

Transcript - Ako – Learning together at Mairehau Primary

Alyse Loveridge: Ata mārie koutou.

Students: Ata mārie teachers.

Alyse: Kia ora. Who would like to lead us in our karakia this morning?

Dr. Sonja Macfarlane: Whenever I heard my teachers use te reo Māori it made me feel good. It made me feel like you didn't have to hide being Māori.

John Bangma: The te ao Māori team is a focused team because we recognise that we need to collectively improve our use of tikanga.

Alyse: We share successes, things that we're doing well, things we maybe need to work on as a whole. That's been really helpful for me personally having the support of teachers in other year levels and hearing what they're doing and being able to just openly communicate with my colleagues about it.

John: For a lot of staff, for a long time, it's been "this is something I'm going to do, I need to do, I want to do" but not taking those first steps. And a quite big number of them have undertaken the courses through the wānanga.

Jenny Postles: I had the opportunity to go on this amazing course Te Ahu o te Reo Māori, done through Ngāi Tahu. We got to go and stay at marae all around Canterbury and the same tutors would be there. We could also talk to teachers from other schools. It just felt like such an open environment where you could ask questions.

John: I've recorded a number of the children in the school giving their first and last name, and their parents' name, or whoever is living in their home.

(Teachers in a te reo Māori learning session.)

John: One child who went by a nickname when he started here because he'd been told his name was too hard to say, his name is now used correctly and with pride, because that's really important, that's who he is.

Alyse: We notice when we sing waiata in the morning, we start the day with a karakia, they all love saying the whakataukī. All those things just increase their mana, and by us teachers using it we're modelling that as something to be proud of.

Ngatamahera: When we sing, we're not just singing about our school, we're singing who we are.

Tame: It's great for us and other people, like, if they're not Māori they give it a go.

Jenny: Not only Māori students but Pasika, our Chinese students, our Filipino students, our New Zealand European students, need to see that and know that this is the only place in the world where the Māori language is going to be spoken.

Ngatamahera: It's good to see little kids that don't even know it speaking it, and they're having fun, I can tell on their faces that they like it.

Jude Parker: It's a growth mindset, that we all are learning. And for them to see that sometimes the pronunciation is difficult or I get it wrong just lets those children that find problems with other areas of learning, like literacy or numeracy, get that you take risks, you make a mistake, but that's all part of being a learner.

John: When you get to the point where you're able to say "that's just the way we do things around here, this is the norm, this is what happens in this school", that's when we're starting to get things embedded in place.

(Students reciting a whakataukī)