

MAORI CONSULTATION MEETING

10 NOVEMBER 2011 7pm Staffroom

PRESENT: Jan Hannon, Paddy Hannon, Sally-Anne Reilly-Nugent, Adrienne Wood, Zita Smith

APOLOGIES: Tracey and Paul Reiher, Rachel and Darron Penney, Elena Porteners, Kim Reid

PRAYER: Zita

1. Zita welcomed the parents. She informed them she was currently in the process of collating and analyzing end of year data in Literacy and Numeracy, and that Maori student achievement paralleled whole school achievement and in many cases, surpassed it.
2. Discussion was then held on priorities for parents of Maori students at St Theresa's that could be addressed within the Strategic Plan Aim No 4: *To continue to develop the understanding and practice of Tikanga and Te Reo in the school*

The following points were raised that all those present agreed on:

- **Children's identity as Maori** supported and enhanced. Ways of doing this could be **visual:** signage around the school in Te Reo (room numbers, toilets, office, library etc); symbolic artwork around the school (a po or an entrance way that students could be involved in planning and designing after exploring the history and meaning); our logo redesigned to include our heritage as New Zealanders; when we have a school song (!) a verse in Maori; all teachers using simple te reo in class.
- Learning about the **history and meaning** of the powhiri and other things Maori – this could be researched, people brought in to teach our children.
- **Ongoing training for students and staff in Kapa haka, waiata –**
 - Zita explained how this did not happen in 2011 because we could not find a tutor, and this happens every year. The younger boys have learnt the haka solely from the older boys (and have done very well) but unless we employ a tutor in an ongoing capacity, our knowledge and ability to perform haka will die out. We need sustainability to get improvement and development. Guy Royal started the process and now Zita is currently in talks with Kay Jujovich from Whitireia in Porirua to develop a sustainable link between the Whitireia students and St Theresa's. Their students thinking about training to be teachers, could come and teach our children. We could pay but it would be more like a koha and we could provide experience for them. Zita has spoken to Kay and followed this up with a letter. Awaiting a response.
 - Shirley helps out the girls to karanga which is great.
 - Zita has also approached new Bishop Viard College principal Teresa Cargo about the possibility of some students acting as tutors to our boys here for the Haka. Teresa seemed open to this and it will also need liaison with the Maori tutor at BVC.

- Another possibility mentioned was asking Murray Pattison, a retired principal who currently tutors in schools around the Porirua area. Zita will contact him to see if he is willing to support us, and we could pay him if he is still a registered teacher because it could come out of our staffing entitlement which would make it easy.

Other ideas suggested:

- Since the Hongoeka Marae children have left St T's our links have diminished and the Hongoeka parents who supported the relationship so generously are now committed to the Kura where their children attend. A solution could be -
- Possibility of seniors visiting Te Papa, the Wharewaka building in Wellington, and the cultural area at the Police College in Porirua to develop and enrich their understanding of what it means to be a New Zealander and to build on these experiences over the 6 years they are here.

Meeting concluded at 8.15pm