

COOK ISLANDS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Teacher Only Days
- Update on Apii Nikao
- Tereora top block classrooms restored
- Learning math through movement
- Welcome to our 2017
- New Zealand school donates books to Inclusive Education
- Maori Curriculum
- Math resources
- Teachers take up opportunity to up skill
- Spotlight on Apii Niua
- Spotlight on Sharon Marsters
- Concurrent teacher training



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BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

I did lots of maths over Christmas.
I utilized information literacy skills too.
Oh, and some design skills, a bit of science and cost-benefit analysis - so that would be economics.
Actually, I built a patio.
It was for my Mum, at my parent's place. There has always been a brick "thing" in the back garden but Mum has never liked it (Dad's opinion was pretty non-committal) and so the decision was made – a new patio.

Why am I writing to you about this? To share the fun, hard work and sense of achievement I found in doing something new using some skills I already had and some new ones I learnt – just in a different context.
Sure, we removed the old bricks and got the profile lines in and then the fun began – measuring the area, working out the volume of gravel and sand needed for levelling, deciding between recycling the bricks or buying new pavers (cost, aesthetics etc), designing the pattern – all really good mathematics. Then there were the cost comparisons between suppliers - travel further to the less expensive item or just go down the road but pay more? Laying the pavers and bricks (the final pattern was a mixture of both), levelling, using water to settle it all in over a few days...sore back, banged up knee and hands that felt like sandpaper! It looks great – and Mum loves it.

What I am saying is that we all know how to do lots of things but sometimes just don't give ourselves the credit for it or the opportunity to

use it. And, it is the same with our children at home and students in the classroom.
Our students learn a lot in school but it is the application of this knowledge and skills in their daily lives that really gives them the opportunity to value that learning and see its relevance.
Then, school takes on a whole new meaning as they see the link to something someone in their family does or something they want to do in their future.

So going into the new academic year, as a parent, grandparent, aunty, uncle – someone with an interest in another person's learning – don't ask "how was school today?" ask "what did you learn today? Then talk about how that learning links to other things in their daily life. Give examples from your experiences and share how you use different learning. Even if it was from years ago, if you think about it, you will realise how much you do know about all sorts of things – you just don't give yourself credit for it.

So here is to recognizing how we are all learners all of the time – and the fun and enjoyment that, at any age, we can get from using our knowledge and skills to create something for someone.

My very best wishes to you all for 2017.
Gail Townsend

PS for anything more complicated than a patio or something that involves live wires, welding equipment, heights or plumbing connections – call the professionals!



BEFORE



AFTER

APII NIKAO READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The Apii Nikao Prefabricated building is now furnished and ready for student use. The moveable structure will house two temporary classrooms for year 7 and 8 senior students until the main school has been rebuilt. The remaining year levels will continue to be based in the school Hall.

The primary school released its new school uniform this term, now available from Tuki's Pareu. During the first term, school principal Elizabeth Kapi says students can choose to wear the old or new uniforms. This gives parents time to get the

new uniform as the school slowly phases out the old uniform. From the first day of term two - Monday 1st May 2017 – students must be wearing the new school uniform.

Site plans of the new school, is available on the Ministry website or Facebook page.



First day of school and the first day for these seniors in their new temporary classroom.

ADVISORS IN AITUTAKI

Tei Aitutaki a Nick e Cristina Stephany i teia nga ra i te tauturu i te puapii maata o te Apii Vaitau ko ia a Nga Puna e tona ruru puapii i te parani i tetai porokaramu mataiti na te apii. E rua epetoma o Nick e Cristina i te Apii Vaitau. Takake i teia angaanga na rava, ka rave atu rava i tetai iriirikapua no te maani uniti apii akarotaianga i te au Kura Apii Puapinga i runga i te iPads. Ko to Nga Puna mataiti mua teia i te apaianga i te taoanga puapii maata.



Nick and Cristina Stephany.

NEW ENTRANCE FOR VEHICLES AT TEREORA COLLEGE



The new school entrance for vehicles.

Due to ongoing construction at Tereora College changes have been made to allow safe access in to the school. Those driving past the college lately would have noticed the new entrance for vehicles. The original entrance is now a shared road.

It will be used as an exit out of

the front parking area for the public as well as an entry and exit way for construction vehicles only. Drivers are asked to take care when exiting the parking area.



