



# PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

THE MOST RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL ADVOCATE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S PRINCIPALS

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## Issue 10, 8 April 2022

### President's Message



*I orea te tuatara ka patu ki whao.  
A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions.*

Kia ora e te whānau,

We are coming to the end of a mighty challenging school term, and the finish line is in sight! You've battled Omicron with professionalism, positivity, and purpose. Most notably, your leadership has reached out to your communities, whom you have supported, not just with children's home learning, but with the welfare needs of their whānau.

Whilst we will breathe a collective sigh of relief over the Easter break, our next mission is reconnecting with our students, our teachers and student learning.

#### Connecting with the disconnected

We had disconnected students before COVID hit our shores. Since the change in Truancy Services in 2013 there has been a steady decline in school attendance. Local solutions, where

schools work in tandem with agencies, is what is needed to get students back to school.

It's all about the connections – connections between schools in an area; between schools and their parent communities; and between truancy services and the schools. We need a system that facilitates all of these relationships.

COVID has not helped. We now have students who have been absent from school for long periods of time. Reconnecting will be a focus for many schools as we start the second term of the year. How can we use the genuine partnerships and strong relationships we have developed throughout this pandemic to fuel the strength we need to bring all students back to our classrooms? What creative thinking can we bring to the dilemma of disengaged students?

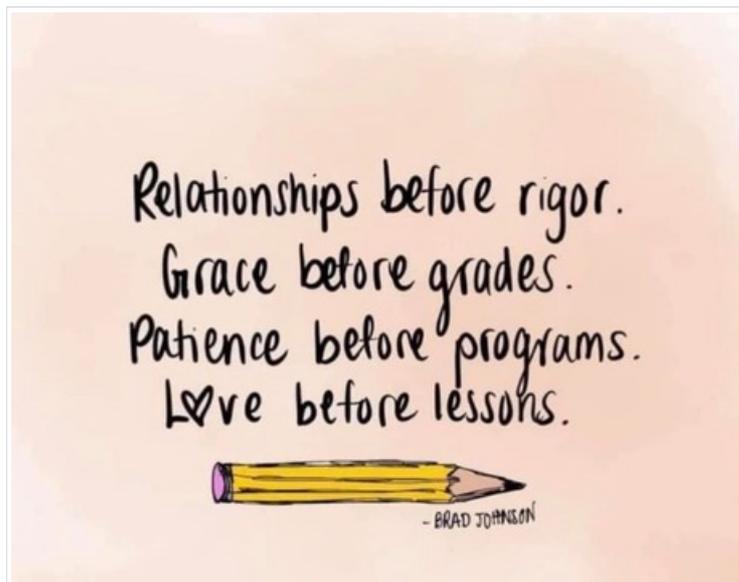
#### Back to school – A systems issue with local solutions?

We need to change the way we approach absenteeism in our school. At a systems level, we need Truancy Services to work with our most disengaged students and whānau, through multiple agency interventions and support services. Where truancy services are not working well, we need alternative provider options. If schools had access to redistributed truancy funding, to resource additional school-based staffing, getting students back to school could be addressed using school staff, who know the families and the students. We need community connectors that can focus solely on connecting community.

At a local level, leaders need a kete of strategies to reengage absent students. Principals, teachers and staff have the challenge of ensuring every student has something to look forward to every day. It is not enough for them to just be there. We want our students eager to participate, to engage and to thrive.

For a range of reasons it is often the case that truant students and their families have lost belief that education can make a positive difference in their lives. The purpose of education is to support young people to develop their unique talents, so they lead fulfilling, successful lives. To do this they need to be connected, to belong, to feel valued and to experience success

in learning. Getting students to participate and progress in their learning is both a systems issue and a local issue and we all have a part to play in getting it right.



Principal Well-being:

Malcolm Elliot, the Australian Principals' Association president, recently addressed our executive and told us that the State Premier of Tasmania resigned from his job last week. It came as a shock, partly because it was unexpected, but mostly because his reason for resigning was, 'I have nothing left in the tank'. I am sure many principals, who are running on empty right now, will relate to his decision.

In successive well-being surveys, workload has shown to be a significant issue for school leaders. The trend existed in New Zealand and overseas well before COVID. The issues identified continue to go unaddressed and the workload created by the pandemic has made the job bigger, more complex and more unsustainable. Overseas, some jurisdictions call principals administrators and there is a reason for that. Administration is what they do. In New Zealand, the principal's job used to be leading learning. We were regularly visiting classrooms. We connected with students, staff and parents every day.

Now, bureaucracy overload is swamping us. We need a national 'School Docs' system where documentation is pre-prepared, and can be accessed and personalized to suit different school contexts. We need a significant reduction in paperwork compliance demands. We need bureaucratic tasks to be SMART – specific, manageable, achievable, relevant and timebound.

As school leaders, we need to carve out time to rest and rejuvenate. How many of us factor in breaks during the day, or even in a week? Make time to connect with colleagues. Plan wellbeing PLD that is focused on you!

Next term a series of three, free wellbeing workshops, specifically designed for school leaders, will be available through Cognition Education. CORE have wellbeing programmes that can be delivered online or face-to-face.

Some of you will already be part of Wellbeing PLD that is working for you, so let other colleagues know about it. Wellbeing can be described as a series of habits that become a routine, that 'fill your bucket'. Knowing what works for you, then planning and doing it, is where we need to get to – once we have had a break!



