

Board Update March 2025

Tēnā Koe

Welcome to the start of another school year, it's hard to believe we're already just over halfway through Term 1. The whānau picnic was a lovely way for families to reconnect with the teachers and learn more about the class routine, expectations, and the teaching focus for this term.

The Board had our first meeting of the year during the third week of the term and it was good to hear how well the year has started for staff and students. It is great that parents and whānau are so welcome and there are many families enjoying the playground both before and after school. We look forward to further opportunities to continue to build our community spirit and provide information on the teaching and learning at Northland.

We would like to thank **Rose Simpson** for her contribution on the Board over the last two and half years. Rose has contributed broadly to the school and the Board but has shown considerable commitment and service to the Health and Safety, Community and Property. Thank you, Rose, for your service to the school community over many years and we wish you well.

We would also like to thank the teachers for all the hard work and late nights they put in to ensure that parents have the opportunity to share goals and discuss how children have settled. These meetings are highly valued and we know how important it is for everyone to know how they can support their child at home and connect with their teacher during the year.

End of Year Student Achievement 2024

Andrea provided a comprehensive report to the Board on the 2024 End of year student achievement data. Overall, our children have maintained high levels of achievement and progress in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2024. There has been an improvement for our Māori students particularly in reading and writing.

Reading

Reading achievement is being maintained at a high level of achievement across the school with 83% meeting or exceeding the curriculum level.

Writing

80% of children were meeting or exceeding the expected curriculum level at the end of 2024.

Maths

85% of children were meeting or exceeding the expected curriculum level at the end of 2024.

The end of 2024 marks two years where we have been teaching The Code across the school. Switching the entire school to a structured literacy approach has required significant work, effort, and input from the entire community (leaders, teachers, school, parents and of course students).

The community's investment, through donations, in the schools Structured Literacy programme meant that we were well placed for the focus and roll out of the new structured literacy programme nationwide. We would like to acknowledge everyone for their patience, hard work, and dedication to supporting the kaiako, tamariki, kura, and whānau during this process. We would also like to ask the community's ongoing patience and support while the staff works out how best to implement the changes in the Maths curriculum across the school.

There has been a shift in The Code achievement across the school and it is linked to the success in the implementation of the structured literacy approach across the school. Our target that all students will have made progress in The Code in each cohort has been achieved. The work that teachers have done on deepening their understanding and following a sequence in the delivery of The Code is having an impact.

The science of learning and reading research has shown that for learning to be transferred and automated in the long-term memory, our teaching strategies need to be small bites, regular and with quicker pace. It is fantastic to have been able to look and see the shifts in progress over time with most children now working at the appropriate level or above for this spelling programme.

We can celebrate our children's success and be proud that our results have improved on those from 2021 and very close to our target of at least 90% of children meeting or exceeding the expected curriculum level in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Board update

We had our first meeting of the year two weeks ago and it was a pleasure to welcome our three newest members, Deborah, Jane, and Katie. Jono remains as our presiding member, and portfolios were divided amongst board members in the following manner:

- Health and Safety - Deborah
- Policy - Deborah
- Community and Communication - Katie

- Finance - Richard
- Property - Richard
- Playspace - Jane

We would like to thank everyone for a very positive start to the year.

Ngā mihi nui

Andrea Peetz, Principal

Jono Weir, Presiding Member