

# NORTHCOTE KĀHUI AKO – COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

## *August 2023 Newsletter*

Kia ora Northcote community!

It's been a very busy year so far with much happening across our kura. For those who are new to one of our kura - the Northcote Kāhui Ako is made up of: Northcote College, Northcote Intermediate, Northcote Primary School, Willow Park School, Birkenhead School, Onepoto School, Tots Corner and Northcote Baptist Community Preschool. We work together to learn, support and improve equitable educational outcomes for our students. A list of our across school and within school leads is on the last page.

We're an active organisation with many initiatives. Here is a snapshot of some of what has been happening recently.



### **NEW PRINCIPAL – BIRKENHEAD PRIMARY**

Birkenhead Primary School staff, students and kapa haka group welcomed new principal, Francis Naera, in a pōwhiri on Friday 30 June. Francis was farewelled at the pōwhiri by his former Ponsonby Primary school colleagues and students.

### **ALICE HO – NEW ACROSS SCHOOL LEADER**

Alice was appointed to this position in Term One to replace David Taylor, who was appointed as Head of English at Northcote College. David had been in the Across School Leader role since the start of our Kāhui Ako - and we thank him for his service to our schools.

Many of you will know Alice, who was Deputy Principal at Birkenhead School prior to her appointment as Across School Lead. She brings many strengths and much experience to the role and we are looking forward to having her onboard.



Our Kāhui Ako Leadership team is, from left to right: Niki Manoa, Across School Leader from Northcote College; Alice Ho, Across School Leader from Birkenhead Primary; Phil Muir, Northcote Intermediate Lead Principal; and Theresa Kinloch, Across School Leader from Willow Park Primary.



## MATARIKI CELEBRATIONS

### Northcote Primary

Mānawatia a Matariki! He miharo te whakanui a Matariki i te kura tuatahi o Northcote! I

The celebrations for Matariki at Northcote Primary school early in the morning on Tuesday 27 June were amazing! Each team collaborated to create an installation to celebrate the nine stars of Matariki.

### Willow Park Primary

Our annual Matariki evening was a great celebration of whanaungatanga with seven hangi cookers going and Matariki activities for our whānau and guests. Our kapa haka had their first formal appearance and wowed the crowds with their heart felt performance.

### Birkenhead Primary

We celebrated Matariki with a combination of in-class and whole-school activities. We had a lunchtime where the tamariki were able to come along and join in a variety of activities, including craft, singing, and art. Hiwa-i-te-rangi, one of the nine stars in the Matariki star cluster - known as the 'wishing star' - has a connection to our hopes, dreams and aspirations for the year ahead. Inspired by Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the tamariki created stars on which they wrote their wishes for the new year.

In class, we explored ideas including: the names and associated tikanga of the nine stars, stories linked to Matariki, reflection on the year that has been, goals for the future, preparing and sharing food with class and whānau.





## Northcote Intermediate

As part of the Te Ara Awataha opening, Northcote Intermediate joined a community hīkoi which also doubled as the blessing for the opening of the path that connects the school to the walkway. As part of the build up to the hīkoi, students made lanterns and learned about the history of the awa. Northcote Intermediate has been spending time forging links with local organisations to strengthen their understanding of local history and the role we can play as guardians of our environment.



## Onepoto Primary School

Onepoto also joined the community hīkoi, and Lofty Ned & his team from Kainga Ora came beforehand to run a Matariki Lantern Making workshop for our Senior students.

We also had a gorgeous Matariki-Kaitiaki Planting Day! The sun warmed our hearts as we planted trees with our whanau & the Kai Cooker lunch warmed our hungry puku (tummy).



## Northcote College

We had a magical evening under the stars celebrating Matariki. The event, held on Friday 28 July, empowered and showcased Māori student leadership and identity, modeling diversity and unity within our community.

The celebrations included kapa haka performances by Northcote Intermediate (leader, Bronwyn Babbage), Birkenhead Primary (leaders, Ben Nathan and Kelli Kawhia-Conrad) and Northcote College (leaders, Kelli Kawhia-Conrad and Shaunee Hiha). There was delicious kai - including hāngi and fried bread; arts and crafts for the children; Polynesian sailing and wayfinding with Stan Conrad; mahi raranga - weaving - with Kiriana O'Connell; kōrero about the Matariki stars in the 'Stellarium' by Teira Tohu; Te Kāpehu Whetū - Māori star compass - with Shaunee Hiha and Stan Conrad; market stalls and the launch of our very own Matariki earrings collection (designed by Stan Conrad).

## EARLY LEARNING SERVICES EVENING WITH SAM PATEL

Over 30 early childhood teachers attended our Kahui Ako talk on Equity in Education with registered Psychologist, Sam Patel. This evening was a great success and the teachers are looking forward to future informative evenings booked for Term 3 and 4. This gives a chance for early learning services in our area to connect with the wider learning community.



## KĀHUI AKO CONFERENCE

On the 2nd of June, we held our first Kāhui Ako across-school conference. Our theme was 'engaging all learners' and we had a fantastic line-up of keynote speakers and workshops.

Our conference brought together teachers from across the Northcote area - from our early childhood centres, primary and intermediate schools, and Northcote College.

The day was filled with workshops, speakers and learning for teachers - making connections, and being inspired to be the best for our wonderful community.



## TRANSITION SEASON

Term three sees primaries, intermediates and secondary schools swing into action with student transitions. If your child is in a transition year - Year 6, Year 8 or even in latter high school years looking to move from high school to their next step - please make the time to find out what the best options are for your child. With school transitions, make sure you check when open days or parent evenings are (school websites are the best source of this) and if unable to attend, contact the school to ask any questions you may have.

Transition between schools can be a time of anxiety for students - and parents - please take the time to help plan this and work with the school/s for support.

We held a transition get together at Northcote Intermediate recently to understand what each school's processes are so we can make transition as seamless as possible.

## OUR WITHIN SCHOOL LEADERS (WSL)

### Northcote College:

Antonia Williams, Chadd Davis, Sophie Lindfield, Jordan Bradly, Rochelle Gosling, Stephanie Tanner, Aoife Cantwell

### Northcote Intermediate School:

Kelly Singer, Mirela Lapuste, Sarah Osborne

### Birkenhead Primary School:

Simone Nair, Kerrie Little, Stacey Huata

### Northcote Primary School:

Khamin Bhana, Polly Sills-Jones

### Willow Park School:

Niall Wilson, Rachel Clapham, Carrie Joyner, Kim Fowler

### Onepoto Primary School:

Kristen Webster

### Northcote Baptist Preschool:

Rosemary Turley

## OUR ACROSS SCHOOL LEADERS (ASL)

Niki Manoa, Northcote College

Theresa Kinloch, Willow Park Primary

Alice Ho, Birkenhead Primary

## LEAD PRINCIPAL

Phil Muir

Principal, Northcote Intermediate

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