

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: posted 23 September 2015

Tena koutou katoa

Another exciting term completed. There have been many highlights as our students continue to progress and develop outstanding academic and social skills. Our students are excellent ambassadors for the school and community and I am sure you will join with me in letting our students know how proud we are of them.

As a future focused school it is important we keep pace with developments within the educational landscape. Therefore, we are preparing for our Ministry of Education wireless SNUP (School Network Upgrade Project) which will be in place for the beginning of 2016. This supports our digital direction and means Whangaroa College will have 100% wireless coverage throughout the entire school. We have removed the traditional computer labs in favour of creating a ubiquitous digital learning environment. This environment is further strengthened through the use of Chromebook technology that has replaced the computer labs. This digital direction will ensure our students are prepared to participate in an ever evolving world with confidence.

To strengthen te reo and tikanga Maori within our school I am exploring the possibility of developing a bi-lingual unit at Whangaroa College and all YR7–YR10 students are welcome to enrol in this optional class. There are no pre-requisites, however, students and whanau who have a desire and passion to strengthen their knowledge and use of te reo and tikanga Maori would benefit from being involved with the bi-lingual unit. The core subjects (mathematics, science, social science, and te reo Maori) will be taught in te reo Maori, while all options such as music, art, PE, and technologies will be taught in English. However, all lessons will have a Maori kaupapa permeate their learning experiences. English will also be taught in the bi-lingual unit. We see this as an exciting development as we continue to review the programs and courses on offer at our school. Your feedback, thoughts, and ideas as we develop this initiative in consultation with our community would be gratefully appreciated.

As we prepare for 2016 it is important to remind our community of the excellent facilities, resources, and teachers we have in our school. Our specialist's classrooms including music, art and technologies have outstanding resources to ensure our students are well prepared and competitive in their future pursuits. Above all we promote a safe and supportive learning environment where our students continue to strive and reach their full potential with confidence. If you have been following the school over the past four years you will have noticed the significant progress we have made with modern learning environments, academic achievement, cutting edge curriculum design, and digital infrastructure. Therefore, Whangaroa College should be your school of choice for all children from Year 7 – Year 13.

Please remember to download our school app from the app store, visit our website, and visit our Facebook page to keep up to date with the latest events and activities going on at Whangaroa College.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: posted 29th July 2015

Tena koutou katoa,

As we embed ourselves into the third term of the academic school year it is imperative everyone has an understanding of how our students are performing. As parents and caregivers it is important you have academic conversations with your children to understand how they are progressing at school. You and your child would have met their academic counsellor at last term's PST conferences. During this conference you would have been informed of their status in relation to academic performance and steps required to move to the next level with their education. If you were unable to meet with your child's' academic counsellor last term, then please get in touch with the school and make an appointment so this important conversation can be had.

Every student in the senior school should know exactly how many credits they have achieved to date and how many credits they have left for the year. As this is the last term to achieve as many of the credits on offer as possible, it is important students have a clear understanding of what is required for them to complete their academic year successfully. Term Four in the senior school is primarily reserved for revision, assignment completions, and preparation for external examinations. Therefore, students are advised to complete as much of their work as possible during Term Three.

Our junior students will have a clear understanding of the work that lays ahead of them and the support they can receive from home. It is imperative we all work together to ensure our students and your children are performing at their optimum level. Having academic conversations with the school and your child is highly recommended.

Students continue to represent the school on a range of activities throughout the country and I enjoy the positive feedback the school receives on their behalf.

As always your feedback is important as we continually look to improve our service to this community and we really appreciate the help and support many parents provide the school. I know your time is precious and I thank you for your continued commitment to Whangaroa College

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: posted 10 June 2015

Tena kotou katoa,

I am pleased to inform you that I have successfully completed my Masters Degree of Educational Leadership and Management with 2nd Class Honours. I am very proud to be sharing this news with you as I believe it is important the success I encourage all our students and staff to achieve should be modelled from myself in the first instance. It has taken four years of unrelenting dedication, commitment and perseverance but it has been an exciting journey that closely aligns with the work I do at Whangaroa College. My thesis is “conditions that strengthen culturally responsive practices in two secondary schools”. I thank my wife Adele Anderson for her untiring support throughout my studies.

