



ROLLESTON
**Learning
Community**
Ngā Peka O Tauwharekākaho

**Nga peka o
Tauwharekākaho**
*The Connecting Branches of
the Rolleston Area*
Newsletter

Issue 9
December 2020

Vision: Communities Collaborating to Grow

Term 4 2020



**Message from our Lead
Principal**

Kia ora koutou katoa,

It has been an extraordinary year, to say the least. One I'm sure many of us will remember for a very long time to come. The disruption COVID-19 has caused across schools and ECEs in Aotearoa NZ has been significant however, on the bright side, the past two terms have been refreshingly 'business as usual'. You may remember that

following the lockdown earlier this year, we made the collective decision to investigate/review how our people coped with life and learning, so we designed a survey to be administered across the whole of Ngā Peka O Tauwharekākaho Kahui Ako. We developed a set of questions under the themes of Engagement, Relationships, Communication, Wellbeing and Transitioning back. We had an overwhelming response with over 1700 people completing the survey to tell us their story, needless to say, we had a wealth of data to analyse. The information and insight we have been able to gain from our students, staff and parents/whanau is truly fascinating and I'm thrilled to share with you the COVID-19 Summary Report that has been compiled by Garry Taylor from Evaluation Associates. This is now available for reading.

Our Jumbo Day, held on Thursday 26th November was a fantastic way to come together one last time for the year and to review the work we have been doing across our Kāhui Ako, as well as to plan ahead. We had over 60 people present for the day and it was a

**Our Kāhui Ako consists of the
following 11 schools...**

Burnham - Pauline Jansen

Clearview - Rob Rush

Kingslea - Tina Lomax

Lemonwood Grove - Blair Dravitski

Rolleston Christian School - Liz Horn

Rolleston College - Rachel Skelton

Rolleston School - Simon Moriarty

Waitaha School - Maureen Allen

Weedons - Kathy Bell

West Melton School - Susan Jackson

West Rolleston - Sylvia Fidow

**...and 19 Early Childhood Centres
(ECE)**

Active Explorers Rolleston

Ako Rolleston

Annabel's Educare - West Melton

Best Start Rolleston

Bright Beginnings Montessori

Burnham Country Montessori

Edukids Faringdon - BestStart

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Burnham

Kidsfirst Kindergartens West

Rolleston

Lollipops Rolleston

Paradise for Little Angels

Selwyn Kids

The Cats Pyjamas Preschool

West Melton Kindergarten, Nursery

& Learning Centre

BestStart Faringdon East

Burnham Nursery & Preschool

Three Trees Learning Centre

pleasure to connect with those in attendance. Following the Jumbo Day, our Leadership Team met to discuss the dates and events for 2021 and we have populated the calendar with a busy schedule of events and learning opportunities for next year. Exciting times ahead!

Please be sure to shut down your laptop, switch off and enjoy a well deserved holiday break. Give yourself permission to stop checking emails and to do whatever makes you happy. I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a safe and relaxing holiday break.

Ngā mihi nui

Rob Rush

Lead Principal / Kaiārahi

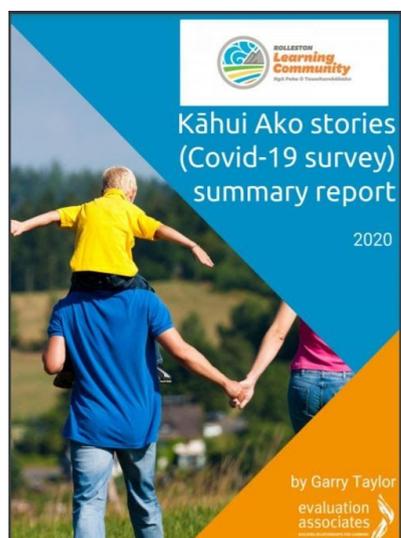
Ngā Peka o Tauwharekakaho

All of these centres are represented by, Erika Stinson, supported by Susan Tansey (Across School Teacher - ECE Liaison)

Covid Survey- Results and Learnings

Our Kāhui Ako put out a survey to help us understand the experiences of our community during the Covid 19 lockdown.

The survey was comprehensive and very well supported with 1712 responses from learners, staff and whānau. The survey collected feedback and experiences in the areas of hauora/ wellbeing, engagement in online learning, accessibility to devices and perceptions of communication and support during this time period.



The size of the survey required detailed and professional analysis. This became the 'Kāhui Ako Stories (Covid 19) Report Summary' produced by Evaluation Associates.

The full report is accessible [Kāhui Ako Stories \(Covid-19 survey\) summary report](#)

- Some of the key information to come out of this survey includes;
- 98% of Ākonga had access to a device to support their learning at home
- The most popular way to support personal hauora and wellbeing during this time was through physical activity
- 98% Ākonga felt there teachers actively supported their wellbeing during lockdown
- Ākonga stayed connected via 21 different platforms during lockdown (Not just Zoom and Google Classroom!)
- 87% of Ākonga were happy to return to school post lockdown
- 92% staff were satisfied with communications from their school around lockdown and returning to onsite learning
- 96% of whānau felt well informed around communications relating to returning to school.