TEREORA CLASSROOMS RESTORED

The top block classrooms affected by fire last year at Tereora College are now fully functional thanks to work carried out during the holiday period. Two Social Studies and one Tourism classroom has been rebuilt just in time for the new school year. Due to the redevelopment students and staff now have a new access way to the top block, with a concrete pathway adjacent to the BCI stadium. Access to the Princess Anne Hall has also changed with students needing to use the entrance closest to the Drama class. Due to safety hazards the construction zone is completely off limits to all students and teachers.



The classrooms restored and ready for another year of learning.



The rebuild in progress.



KIA ORANA AND WELCOME!

The Ministry of Education would like to welcome our new teaching and Ministry staff. This year's intake of new staff come to us from New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. While some are returning staff, for a majority of the intake the Teacher Only Days held during the week before school was a chance for them to get to know their principals, peers and learn about their new schools and departments. "We want them to settle in well to start the year off well at their respective schools", said Tere Utanga, Director of Human Resource Management (HRM). This year's intake is bigger than the last with the focus being on ensuring all schools are full staffed. This year's intake however, includes a number of returning Cook Islanders or partners of Cook Islanders including recent graduates Thomas Henderson and Swedelia Tavairanga. It also sees us welcome back Ben and Jude Turnbull (Mangaia, 2002) and Matt Easterbrook and Rachel Smith (MoE, 2011). The majority of new staff are already on the island. The group were welcomed on board by the Secretary of Education, Gail Townsend, during an induction programme held at the Ministry office with Mr Utanga.

The session included an introduction to living and working in the Cook Islands, contract matters and general advice to help them settle into their roles. The Ministry would also like to congratulate current staff that have chosen to take on new roles or transfer to new schools for 2017. We wish all educators all the best in making this year a successful one for their students.

NEW AND TRANSFER STAFF

Principal Apii Tukao	Tereapii Napa
Principal Apii Vaitau	Nga Puna
HOF Science (TC)	Matt Easterbrook
Science (TC)	Andrew Fredrickson
English (TC)	Edward Steele
English (TC)	Hera Howell
Economics (TC)	Ben Turnball
Mathematics (TC)	Harriet Browning
Music (TC)	Veronica Perkins
Health&PE (TC)	Swedelia Tavairanga
Health&PE (TC)	Thomas Henderson
Science (Chemistry) (TC)	Teariki Jacob
General (TC)	Metua Teariki
English (Apii Enuamanu)	Deborah Wall
English (Titikaveka College)	Jude Turnbull
Science/Maths (Apii Mangaia)	Teaea Parima
Alex Breen (Apii Nikao)	Rhys Evans (Arorangi)
Maria Aituru (Apii Nikao)	Michelle Pora (Arorangi)
Apaira Tuau-Strong (Omoka)	Samantha Puati (Arorangi)
James Keen (Takitumu)	Ariana Collier (Avarua)
Maureen Goodwin (L&T Advisor-North)	Peter College (Avarua)

A FOCUS ON PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS AT TITIKAVEKA

It's small size and cohesiveness are unique characteristics of Titikaveka College and something the school believes also gives it an opportunity to really focus on pathways for each student.

Gaylyn Lockington, entering her third year as Principal, also notes that this can be a challenge as well.

"Smaller enrolment also means a lower staffing allocation so we need to look at how we use our resources to most effectively meet the needs of students and ensure when they leave Titikaveka they have options in pathways for further learning or the world of work", she said. Ms Lockington says this is a whole school focus. With the college accepting students into Year 7 straight from primary school, they work hard, through the use of a home room system to transition them into the way a college functions with timetables and changing teachers.

"The year 7 and 8 students do not need to change classrooms

and teachers for each subject but start the year in an environment they would be used to and over the year step out of that more and more".

For the senior students, this year will see the addition of Media Studies in the language programme as well as Horticulture and Music for the Year 11 classes.

"Along with our other options of PE, DVC (graphics) and IT, this gives students a wide scope from which they can make choices for Year 12 and beyond", she said.

All Year 11 students at Titikaveka must take either English and/or Maori as well as Science and Maths.

This year, students in the Year 11 Hospitality class will join together with students from Nukutere College in the same programme on a Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning at the CITTl Ngatangia Campus. This ability to share resources and provide a secondary-tertiary pathway is just another way the College is looking at new opportunities for its students.

"What is important to us is that our students can get the opportunity and education they need in an environment they know – preparing them well, and with confidence, for their next steps", she said.

EDGE UPDATE

IT System Administrator, Tau Estall held the first Edge workshop for the year with Tangiroa Chere Arthur from the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute, Arorangi campus.

