



PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

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

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President's Message



Nā te moa i tkahi te rātā.

The rātā which was trodden on by a moa when young will never grow straight; so early influences cannot be altered.

We would be hard-pressed to find a day, this term that has not had a mix of 'handbrake and accelerator' moments. The daily 'stop-start' logistics continue to rule many school communities, as staff and students fall to COVID and winter illnesses. Add the winter weather events and progress in learning can feel a bit 'stop-start' too.

The flip side of this is we continue to seek out the excitement of special events to share with our students. Think back to Matariki and now the Commonwealth Games. These events created new learning, demonstrated the rewards from striving for success, sometimes defining a new personal best and sometimes exceeding it. Successes can be large or small, but all are exciting, rewarding and fun. This is the antidote and the accelerator that can create so much joy through learning – for students, teachers, staff and leaders.

The De-streaming Debate – Are we the hand-brake?

In New Zealand, many schools practise ability grouping to cater for the diverse learning levels in our classrooms. It is hard work, but it is how New Zealand trained teachers have used teaching time to support our tamariki in their learning.

When looking at research on student achievement, we have one of the highest ability grouping rates in the OECD (only Ireland is higher). We also have one of the biggest gaps in achievement between our highest and lowest achievers. A recent OECD report has stated that the two key factors that predict high achievement are:

- The extent to which students are taught in mixed-ability groups and
- The opportunities they are given to learn

Dr Christine Rubie-Davis is the author of '*Becoming a High Expectation Teacher*'. She states

'Becoming a High Expectation Teacher explores three key areas in which what high expectation teachers do differs substantially from what other teachers do: the way they group students for learning, the way they create a caring classroom community, and the way in which they use goalsetting to motivate students, to promote student autonomy and to promote mastery learning.'

Looking at longitudinal data in New Zealand, there is a strong correlation between the ability group that students are placed in at six and the stream they will end up in when they move to secondary school, which in turn, plays a large part in determining their future pathway beyond school.

What needs to change?

We teach in groups for efficiency, and traditionally New Zealand teachers have set groups up for direct instruction based on ability. Researchers wanting to promote equitable outcomes for all students suggest flexi-grouping should be used as a basis of classroom organization, so students have multiple opportunities to work and learn with and from each

other during class lessons. A combination of flexi grouping for class work and ability grouping for direct instruction, could be one way to solve the fixed group / fixed-thinking dilemma.

This shift in pedagogy could then prevent a gifted critical thinker having to work in a low reading grouping because their decoding skills need work, or a student who excels in building 3-D objects never getting to explore this talent because their number strategies skills put them in the lowest mathematics group.

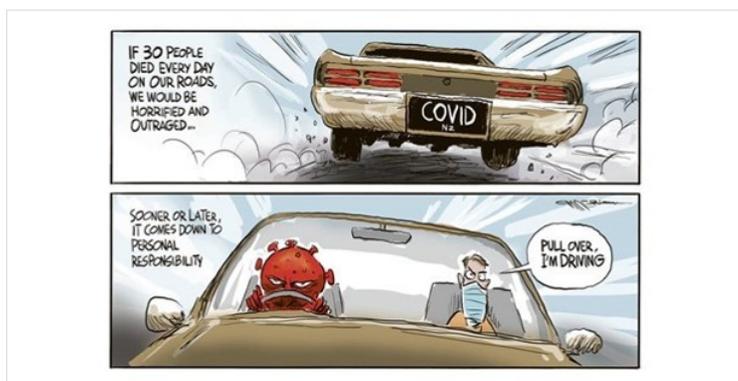
Conversations we need to lead

'Ako' is the concept of learners learning with and from each other. If students have opportunity to work in mixed groups, when not engaged in direct instruction with the teacher, the 'de-streaming research' tells us they will achieve greater success in learning. If we are to create a system that excels at creating equitable outcomes for all students, we firstly need to identify we have a problem with what we currently do.

