



Pukekohe North School

Princes Street, Pukekohe. Phone 0-9-238-8552

Commissioners Update to End November 2021

Tena ra tatou katoa,

It is my pleasure to present an update to whanau and community of Pukekohe North School as at End November 2021.

Acknowledgements

I would like to start by acknowledging the recent losses of whanau in the community and the recent tangi held, the school and I pass on our condolences to those members of the community that have experienced these losses recently.

I continue to be in relationship with our Principal, Jim, he continues to pass on his kind regards to all.

Return to school

It was a pleasure to reopen the school and for staff to welcome back children recently as part of a nationwide return to school. I would like to acknowledge the thinking, planning and preparation by all staff at the school as they worked with new conditions and expectations for children's safety and those of the community and themselves. This was a new experience and required a lot of discussion and preparation. The staff worked extremely hard and sensitively and I congratulate them all on their professional practice and service.

Property

A review of minor repairs and maintenance and health and safety needs to property have been identified by school management and these are being addressed currently. School management continues to report back on progress and completion of any identified property needs and risks.

Finance

School management submitted the final school budget for 2022. This was approved with only minor amendments. The budget will be tight for 2022 and so close management against budget will be essential.

Staffing

There will be staffing changes in 2022 as part of a smaller school roll and aligning staff to raising student achievement needs that have been identified. Staff are currently in discussion on these matters.

An audit of all school staff HR files has been completed and reported back to me, there are minor gaps in our records and these gaps are being rectified now.



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The Professional Development plans for staff for 2022 were submitted by management and approved in the month of November.

An area of focus that has been prioritized is the area of Internal Evaluation and creating and building a culture of Internal Evaluation across the whole school. I have connected with ERO recently and they have now completed 3 sessions with school management and staff. The staff have been very responsive to this professional practice. Our ERO partner has advised me that;

I have had a meeting with the AP and the 4 syndicate leaders. The focus was on building internal evaluation through the use of ERO's Effective School Evaluation model. It was well received by the team and they had done their homework before the meeting which is good. We discussed the process but emphasised what shifts in practice need to occur and how to link that to student outcomes, and what success measures we need to know what we doing is any good.

This educational work is important to a continued and relentless focus on raising student achievement at the school and the work with the school leaders and staff will provide a strong platform for future success.

Whanau and Community

I recently had the pleasure to meet with whanau and community. I advised then that I would look to offer a similar opportunity in weeks 7-8, shortly an invite to meet again for anyone wishing to do so will be made available.

Reporting to whanau

Schools have an obligation to report to whanau at least 2 times per year formally and in writing, this is usually done by school reports and meet the teachers times/interviews. The school intends to provide whanau with reports for the second half of 2021, noting the effects of Covid have affected student learning. Report coverage areas are being determined by staff now, a key though will be to meet with whanau of each learner to discuss the child's learning, things parents and whanau have themselves notices and want to raise and to collaboratively discuss the future needs and directions for each child's learning and how whanau may support this. The single biggest influence in a child's learning is whanau, school have learners for 6 hours per day (excluding weekends) and so the home-school partnership is critical to supporting children's success and learning

To support this partnership a school wide target for meeting with whanau and teachers has been set at 90%, that is, our school goal is to meet with the whanau of 90% of our students.

The benefits of this meeting provides the opportunity for partners to meet, discuss, plan and prepare together for each child's educational progress, achievement and future



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support and directions. I will report on how successful we have all been in achieving this community/school goal in my End December report.

Finance

The 2019 audited accounts have been completed, lodged and a copy provided to community on the school website as required. The 2020 accounts are currently being prepared. I would like to acknowledge Nganeko Oti in her work with completing and working with our accountant and auditor on these accounts.

The credit card policy was recently reviewed, consulted on with community and approved. The school only has 1 credit card now that is held by the principal, approvals and reconciliations are via the Board/Commissioner.

The physical restraint policy and concerns and complaints policy are currently out for consultation with community via the school website and FB page with an approval before end December 2021 expected.

Several more critical policies will come to community for consultation before the end of December 2021.

It has been a productive month for the school and the school is making positive progress at this point in time.

Kind regards to all

Dr Shane Edwards

Commissioner