

Transcript - Te Ira Tangata - Maori succeeding as Maori

Dr. Sonja Macfarlane: One of our Ka Hikitia goals is Māori enjoying and achieving educational success as Māori. So we're there caring for them as a person, but also caring that they're doing well, that they're reaching their potential. We want our teachers to remember also that a classroom, or the wharenuī, is not just an inclusive, safe place where children feel a sense of belonging, but it's also a purposeful place for our students to be, where a lot of rich learning can happen.

Alyse Loveridge: Sometimes that might come across like tough love, but it is those expectations that we set, and the students being able to know that we believe they can achieve them.

Sonja: Learning from their peers is a great way of learning new things. So we get children who have the tuakana status to nurture someone and attain a status. Not necessarily about age, but it can be about someone who has a skill and can help share with another student and they can help them learn.

Melanie Taite-Pitama: The teaching and learning that happens here is about this area and about who our tamariki are, and it's personalised. So every tamaiti, every ākonga has a personalised learning plan. That plan is set with whānau, kaiako and the ākonga together, and those goals change every time that ākonga meets the goal. And it's not only the Kaiako and the tamaiti that have responsibility for those goals, the whānau have responsibilities too.

Kate Kennedy-Tyrell: And whatever those goals are set with student, kaiako, whānau, they are then played out in the classroom. And that is what that real time reporting is about. It's feeding back instantly to whānau that your students are achieving these goals. Instead of having term two report and end of term four report, that gets traditionally sent home to whānau in an envelope and parents read it, real time reporting is happening every week.

Melanie: If you are working in education, it is more than likely you have heard the whakataukī "Kāore te kūmara e korero mō tōna ake reka". And whilst I tautoko and agree with that, Māori have a big sense of humility and humbleness. One of the things that we work on at Tuahiwi School is teaching our kids to not be afraid to be proud of themselves.

Shane Ngātai: We have to listen to their voice. That power of the student voice and whānau voice is critical to any success. If the whānau can contribute to that as well at the same time and be regularly involved in those decisions, then you've got the purpose of the community around the school rather than the school being the centre of the community.