Kia ora koutou,

Wow, I think I’ve arrived? Talk about being thrown in the deep end, hitting the ground running, and chasing my tail all at once! I’m only just coming up for air after a term of action, events, and awesome accolades.

After a lovely welcome on my arrival, on my second day at Karanga Mai we were informed that we’d made the finals of the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards (Focus Category) and the whirlwind took over – judging day, filming day, providing quotes, stories and interviews. Not to mention deciding who the 8 lucky attendees to the awards dinner in Auckland would be, and of course, what would we wear?!?

And all the effort paid off. When myself, Lynne, Jacinta, Bruce, Deirdre, and students Tayla, Courtney and Beth heard Karanga Mai announced as winners, we were overcome with pride. It has been very humbling for me to come into this role as Karanga Mai is being recognised for the impact of our exemplary collaborative community on both generations of learners while they are with us.

It is fabulous that the work of Lynne and Jacinta in particular in building a culture with strong emphasis on relationships, supportive structures, culturally responsive practice and educational aspiration has been acknowledged at such a high level. Only 5 awards are given out each year, and ours is the only one that sits in the South Island for the next year. There is much to celebrate!

We have also crammed lots of great events into the term including a visit from fellow teen parents and teaching colleagues from our sister school, Kimihia, for World Smokefree Day. We enjoyed a day of fun challenges, yummy kai, and great facilitation led by Cass and Dave from YMCA and smokefree initiatives supported by Sarah from the CDHB.

We’ve also had some students branching out and learning in new contexts. As you’ll see in our new Student Successes section, a group of 5 students successfully completed a Barista course at Rangiora Community College this term. Another dedicated group of students have been working with Chrissy Irvine since Term One on developing sophisticated photo essays inspired by women who were also young mothers, working in industries they aspire to be in. It was really exciting for us all to attend the exhibition opening a few weeks ago at In Situ in Hereford Street and see the fruits of this authentic learning opportunity on display. A huge congratulations to Brooke, Lucinda and Courtney for this achievement, and to Chrissy for her patient and expert mentoring of students throughout the process. You can read more about the project, and Chrissy’s work, at http://herstory.org.nz.

Our annual visit to Tuahwai Maraee provided a great opportunity to enjoy the welcoming environment there as a community. We had a record turnout of students and children and we kept ourselves entertained with activities such as poi making, weaving, and making fried bread. And of course there was lots of hanging out in the sun, yakking over cups of tea, and relaxing in the warmth of the wharenui. It was awesome to have past students pay us a visit along with wider whānau joining us for the day and for our shared kai in the evening.

These things don’t just happen though of course! A huge thankyou to all the staff and students who helped to organise behind the scenes and worked hard in the kitchen on the day. Many thanks to Tuahwai for hosting us once again, Tuahwai Primary students for entertaining us, June and Corabelle for sharing your knowledge with us, and to Danne and Tahu for supporting us with the pōwhiri. We’re already planning next year!

As you will know, our wonderful long-serving social worker, Jo Olson, is about to embark on a fabulous adventure as her family head to Germany for 2 years. Over her time with us, Jo has won the trust of students with her positive and empathetic nature. She has supported students with issues both small and large and has had to be a jack of many trades which we have all benefited from, including: taxi driver, legal expert, counsellor, IT consultant etc. Her versatility and sunny smiles are only part of the reason she will be missed by staff and students alike. I know part of her is sad to leave as Karanga Mai has been a huge part of her world for the last 5 years, and although we too, are sorry to say “Auf Wiedersehen” we are also really excited for her as we know she and her family will have an amazing time out there in the big wide world! Ngā mihi mō tō manaakitanga, Jo. Kia pai te haere koutou!

With Jo’s departure, a new social worker is joining our community. We look forward to welcoming Mary Haremia and her daughter Aria next term. We are excited to get to know you both, and absolutely know that you too, will bring many skills and gifts to the role. Nau mai, haere mai ki a kōrua.

Our latest piece of exciting news is that we have been successful with our application to the government’s Teacher Led Innovation Fund to fund a 2 year research project. We will be looking into the impact of interventions on engagement, participation, and achievement for students who might be home-bound for a period of time (eg: on maternity leave, they or their child are unwell, or because of geographic isolation). This is a very exciting initiative that will be nationally unique and to have it successfully resourced is another great acknowledgement of the work that we are currently doing and want to develop further here at Karanga Mai. We are just beginning the design and planning phase and will be asking for your input and keeping you informed throughout the project, so watch this space!

Lastly, thanks for your messages of welcome, congratulations and support over the past 10 weeks. It’s been a huge term and I have no doubt that the next one will be too as we look to develop our research project and students set goals and consolidate academic achievement leading into the second half of the year. I look forward to our on-going connection and welcome your participation in our community.

And to our students – congratulations on all your great achievements this term. I look forward to meeting with each of you and discussing progress, plans and possible projects for the rest of the year early next term. Until then – enjoy a great break!

Mā te wā,
Her Story Workshop

Chrissy Irvine has been running documentary photography and interviewing workshops with young mothers; Lucinda Miller, Courtney Watts, & Brooke Gray. Each student has interviewed & photographed a woman in a job they themselves would like to pursue. The women chosen to be interviewed were also teenage or young mums. By linking these women together, the students have begun to see how they can chart their own paths. It is also a chance for the interviewees to mentor young women who are in the same position they were once in.

Photo L to R: Brooke Gray, Lucinda Miller, Chrissy Irvine, Socorra Adcock, Courtney Watts

Prime Minister’s Excellence in Education Award

Receiving the Award at the official Awards Dinner, L to R: MP Nickki Kaye—Assoc Min Education, Jacinta, Lynne, PM John Key, Tayla, Courtney, MP Hekia Parata—Min Education.

