



Focusing on:

Student Pathways

Culturally Responsive
Practice

Community Hauora

To raise achievement for all students and address our achievement challenges

2 May 2022

Tēnā koutou katoa,

A warm welcome back to the new term after a well deserved break away from routine. With many of our learning community and kura experiencing high levels of absences due to COVID circulating our region we look forward to a more settled period where we can once again focus on core business of teaching and learning. As you will be well aware, it is still important to continue to look after each other and our own Hauora. Great to see many of you attend the online Connect Week sessions that had a Hauora focus.

Waimea Kāhui Ako Cultural Festival - Change of date Term 3 Week 9

After discussions with the Waimea Kāhui Ako kura leaders last term we felt that this term was too soon to hold our scheduled Cultural Festival. Many of our kura have experienced staffing changes in this area and felt that these staff changes coupled with the interruptions to Kapa Haka in Term 1 due to COVID restrictions has meant we are not at the same level of performance readiness as we would normally be at this time of year. Therefore a decision has been made to reschedule this event to Thursday 22 September Term 3 2022.

Connect Week - Next Connect Week is Term 2 Week 9

A highlight for our Kāhui Ako last term was our Connect Week. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback to the AST, as this will mean we will continue to provide relevant and useful Connect Week sessions to all stakeholders within our Kāhui Ako. The online format was positively received and this is a format we will continue to offer for the sessions that lend themselves to this delivery mode.

Now that the Cultural Festival date has been rescheduled to Term 3 we will be offering our second Kāhui Ako Connect Week in its place. This means our next Connect Week is this term 27 - 30 June (Week 9). This will include an opportunity for staff across our Kāhui Ako to attend professional development at Whakatū Marae as previously offered. Later in the term we will send the registration details for this event to you and we hope that you can make the most of the Connect Week opportunities on offer.

Within School Teachers Hui - Thursday 2 June 3:45-4:45 pm

The Across School Teachers (AST) are looking forward to meeting our Within School Teachers (WSTs) face to face on Thursday 2 June at 3:45 pm. This session will involve full group discussion and small group discussion focusing on themes. We will be setting up professional learning groups (PLGs) that will continue to interact throughout the year, sharing and developing practice. If you are a WST watch out for the email in Week 3 with details about this hui.

Waimea Kāhui Ako Across School Teacher Vacancy

An exciting opportunity has been offered to our Kāhui Ako (as detailed below) that will strengthen our partnerships and student pathways between primary and early childhood kura. This involves appointing an Across School Teachers (AST) to support the person working in our local ECE's. The AST role will focus on our Strategic theme of Student Pathways. This position is available to any teacher currently employed in our Kāhui Ako who meets the selection criteria. The selection criteria, application pack, and supporting information for this exciting AST role will be shared with kura via an email to school leaders and also on our Kāhui Ako website [Waimea Kāhui Ako website](#) once finalised. Please watch out for this if you are interested.

Early Childhood Pilot Project

We are fortunate to have a number of ECEs associated with our Kāhui Ako and we continue to strengthen the student pathways across sectors. In Term 1 we started working alongside Mike Ness, Ministry of Education Learning Support Team, co-designing an exciting pilot project that has a focus on Early Childhood Education. This project allows us to access some limited (in time) funding to help support younger learners (around 3 years of age) and their whānau. This in turn will support transition into primary school. These learners would likely be presenting with a variety of emerging learning needs and would not necessarily be receiving service from the MOE. As examples, they might be struggling to settle into a new centre or finding it challenging to play appropriately with others. Equally sporadic attendance or developmental progress might be a concern.

To support the learners and their whānau we are looking to appoint a suitably passionate and qualified person known as an "ECO". The ECO role will be hosted by a school and work alongside the ASTs. This will ensure this support is available for prioritised learners across our Kāhui Ako. The role is seen as working directly with families and helping whānau and centres to access, develop and inform supports for learners. This role will be advertised on our Kāhui Ako website [Waimea Kāhui Ako website](#).

In the meantime, if you think you know someone who would be interested and suitable for this role please get them to contact me directly, Justine McDonald principal@waimeaint.school.nz

Waimea Kāhui Ako SENCO Hui - Thursday 16 June 1 pm

The next SENCO get together is scheduled for Week 7 this term on Thursday 16 June at 1pm. This session will focus on working towards our Waimea Kāhui Ako readiness to respond to the Learning Support Delivery Model. This is a model that our Kāhui Ako does not have direct access to currently and when the opportunity becomes available to us to access this resource we want to be prepared. In Week 3 an email will be sent out to the SENCOs who we have on our current SENCO list. If you do not receive an email from us by the end of Week 3 this term, please let us know so we can update our contact list and include your details.

AST Focus on Strategic Planning Inquiry

Great to see and hear that kura are making effective use of the seven hundred hours of PLD we were allocated at the end of 2021. Our AST continue to work along kura and their lead staff focusing on our three strategic themes of localised curriculum, student pathways and community hauora. We are also engaging with local iwi developing a plan to strengthen learning focused partnerships for our learners and support professional development in culturally responsive practice in our people.

If you are wanting to work alongside our AST's to support your school's focus area please make contact with them directly using the list below.

Localised Curriculum

Scott MacKenzie scott.mackenzie@cloud.wakefield.school.nz

Ryan Higgins rhiggins@staff.richmondprimary.school.nz

Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum

Paula Campbell paula.campbell@waimea.school.nz

Well-Being and Hauora

Di Giraud dianne.giraud@waimeaint.school.nz

Student Pathways/Transitions

Scott MacKenzie scott.mackenzie@cloud.wakefield.school.nz

Wishing you all a successful and enjoyable Term 2.

Ngā mihi nui,

Justine McDonald principal@waimeaint.school.nz