ANZAC commemorations saw a range of activities for the school and the community as we commemorated 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli. Our fields of commemoration displayed on the front fields provided a sobering atmosphere for all our students as there are many connections within our school and community with those who served their countries at Gallipoli. It was a privilege to have Kiwi and Magoo along to commemorate this event with our school. ANZAC day saw an early rise for many as the dawn ceremony commemorations took place at Matangirau Marae. These commemorations were continued in the civil commemorations that took place later that day in Kaeo. At all these events our students represented their whanau, families, the school and themselves in a light of which we are all very proud.

We look forward to many events on offer at the school in the following terms and we invite you to come along and share these experiences with us. The next major event for the College is Nga Manu Korero then followed by our annual Matariki celebrations. Our girls have returned to the netball courts and continue to perform exceptionally well in their divisions.

Further details of these events can be found in our school newsletters, on our facebook page, at our website or by phoning the school office. If you have not downloaded the Whangaroa College school app yet then I highly recommend that you do.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: posted 29 March 2015

Tena koutou katoa

What an extremely exciting and busy term we have had. Our new students and teachers have settled in well and teaching and learning has claimed its place at the front of our practice. As usual the school year began with a range of events from sporting activities through to new courses for our students. Our swimming and athletics days saw many parents and caregivers coming in to school to support the day. We introduced a new 'Earth Care' course for our senior students which focuses on environmentally friendly and sustainable practices. These students have really enjoyed this course and they look forward to the new adventures each week has in store for them. Our kapa haka students represented the school with pride at the recent Te Tai Tokerau Festival and we are very proud of their performance. The support from friends and whanau ensured this event was successful for our kapa haka students and we thank you for your support.

As we move forward into this ever evolving world it is not only important that we develop skills and knowledge within all our students, we also teach our students how to be more flexible in this environment. Being flexible and adaptive in tomorrow's world will ensure our students are ready for the many challenges that lay ahead. We are unsure what the jobs of the future will be as technology strives to meet the ever increasing and changing demands of the human race, but if we teach our students to be flexible in the market place then I am confident they will do well in the future.

We communicate with you all via face to face, the school website, school newsletters, PST evenings, the telephone and emails. We have introduced a new form of communication for the school to reach our community. Please download our new "Whangaroa College School App" to ensure you are kept up to speed with what is happening at school. The new app will allow us to communicate with the wider community in an instant. The app will have alerts of school events and activities as they unfold throughout the year. We are aware that online connectivity may not be available in some areas but the connectivity on the cell phone network is a lot wider, therefore having an app to reach our whanau and community makes sense. Just go to the app store on your mobile phone or device and enter Whangaroa College.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this message it has been an exciting and busy term and we look forward to more exciting experiences in term two. Please have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all next term.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: posted February 2015

Tena koutou katoa

This year we welcome many new students who have come from all over the country and we know their educational experiences will be rewarding and successful while studying at Whangaroa College. We also welcome many new teachers who arrive with genuine passion to work in our community and support the learning aspirations of our students. I am sure you will join with me in welcoming these new students and teachers to Whangaroa College.

It has been an exciting start to the year with all teachers and students anxious to reinforce their skills and knowledge to ensure they attain the pinnacle in their chosen field. As the school roll continues to grow so do the opportunities for our students. We continue to develop our business focus and have developed an exciting vocational pathways programme that now has a strong focus on business and innovation. As we prepare our students to be competitive in the global world I believe this business intelligence will provide an advantage for our students who accept the challenge of creating and driving their own enterprises.

At Whangaroa College we understand our community and we know how to ensure our children enjoy both social and academic success. We have some of the best teachers in the country and I am proud to work alongside these professionals on a daily basis as we deliver high quality educational experiences to all our students.

Our achievement data continues to track in a positive trajectory which reflects the high quality of teaching and learning experiences available at the college. At Whangaroa College we prepare our students for the global world whether that be straight into university, the workforce or tertiary education. Retention rates have also soared over the past three years with many of our senior students returning to school to improve their chances to compete in the real world.

We all look forward to another prosperous year filled with student success and I invite you to be part of this exciting process.