

26 May 2010

Tenâ koutou ngâ mâtua o te Kura,

Thank you for attending our hui on Tuesday, 23rd March when we discussed Maori student achievements and well-being.

I really enjoyed the evening and, in particular, the ideas, suggestions and discussion that took place. We would like to have another meeting in Term 2, which will provide a good opportunity to discuss some of the issues raised (listed below) including topics such as NCEA.

I have summarised your written comments under two headings. There were a range of suggestions, comments and ideas with several appearing more than once.

How do Whanau measure success?

- High attendance, participation (being involved in school life).
- Extra-curricular activities (sport/social).
- Feeling comfortable at school.
- Academic.
- Spiritual.
- Emotional.
- Maori students staying at school.
- The desire for our Maori students to keep learning.
- Great relationships.

How can the school further help students?

- Clarity on website, particularly regarding events on calendar.
- Better behavior strategies.
- Generally improving communication.
- Mentoring system for Maori students below numeracy and literacy levels at Year 9/10.
- Te Kotahitanga Project.
- Marae – High priority
- Boys – Taiaha Course up North NCEA accredited.
- Improving relationship with staff encouraging tamariki to ‘stand tall’.

- Setting goals and monitoring Maori student achievement.
- Kapa Haka.
- Fewer worksheets.
- Students' parents getting involved with students and teachers.
- Change enrolment system to record multiple ethnicities.
- Teaching strategies – need to be interactive.
- Get Maori parents forum/group to educate other parents.
- How do we maintain a critical mass of Maori students in the senior school.
- Whanau representatives on the Maori Achievement and Wellbeing Committee.
- Get Whanau students involved in a Tuakana-teina Programme – with Year 9 Maori students.
- Engaging Parents early.

In order for the school to effectively help Māori students, it must develop initiatives that are underpinned by core Māori values, such as:

- manaakitanga (hospitality and kindness)
- whanaungatanga (relationships)
- tino rangatiratanga (self-determination – the students must have a voice)
- aroha (compassion)
- mana

And any such initiatives must incorporate things Māori, for example:

- Te Reo Māori (valuing the Māori language)
- matauranga Māori (valuing Māori knowledge)
- tikanga Māori (valuing Māori customs and traditions)

Collaboration with whānau and the community is key when designing such initiatives. A whakataukī, or proverb, which reflects the positive nature of a collaborative effort is included here:

Ko tō rourou, ko tāku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi – Together, we will flourish.
