

Mangonui School Newsletter

30 April 2009 : Term 2 : Week 1

Nga Mihi Mahana ki a Koutou Katoa, Warm Greetings to You All

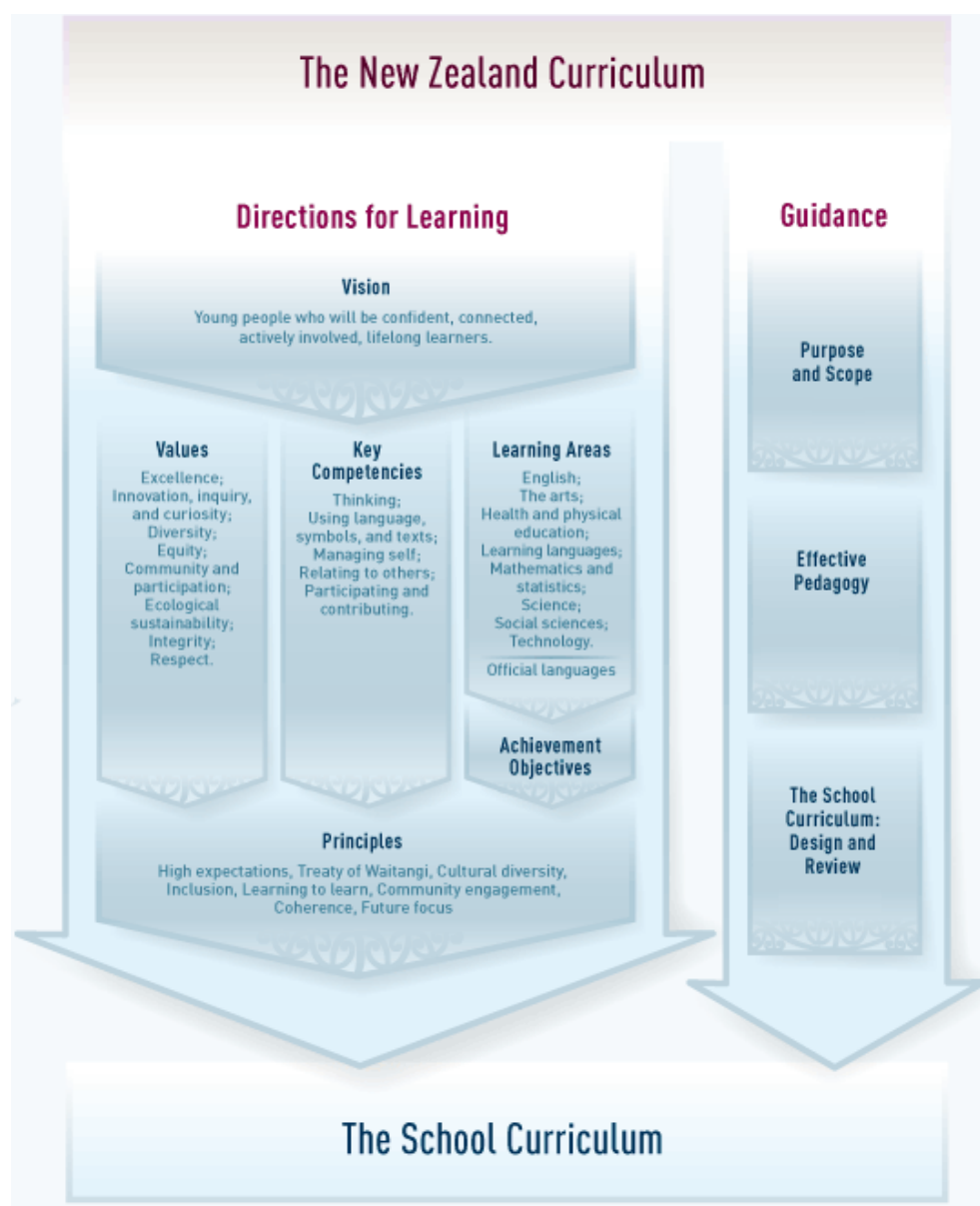
I am proud to be the Principal of Mangonui School. Already I have observed that Mangonui has strong foundations that are geared towards providing an engaging learning environment. My role will be to continue to build on these foundations to ensure every student receives the best education possible. This term a lot of my time will be examining how Mangonui School functions and using this information to build a Strategic Plan that will provide direction for the next three years. The success of this document will be determined by the participation of the entire school community. It is important that everyone has an opportunity to 'voice' their thoughts and opinions. One of the upsetting things that I come across in schools is that many parents and caregivers do not feel that they have the knowledge to participate in things such as strategic plans. Your opinions count and add value to documents such as strategic plans because they come from another perspective. I encourage you to get involved when the opportunity arises. This year in newsletters I will be concentrating on 'unpacking' the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) so you can gain a better understanding of its contents. I also like to include strategies that you can use at home to support your child's learning. I look forward to meeting you all. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or queries.

