



Principal's End of Year Report 2011

Once again we have completed a very successful year at Tirimoana School, with a number of highlights over the year and some significant new developments.

This year we reached a peak school roll of 633 students, the most ever. We enrolled many more in-zone five year olds than expected, and consequently we have had to limit the number of places available for out-of-zone applications. I predict we will continue to receive significant demand for places for enrolment next year, and our peak end-of-year student roll will be similar to this year.

This year we enrolled 123 five year olds. These children will graduate from Tirimoana School in 2016 or 2017, and they will most likely be leaving high school at the end of Year 13 in either 2024 or 2025!

Who knows what their world will be like as they enter into adulthood?

At the beginning of 2011 we welcomed our new Deputy Principal, Andrew Ducat, to join our Leadership Team along with the Deputy Principal of our Junior School, Mrs Jean Harold, and our Assistant Principal, Tui McMillan. The appointment of Mr Ducat was the most significant appointment the school has made since the appointment of Mrs Harold in 1994. The Board of Trustees took great care and time to ensure they made the best appointment - in fact we advertised the position twice over a 2 year period. He replaced our long-serving, much loved Deputy Principal, Mrs Jan Parkinson who retired in 2010. I can state confidently to everyone that we definitely made the right choice in appointing Mr Ducat. He is a perfect fit for our school and he has been very well received by our staff and our students.

I admire his positive approach to every situation, his enthusiasm for teaching, and his excellent relationships with children and staff.

The most significant event in the school calendar this year has been the review of the school by the Education Review Office in November. At the start of the year we knew we were due for a review, so teachers and the Board were well prepared by the time the review actually took place. I am very pleased to announce to staff and the community that we have received an outstanding report. This independent review has confirmed the quality teaching that takes place in classrooms and the excellent achievement (in all areas – academic, sporting and cultural) of our students.

We can all feel proud of our school. I thank our teachers and all our other staff for their hard work and dedication to the school.

The ERO report will be available to all families in the New Year, and it will be placed on our school website in 2012.

I presented three themes to staff for 2011. The first related to the expected review of the school by the Education Review Office. That review was a scheduled review on a 3 year cycle, to confirm for the Ministry of Education and the community that our school meets all its requirements and expectations. At the beginning of the year I reminded our staff, in particular our teachers, that the success of the review depended upon the professional expertise and dedication of all our staff. The outcome is that our school now moves to a 4-5 year cycle of reviews.

The second theme related to developing a more comprehensive, school-wide approach to Inquiry Learning. This set the focus for professional development for our teachers for 2011. We organised a teacher-only-day in June and we set expectations for our teachers to further develop their competence and confidence with Inquiry Learning. By the time ERO came to review the school they were able to see evidence of quality Inquiry Learning happening in every classroom.

The third theme was stressing to all teachers, and to parents, the importance of early identification and effective intervention with children who demonstrate behaviour problems in class. This has meant we are more definitive about expectations for positive behaviour, and conversely more definitive about behaviours we will not accept. We will not indefinitely tolerate disruptive or negative behaviour that affects the rights of other children to learn. Ultimately we will Stand Down disruptive children from school if parents do not work alongside teachers to make behaviour change.

This year we set ourselves a goal of raising the awareness and interest of both teachers and children in Science. This is a Learning Area which is often under recognised in primary schools. The outcome was professional feedback for all our teachers on teaching Science and a whole school Science exhibition in September. This was a great success! Both teachers and students reported to me how much they learned in Science this year, and how much they enjoyed their learning.

We celebrated a number of other key highlights over the year. These included the Geography Place-A-thon, the beach picnics, the sports zonal days, the orchestra and choir performances, participating in the Auckland Primary Principals Association music festival, the Tiri Recitals and talent quest, the Year Six camp at Carey Park, Wheels Days, Grandparents Day, Fathers Day, delegations of teachers from Hong Kong and Singapore, our two teachers from the United States, our Kapa haka performing in the West Auckland Multi-cultural festival, the Roots of Empathy programme in Year 3 classes, and the construction of a Window Frame overlooking our native garden. And there were so many other exciting things in our busy school calendar.

