

Kia ora whanau, Haera mai, Haere mai, Haere mai

Kia tau mai te aroha, nga manaakitanga o te Atua

It is a pleasure to get together as Whangaparaoa College. We are Whangaparaoa College.

I first want to thank our fine staff for their care and generosity. Learners let's do that now.

Next thank you to our Prefects and other learners (at all levels across the school) who have led by example during a most challenging year. Thank you for being there for others as coaches, managers, peer support leaders, choreographers, breakfast club organisers and much more....thank you for giving your time, thank you for giving your effort, thank you for your awhina and your aroha.

Here's something for everyone – congratulations for showing resilience as we move through 2020. It's a year many of us would like to forget, but it's a year that we are actually going to remember. So let's remember it for the positive things, let's remember it for the way we have been kind, supported each other and worked to move through positively. It's great to see how so many people have remained engaged, they have contributed and look at you, even some of you are smiling, it's not happening everywhere.

We also acknowledge it has been an incredibly difficult year for many of our whanau and wider whanau, and our heart goes out to members of our whanau whanui who have been badly affected.

It's during difficult times that we are reminded about those things that are the most important – he tangata, he tangata, he tangata, Is People, Is People, Is People! So be kind.....continue to be kind as kindness is never wasted. And please be kind to yourself. Look after your Hauora. Yes; eat well, exercise well and sleep well..... And you'll likely be healthy in a physical sense.

But to be well in the Hauora sense (all around wellbeing) – there is much more.

Here are a few;

- Nurture the positive connections you have with others – relationships are important
- Enjoy something you are good at. The sense of achievement and fun is very healthy.
- Do something for others – and many of us have experienced this during our Community Service activities and in many other ways.

A bit of ancient wisdom says, it is better to give than to receive – It's certainly good for you, so keep doing that. So in short look after yourselves, look after each other, keep engaged, keep doing the small steps and as we look towards the end of 2020 all the very best as your journey continues and I hope that we can look forward to 2021 where our hopes and our dreams are alive.

Let's all continue to live up to our school values, they are very simple, learning in the widest possible way, doing our very best and also of course the respect we show others, ourselves and our environments.

The year is not finished yet, everyone has got some really important things to get on with between now and the end of the year.

I want to take this opportunity this time to say thank you, well done and keep it up.

Ngatahi, Whakapono, Tutuki

No rewā, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatau katau