

Aparima College

Update to the School Community from the Commissioner

7 June 2017

As the mid-point of the year is almost upon us, it is time to assess the progress being made towards achieving our strategic goals for the school. This assessment will be assisted by the visit from the Education Review Office and their report which will be published at the end of June, but it is your feedback that will help complete the picture and accordingly a survey is attached to this update. I would be grateful if you could please complete the survey and return it to me via email or post.

Your views are very important and greatly assist the governance group with developing strategies to enhance the experiences and education our students enjoy at Aparima College.

Our four goals for 2017 – 2019 are:

- Raising Student Achievement
- Improving Student Wellbeing
- Implementing a learning pathway for Te Reo and Tikanga Maori
- Returning the school to Self Governance

Raising Student Achievement

The focus on supporting groups of identified students in Years 7 to 10 to make accelerated progress is being maintained and has been assisted by the thorough departmental reviews that were conducted in 2016. Additional resourcing is being provided from board funds to help ensure that the student achievement targets set for 2017 can be met.

Senior student progress is closely monitored and the focus this year is on encouraging senior students to aim for merit and excellence endorsements at all NCEA levels, to achieve University Entrance qualifications for those who aspire to attend university and to provide individually tailored opportunities to gain relevant vocational qualifications for those senior students seeking to pursue other forms of tertiary training, enter trades or seek employment.

Improving Student Wellbeing

The Wellbeing at School surveys completed by staff and students last year will be repeated towards the end of this term so that we can assess any changes and detect any trends emerging. Staff training in the PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) philosophy is underway although it is recognised that the changes will take several years to become fully embedded. Accordingly, it is important to sustain ongoing improvements to our student wellbeing practices, such as the continuation of the Rock and Water programme and the review of our anti-bullying programme.

Developing and Implementing a Learning Pathway for Te Reo and Tikanga Maori

Progress towards achieving this goal has been considerable this year and is attributable to the series of hui attended by the Oraka Aparima runaka, Riverton early childhood educators, Riverton Primary School, Ministry of Education and Aparima College. Wider community involvement and the planning of a series of wananga commencing later this year are the next steps towards achieving this goal.

Returning the school to Self Governance

A core group of school community members continue to attend governance meetings and actively participate in the governance discussions. We are currently in the process of collecting data so that we can develop strategies to both attract and retain students and enhance the opportunities the school can offer to both students and the wider community.

Ongoing assistance from the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand School Trustees Association will be provided to support a new board of trustees once an election is held. I am currently in discussions with the Ministry of Education about when an election date might be set.

Any member of the school community is most welcome to attend the governance meetings. The next meeting will be held at **7.00 pm on Wednesday the 28th of June 2017 in the Graphics Room at Aparima College**

Nicola Hornsey

Commissioner