



WHĀNAU KI TE AKO

Whānau ki te Ako update - Term Four 2022

'Better Together: A connected pathway for empowered learners' reflects our shared thinking and journey together.

Kia ora e te whānau,

Sue and I are now nearing the end of our first full school year as co-leads of our Kāhui Ako 'Whānau ki te Ako'. It has definitely been an exciting journey as we learn how best to balance our roles as Principals of Upper Harbour Primary School and Albany Senior High School alongside the co-leadership of our Kāhui Ako. This would not have been possible without the support of our senior leadership teams, our fellow Principals and our fabulous Kāhui ako Across School and Within School Leads. What a team!

This year has seen an increase in strategic action taking place as our schools have opened their doors to visitors once again. This has enabled the Across School Leads to work closely with each school across our kahui ako and has enabled them to move our annual strategic plan forward. This year has also seen an increase in our senior leaders, both the Principals and Deputy Principals, working more together.

As co-leads we have focused on a refreshed strategic approach and have changed the way our Across School Leads have worked, focusing on giving them more agency to progress more defined portfolios. One of the highlights this year was working with the MoE to initiate a North Auckland Lead Principals' network in conjunction with the MOE. This network will continue to run next year with a different kahui ako hosting a termly meeting for leaders. This year we have also focused on progressing the kahui ako's relationship with Massey University. The leadership team enjoyed a very productive meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr Tere McGonagle-Daly and his team and as a result have kicked off a number of work plans with Massey. In line with our refreshed strategic approaches, we have also undertaken a brand and logo refresh.

What the kahui ako offers our community

- Resourcing to appoint a Lead Principal.
- Resourcing to appoint Across School Leaders.
- Resourcing to establish a range of Within School Leaders.
- These leaders can then support great connection and collaboration between and across schools.
- We now run regular events and have held two conferences that bring all of our teachers and support staff together.
- We also have applied for and received 800 hours of professional development for our teachers.

Whanau ki te ako is made up of seven schools: Albany Junior High School, Albany Primary School, Albany Senior High School, Coatesville School, Greenhithe School, Ridgeview School, Upper Harbour Primary School.

Our current community vision 'Better Together: A connected pathway for empowered learners' reflects our shared thinking and journey together.

Below is a brief summary of what our kahui ako offers us and the actions taken towards each of our key drivers. A huge thank you to everyone involved, as a team, we really are “better together”.

Collaboration

By the end of the Achievement Challenge cycle Whānau ki te Ako teachers, learners and leaders have demonstrated improvement in collaborative skills and dispositions to improve student outcomes.

This year Shelley Wilson has supported this by:

- Facilitating the building of relationships between special interest groups across our Kahui Ako and providing each school with WSL and ASL contact sheets.
- Assisting the Kahui Ako Librarians with the creation of a digital space to store and share information about Aotearoa New Zealand histories.

Culturally Sustaining and Relational Pedagogy

To recognise our responsibility to te reo Māori, te ao Māori, tikanga Māori and Mātauranga Māori in school and classroom settings, so that teaching programmes embrace te tiriti o Waitangi and Mana Orite mo te Mātauranga Māori. (Māori knowledge holding equal value).

This year has included:

- Building relations with leaders and teachers from each school
- Working with Laurayne Tafa to develop a deeper understanding of what te ao Māori practices look like in school. This will be shared early next year along with a summary report on what is currently happening.
- Liaising with Massey University and schools to promote and organise social learning experience on Toro Mai

Transitions

To increase the effectiveness of learner transitions, through a focus on learning and wellbeing, so that learners enjoy positive and smooth transitions from one kura to the next.

This year has included:

- Working with ECE providers, to develop effectiveness of learner transitions, and have increased connections between ECE and feeder Primary Schools in our Kāhui Ako (development of the Transitions website.)
- Increased community understanding of our Kāhui Ako , collecting stories from a range of successful Whānau ki te Ako alumni (with more work to be completed for this particular goal)
- Organisation and promotion of inter school and/or whole community events within our Kāhui Ako (e.g. wellbeing presentation/s Kathryn Berkett, AJHS experience days involving Student Leaders from both AJHS/ASHS.)

Learner Agency

Learners will have increased agency and be able to articulate the purpose of their learning.

This year has included:

- Spending time in each kura across our Kāhui Ako, gathering evidence of what Learner Agency looks like in different classroom settings. Evidence has included student voice, teacher voice, photos and resources. This mahi continues as Melissa works to complete evidence gathering of Learner Agency within the middle school (AJHS).

- In the last few weeks, Melissa has been building a Learner Agency Hub (Google Site) that will allow all of our Whānau ki te Ako community to view the snapshots of evidence that she has gathered over the year from our kura. The goal here is for kaiako within our Kāhui Ako to try something new or different in their own practice, and to connect with kaiako about the resources and tools that they are using to encourage greater agency.

Leadership / Teacher Effectiveness

To establish and nurture an active leadership network so as to support leaders across the Kāhui Ako.

This year has included:

- Ngā Kaihautū - a comprehensive report of leadership structures in each kura, and across kura in Whānau ki te Ako
- Subsequent PLD devised with Laurayne Tafa - to be held on the 22nd of Feb 2023
- Ongoing wānanga with MoE - Common practice model and NZC refresh
- A DP webinar will be published shortly, for aspiring senior leaders

On behalf of the Kāhui Ako leadership team, we would like to wish everyone in our community a safe and relaxing break and we look forward to connecting with each of the schools and communities even more in the coming months.

Looking ahead to 2023

Next year looks to be action packed. We will continue to focus on the key drivers of collaboration, culturally responsive pedagogy, learner agency and transitions. However, collaboration will be reframed to have a focus on supporting the rollout of Aotearoa NZ Histories across our kahui ako.

In April 2023 we will host our third Whānau ki te Ako conference with the focus Turangawaewae (A Place to Stand) with confirmed keynotes from Karl Vasau, Laurayne Tafa and Dr Melanie Rewai-Couch.

Hei konā mai,

Claire Amos and Sue Smith

Co-Leads | Whanau ki te Ako