed themselves. The afternoon started with the year 5 & 6 Redwood School students singing 'Welcome Home' and included a sausage sizzle, candy floss, balloon art, crazy bikes, a bouncy castle, craft activities and sign language sessions. Ashley Bensley

from the Deaf Blacks rugby team helped children develop their ball skills.

Thank you to everyone involved who has supported the aim to GROW relationships between Deaf and hearing communities. We're already looking forward to next year's event.

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## Our ākonga coming together to celebrate Matariki

Ten of our students from Outreach School came together to join the students of Tu Kokiri to celebrate Matariki together.

When we arrived, we were welcomed onto the Marae in NZSL and Te Reo. It was a chance to see all three languages of Aotearoa celebrated and recognised together. It was a compelling experience for us all.

Our first activity was to learn about the story of 'The Seven Fish of Matariki'. We were lucky to have Anthony, a staff member from Tu Kokiri, share the story through sign. The students were engaged and could understand the story through his fantastic storytelling.

Next, we worked together to weave fish from Harakeke to represent the seven fish of Matariki. Students and staff from both schools worked together to learn this skill and produce beautiful fish.

We then learnt about Kowhaiwhai patterns and looked at the different ones around the Marae. The students got to choose a design to colour to create their bookmark. Tu Kokiri and Outreach students worked together to learn four plaits and made a rope to complete their bookmarks to take home.

We finished our day with Anthony telling us another Maori Legend and everyone coming together to sing and sign Pepeha by Six60.

It was a wonderful experience, making connections and learning together. Thank you to Tu Kokiri for all your help in supporting our young learners in Outreach School!

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## KIT Day Kai

It's been a busy term in Wellington! See how our learners demonstrated growth during the recent KIT Day

Our KIT Day Kai provided the perfect opportunity for our learners to grow and show confidence in their identity. We started the day by foraging for vegetables in the school gardens before returning to our classroom to peel and prep in groups. We took turns before adding the vegetables to our big boil-up pots. We decided fried bread and doughboys were the

perfect accompaniment for our boil-up, so we got busy preparing these as well. It was a fun day with opportunities to connect with fellow learners. One of our students, Wiki, has done some beautiful writing to share her experience.

### Wiki's experience

KIT Day is a Deaf community where Deaf students gather together with excitement and entertainment. 26 May 2022, my first return to KIT Day in nearly two and a half years.

It was my first role of being a helper for KIT Day. We had boil-up and fried bread for KIT Day Kai, YUM!

Jane and I arrived at the destination at sunrise, very early. We were the people to set up the day, and we even had a helper, Polly.

We were bringing items and kai inside the area to prepare the place; we tried to make it look as presentable as possible.

Starting the day was nerve-wracking and exciting, seeing countless young students in a single room. We reviewed the rules and a cooking video and then introduced the room. I felt shy but welcomed when Jane mentioned my name to thank me for joining; everyone waved their hands in the air. I was able to sign/speak to multiple kids during our group gathering. I felt responsible with pride when paying attention to the kids and guiding the students with cutting the vegetables.

I was in charge of frying the bread; it was a patient and simple job. I got praise from many Teachers and helpers; it gave me confidence in my cooking. I enjoyed my time as I had laughter and smiles throughout the day. I captured some photographs of the Teachers serving the students' boil-up, which was lovely to watch. If your wondering, the boil-up was delicious!! I even had a second bowl, haha.

I had declined to go to KIT Day for the past two and a half years until the recent KIT Day Kai. I honestly enjoyed my time there, especially being involved with the helpers.

I saw some of my past Deaf Teachers that I was able to catch up with, and it was beautiful to catch up with some people who helped me during my childhood.

I was given some appreciation from some kids, it was very sweet. It was heartwarming talking to the kids and interacting with them.

As someone who isn't fully Deaf and professionally trained in sign language, I could express my disability openly—even getting more knowledge of new signs. That day gave me the courage that being Deaf is enjoyable and amazing.

I surely want to learn more sign language after that KIT Day. I would love to go to another KIT Day, and my fry bread will be better and the best!

Thanks to Jane for persuading me multiple times to come along.

Wiki Kahui-Katene

Age 15

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## Chip Packet Project at Heretaunga College

On Thursday 31st March, two of our Wellington Outreach students appeared on TV3 Newshub. Taylor Courtney and Tom Jenkins have been involved in the Chip Packet Project at Heretaunga College in Upper Hutt. This forms part of their volunteer work hours towards their gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Chip Packet Project turns chippie packets into survival sheets. It is a nationwide project partnering with social development organizations to get 30,000 blankets to those in need in time for this winter. The chip packet foil replicates an emergency blanket. The completed blankets are sent up to the national coordinator in Auckland, who then distributes them around the country. Taylor volunteered to be interviewed for this news item, and Tom is seen working in the background.

Drop-off points line the hallways at Heretaunga College, and Taylor is very good at reminding students to use the correct chippie bins rather than the rubbish bins! You can check out the interview below.

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