David Sedcole

New Zealand Curriculum - The Beginning

Purpose and scope

The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) is a statement of official policy relating to teaching and learning in New Zealand schools. Its main function is to *set the direction for student learning* and to *provide guidance* for schools as they *design and review* their curriculum. This document starts with the *vision* of young people who will develop the *competencies* they need for *study, work, and lifelong learning* and go on to realise their *potential*. This document will also help Mangonui School give effect to the partnership that is at the core of our nation's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi.



New Zealand Curriculum 2007

Parents as Teachers

It takes a village to raise a child - African Proverb

John Hattie a leading New Zealand researcher has just released a book on Visible Learning - *what actually works in schools to improve student learning*. It involves over 50,000 studies involving millions of students. This book is a result of 15 years of research and presents some very interesting information. At the conclusion of the book it identifies 138 influences. High up on the list is 'Parental Involvement'. He states that parents who have high aspirations for their children and get involved with their learning have a profound effect upon their child's ability to do well at school.

*Many parents begin with positive expectations for their children. A major concern, however, is the extent to which parents know how to "speak the language of schooling" and thus can advantage their children during school years; some do not know this language and this can be a major barrier to the home contributing to achievement and to the realization of parents expectations for their children'.
John Hattie 'Visible Learning'*

What Hattie is saying is that some parents feel that they cannot participate because they think that they are unable to, that they do not have the knowledge. There are plenty of resources and ideas that will be shared in the following newsletters which can be used to support learning at home. You can participate, it is important that you do so.

The New Zealand maths site www.nzmaths.co.nz is a great resource. Locate the 'Families' link and click on the 'Activities to do at home'. Many families do not have the internet so each week I will attach some ideas from this site and other internet pages.

Counting 1-10

The purpose of this activity is to help your child learn to read and write the numbers from one to ten.

- Work with your child to cut out pictures from the newspaper and use them to make a counting book. Put one thing on page one, two things on page two and so on. Make all the things on each page the same, for example "2 cars, 3 people, 4 trees."
- As you look through the newspaper together encourage your child to find and read numbers.
- "That's right, that's a number. What's the name of that one? Can we find any more sevens?"

- Write the number of items on each page into the book. Help your child to practice writing the number on the page as well. Write the number in lots of different colours for lots of practice.

Pool Keys: Now that the pool is closed we would appreciate the return of all pool keys. Thanks

Constable Matt Tailby

This term we are looking at delivering the Keeping Ourselves Safe (KOS) programme throughout our school. KOS is a child protection policy that aims to: teach children safe practices in their dealings with others, encourages children to seek help where appropriate and to raise awareness of parents and caregivers of the need to help children avoid abuse. The programme will be delivered by the children's usual teacher supported by Mathew Tailby the Police Education Officer from Kaitaia. It is our intention to hold a meeting for parents and caregivers who would like to find out more about the programme at the school on **Tuesday the 5th of May at 5pm** to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

Certificates

2 Reading certificates were handed out at the first assembly. Jordan Room 6 for 50 nights reading and Zana Room 6 for 175 nights reading. Well done!!

Anzac Day Parade

Once again Mangonui School attended the Anzac Day Parade. Because it was so wet the whole programme was held in the Mangonui Hall. Oliver Sparksman-Weber, Marijka-Rose Bridson and Toby Lakin laid the wreath supported by our new Principal Dave Sedcole and DP Lesley Holeyby.



Upcoming Events:

- Friday 15th May - Pet afternoon**
- Tuesday 26th May - Kiwi netball**
- Friday 26th June - Reports out**
- Wednesday 1st July - 3 way conferences**