



*Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence preparing for lifelong learning
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa*

Te Ara Whānui Update Term 1 2023

Kia ora e te whānau,

It's hard to believe that term 1 is drawing to a close. We have seen a few changes this term as we farewelled Jen Wilkinson and welcomed Carmen Chambers into Whānui. The students have enjoyed lots of fun and engaging learning activities throughout the term. We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful things that they have achieved this term.

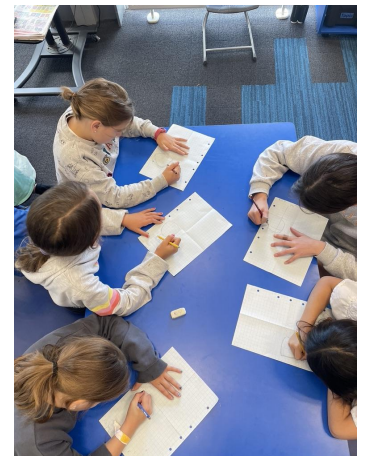
The start of the year always sees a focus on developing a positive team culture and expectations within the space, which has set us up well for the year ahead. Camp Makahika was a fantastic opportunity for ākonga (students) and kaiako (teachers) to get to know one another and lay the foundation to build positive relationships that lead to an effective learning environment. We have talked about treating each other with kindness and respect and we are proud of how well everyone has been doing with this. We know that when everyone in the space is connected and supportive of one another, this fosters a sense of belonging.



At the beginning of the term we enjoyed our shared story, Skunk and Badger. We used this story to hook into our integrated unit where ākonga enjoyed researching chickens, and learning about simple machines and how they make work easier for humans. We were grateful that Michael Fraser, Leighton's Dad, came in and shared his knowledge and skills with us by running a technical drawing lesson. The newly learned skills and knowledge was then applied to the real world problem of designing a chicken coop that incorporated simple machines. It is exciting to see their designs come to life as the term draws to a close.

Over the last few weeks, Picasso inspired art mobiles have begun adorning our walls. We have loved seeing each student's creativity and unique visions come to life. It was great to see how they used shape, colour and composition to create movement and balance in their mobiles.

We welcome Gene Haggie into our team for term 2. We have enjoyed the start to the year and hope that your children are enjoying sharing their experiences with you as much as we enjoyed watching them in action. As always, if you would like to contact your child's teacher, please don't hesitate to do so. Have a lovely Easter and break over the next two weeks.



Ngā mihi nui,

The Whānui team - Rebekah, Carmen, Emma and Gene