

Waimea Kāhui Ako
September 2018 update
(for BOTs, staff and communities)

Our Themes

Building relationships, Well-being, Culturally Responsive Practice, Transitions, Digital Fluency

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

What have we been doing? Read on...

Kāhui Ako Learning Weeks 2019

After positive feedback from our learning week in August principals have approved a proposal to run two learning weeks in 2019, in terms 1 and 3. The learning weeks may be organised around a single theme.

Leadership Recruitment

Interviews for new leadership are scheduled for the first week of term four. New leadership will begin their role at the beginning of 2019. At this time we are optimistic that a shared leadership model will continue in 2019.

Across School Lead Teachers

We intend to recruit a 6th across school lead teacher in term four, for a two year term beginning in 2019. This position will be resourced from MOE across-school teacher staffing entitlement, which will increase from 5 to 6 positions in 2019. We also retain the opportunity to recruit a further AST role by combining 3 unassigned within-school lead teacher roles.

Early Childhood Sector engagement

Principals agreed at our September meeting to a variation of the Memorandum of Agreement to include local ECE providers. Twenty-one ECE providers wish to join the kāhui ako, including 4 kindergartens, 3 playcentres, 2 home-based care providers and 12 private or community centres. Three ECE representatives will attend the monthly principals' meetings. Details of the varied MoA are being worked out.

Long term plan and Professional Learning and Development (PLD)

A draft strategic plan for 2019-2020 was presented to principals at our September meeting, with considerable discussion resulting in the decision to base the plan on four work-streams corresponding generally to our themes:

1. Digital technologies
2. Culturally responsive practice
3. Transitions
4. Hauora (combining the themes of well-being and building relationships)

Detailed plans for each theme will be presented for approval at the October meeting and then brought to schools for discussion and inclusion in school strategic plans. Key to the success of this, as for any, strategic plan is that it is relevant to each school. BOTs, staff and communities need to see themselves and their priorities represented in the kāhui ako plan and are encouraged to thoroughly scrutinise the plans and offer ideas for implementing the various initiatives.

An application has been made for centrally-funded PLD to implement the new Digital Technology curriculum for years 1-8 in 2019. Secondary schools have also applied for PLD resourcing for the DT curriculum.

Applications for further PLD resourcing will be considered as needed to implement other initiatives within the strategic plan.

Leadership hui

Waimea kāhui ako jointly hosted, along with the Nelson and Stoke KAs, a hui of KA leaders and across school lead teachers from the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region on 20-21 September. Topics included how to get the most from the expert partner relationship, appraisal of KA roles and leadership for collaboration. Useful time was spent sharing the work of each KA and approaches to solving common problems.

Within-school lead teachers

A meeting of all within school lead teachers was held on Monday 10 September at which all attending shared their ongoing work and ways of improving their roles in their schools. Principals are committed to confirming within school roles for 2019 by the end of this year which will enable the work of this group to develop smoothly.

Kāhui Ako Website

A reminder that our Waimea kāhui ako website is continually updated with new resources and useful links. Thanks to Janine Higgins for creating and managing the site www.waimeacol.org.

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.*** Please contact us at any time for more information.

John Armstrong principal@henley.school.nz

Peter Verstappen: peter.verstappen@wakefield.school.nz