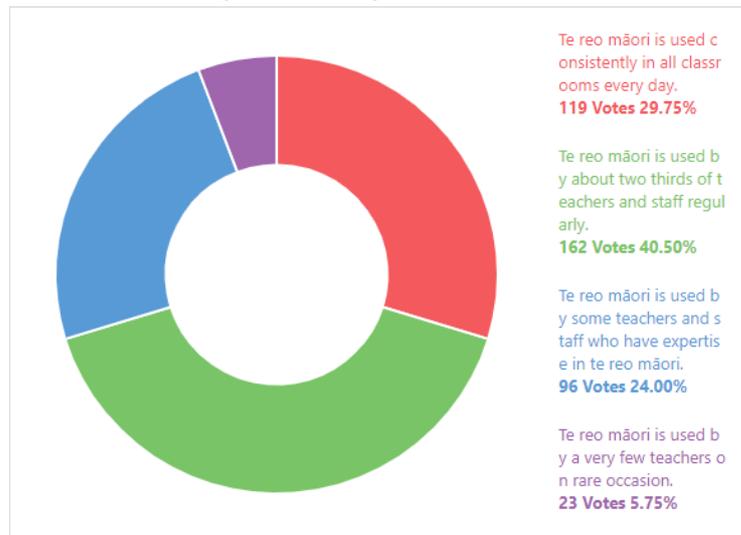
Wondering of the Week:

To what extent do you attend to your wellbeing as a school leader?

- I have good wellbeing routines that enhance my wellbeing consistently.
- I have some wellbeing routines and generally attend to my wellbeing.
- I occasionally do things for my wellbeing, but this is not a regular practice.
- I need to make a wellbeing plan to begin to attend to my wellbeing.

Results of last week's poll:

To what extent do your teachers and staff use Te reo Maori in classroom teaching and learning?



Ngā manaakitanga

Cherie Taylor-Patel

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## NZPF Notices



### Don Le Prou Awards 2022

NZPF congratulates the following successful applicants for the Don Le Prou awards 2022:

Cheryl Barbara	Rotherham School
Sue Bennett	St Joseph's School (Orakei)
Rob Boomer	Tasman School
Linda Brady	Wallacetown School
Ānaru Chesswas	The Terrace School (Waipukurau)
Matt Costley	Kopane School
Sue Coyle	Piopio Primary School
Murray Davidson	St Andrew's School
Tim de Vries	Tasman Bay Christian School
Robyn Driver	Te Kohanga School
Paula Faitaia	Te Paina School
Kaye Gillies	Miramar Christian School
Vivienne Goldsmith	Tauhoa School
Bronwyn Harding	Greendale School
Meagan Kelly	Governors Bay School
Maree Lucas	Omihi School
Greg MacLeod	Broad Bay School
Bronwyn McCall	Waikaka School
Rodney Montford	Glen Massey School
Kylie Piper	Arapohue School
Rob Pratt	Pukehou School
Rhonda Raynor	Cargill Open Plan School
Donna Reader	Fox Glacier School
Wynita Roberts	Papatawa School
Wendy Single	Pembroke School (Stratford)
Danella Smallridge	Lumsden School
Mel Sutton	Te One School
Tina Taylor	Waitakaruru School
Kim Theyers	Westtown School
Melissa Ward	Pine Hill School
Rachel Weinberg	Ngākuru School

### Tauri Morgan Memorial Awards 2022

NZPF congratulates the following successful applicants for the Tauri Morgan Memorial awards 2022:

Leisha Byrnes	Lincoln Heights School
Michelle Nell	Marlborough Primary School
Stuart Priddy	Loburn School

Callum Rosebank School (Balclutha)  
 Tytler  
 Brendan Te Ranga School  
 Wilson  
 Tim Young Remarkables Primary School

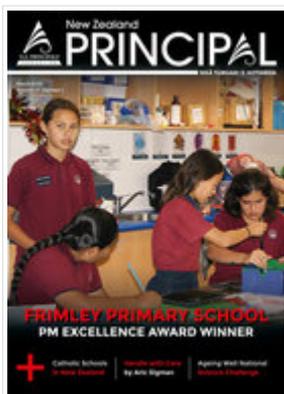


## NZPF Conference - Early Bird Registrations

Registrations for the 2022 NZPF Conference are open. The conference will be held at the new Te Pae, Christchurch Convention and Exhibition Centre, on 14 - 16 September.

Register before the early bird deadline of 31 May to save up to \$100 on your registration.

Visit the [website](#) to register now.



## NZ Principal Magazine also Online

You and/or your team members can easily access the NZ Principal Magazines online, as an e-magazine or as a PDF. Additionally you can search for a previous issue, an article by title or by the author of the article. All magazines back to Term 1 2012 are available in this format. To view or search click [here](#).

## Useful Information



## Allergy Awareness Week 2022 - Save the Date

Allergy Awareness Week is promoted nationally from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Please SAVE THE DATE to be involved in raising awareness of allergies and their management at your school in May 2022.

Our national volunteers will be in touch with ready-made educational resources, games and ideas to help your team and students learn how easy it can be to provide a safe and inclusive environment for students living with allergies.

Please register your school's interest by emailing your contact details to - [allergy@allergy.org.nz](mailto:allergy@allergy.org.nz)

Many thanks for your support – Allergy New Zealand

## Business Partners

NZPF assures its business partners that, as members, you will contact them to have a conversation if you are purchasing products, services or solutions for your schools that a business partner supplies. Please support our partners as their assistance to NZPF means better membership services to you.

### Gold Partners



### Silver Partners



### Bronze Partners

