



Ngā Mātāpuna o Te Waihora

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Community of Learning Newsletter
Term 1, 2019

Welcome to the community newsletter for Ngā Mātāpuna o te Waihora Community of Learning (CoL).

The Ngā Mātāpuna o Te Waihora Kāhui Ako consists of Early Childhood Centres and Schools in the Ellesmere area. The CoL works together in a variety of areas with the aim of supporting our tamariki that attend our Early Childhood Centres and Schools. This initiative is supported by the Ministry of Education. The purpose of our community newsletters is to inform the Community of the initiatives and programmes the CoL has running.

Our Logo

The hills represent N and M - from Ngā Mātāpuna. The larger shape is Te Waihora and the three koru in the lake represent Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary who together are growing education (koru symbolising growth).

Across School Leader and Within School Teachers

This year has seen our CoL move forward in leaps and bounds. At the end of 2018, we finalised appointments for the CoL leadership roles for this year. Tamara Bell, principal of Southbridge School was appointed to the Lead Principal role for Term's 1 and 2 and Dave Robinson, principal of Dunsandel Primary School for Term's 3 and 4.

Sam Forward from Ellesmere College has been appointed as the CoL Across School Leader for this year and the following teachers have been appointed as Within School Teachers for 2019:

Southbridge School - Nicole Thornton

Dunsandel School - Kate McCloy

Leeston Consolidated School - Kylie Breathing and Lisa McClure

Ellesmere College - Desirae Beechey, Karla Morton, Kim Thomas, Steven Packer

Sam has visited all 4 schools this term and will be visiting our ECE's in Term 2. This has been as part of the scoping process and information gathered as a result of his visits and our online survey sent to staff in Term 1, will help us identify where our CoL areas of strengths and needs are in relation to our three key drivers of change - Wellbeing, Transitions and Culture. An action plan with our next steps will then be formalised and used to guide our work throughout this year and beyond.

Early Childhood Update

Our ECE's have been busy too! As a group, they met with Liz Dupree regarding putting together a funding application for the ECE's. They have decided they will focus on a centre review on Oral Literacy skills, as this links nicely with transitions, culture and wellbeing and they hope to work towards closing the gap that they have noticed in oral literacy skills at a pre-school level. Thank you to Leanne Dainty - ECE rep on the CoL Leadership Group and Nikki Wellby - ECE rep on the CoL Stewardship Group for their contributions from an ECE sector at the CoL leadership level.



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Expert Partner Support



We have been fortunate to secure 2 expert partners for PLD support for our CoL. The MOE fund our expert partner to support our Community of Learning for up to 10 days every 6 months, for up to 2 years. Both of our EPs work for CORE Education and have expertise in the two areas we all identified as essential and a priority this year. Amira Iman - coaching & mentoring and Rebbecca Sweeney - teaching as inquiry. Expert partners are academics and teaching practitioners who work with Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako to develop robust, high-quality achievement challenges.



Expert partners also help build collaborative practices and support Communities of Learning as they take action to meet their achievement challenges.

Through rigorous data analysis, our expert partners will help us identify the causes of an achievement challenge. They can also provide advice and guidance about change, learning and development opportunities to support personalised learning pathways and accelerate student achievement.

Expert partners act as 'critical friends' to help Communities of Learning:

- strengthen their evidence gathering practices
- accurately define relevant achievement challenges
- plan and monitor activity that addresses the achievement challenges
- share effective practice.

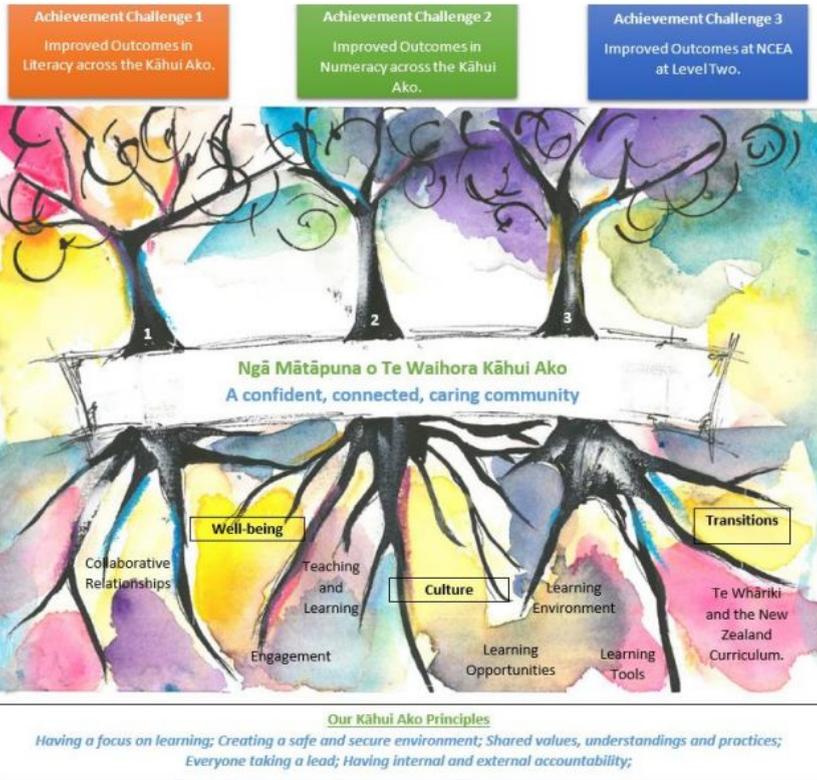
CoL Staff Hui - Coaching and Mentoring

On Tuesday 5th March we held a combined CoL staff hui at Southbridge School facilitated by our Expert Partner Amira Iman from CORE Education. The hui was attended by all 4 principals, Sam our Across School Lead, all of our Within School Teachers and many more interested staff members from all 4 schools. Our MoE Senior advisor Jane McKinnon also attended. It was well received by staff and we aim to hold more combined CoL hui for coaching and mentoring in Term's 2 and 3.





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