Early this year the school was awarded a Gold Travelwise award from Auckland City Council and from the Auckland Regional Transport Authority. This award recognised the efforts our school community has made to reduce traffic congestion and to encourage walking to school. I acknowledge the leadership of Ms Vanderwee in keeping our school focused on the goal of achieving the Gold award.

As a community our biggest event of the year was probably our school Gala in April. It was a fantastic day, with a huge turnout of parents working alongside our staff, to make a very successful, fun day for everyone. It was our biggest and best gala day to date, making almost \$20,000 profit for our PTA. Thank you to everyone who helped with that event.

This year was also our best ever for fundraising by the Tirimoana Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Over the year a dedicated team of parents and staff worked hard to organise a number of fundraising events and collectively they fundraised close to \$36,000 for the school. Well done! This is our best result ever! All of the funds raised went into extra teaching resources and into purchasing new interactive electronic whiteboards for classrooms. This new technology is very much appreciated by teachers and children.

A new development in 2011 was the Board of Trustees decision to introduce a compulsory school uniform in 2012. For a number of years parents have indicated to our school their preference for a school uniform, despite the cost. Thank you to our Board of Trustees member Mrs Niki Bailey who convened a school uniform committee to investigate and make recommendations for introducing a compulsory uniform. Mrs Bailey and a group of parents and staff spent many hours researching and consulting. In 2012 all Year 1 to Year 5 students will therefore be required to wear the Tirimoana School uniform. We will phase in the uniform for Year Six students in 2013.

Appreciation

Parents

Thank you to all the many parents and members of our local community that have supported our school over the past year. In particular I wish to thank:

- The parents who attend our PTA meetings and regularly support PTA events including our PTA Chairperson Mrs Trudi Piercy
- Parent helpers in classrooms and in the library
- Parent helpers with PMP in the Junior School
- Parents who have helped out on school trips and sports days
- Parents who have helped out with Kapa haka
- Parents who helped at the Year Six camp

Staff

Thank you to all our staff – teachers, office staff, teacher-aides, librarian, cleaners, caretaker and groundsmen. Collectively you are a great team! Each and every one of our staff puts in more than 100% into their jobs.

I sincerely thank and acknowledge our Leadership Team, including Jean Harold, Andrew Ducat, Tui McMillan and Mandy Vanderwee.

Board of Trustees

I acknowledge and thank our Board of Trustees for their careful governance and support of our school - Debbie Clark our Chairperson, Evi Sinclair, Mark Franich, Mike Carter, Niki Bailey and Louise Graham.

Farewells

At the end of the school year there are always a number of farewells to acknowledge.

First of all, farewell and good luck to all our Year 6 graduating students who will be moving on to Intermediate School in 2012. The large majority of these students will be moving on to our local Intermediate School, Rangeview. I wish them every success in the coming years. For many of them Tirimoana was their first school and they completed 6 years as students here. It will be with a mixture of excitement and anxiety that they leave us to go on to the next stage of their schooling.

Mandy Vanderwee

Ms Vanderwee will be leaving Tirimoana School after completing 8 years teaching with us. I am very happy to announce that Ms Vanderwee is moving on to take up a significant promotion as Assistant Principal at Glen Eden Intermediate School. She has been an important senior member of our teaching staff and leadership team. I sincerely wish her every success in her new position.

Brooke Wyllie

Mr Wyllie will be leaving Tirimoana School after completing his first two years of teaching. He leaves as a fully registered teacher and will be travelling overseas with his fiancé.

Katija Simunic

Ms Simunic will be leaving school to take maternity leave. She and her partner, Antonio, are expecting their first child in the New Year. I wish her well for the birth and for a lifetime of joy with her first child. We are hoping Miss Simunic will return to Tirimoana School sometime in the future to continue her teaching career.

Finally I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy summer holiday. I look forward to seeing many of you again in the New Year.

Peter Kaiser
Principal

Merry.
Christmas

