

Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

Wellington High School

2017 Term 1 Hui - Te Whanau a Taraika

Monday 27 Feb 2017

Planned Whanau Events for 2017

NCEA whanau information night – ideally prior to sports season/winter

SOLO information night – confirm with Andrew Savage

Possible careers information night – suggested by Megan Southwell (Dep Principal)

Suggest inviting representative from Horowhenua College Rangatahi Ora unit to share experiences and expertise with WHS Kura.

Taraika working bee to be confirmed (near future). Will also be used to introduce whanau to the digital technology initiative.

Whakanuia – term 4 celebration of achievement.

Kapa Haka

Practice commenced end Feb. Regional competition term 2.

Over 60 students enrolled in kapa haka so far, but low number of male participants. Some discussion about reasons/barriers to males participating and need to develop strategy to increase participation. Whanau are interested in further discussion with boys to identify what may encourage them to participate (beyond feeling self-conscious).

Was also suggested that focussed activities specifically for boys may help, due to apprehension around participating alongside girls. Acknowledged that short term, medium term and long term programmes needed. Led to a wider discussion of how to broaden appeal/ownership of kapa haka by whole school and embed Maori language and tikanga schoolwide.

Strengthen Wellington High School in Maori Language and Tikanga

Following discussion of concerns facing kapa haka, there was discussion of NZ/global factors that indicate more widespread embrace of Maori language and tikanga in business, society, tourism, hosting visiting groups or dignitaries, etc. This means there will be greater opportunity for students who have strengths in Maori language and tikanga, in terms of their careers, and this means an opportunity for the school to lead in growing New Zealanders who are more 'conversant' in Maori, language and culture/custom.

Initial discussion raised a range of exciting ideas. These would need to be explored further. Range of possible strategies discussed, including:

1. 'normalise' Maori language and tikanga in the school
2. compulsory Maori language in junior years
3. kura-wide learning/joining kapa haka

Principal Transition

Dominic Killalea was introduced as the new principal, from term 2. Dominic reported on student NCEA achievement and Maori student achievement.

Digital Technology Initiative

Paul outlined digital technology initiative. This initiative will involve developing, and making available online, video files of Maori language demonstrated in true to life conversations at Wellington High School. The files would be for students and the community. This initiative offers a significant advantage over static media (eg on a wall) or in text form.

The next step is (Paul and WHS) to form a group of individuals with relevant skills and interest to complete the project. Paul will meet with school management and teaching staff likely to have relevant skills/expertise. Then he will introduce the initiative to whanau at the working bee, explaining what it will do and what skills would be helpful to complete the work.

A timetable for the project will be worked through from there.

Taraika - Whare

Working bee weekend will be scheduled shortly, and a panui will be issued listing jobs to be done. Activities will include painting and carpentry. Support, food and beverages will be welcome.

Louise Wycherly (WHS teacher) addressed the group, explaining the work that she and Nigel Hanton had begun, working on the exterior and interior art work for Taraika. She expressed a desire to see this work, and the commitment to making Taraika a beautiful place for the school, continue under Dominic's stewardship. Louise seeks a mandate to continue the work on Taraika and people to join in this important work. She invited suggestions of what whanau would like to see in Taraika. Whanau acknowledged the importance of the whare and support for this work.

Louise also explained that she has planned a book to document the history of the project 'Taraika'. This is in progress.

Whanau Hui 2017

All Whanau hui are Monday evening, 6pm unless specified otherwise:

27 February

22 May

21 August

Tuesday 24 October (day after Labour Weekend)

In general, whanau hui are approximately one week following first Board of Trustees meeting of term.