Some of the statements Learners made around their engagement while in lockdown is equally as applicable in a physical face to face classroom;

- *Knowing what to do*
- *Making it interesting and fun*
- *Understanding and relevance*
- *Realistic expectations*
- *Personal interaction*

Jumbo Day



Our Kāhui Ako Jumbo day was the first opportunity to get the whole team together- Leadership, ASTs and WSTs. The Jumbo day was held at Clearview School and was well attended. The day was structured into four sessions;

- Progress towards our Achievement Challenges
- Culturally responsive practice goals and action plans
- Review and visioning for 2021
- Facilitated group sessions

The day began with Rob Rush, our Lead Principal, leading us through a reflection of 2020. Despite the interruptions of Covid, it has still been a busy time for our Kāhui Ako! While some events were cancelled or postponed, many events did still go ahead successfully.

There was a presentation by Matauraki Mahaanui facilitators followed by a series of presentations from the leadership group. These leadership presentations were focused on key capabilities around our Cultural Narrative, Te Reo Māori capability and development and also 'Māori success, as Māori'.

The facilitated group session allowed the WST team to share some of their within school projects with the wider group.



Culturally Responsive Practice

The Leadership group were/ challenge; **To build a greater sense of connection as a Kāhui Ako by connecting cultural narrative.**



Motu- our destination; We want the learner to have a strong connection to their place of learning. For them to feel as though they are welcome and belong to their school/kura.

Waka- Our vehicle; The Waka is our Project and the creation of our Cultural Narrative. The Cultural Narrative is what will drive us forward and it becomes a part of us.

The way that we engage will help us to drive forward

Ara- The pathway we will follow; Kahikatea, Tataiako, Te Rautaki Mātauraka Ngāi Tahu Education Strategy, Tauwharekākaho/Rolleston, He Puna Kōrero mo ngā Kura, Educational Hub, Cultural Narrative.

Tohu- Our plan; He Poutama framework.

The poutama (stairway to heaven) is a stepped pattern used in tukutuku panels and woven mats. In this context, it symbolises the process of scaffolding knowledge and tracking attainment. This poutama is intended to guide, inform and inspire learning centres and schools in our Kāhui Ako in the development and integration

of a cultural narrative. It is designed so that all schools and learning centres can build on their current knowledge and practice base as they ascend the steps of the poutama. The poutama framework provides guidance from 'envisioning' through to 'empowering' capabilities (adapted from Macfarlane and Macfarlane et al. The Hikairo Schema Series: Culturally responsive teaching and learning).



Reflection on our Kāhui Ako- SWOT Analysis

One of the activities at the Jumbo day was the opportunity to reflect and give some feedback on how we think our Kāhui Ako is going.

While the Rolleston Learning Community Cluster has been operating successfully for a long time, this is the first year that the Kāhui ako has had Leaders, ASTs and WSTs all in operation.

With over 60 people attending it was an extensive SWOT analysis.

It provided a wide range of feedback from people in different roles, but there were also some common themes that were touched on multiple times. A summary of some of those strong themes is listed below.

It is heartening and encouraging that by far the largest set of responses came from the Strengths segment of the SWOT analysis. Our people were highlighted as a major asset. Interestingly the significant size of our Kāhui Ako was seen as both a strength and a potential weakness.

This feedback has been collated and shared with the leadership team so it can be used to inform and shape things going forwards.

Strengths;

- Culturally responsive
- Shared vision and clarity of direction
- Opportunities for PD, networking collaboration
- Positive relationships whanaungatanga and support for each other
- Strong leadership
- Building leadership capacity

Weaknesses;

- Time
- Managing release time/ key staff out of the classroom
- Communication
- Balance school needs with Kāhui Ako needs

Opportunities;

- Utilising community organisations, facilities and networks
- Opportunities for learners to come together
- Sharing good work and celebrating successes
- Budgeting for common PD
- Social media to assist with communication and connections

Threats;

- Future of Kāhui Ako structure/ Government change of direction or priorities
- Covid
- Kura priorities versus individual school priorities



WSTs- save the date!

Relationship and Wellbeing Within School Leads Hui: WSTs with this Achievement Challenge, please put **Thursday, 18 February 1.30-3.30 at Rolleston College** in your diaries. This hui will be a chance to connect with the other WSTs with your Achievement Challenge, share ideas, resources and set goals for 2021. If you have any questions about this email merrin.diack@rollestoncollege.nz and/or sarah.forward@rollestoncollege.nz

Transitions

Recently schools and ECEs who have the Achievement Challenge of Transitions (ECE-Primary), were sent a self-reflection tool to analyse their current practices. This tool is available to any other schools or ECEs by contacting Susan Tansey AST Transitions susant@clearview.school.nz

WST initiatives- Whakawhetai/ Gratitude

One of the dimensions of our Hauora Model at West Rolleston Primary School Te Kura o te uru Kōwhai is **Whakawhetai** / Gratitude.

It is important that as a staff we practice this and grow our own sense of gratitude so that we can be in the best place to support our learners and whānau community.



In weeks 5 and 7 we took two teams of 10 staff to Ronald McDonald House in the city to prepare a kai for whānau staying there.

This is such a rewarding and humbling experience to be a part of. We met some incredibly resilient people who inspired us with their stories and joy amidst a really challenging time.

Not only is it a really rewarding experience, but it is a heap of fun to bring our team together working toward a common goal to create a delicious meal and we always leave the house feeling refreshed, purposeful and with fresh perspectives.

If you are interested in doing the same, or finding out more you can visit this link here: [Family Dinner Programme](#)



Rob Rush robr@clearviewschool.nz
Lead Principal / Kaiārahi
Ngā Peka o Tauwharekakaho