Edge is a database of student information used by schools to track their students. The student information system (SIS) is currently being used by Apia Araura, Apia Arorangi, Apia Rutaki, Titikaveka College, Apia Takitumu, St Joseph's School, Nukutere College, Tekaaaroa Adventist School, Apia Vaitau and Apia Nikao. Coming on board this term is CITTl, Apia Mauke, Apia Mitiaro, Apia Avarua and Mangaia School.

During the last teacher only day for Apia Avarua, administrative staff and teachers took part in an Edge training session with Tau.

Not to be missed, schools on Mauke and Atiu will have their Edge training in week two of term 1 and Mangaia in week four. While on the island Ministry IT staff will also be conducting IT audits.



Award winners at the 2016 Junior and Intermediate prize giving ceremony for Titikaveka College.



Tau Estall and Tangiroa Chere Arthur during the first Edge training session for the year.



SPOTLIGHT ON APII NIUA



Thanks to a team effort, the students at Apii Niua have a fully functional school library. After being closed for many years following damage by a cyclone, the library was reopened at the end of the last year. Not to waste valuable resources, damaged books that could be saved were repaired, titles were sorted into categories and catalogued. The library also doubles as the school's computer lab with its walls beautifully decorated with student artwork and

creative pieces proudly on display.

“We now have a very attractive and useful working environment for students, staff and the wider community”, said Principal Anna Katoa proud of the school's achievement.

Since the library's opening, students have had library

periods scheduled into their days and have been making great use of the books available.

Literacy and reading was a particular focus for the school last year therefore the reopening of the library was a definite success for the school. Grateful for the help received in the rebuild, Anna would like to extend her thanks once again to all who contributed in getting the school library up and running once more.



The school library has already won the approval of its pupils.



The library also doubles as a computer lab.

As well as enjoying their new library/computer lab, students at Apii Niua have been busy in and out of the classroom. Check out these images of students making their own garden and getting crafty.



Preparing their seedlings for their new home in the school garden that students made.



Learning how to carve.



Learning how to sew.



Learning how to make a fishing net.



Apii Rakahanga

SPOTLIGHT

ON STAFF

Sharon Marsters

PRINCIPAL AT APII RAKAHANGA



If you do what you love, then you'll never work a day in your life. For principal of Apii Rakahanga Sharon Marsters, truer words have never been said. Sharon has spent 26 years educating children at various schools around the Cook Islands until taking up her leadership role as a teaching Principal last year.

During her career this is the third principal role she has accepted and has worn many hats including a relief teacher, basic teacher, subject teacher for English, Math, Te Peu and Physical Education. Prior to her appointment at Apii Rakahanga last year, she was an English, Maths and Physical Education teacher for Year 9 students. Changes at school last year included the start time for seniors from 9am to

8am meaning all students start school at the same time. Greater emphasis has also been placed on punctuality, student behaviour and getting parents involved in their child's learning through help with homework and reading.

“Students are now more responsible for their actions”, she said adding that student leadership roles rotate within each level and student elected librarians.

Working on Rakahanga however does not come without its challenges as Sharon says there is reluctance from teachers to take up teaching posts on the island

because of its isolation. Though it can be challenging, it is also a great experience. “Seeing the smiles on the student's faces when it glows at the end of the day, having surely learnt and achieved positively is a blessing”, she said.

There have been many highlights for Sharon as principal including having the ability to work closely with individual students, meeting with parents, the school committee and the community involvement with the school.

She would like to thank the Secretary of Education and the different Ministry departments for their help last year and she looks forward to a successful school year ahead.

LEARNING MATHEMATICS THROUGH MOVEMENT



Learning can be fun, it just takes a little creativity from teachers to get students interested. And that is exactly what Ministry advisors have done with their cross curricular resources for Maths and Physical Education. The resources allow students to maximise the fun factor and learn as they go. In particular, numbered mats that were initially purposed for floor use for Maths activities have been altered. They can now also hang on the wall and be used as a target for students solving Math questions while also practicing throwing skills. Other resources including hopscotch mats, numbered disks, numbered balls and dice will be given to the schools as well. Lesson plans were also created specifically for the cross curricula resources and will be modelled for teachers during the term. Before the resources are rolled out they will be trailed at selected primary schools on Rarotonga and in the Pa Enua.



MINISTRY SUPPORT TO PA ENUA SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education continues to provide support to teachers in the Pa Enua. The week before school started Ministry advisors were on the island of Aitutaki conducting professional development sessions and curriculum support to schools on the island.

Student support advisors for Inclusive Education (IE), Kathryn Bradley and Eve Reea were on Aitutaki for two weeks visiting all schools.

During their visit they have been working with teachers and principals taking staff through IE presentations and working with them to create Individual Education plans for their students.

