

19 August 2022

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Faka'alofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, Namaste, Greetings,

Further to my letter on Wednesday night, our staff team of Kaiarahi and Deputy Principal have completed a comprehensive investigation into the incident. As a result, I can confirm that I have decided to suspend and stand down a significant number of students from school. As I have stated before, we do not tolerate incidents of this nature. A safe environment is an absolute priority for us, and all behaviour needs to fit with our school values. I would like to point out that, when reviewing the footage, we became aware of many students and staff actively trying to break up the fight and calm the situation. I would like to commend those who helped. Please note that our investigation did not support the suggestion that a knife or weapon was involved.

The safety of students and staff is our highest priority. We are putting in place the following measures to ensure that our people are safe:

- Extra security until the situation has settled (four guards).
- Extra counsellors onsite to support students' mental health.
- Provision of supervised safe zones in the school.
- All classroom blocks to be issued with radios for swift response to issues.
- Extra presence of senior staff and Kaiārahi around the school during breaks.
- The Stymie app for students to anonymously report any concerns or incidents to senior members of staff.

Our community's voice is important to us. We know that many of you will want the opportunity to express your concerns in an open forum and work towards developing solutions together. In order to do this, we have scheduled a meeting to be held in the School Hall on Wednesday 24 August at 5.30 pm. In attendance will be; Board of Trustees, Ngati Tamaoho, Papakura Marae, Ministry of Education, NZ Police, local politicians and church leaders, and other school leaders from the area. Together, we can come up with solutions to support our rangatahi and the community. There will be a light supper provided after the meeting. I would encourage you to attend and bring along your children who attend the school as their voice is valued and important, too.

In order to reset our expectations, we will begin on Monday with a staggered start. At 8.50 am, Year 9 & 10 students will go straight to the Hall for an assembly and karakia at the beginning of the day. Year 11-13 students will begin the day at 10.10 am with an assembly and karakia in the Hall, also. Following this, we will resume normal classes for the day. Should your child require extra support due to Wednesday's events, a Wellness Team referral form can be completed online between now and Monday and an appointment arranged with a counsellor. Alternatively, please email our school counsellor, Candice Harrison at c.harrison@papakurahigh.school.nz.

Finally, I acknowledge that this has been a difficult time for many. I am confident, however, that by coming together as a community behind the school, we can create the best environment for our rangatahi to learn, grow and thrive.

Kia pai o koutou rā whakatā,



Simon Craggs
Tumuaki/Principal