Proudly displaying our success back with the Team at the Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre

Tuahiwi Marae Visit:

Photos L to R—Tahu Potiki having fun with the tamariki, Tuahiwi School Kapa Haka Group performing for us; Justine & Freedom enjoying some quiet time at the marae.

Enjoying some fun activities with Kimihia TPU organised by Cass & Dave from YMCA & Sarah from CDHB to celebrate World Smoke Free Day 31 May
A word from Jo …

Kia Ora Koutou,

Wow, this is it, farewell from me. I have been working at Karanga Mai for just over five years and have seen a lot of change in that time, heaps of students coming and going and not so many staff. Karanga Mai is an amazing community to be a part of and this is reflected in the low turnover of staff, we all want to stay, as do the students!! I was fortunate to have had two of my three children use the Early Learning Centre when I began and I got to experience first-hand how amazing the childcare team are, my children thrived and I felt so well supported as a parent by the incredible teachers.

It is time for me to move on now to the next exciting stage of my life. My husband and I have jobs at the International School of Dusseldorf. This is a school in Germany where our three children will also attend. I have a part-time guidance counsellor job and my husband is a geography and social studies teacher. I had no idea fifteen years ago (whoa I feel old now, it only feels like yesterday!!) when I did my Social Work Degree how significant that qualification would be to the direction my life has taken. I would like to encourage anyone considering tertiary studies to jump in and do it, having that qualification behind you will open doors for you that you did not even know were there.

I have been extremely fortunate to have spent some time with the lovely Mary Harema over the last few days, my replacement at Karanga Mai. I feel confident that you will all think she is as great as I do and she will just step in and take over where I have left off.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for making my time at Karanga Mai so memorable and enjoyable; students, staff and members of the wider community. Karanga Mai is an amazing place and I know you all cherish your time involved with it as much as I have.

Arohonui and Auf Wiedersehen from Jo xoxo

Introducing our new social worker …

Kia Ora, I am Mary. I am married to Mana and have 2 children – Anika-Grace and Aria. My background is in psychology and social work with most of my experience being in youth mental health, working in Kaupapa Maori and alcohol & drugs rehabilitation. Away from work I adore waiata and all music, as well as experimenting with difficult kinds of ethnic cooking from around the world. I am already enjoying the whanau feel around Karanga Mai and am looking forward to getting to know you all better next term.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Congratulations to Anna Rankin, Toni Wickett, Tayla Leatham, Sophie Harper, Sophie Fraser & Jaydah Brown-Riley for successfully completing the Barista Course run by Community Colleges Ranigora.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved +10 credits this term:
Level 1: Cincy TeNamu 16, Tinaya Wood 12, Larissa Edwards 15.
Level 2: Grace Chuter 11, CJ Maddock 11, Anna Rankin 10, Sophie Harper 20, Antonia Mayers 19
Level 3: Jess Brougham 13

KEY EVENTS IN TERM 3:
Week 1—First day of Term 3 Monday 25 July
Week 1—Mhi Whakatau for Mary Tuesday 26 July
Week 4—TOD Monday 15 August
Week 7—Flipped Classroom Thursday 8 September
Week 8—Citizenship Day Thursday 15 September
Week 9—Spring Picnic Tuesday 20 September
Week 9—Whānau Hui (date to be advised)
Week 9—Last day of term Friday 23 September (2.30 finish)

Comings & Goings…

Welcome to:
- Harrisen Karauria

New Babies:
- Jaydah Brown-Riley - Sophie & Kayleigh
- Courtney Gillespie - Charlea & Sailand
- Brianna Johns-Mills

Farewell to:
- Harrisen Karauria
Kia ora te whānau o Karanga mai

What an incredible term. They are all busy but this one goes down as one of the biggest! I’d like to thank Rachel for jumping in and running with us from the moment she walked through our doors. Ngā mihi nui kia Rachel.

Kimihia te kahurangi;
Ki te piko tōu matenga, ki te maunga teitei.
If you bow your head
Let it be only to a great mountain.

Celebrating Matariki together throughout Pipiri/June has provided many opportunities for us as a community “to reflect on the past and plan for a new year. It’s a time to learn and share, and a time for celebration. It’s a watershed moment that looks back on what’s been achieved and those who were held dear, and looks ahead to new horizons, yet to be explored.”

What’s happening for the tamariki?
The tuakana (older children) demonstrate an incredible amount of Aroha and Manakitanga, love, care and respect towards the teina (younger children) everyday as a part of their involvement and contribution to community life.

It is a privilege to support the development of these qualities in the tamariki. One of the best ways to do this is through role modelling and being a community that enacts these values as a part of daily life.

Exciting times ahead;
Next term we will be starting to use ‘Storypark’ an online assessment programme to share, plan for and increase opportunities to communicate and contribute to your child’s learning. Louise is leading our mahi around this.

We look forward to enacting kotahitanga, collaborating with whānau on an exciting art project (ngā toi) that represents our communities’ journey and recognises our whakapapa. Our excellence award prize money will support this project.

Last of all we farewell Jo and her whānau as they set off to explore the world! We welcome Mary Harema and her daughter Aria.
Ngā mihi o te tou hau! Arohanui, Jacinta

Need to contact the school? Here are our details:
Karanga Mai Young Parents College & Early Learning Centre, Robert Coup Road, Kaiapoi 7630
Admin E: ypc@kaiapoi.school.nz Rachel E: r.hawthorne@kaiapoi.school.nz Phone: 03-3278386

There was great excitement when the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Award Trophy finally arrived!

L to R: Jo Olson (departing social worker), Mary Harema (new social worker), Rachel Hawthorne (KM Director), Jacinta McInerney (KMELC Team Leader) and Elijah