During the first week of school they will be joining students in the classrooms providing support for teachers. Later this term they will be travelling to Mauke and Mangaia.

Also on Aitutaki are Curriculum and Pedagogy advisors for Information Communication and Technology (ITC)/Science, Nick and Cristina Stephany, providing administrative and IT intergradation support at Apii Vaitau.

The focus of their visit will be working with teachers to see how they can incorporate the use of iPads into learning.

They are scheduled to travel to Atiu and return to Aitutaki in weeks four and eight.

Here is a summary of travel for term 1.

Please note some travel plans may change as the term progresses.

Week 2

ICT staff - Mauke and Atiu.
Ngavaevae Papatua (secondary Maori) - Aitutaki.

Week 3

Anna Roumanu (PLSLP) - Mangaia

Week 4

Maureen Goodwin (L+T Advisor -North) Manihiki and Rakahanga (till end of term)
Strickland Upu and Kathryn Cheval (Numeracy) - Aitutaki
Nick and Cristina Stephany (IT Intergration) - Aitutaki

Week 8

Strickland Upu (Numeracy) and Nick Stephany (IT Intergration) - Atiu

Week 11

Cristina Stephany (IT Intergration) - Aitutaki



2017 TEACHER ONLY DAY'S



Nukutere College

Schools around the Cook Islands had their first compulsory Teacher Only Days (TODs) for the year on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th January. In the Education Act 2012 it stipulates that all schools must have at least five

TODs throughout the academic year. While some schools utilised just the compulsory two days before the start of the term, others chose to use more of the week before school to prepare. Each school had their own

schedule of events and activities that included professional development sessions, Hour of Code activities and introductions for those with transfer and new staff as well as planning and strategising sessions.



Apii Te Uki Ou.



Apii Takitumu.



Apii Avarua.



Imanuela Akatemia.



St Joseph's School.



Titikaveka College.



Apii Rutaki.



Tereora College.

NEW MATHEMATICS TEXTBOOKS

Mathematics departments of Northern group schools will be topping up their supply of Mathematics textbooks this term. The Ministry's Curriculum and Pedagogy department will be sending out sets of textbooks to ensure each school has as many classroom sets as they need. Each set has eight books that covers stages four through eight of Mathematics for students in grades 4-10. Ensuring students have access to these Mathematics textbooks according to their learning stage is in line with the Learning and Teaching focus in the Cook Islands Education Master Plan to use strategies at stage 7 of the numeracy framework by the end of Year 8.



Kathryn Cheval with some of the textbooks.

LEARNING FOR LIFE

While students were enjoying their break from school, about 60 teachers from around the Cook Islands choose to head back into the classrooms as students for three weeks.

Living the Ministry motto of 'Lifelong learning', the group of educators attended classes at the University of the South Pacific, Rarotonga campus working towards different levels of degrees ranging from a Bachelor's degree to Post Graduate.

The Ministry requires that all Cook Island educators have at least an undergraduate degree or an active pathway in place to achieving a degree while they work.

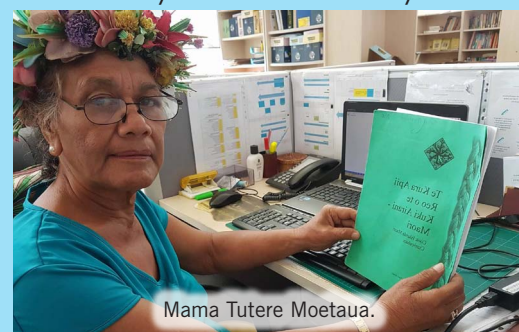
As such the Ministry provides financial support for teachers to continue to up skill themselves through initiatives such as the summer school programme. For those studying towards achieving their first degree, 100% of their study costs will be covered by the Ministry. To encourage lifelong learning, those choosing to continue their tertiary education studies and already having some sort of education degree, will have 50% of their study costs covered by the Ministry.

For more information on the financial assistance available for teachers, contact Ani Piri on 29357.

MAORI CURRICULUM

Work on the Cook Islands Maori Language curriculum continues. The Ministry's Primary Maori Literacy Advisor Tutere Moetaua has been working on the documents framework this month. She along with Secondary Maori advisor Ngavaevae Papatua have been working in collaboration with Maori educators around the Cook Islands since last year. They met with Maori language teachers to get their opinion on the current curriculum and hear

what changes they think would be beneficial to teaching Te Reo Maori. They are aiming to have the revised curriculum ready for distribution to all Cook Island Schools by the end of the year.



Mama Tutere Moetaua.

