

## Whānau Newsletter 9 December 2022



### Message from the Acting Executive Principal

Tēnā koutou, this is the last newsletter for 2022 and my first in my new role as Acting Executive Principal. This term has gone by so quickly, and we have all been super busy with exams, end of year celebrations and some lovely summer weather. The other exciting activity for me has been attending both the senior and junior prize givings for Ko Taku Reo. Seeing happy

smiling faces as we acknowledge the fabulous achievements of our students and the teachers and support staff as one very large whānau is heart-warming. The technical wizardry that allows this to take place is nothing short of magical, I want to congratulate all the behind the scenes people who make these events possible.

Deaf Education holds a very special place in my heart, and I am looking forward to working with our learners and their whānau and getting to know staff better in 2023. As a school, we have much to be proud of.

Please take a well-earned break, enjoy your summer and recharge those batteries!  
Noho ora mai, we'll see you back here next year!



### Prizegiving

Prizegiving is one of the highlights of Ko Taku Reo's year. It is an opportunity to celebrate successes and acknowledge excellence amongst our students.

Thursday, 24 November, was the day to celebrate our Year 9 – 15 learners. The event was held at Ormiston Senior College in Auckland and the Sumner Campus in Christchurch. Thank you

to Tanisha Pritchard and Taitaiki Taylor, who were the MCs for the event.

Provision certificates were awarded for:

- academic excellence
- improvement in NZSL
- attitude to learning
- contribution to the wider school community

After Louise Roe, Director of Teaching and Learning, addressed students and whānau, it was time to present our national awards. Each recipient was awarded a trophy, certificate and voucher. Phonak kindly sponsored the vouchers.

Our national recipients were:

- **Callan Waters** Māori Excellence – Year 9 - 12
- **Mercedes de Malanche** Māori Excellence – Year 13 - 15
- **Aliziah Seiuli** Leadership – Year 9 – 12
- **Anahera Strongman** Leadership – Year 13 - 15
- **Rahui Lee** Towards Independence
- **Andrei Deo** Excellence in NZSL at NCEA
- **Fiero Estanislao** Outstanding Academic Success
- **Jayden Edwards** Contribution to Sports
- **Mea Manuofetoa** Excellence in Culture and Arts
- **Rahui Lee** Tuakana Teina Residential (Auckland)
- **Jayden Edwards** Tuakana Teina Residential (Christchurch)

Prizegiving is also an opportunity to farewell those students who have come to the end of their learning journey with Ko Taku Reo. One leaver, Rahui Lee, shared his learning journey with the audience. He talked about the high points and was honest about some challenges he navigated. Rahui wanted to express his gratitude to a special person, Pam, his NZSL tutor. We hope that your time with us has been a good experience. We wish you every success as you begin the next exciting chapter of your life. Please stay connected.

## Primary and Intermediate Highlights

The Primary and Intermediate prizegiving was held on Friday, 25 November. This was our opportunity to share our learners' successes in Years 1 – 8. The MCs for this event were Tere Ahohaka and Frank Irakiza from Kelston Intermediate Provision. Certificates were awarded for improvement in reading, writing, mathematics and NZSL for each of our Primary and Intermediate Provisions, Wharenui (Christchurch), Kelston Primary and Intermediate (Auckland), Linden (Wellington) and Ormiston Primary and Ormiston Junior College (Auckland). Denise Powell, our Acting Executive Principal, spoke. She shared some highlights from the year. Lisa Sharman, Head of Enrolled School, presented our national prizes:

- **Cash Pilamo** Values of Grow, Choose, Belong and Excel (Year 1 – 4)
- **Briaan-Ariah Horne** Values of Grow, Choose, Belong and Excel (Year 1 – 4)
- **Parneet Jagpal** Values of Grow, Choose, Belong and Excel (Year 5 – 8)
- **Tere Ahohaka** Values of Grow, Choose, Belong and Excel (Year 5 – 8)
- **Maraia Tuhoro Williams** Citizenship (Year 1 – 4)
- **Addison Mackay-Blundell** Citizenship (Year 5 – 8)
- **Frank Irakiza** Contribution to Sport
- **Carter Ferguson** Contribution to Culture and Arts (Year 1 – 4)
- **Diamond-Eve Johnson** Contribution to Culture and Arts (Year 5 – 8)

Our national award winners received a trophy, certificate and a gift card again donated by Phonak. Congratulations to all the winners at both prizegiving events. We are enormously proud of your work to achieve your awards.

Acknowledging the many people who have supported you on your learning journey is also important. Firstly, to the teachers and support staff in the provisions who plan learning programmes to meet your needs. We must also thank the mainstream teachers in the partner schools who work alongside us. To your whānau and caregivers, who support your learning at home, we thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening these learning partnerships in 2023.



## Excelling in the Preschool

After a year of belonging, growing and making choices at Preschool, many of our tamariki are excelling! We all know why it has not been an easy year, but it is heartening to see our tamariki progressing and showing us what resilience is!

We have a group of tamariki who are currently transitioning to school. Some of them have spent extra time past their 5th birthday with us. In NZ, tamariki legally does not have to start school until they are six, and with the interruptions over the

last 2/3 years, the extra time in Preschool has benefited them.

Haere rā to Marley, Kyra Jade, Ruby, Mariale and others leaving us at the end of this year - we will continue to watch you excel in your school years.

### Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly



## Early Years Whānau Centre building capable, confident communicators and learners

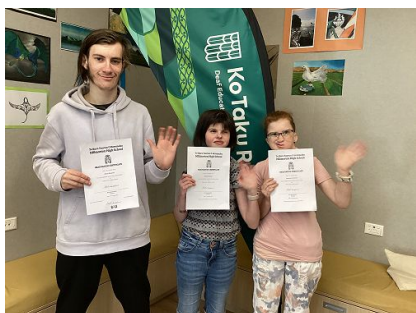
We are building the foundation for our Deaf and hard of hearing tamariki and their whānau in the Early Years Whānau Centre.

Early Years Whānau Centre (EYWC) has been a fun-filled year with family and child learning focusing on rich language experiences through individual and group play-based learning experiences. Tamariki and their families are at the heart of our programme, focusing on fostering partnerships between whānau, staff and key professionals. In July, we changed our licensing with the Ministry of Education to better reflect the Playgroup nature of our sessions and the relationship between parents, whānau and staff.

Transitions to school, fond farewells and best wishes have included Nico Agnew, Ethan Dapamede and Bridie Williams. Helen King moved into her Advisor of Deaf Children position at the Ministry of Education and passed the baton onto Tina Harrison as Early Years Programmes Lead.

Sessions always comprise opportunities for child-led play experiences, signed music, and storytimes focusing on Theory of Mind concepts with thinking and feeling language. Lots of repetitive language enriched our Playgroup sessions and allowed our tamariki to show us their learning of new language and ideas.

We welcomed back the 3-day Preschool Residential Courses and have enjoyed whānau visiting from the regions to join us in the Early Years Whānau Centre with time to experience audiology appointments, visual communication and Deaf Culture, early literacy and speech and language sessions. Always a busy but fulfilling time!



## Excelling at Hillmorton High Provision in Term 4

What an exciting term we've had at Hillmorton Provision, many opportunities for students to excel in their learning and achievements.

We had the Hillmorton High School Senior Prize Giving during week 3, and many of our senior students received awards:

- Noelani Ritchie – Commendable Effort in Level 2 Tourism
- Tanisha Pritchard - Commendable Effort in Level 2 Tourism
- Jayden Edwards – First in Level 2 Digital Technology
- Aimee Stocker – Commendable Effort in Directions Future Focus
  - Aorangi Award for Overcoming Challenges
- Anahera Strongman – Gold Colours Award – Service
  - Commendable Effort in L2 Māori
  - Te Aoturoa Roberts Taonga for Whanaungatanga

We are very proud of our senior students and their hard work throughout 2022.

Kieran, Aimee and Tanisha also received their Graduation Certificate from Hillmorton High School. We wish them all the best for their adventures in 2023!

Students studying Tourism had a fantastic opportunity to visit Willowbank Wildlife Reserve to learn about how tourism activity impacts the physical environment. All students enjoyed the experience and enjoyed the chance to gain some knowledge related to their course of study.

Students studying Culinary Arts had the opportunity to achieve extra credits and organised a Deaf Culture café which staff thoroughly enjoyed attending. Students planned and created the food and served it to happy customers! The standard of food and service was high, and students worked well as a team!

Noelani was successful in being chosen to feature in an Enabling Good Lives video which showcases students living their best life. The filming team came to Hillmorton High Provision to meet with Noelani and discuss her achievements. They also filmed her at Mount Hutt ski field, where she has been working during the winter season and teaching NZSL.

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## Keep in Touch (KIT) Day Fun in Southland

In Southland, we excel at connecting our Deaf learners!

The Southland Outreach Team recently held our first KIT Days in a long time. Seeing so many of our students come together again was so wonderful.

At our Junior KIT Day, 36 primary-aged students gathered in Invercargill, some travelled up to 1.5 hours to get there, and one student even flew from Stewart Island. Accompanying the students, we also had Southland Resource Teachers of the Deaf (RTDs), the regional coordinator, our local Advisor of Deaf Children (AODC), Communication Education Support Workers

(CESWs) and Teacher Aids; we made a good-sized group!

We spent the morning in our local Queens Park, where we went on a selfie scavenger hunt. We took our time exploring and made the most of the opportunity to connect in nature.

We embraced the upcoming festive season and spent the afternoon working on Christmas crafts which was a lot of fun!

We also hosted students at our senior KIT Day a few weeks ago. It was an evening of pizza, fizz and learning about the video sharing platform Flip. We all had a go at creating our Flip video and experimenting with the different features.

It was lovely to see new friendships being formed and connections rekindled at both of our KIT Days, and we look forward to more next year!

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## Wellington Keep in Touch (KIT) Days - Term 4

Creating connections and building confidence

In Term 4, the Wellington Team ran two KIT Days. A boys' KIT Day and a day out at Awesome Bounce.

Having two KIT Days in one term allowed students to connect, and when they saw their friends from the first KIT Day, they were excited to join in some fun activities.

Students were keen to participate in the different activities planned. These included making bubbles, building structures,

coke explosions, trampolines and bouncy castles.

There was some new equipment at Awesome Bounce that students didn't have much experience with and were nervous about using. Across the day, we witnessed them becoming more confident in using this equipment and participating in games and activities driven by Resource Teachers of the Deaf (RTDs) and students.

The social relationships during both days showed us how vital KIT Days are to connecting our students.

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## Virtual Deaf Space for deaf youth

Is your high school deaf student seeking to connect with other deaf youth or to learn more about Deaf Identity, Deafhood, Deaf gain, navigating diverse worlds and more? Virtual Deaf Space, an after-school programme, resumes in Term 1, 2023.

**When:** Mondays, 4.30 - 6 pm

**Start:** 13 February 2023

**End:** 3 April 2023

**Where:** Online - it's Virtual! We'll send you the link when you register

**Who:** Y9 - Y13+ high school deaf and hard of hearing students

**How:** Visit the link below and fill in the online form

[Interested, register now!](#)

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