Next, as leaders, we need to lead conversations with our teachers to unpack the research as it relates to "how we do things" in our classrooms and our school. The 'De-streaming Debate' is challenging leaders to support teachers to review, reflect, re-think and re-learn ways of organizing classroom programmes, so they stop applying systemic, disempowering brakes that impact on Māori and Pacific Island students achieving to their potential.

Let's be the accelerator

If we could tune our classrooms as we tune our cars, all students would experience rich learning experiences in a range of flexi-groups - and the acceleration in learning outcomes could be remarkable.



Principal Advice and Guidance: (PASL)

The PASL team is the legal team that supports principals when they run into employment issues with their Boards of Trustees.

To join PASL principals need to be a member of NZPF.

PASL Legal Cover to increase from 2023:

At the recent PASL Board Meeting, Directors discussed the

level of cover PASL provides. If a principal with a PASL contract has an issue that requires legal support and intervention, they have been able to access 'up to \$25,000' of legal intervention.

After deliberating the issue, the PASL Board of Directors agreed to increase the level of cover, without increasing the subscription fee to join PASL. It is with pleasure that I announce that

from January 2023, for no extra fees, PASL legal cover will be increased to \$30,000.

PASL legal support for principals is available to all current NZPF members. PASL gives you access to highly experienced lawyers who have been advising and supporting school principals with legal disputes for many years. This legal benefit increase is very timely as we enter the beginning of a new Board of Trustees cycle, where employment-related issues can arise.

And a final word about advice and support if you need it -

When principals have an employment issue, there are several places you can go for support – NZSTA Helpline, NZEI Principal Liaison Officers' Helpline, the NZPF Helpline or the PASL Helpline.

New Mathematics Curriculum Road Show Dates

With the MOE, we have negotiated to do seven more NZPF-MOE Mathematics Curriculum Road Show dates workshops in Kerikeri, West Auckland, Te Puke, Gisborne, Central Otago, Timaru and Invercargill.

Please find information about how to register in the notices below.

Follow up Mathematics Curriculum ZOOM Hui:

For those principals who have already had the opportunity to attend a Mathematics Road Show with Rob Proffit-White, we have our first follow-up NZPF Mathematics ZOOM Hui coming up on Thursday 18 August – 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Please email office@nzpf.ac.nz to register yourself and staff you would like to attend so we can send you a ZOOM link.

Wondering of the Week:

[Have you taken time out this week to do something for yourself, for your health and wellbeing?](#)

No – haven't had time to even think about it.

Did think about it, but it hasn't happened.

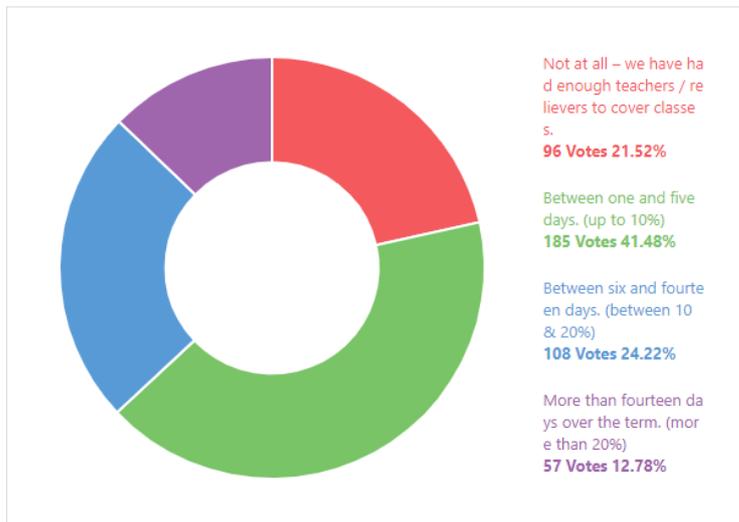
Did think about it and I will get to it by the end of the week.

Yes – and I plan to do it again.

Vote

Results of last Week's poll:

How often have you covered classes for teachers who have been unwell during Term 2 and at the start of Term 3?