INCLUSIVE BOOKS DONATED

Meitaki maata to Raumati Beach School in Wellington for their donation of four boxes of books to the Inclusive Education team. The books are for a mixture of reading levels and will be shared to classrooms around the Cook Islands that have Inclusive Education students for classroom libraries.

"We want the books to be read,

for kids to love them and fall apart from being loved too much and not collecting dust", said Inclusive Education advisor Kathryn Bradley.



IE advisors with the donated books.

CHANGES TO THE FAST-TRACK TEACHING PROGRAMME



The Fast-track teaching Programme is undergoing some changes this year including a name change. Now known as the Concurrent Pathway for Teacher Training, the changes will ensure concerns of the previous programme are met to allow validity, rigor, depth and sustainability of learning for those undertaking the programme. Principals of schools with teachers that have participated in the programme

have been contacted by the Secretary of Education, Gail Townsend, and made aware of the changes.

"For some time, I know many of you have been concerned, as have I, about the opportunity the programme gives to students to understand the theory of education rather than just the practice. Our students have had little time or opportunity to develop knowledge of and reflect on the theories of human development and education".

Current participants in the programme will have two days of class time with tutors Gaylene Mauheni and Maureen Goodwin at the Ministry or via Skype for concurrent teachers in the Pa Enua and three days participating in teaching at their schools. For more information on the Concurrent Teaching programme contact programme coordinator Ani Piri on +682 29357.

A HEALTHY CHILD IS A SUCCESSFUL LEARNER

IT'S HUNGRY WORK BEING A GROWING CHILD SO WHEN THEY REACH FOR A SNACK, MAKE SURE IT'S A HEALTHY ONE. CHILDREN NEED LOTS OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS AND LIQUIDS TO HELP THEIR DEVELOPMENT. WHAT YOU PACK FOR YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH CAN IMPACT THEIR ABILITY TO STAY ACTIVE AND MOTIVATED THROUGHOUT THE DAY. SO HERE ARE SOME HEALTHIER COMBINATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH BOX.

A PIECE OF FRUIT 	A HEALTHY DRINK 	A HAM SALAD SANDWICH 
OR 	OR 	
POPCORN 	PEANUTS 	A CHICKEN WRAP 
LEFTOVERS 	CARROT STICKS 	PEANUTS 
	A HEALTHY DRINK 	OR 

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2017 School Calendar

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		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Jan							1 New Year's Day
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
TERM 1		23	24	25 Teacher's Only Day	26 Teacher's Only Day	27	28	29
1	Feb	30 Start of Term 1	31	1	2	3	4	5
2		6	7	8	9	10 Term Return	11	12
3		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	Mar	27	28	1 EMIS	2	3	4	5
6		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9	Apr	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11		10	11	12	13 End of Term 1	14 Good Friday	15	16
		17 Easter Monday	18	19	20	21	22	23
TERM 2		24	25 ANZAC DAY	26	27	28	29	30
1	May	1 Start of Term 2	2	3	4	5	6	7
2		8	9	10	11	12 Term Return	13	14
3		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	Jun	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
6		5 Queen's Birthday	6	7	8	9	10	11
7		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	Jul	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10		3	4	5	6	7 Ra o te Ui Ariki	8	9
11		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12		17	18	19	20	21 End of Term 2	22	23
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
TERM 3	Aug	31	1	2	3	4 Constitution Day	5	6
1		7 Start of Term 3	8	9	10	11	12	13
2		14	15	16	17	18 Term Return	19	20
3		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4	Sept	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
5		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8	Oct	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9		2	3	4	5	6 End of Term 3	7	8
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
TERM 4		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1		23 Start of Term 4	24	25	26 Gospel Day	27	28	29
2	Nov	30	31	1	2	3 Term Return	4	5
3		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
6	Dec	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
7		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8		11	12	13	14 End of Term 4	15	16	17
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Jan	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
Term	School Term Dates			School Holidays		Administration		
1	Mon 30 Jan - Thu 13 April (11 weeks)			Sat 15 April - Sun 30 April (2 weeks)		EMIS Return - Wednesday 1 March		
2	Mon 1 May - Fri 21 July (12 weeks)			Sat 22 July - Sun 6 Aug (2 weeks)		Term Returns - 2nd Friday of each Term		
3	Mon 7 Aug - Fri 6 Oct (9 weeks)			Sat 7 Oct - Sun 22 Oct (2 weeks)		Timesheets - Friday of each Fortnight		
4	Mon 23 Oct - Thurs 14 Dec (8 weeks)			Fri 15 Dec				