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Page 1 of 2

Plenty of AROHA at Tauhara Primary

ROBERT STEVEN

Children at Tauhara Primary School love the Aroha learning programme, and are succeeding in their learning, principal Tracy Fraser says.

Fraser taught at three primary schools in the Taupo district, as well as Tauhara Primary, before taking on the principal role at the start of 2015.

Led by deputy principal Anne Cameron and Lynne Hornsey, Tauhara Primary School uses a Positive Behaviour for Learning programme called Aroha.

Fraser said even in her short time at Tauhara Primary so far, she has seen great development in childrens' behaviour and learning.

"AROHA is an acronym for Achievement, Respect, Ownership, High expectations, and Attitude.

"It has been developed to represent the expectations of behaviours here at school," she said.

It was important to teach the positive behaviours that pupils were expected to learn, the principal said.

"Every week at assembly, we choose an area for the whole school to focus on. This week it was respecting others, so the whole

focus has been respecting others in the playground, in the classroom, at home, and so on."

Sought after "Aroha cards" are given out to children who display weekly focus, she said.

"Someone could earn an Aroha card for showing respect when they're at assembly, for example.

"We keep a list to ensure we're not missing kids out. Then we're looking for those behaviours in children who haven't received cards yet."

Each child who earned an Aroha card goes into a weekly draw to win a prize, Fraser said.

Participation is a big focus at Tauhara Primary School. Children with special learning needs are

encouraged to take part in all the activities, like kapa haka.

"Kapa haka is very strong here - 210 out of the 250 kids do it, so it's almost the whole school. It's outstanding," Fraser said.

Through the Aroha system, children are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and their learning, gaining confidence in the process.

"In the future, I would see student leaders giving out Aroha cards to younger children too."

Tauhara Primary principal Tracy Fraser.



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