



PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

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

Level 8 The Bayleys Building,
36 Brandon Street
Wellington NZ 6011

PO Box 25380
Wellington 6140
nina.netherclift@nzpf.ac.nz



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President's Message



Kia ora e te whānau

*Waiho i te toipoto, kaua ite te toiroa
Let us keep close together, not wide apart*

Tēnā koe e hoa

When we signed up to be a principal, most of us expected that leading teaching and learning would be the main job. For the last two years, across Aotearoa, COVID has radically stretched the job description. As well as being leaders of learning, we have become community leaders and crisis leaders.

We have been challenged to respond to our communities, to advocate on their behalf, to coordinate support systems, to continually adapt school logistics and to be 'Communications Central'. I acknowledge those of you who are already managing an Omicron outbreak in your school community. COVID has been and still is, intense work.

Leading learning – building relationships

On becoming a senior leader, I had the opportunity to attend a leadership conference. One of the key-note speakers was Dr. Pita Sharples. Dr. Sharples shared with us twenty years

of national statistics on Māori health, life expectancy, poverty, housing, justice and education. It was confronting. He told us that despite not having the blessing of the Ministry, he and his supporters planned to build the first intertribal urban marae in New Zealand, complete with Kōhunga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori and Whare Kura. And they did.

One of the foundation principles of this school was that kura leaders, kaiako and whānau would co-construct and teach a localized curriculum, in Te Reo. Parents and teachers decided what would be taught and clear, shared goals were pursued at school and at home.

As leaders of learning, these pioneers of the global Indigenous School network redefined school leadership. As community leaders and educators, they built close relationships with students and whānau, to support 'Māori achieving success as Māori'. In 2019, the Hoani Waititi Kura won the New Zealand Prime Minister's Education Excellence Award.

I tell this story because, through this pandemic we too have partnered with parents and set clear learning goals to pursue both at school and at home. We've built strong relationships with parents to support home-based learning and in turn parents have looked to us for resources, on-line lessons, advice and information.

As community leaders, many of us have reached beyond our traditional school leadership roles, responding to families experiencing food insecurity, material poverty, job insecurity, financial hardship and mental and physical health needs. For some, community leadership has always been a dimension of principalship. For others, the pandemic has brought social and school inequities to the surface and we can see how they impact on learning.

Leadership learning – we are in it

Right now, our priority as education leaders and community leaders, is to support our tamariki and whānau in school-based, home-based learning contexts, virtually and face-to-face. The relationship building we have done with tamariki and whānau to achieve this education partnership, creates an opportunity

for a new way of educating in a Post-Pandemic era. Some exemplary role models are emerging and we can use these to redefine our own roles as leaders and potentially change lives.

Leadership learning – a process best done together

In January this year, the NZPF Executive met for two and a half days in Auckland, and via ZOOM. We reviewed work streams from 2021 and identified goals for 2022. It was energizing and inspiring, to be part of a collaborative planning process that was ambitious, pragmatic, broad in scope yet also focused.

The work-streams include Leadership, Curriculum, Principal Hauora and Well-being, and Policy. Interwoven into each workstream is advocacy, partnering with Māori and Pasifika and strengthening connections with principals – regionally, nationally and internationally.

The 'heavy lifting' we are doing to support our communities through this time, is also easier done together. Take care. Stay connected. Make time to contact a colleague. Chances are you will make their day.

Wondering of the Week:

How well are your students, staff and community coping with the Covid Protection Framework school protocols you have put in place?

The majority of our community is totally on-board and we have high levels of support.

The majority of our community are mainly on-board and most people are supportive.

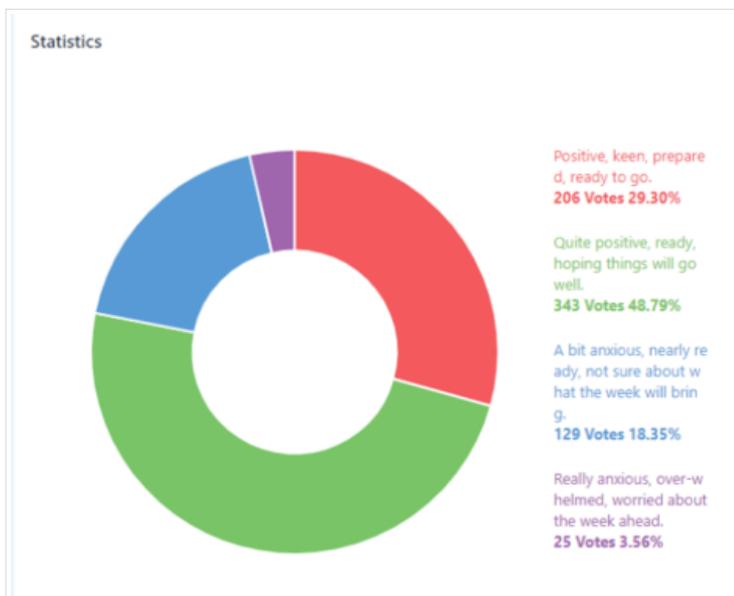
A reasonable proportion of our community are finding the new protocols challenging, so there is work to do.

The majority of our community are struggling with the new protocols and are not onboard yet.

Vote

Results of last week's poll

How are we feeling as we start the 2022 school year?



Ngā manaakitanga

Cherie Taylor-Patel

cherie.taylor-patel@nzpf.ac.nz

NZPF Notices



NZPF Awards

The following awards are available to NZPF members:

- Don Le Prou Award
- Tauri Morgan Memorial Award
- PLD Grants for Principals' Association

Click [here](#) for further details. Applications close 1 March.



2022 NZPF Moot

Last year we indicated through this newsletter, that the 2022 NZPF Moot would be held on 18 March, 2022. Due to the current predictions that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is likely to be peaking around that time, the NZPF executive has decided to postpone the Moot and has instead set the date of Friday 10 June for the 2022 Moot.

If you are a president of your local principals' association this year, please record this date in your diary. We shall keep you updated with any further information you need to prepare for the Moot.



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



COVID-19 - Back To School With Omicron In 2022

Omicron is another form of COVID-19. It's more infectious than previous versions, so spreads very quickly. It's less likely to make you severely ill. Some people might not even know they have it. Stopping Omicron is all about masks and fresh air.

KidsHealth have developed this simple resource to help children understand what school will be like when they go back: masks, fresh air, staying home if unwell, getting tested and COVID immunisation.

[Back to school with Omicron 2022 \(PDF, 1MB\)](#) is a booklet by Mel Churton, a New Zealand psychologist and Alison Leversha, a Starship paediatrician.



VLN Primary School - Registrations invited for online programmes for 2022

Extend curriculum choices for your learners and increase your schools confidence and capability in online and distance learning.

A wide range of language programmes available including teo Māori and Kapa Haka; also Digital Technology, Gifted & Talented, Creative Arts, Science & Maths and Literacy.

[Funded Gifted Opportunities](#) (limited placements)

Registrations close Monday 21st February. Classes start the week of 14th March.

[Find out more and register your interest online](#) or contact primary@vln.school.nz with queries.

All NZ children are welcome to learn with the VLN Primary - Nau Mai, Haere Mai!

Rachel Whalley, VLN Primary School

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