Ngā manaakitanga

Cherie Taylor-Patel

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NZPF Notices

Mathematics Curriculum Road Show - New Dates

Please find below dates for the next stage of the NZPF-MOE Mathematics Curriculum Road Show events.

Region	Date	Place	Time
Gisborne	5/9/2022	Lawson Theatre	9am-1pm
Tauranga	6/9/2022	Te Puke- The Orchard Church	9am-1pm
New Plymouth	7/9/2022	Plymouth International	9am-1pm
Central Otago	22/9/2022	Cromwell Presbyterian Church	9am-1pm
Bay of Islands	25/10/2022	Turner Centre	9am-1pm
West Auckland	7/11/2022	Black Salt Bar	9am-1pm
Invercargill	14/11/2022	Corinthian Centre	9am-1pm
Timaru	15/11/2022	The Grosvenor Hotel	9am-1pm

Please email office@nzpf.ac.nz if you wish to register at one of these events.



NZPF Conference - Christchurch

The overarching theme of this year's conference is Aotearoa ki te whai ao! - Aotearoa and Beyond. We will be celebrating, sharing and learning from leaders, artists, pioneers, scholars and everyday people who have a connection to Aotearoa, have taken their talent to the world, and who push boundaries to achieve the very best for us and our country!

The conference will be held at the new Te Pae, Christchurch Convention and Exhibition Centre, on 14 - 16 September.

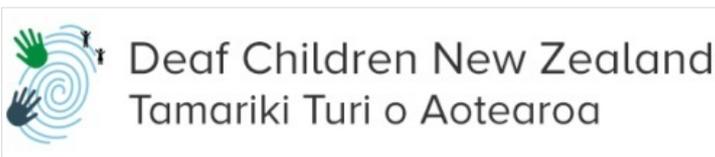
For further details and to register for the conference, please visit the [website](#).



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



Excellence Awards 2022

Do you have a Deaf or Hard of Hearing student, in Year 1 to Year 13, who deserves recognition academically, creatively, for effort or empathy? The Deaf Children New Zealand (DCNZ) Excellence Awards acknowledge these qualities.

Nominations must be accompanied by one recommendation letter from a teacher or other educational professional.

- DCNZ provides certificates and medals for students in Years 1 - 8, and certificates and cups (for the winner of the award) for Years 9 - 13.
- The Norma Taylor Memorial Trophy is also awarded for a student who has consistently achieved recognition within their school over five years at secondary level.
- The Paton Family Trophy is awarded for Excellence in Sport.

DCNZ encourages schools to present the Excellence Awards during an assembly or prize giving ceremony, alongside peers, families and whānau.

Nominations for Y1 to Y13 students open Monday 25 July 2022 and close on Friday 30 September 2022.

Go to the [Get Funding page](#) of the DCNZ website for an application form.

Katie McMenamin

Executive Committee President

Deaf Children NZ | Tamariki Turi O Aotearoa

Freephone 0800 332 324

www.deafchildren.org.nz



Navigating Leadership Hui for School Principals

On Tuesday 16 August from 10–11am, you are invited to hear Education Minister Chris Hipkins and Associate Education Minister Jan Tinetti speak on navigating leadership in a COVID-disrupted world.

You will then be invited to a group kōrero on either Monday 22 August or Tuesday 23 August – this is an opportunity for you to share your experiences and effective practice with other tumuaki on re-engaging our ākonga.

The kōrero will be held:

- 22 August 10–11.15am for secondary school principals and area/composite school principals
- 22 August 1–2.15pm for U1, U2, and U3 principals
- 23 August 10–11.15am for intermediate principals, U4 principals and kura kaupapa Māori principals
- 23 August 1–2.15pm for U5, U6, U7, principals.

You will need to be registered by 9am Tuesday 16 August for the presentations by Minister Hipkins and Minister Tinetti.

For the group kōrero, registrations can be taken on the day (22 and 23 August) but given the large numbers of principals invited we suggest you [register early](#).

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

