

30 August 2022

Papakura High School Update

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

I wanted to send an update regarding the school since the incident on 17 August. A lot has happened since and I am pleased to report positive news about how the students have responded to the situation. Since our assemblies last Monday, the school has been incredibly settled. Students are focused on their learning and there have been no incidences of fighting. The introduction of the Stymie app. has been useful in giving students the opportunity to anonymously report situations of concern.

From our senior assembly we have had 21 senior students volunteer to take up mentoring roles in the school and training for these roles will begin later this week with Coach Tū. It's great to see that so many students want to play an active role in supporting their younger peers to deal with conflict situations.

A big thank you to the many members of the community who attended the meeting in the Hall last Wednesday. We're not sure of numbers but it was likely that more than 200 people attended. It was great that so many people are invested in the success of our school. A wide range of views were expressed and we thank everyone for sharing their experiences and perspectives. The key themes were around student safety concerns and this has been mine and the Board's highest priority over the last two weeks. We also received feedback about communications on the day and we have since updated our procedures for letting you know about lockdown situations. You can expect notifications via text, school app (<https://papakurahigh.apps.school.nz/install/>) and website in future events. I have also made contact with some of the community members who spoke to follow up with some suggestions made. We will continue to reflect on the issues raised and do whatever we can to strengthen any area of our school that will lead to enhanced student learning, safety and wellbeing.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings this week we are hosting our annual Papakuratanga event at 7pm. It's a showcase of our talent in the performing and visual arts. I would encourage you to come and see our incredible students perform. Come early to view (and purchase) students' art.

Finally, I would like to end with some of the successes of our students over the last couple of weeks. On Saturday I watched our under 15 boys rugby team play their final at Massey Park. They lost an agonisingly close game 22-19 but played with mana and pride in their school. Their sportsmanship has been outstanding all season and I thank their coaches for all of the hard work that has gone into developing the boys' character as well as their play. The previous weekend we hosted the first ever esports event at Papakura High. This is an exciting new area for our school and has come as a result of a lot of hard work by Mr Singh and his team. We also welcomed our new Kaihautū Maori, Whaea Rangi Maria Thomas to our kura with a pōwhiri.

Our girls netball team has also returned to the Upper North Island Secondary Schools netball tournament this week. It has been a few years since PHS has competed at this level and we have taken along a young team with an eye on the future. Good luck to the team for the week.

A reminder that the upcoming Board elections are an opportunity to have your say on the governance and future direction of the school. Please complete your voting forms and either return by post or drop into the ballot box in Reception.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou kātoa,



Simon Craggs
Tumuaki/Principal