

Waimea Community of Learners

Waimea Kāhui Ako

February 2018 update from the Waimea CoL/ Kāhui Ako (for BOTs, staff and communities)

Our Achievement Challenges

1. To improve achievement in writing for boys in Years 1-10
2. To reduce the gap between the achievement of males and females at NCEA Years 11-13
3. To improve the educational outcomes for Māori students in Years 1-13

Goals for 2018

In December we signalled our workplan for 2018 to includes these goals:

1. Appoint the final person to the across school team
2. Promote teaching-as-inquiry (TAI) among within school lead teachers
3. Investigate the extent to which TAI is understood and consistently used to improve student achievement within each of the Kāhui Ako schools
4. Get principals on board by establishing baseline expectations in the ways they will support Kāhui Ako work eg: make time for it, part of appraisal process or some other lever to make sure it happens
5. Ensure schools have Kāhui Ako achievement challenges embedded within their strategic and annual plans.
6. Build trust relationships within and between school leaders and between the across and within school teachers. Other groups that we want to build relationships with
 - support staff
 - ECE
 - neighbouring Kāhui Ako (Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast)
7. Build relationships with community / iwi
8. Establish the PLD needs and access external PLD funding by the middle of 2018.
9. Investigate how we are going to measure success and change as a result of our interventions.

How are we doing? Read on...

Professional Learning Day

As you know, on Monday 5 February all 12 schools in the Waimea Kāhui Ako closed to allow teachers to attend our first whole-Kāhui Ako event, a professional learning day at Hope Community Church and Ranzau School. We hosted 330 teachers and leaders on the day, engaging two excellent speakers;

- Nathan Mikaere Wallis, who talked about brain development and its effect on students' abilities to manage stress caused by things like transitions, adolescence and disconnectedness
- Marcus Akuhata-Brown, who talked about growing up Maori and the power of whakapapa, connections and strong relationships.

Between the two speakers our across school and within school lead teachers ran a workshop session where participants considered the big messages from Nathan's talk, our Kāhui Ako achievement challenges and their connection to the work of the Kāhui Ako. Along the way teachers talked, made connections and gained a sense of being part of the bigger community of our Kāhui Ako.

Judging from the feedback the day was highly successful. Here's one of many similar comments, this from a senior leader: *Just want to say – and be honest – our COL TOD day was **just great** – well done Team – 10/10. So good to have all 'educators' together – we all do the same job – just different ages. I felt there was a real positive buzz. Big Thanks to the organisers awesome.*

The final cost of the PLD worked out at \$41.57 per person – a big bang for a small buck.



Thanks to the across school lead team, Dave Sampson and Graham Avery, the staff at Hope Community Church and Trish Sullivan for excellent organisation.

Vision Document

The across school team and Kāhui Ako leaders have collated all the feedback from the PLD day and other sources and have used this to draft a vision document. At the centre of the document are five 'emerging themes' that staff throughout our Kāhui Ako are most interested in exploring as ways of addressing our achievement challenges. These themes are likely to form a major part of the Kāhui Ako's work in 2018 (and perhaps beyond). Here's how we see this work unfolding:

- Principals and within school lead teachers test the themes with their staff to check that these are in fact the important things. Prioritise a few themes as focus areas in each school.
- Within school lead teachers work with staff to identify examples of good practice in their school that relate to the themes. Staff gather evidence and 'tell the story' about why this practice is good and the effect it has on student engagement, progress and achievement.
- Within school and across school lead teachers, with support from principals, share the examples of effective practice across the Kāhui Ako and bring together groups and individuals who are interested in adopting the ideas into their schools.

Through this process we hope to identify existing excellent practice, prove its effectiveness through robust scrutiny and evidence, and make it visible and available to others across the Kāhui Ako.

Kāhui Ako Website

The vision document, presentations from the PLD day and other very useful material is now available for reading and download on our Waimea Kahui Ako website: www.waimeacol.org
Thanks to Janine Higgins for creating and managing the site.

Across-school lead teachers

Our Across School lead teacher team

Gus Shirley	Waimea College
Andrew Ricciardi	Waimea College
Sarah Rankin	Garin College
Janine Higgins	Waimea Intermediate
Glenda Earle	Brightwater School

The team is doing an excellent job and has hugely accelerated the pace of the Kāhui Ako's work. At this time we have been unsuccessful in appointing our 6th and final member of the across schools team. We intend to leave this position unfilled and re-advertise towards the end of 2018. Because we intended to resource this role by combining three unassigned 'within school' roles, we can now consider how else we may use this staffing for the remainder of this year.

The across school team meets weekly and between meetings the team are working on a variety of tasks. During the next fortnight they will visit all schools to meet principals and staff, and work with the within school lead teachers.

Within school lead teachers

All within school roles assigned to the schools have been appointed. Principals should ensure they are receiving the correct staffing, funding and allowances for their assigned roles: contact Kāhui Ako leaders if there is a problem.

Application for centrally funded PLD

On 9 February we made an application for 600 hours of centrally-funded PLD. We will find out in a couple of weeks if our application is successful. The application is to support initiatives that help us meet our achievement challenges. If successful we will then seek to engage a PLD provider, or providers, who can add value to the initiatives already happening in the Kāhui Ako, or support our work with new ideas and strategies.

Engaging with ECE sector

Head teachers of the six kindergartens in our Kāhui Ako, along with NTKA senior managers, attended the PLD day on 5 February. We will follow this up shortly with closer contacts.

Engaging with the RTLB service

We will meet next week with RTLB senior staff to discuss ways they can support our initiatives to meet our achievement challenges.

Thanks for your commitment to supporting the achievement of our students across the Waimea Kāhui Ako. Principals, please ensure this update is circulated as widely as possible.

Contact us at any time for more information.

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