



NEWSLETTER - Term 1, 2018

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INTRODUCTION - Our Community of Learning (CoL)

The Whangaparaoa Peninsula Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning) was officially endorsed by the MOE in September 2017. Significant resourcing has been provided by the MOE for leaders and teachers in our community to collaborate and undertake professional development for better teaching and learning. The Leader of our Kāhui Ako, Lisa White, meets with Principals and Deputy Principals from our four schools once a term. In addition, our 3 Across School Teachers, 2 Early Childhood representatives and 17 Within School Teachers have been doing some great work to improve the teaching and learning for our learners on Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Please click here to read our Kāhui Ako newsletter for Term 1.

Who/What is the Whangaparaoa Peninsula Kāhui Ako?

A **Community of Learning**, or Kāhui Ako, is a group of education and training providers (early learning, schools, kura, and post-secondary) working together to help learners achieve their full potential. Our Kāhui Ako is made up of a team of leaders and teachers from four schools across the Peninsula - Stanmore Bay School, Gulf Harbour School, Whangaparaoa Primary and Whangaparaoa College. We also have two Early Childhood Education representatives that work with us - Wendy Simpson, Whangaparaoa Kindergarten and Tracy Warrington, Walbrook Early Childhood Centre. Lisa White, Deputy Principal at Whangaparaoa College is the Leader of our Kāhui Ako.

Our achievement challenges (goals) are focussed on improvement in **Writing, Mathematics and University Entrance**. We believe that a focus on three key drivers - **hauora, effective teaching, community and transitions** - will help us to achieve our goals.

Our Three Across School Teachers and What They Do

Our Across School Teachers are **Aleisha Hazlewood**, Whangaparaoa College, **Jo Kember**, Whangaparaoa School, and **Holly Moore**, Stanmore Bay School. They were appointed to their positions as experts in Teaching as Inquiry and are available to assist teachers with their inquiries. Aleisha and Holly were appointed in September 2017. Jo was appointed in January 2018. In addition to working with teachers, they have also been busy with the following:

School Visits

Aleisha, Holly and Jo have been visiting the four schools in our Kāhui Ako and getting to know teachers in the staff rooms and in the playground.

Funding Applications

Lisa and our Across School Teachers have also spent a considerable amount of time writing applications for various funding to assist with the cost of teacher professional development across the Kāhui Ako. Unfortunately our application for the Teacher-led Innovation fund was

unsuccessful, however we are now applying for MOE Grass Roots Funding. We are also currently applying for funding for two experts to work with us. One of these experts will gain some data for us in regard to hauora/wellbeing of our learners and our community. They will also gain information about learner transitions and transience - what is currently working well; how we can have better transitions for learners. The other expert will gain some information about what assessment tools we might use now that National Standards no longer have to be used. They will also look into how we might best gather our achievement, attendance and hauora data across our Kāhui Ako and track progress made with individual learners and groups of learners, and may recommend what software we may be best to use for this. These experts, once they have analysed the data gathered, will make recommendations as to how our leaders in the Kāhui Ako may wish to tackle the possible issues affecting and learners and their achievement.

Teacher Surveys

In order to best meet the needs of the learners in our community, we needed to first find out more about what were the greatest challenges to their achievement. Our first step was to survey the teachers and school leaders. Three main themes stood out from our results and have become the key areas our Kāhui Ako is working to improve. We have also surveyed some teachers across our Kāhui Ako to determine prior knowledge of Coaching and Teaching as Inquiry. We intend to survey teachers again in a year to determine progress made in this area once they have attended Coaching workshops and had a chance to put what they have learned into practice.

Meeting with other Kāhui Ako

Last year, a number of leaders from within our Kāhui Ako attended the Whanau ki te Ako: Albany



Kāhui Ako one day conference. It was good to see teachers in another Kāhui Ako that had been operating longer than ours. Teachers were sharing resources, discussing relevant issues and problem solving together.

This year, we have met with the Orewa Kāhui Ako to share ideas on how to make the Kāhui Ako work best for our teachers. Both Kāhui Ako have similar goals, making collaboration between our two Kāhui Ako easy.

Teacher Professional Learning and Development (PLD)

An exciting aspect of our Kāhui Ako is the opportunity for teachers to work with their colleagues at other schools. Our **All Teacher Meeting** on 19 February brought together all of the teachers



and our ECE representatives from across the Whangaparaoa Peninsula - something that has never happened before - with the aim that this would facilitate the formation of networks and to begin establishing relationships across our schools. We received very good feedback from teachers saying how much they enjoyed networking with their colleagues from nearby schools. Email addresses were swapped, stories of good things happening in classrooms were shared and connections were made. The slideshow from this meeting with pictures of our Principals and Across School Teachers and information about the focus

of the afternoon is [here](#). Strengthening the links between our schools and our local ECEs, as well as the primary schools and the college, will be an ongoing focus of the Kāhui Ako. The three Across School Teachers have also been involved in planning and delivering various professional development sessions within each of our schools. Currently, they are planning three upcoming professional development sessions for all teachers from the four schools. These sessions will be focussed on Coaching for Inquiry and will be after school on **Tuesdays 29 May, 4 September, and 20 November** this year.

Teaching as Inquiry

This year, Teaching as Inquiry will be a focus for all staff across the Kāhui Ako. Inquiries give teachers an opportunity to investigate an issue arising in their classrooms and apply research-based solutions in order to further learner success. Coaching is available for those who would like assistance with their inquiries.

During Term 1, 30 staff, including our three Across School Teachers attended two Coaching workshops, to enable them to coach teachers through their teaching as inquiry processes. Our Across School Teachers have been meeting with teachers in our schools, coaching them on their inquiries and assisting with some strategic planning.

Our 17 Within School Teachers

We currently have 17 Within School Teachers working in our four schools in a variety of areas to improve teaching and learning. The number of these teachers in each school is dependent on learner roll numbers. Currently Gulf Harbour School has 2; Stanmore Bay School has 3; Whangaparaoa College has 8; Whangaparaoa School has 4. Each of these teachers have some time and some extra remuneration for responsibility within their school as determined by their Principal. Some have a particular focus on Maths or Writing, some are assisting others with their inquiries, others are focussed on particular curriculum levels or cultural responsiveness. We are able to appoint two more of these positions in the near future and are currently determining what responsibility those positions may have.

Upcoming Events

Half Day Conference 1 June – *cancelled*

It has been decided to cancel the half day conference planned for June as we already have three after school PLD sessions coming up.

Three Across School PLD Sessions

These sessions will be focussed on Coaching for Inquiry and will be 3.45-5.00 pm on **Tuesdays 29 May, 4 September, and 20 November** this year. All teachers from all four schools are expected to attend. This will replace the regular PLD run by each school for that week. It is our intention to group teachers with similar inquiry topics so that teachers may share ideas. We will also be inviting our local Early Childhood Centres and Orewa Kāhui Ako to send a number of teachers if they wish. We are hoping to organise some senior learners to look after teachers' children for those that may need child care while these sessions take place.

One Day Conference 2019

We are hoping to organise a one day conference for all teachers within our Kāhui Ako some time in 2019. Watch this space!