



2020 Principal Report

Karen McCulloch

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and has had an impact on school life, well being and learning. The COVID lock down changed the face of learning to a situation very new to us all. The lead in to the Lock Downs came very quickly, with limited time for parents and teachers to make plans.

Thank you to my staff for planning learning in hard packs or on line and keeping in contact with our learners. Thank you to our parents for managing the children's learning. A big Well Done to our children for being resilient during the lock downs and transitioning back into school life, particularly with the added hygiene processes.

Learning highlights included the Senior Camp at Shakespear Lodge. School camp provides an authentic context in which to practice our school values and life skills. Teachers, parents and students have the opportunity to see the personal, fun side of each other and this helps build bonds and relationships. This is why we have the camps at the beginning of the year. The next Senior camp will be in 2022 with the venue being changed to an outdoors camp in Ngaruawahia.

Another highlight was our focus on history and early New Zealand. Our planned excursions couldn't go ahead but we did have a dress up day where students dressed up in clothes from a variety of decades and sampled school made butter and pikelets.

Sporting experiences included the Triathlon, Cross Country, Athletics, Cricket coaching and a special highlight of Footsteps Dance sessions.

It was great that COVID restrictions eased and we were able to celebrate our Calf Club and include calves. Students produced fence palings for a fence to commemorate 125 years for Pukekawa School. Unfortunately, the reunion had to be postponed, but hopefully the 125 years will be celebrated next year.

As part of our professional development, we have continued our emphasis on building "learner agency", which involves students understanding how and what they learn. Students across the school are having more input into their learning and becoming increasingly independent. Our younger learners have experienced play based learning. The Junior teachers have looked at different resources and strategies for teaching maths. Senior learners are using digital technology for their research and use Class Dojo as a communication platform. Learning portfolios are now shared on line via Google and See Saw.

The core business of any school is academic progress and achievement. Below is a grid of our data results in reading, writing, mathematics. COVID has had an impact on student progress and achievement, with classes having to "get going" again after the lengthy breaks. All students have made progress, with some making marked improvements, while others struggled to maintain their levels.

Academic Achievement		Mathematics		Reading		Writing	
Above	Expected Curriculum Level	25/113	22%	33/113	29%	12/113	11%
Within		67/113	59%	66/113	59%	65/113	58%
Below		21 /113	19%	14 /113	12%	36 /113	31%

These learning outcomes would not be possible without our dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate team. Teachers and teacher aides work hard to cater for our learners' needs, often going above and beyond" to

plan and implement programmes and events. We welcomed part time teachers, Mrs Peck and Mrs Pillow. Mrs Legg and Mrs Plaisier also joined our team as teacher aides.

I acknowledge the efforts of Mrs Craig and Mrs Kemp in making our school library look great and be a positive, calming learning space.

School visitors are welcomed by our friendly Office Administrator and our school looks amazing due to the conscientious efforts of Ramin and Allice Turner, our caretaking team and Vicki Kemp who works with our students in the garden.

Parents and Whanau have continued to play an integral role at our school by working hard on the Board of Trustees, PTA or Calf Club Committee to enhance opportunities and the environment for our learners.

Thank you everyone- staff, parents and students for another year of support, commitment and enthusiasm.

My role as Principal is drawing to a close. I have been a Principal for 19 years, 12 and a half here at Pukekawa. The highlight of leading a school is being able to work alongside people- school staff, school families, outside agencies, involved parents as part of the board, PTA or Calf Club committees and of course the children. I will miss their daily hugs and greetings. The children from 2008, my first year here are now young adults. The school has progressed during the past 12 years- we now have a modern learning environment, a school uniform, a Whanau or house system, lots of children's artworks in our garden and have become an Enviro School and member of a Community of Learning with other local schools.

The time is right for me to explore other interests. Thank you all for your support over the years.

Getting a new Principal is exciting for a school. A new Principal brings new ideas and expectations. I wish the parents, staff and students all the best as Pukekawa School moves into a new chapter.

Karen McCulloch
Principal

