



Te Kāhui Ako ō Kawakawa

Whakatupu, Tiaki, Manaaki
Grow, Protect, Sustain

Newsletter Term 4 - 2024

Welcome to this year's final Te Kāhui Ako ō Kawakawa newsletter.

Korero from our Kaiarahi Takirua (co-leaders)

Tēnā koutou katoa

This year, our Kāhui Ako has breathed new life into our achievement challenges, centering our efforts around the goals of *Whakawhanaungatanga* and *Akongia*. Our learning and activities have aligned with the indicators of these challenges, *fostering meaningful connections and deepening knowledge across our community*. Each term, schools hosting hui have built their events around these indicators.

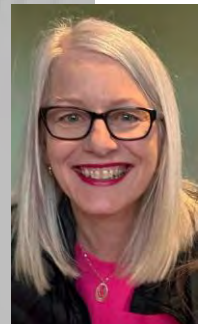
Our year began with collaborative workshops (*co-labs*) led by our Kāhui Ako leads. These sessions allowed teachers to explore topics of personal interest. In Term 2, we initiated *He Whare Mātauranga* sessions facilitated by Hohepa, Whare Isaac-Sharland (from Tai Huki), and Ngāti Kauwhata representatives, to enrich our understanding of cultural heritage and education.

A significant highlight was our contribution as a community to the creation of tiles for the 150-year commemoration mural in Feilding—a testament to our collective efforts and shared history. In Term 3, we hosted a community event with the Minister of Education, Erica Stanford, who addressed the pressing issues of inequity and underachievement in education.

As a Kāhui Ako, we value sharing best practices, and this year we had the privilege of showcasing the diverse and meaningful ways our kura celebrated Matariki in Kawakawa. This opportunity not only highlighted the unique approaches within our community but also reinforced the importance of coming together to honour and learn from one another during this significant time of reflection and renewal.

We would like to extend our best wishes to the WSLs who are leaving our Kāhui Ako: Jacques from FIS, Julie-Anna from Newbury, and Kate from FAHS. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and leadership within your schools. Best of luck in your future endeavours!

Last but certainly not least, we bid farewell to Rose Atkins, who has served as an across-school lead for the past four years. Rose's contributions to our Kāhui Ako have been nothing short of amazing. Her exceptional organisation, professionalism, and deep knowledge of curriculum and teaching have been invaluable to the team.



Rose is stepping into a new role in 2025 as Head of the Social Sciences Faculty at FAHS. While we are fortunate that she remains within our community, we will greatly miss her presence and influence within the Kāhui Ako team. Rose, we wish you all the best in your new role and thank you for your outstanding service.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Kāhui Ako this year. Together, we have made strides in achieving our shared goals and strengthening our community.

As the year comes to a close, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, restful holiday season. May it be a time of reflection, celebration, and rejuvenation. We look forward to collaborating with you again in the new year as we continue to inspire and empower the next generation.

Nā māua, ko Jo rāua ko Ben

What's been happening:

1. Leadership coaching with Greg Jansen:

This term, we held another round of bespoke in-school leadership coaching sessions with Greg Jansen from Leadership Lab. Several middle leaders had the opportunity to work with Greg to review their current knowledge and leadership practices and then work on developing next-step plans. While Greg was here he also ran an afterschool session for WSLs and Principals on Thursday, November 14. Participants reviewed steps leaders go through when developing their skills, ways to individualise interactions with their team, a model for discussing different perspectives, and a way to reframe the language in Lencioni's five dysfunctions of a team. Everyone left with new pieces of learning and some next-step actions.

We look forward to continuing our work with Greg and Dan in the early part of 2025.



2. Year 8 Taster Days:

Almost 270 Year 8 students came through the High School for a 'taster' experience last week. Students rotated around 4 different sessions, varying between Science, Agriculture, Music, Drama and Technology - depending on the availability of space and staff. These sessions were followed by morning tea and an 'all-in' PE session, where students took part in sports performance classes or general PE sessions. We were lucky with the weather all week except Friday - which was a real shame. Students finished the experience with a BBQ and then returned to their normal schools with a full stomach.

The objective of this experience was simple - to gain familiarity with FAHS and reduce anxiety about the unknown. All students walked around the campus, met various staff, interacted with current High School students and got a glimpse of what their future subjects may look and feel like.

The jump to High School is a big one for most; few of us have forgotten our first day. With a little more experience and knowledge, we hope our future Year 9s will start with confidence and courage in 2025.

3. New Zealand Council For Educational Research:

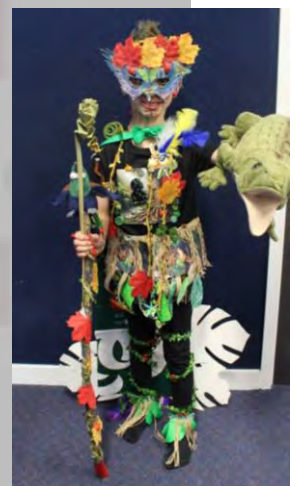
A huge thank you to all the schools that have approved the collated use of their Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) data. A site has been activated which holds summary information

regarding our rohe. The data is not school-specific but gives a general overview. If you are a Te Kāhui Ako o Kawakawa kura and you have yet to approve the use of your data please get in touch. The more tamariki we have included in the data the better the picture we get and the more targeted and responsive the Kāhui Ako can be. In the new year, Ben will hold a session to present the information that can be extrapolated.

4. Wearable Arts:

A few weeks ago, on November 7 our Kahui Ako was excited to showcase our first-ever Wearable Arts event at North Street School. This initiative allowed students to develop their talents and showcase their creations in front of our local community. The theme for this year was "Ignite the light." More than 10 local schools were involved with 40 costumes entered and over 100 designers who helped with these creations. The hall was packed with nearly 300 people from across the community. Congratulations to all the students across the community, the costumes were amazing and we were very proud of you all.

Special thanks to Amanda Street and Sandy True for their involvement. Well done to our Kahui Ako Across and Within School Leads who helped to make this evening a huge success. Lastly, a big thank you goes out to the students and whanau for putting the effort and time into this successful event. Hopefully, the next one will be bigger and better!



5. He Whare Mataranga (session 3):

had our final session on Monday, November 18 at NSS. Each participating school and an ECE representative gave a short presentation outlining some of the initiatives they have implemented as a

direct result of their participation in He Whare Mataranga and work with Ngāti Kauwhata. The Ngāti Kauwhata representatives thanked us for our mahi and said they look



forward to continuing to work with us in the coming years.

6. Year 7 and 8 Writing Moderation:

At the start of the term, 18 teachers from across our Kāhui gathered to focus on moderation through the perspective of Years 7 and 8. Di Simpson from Halcombe hosted the session, which featured engaging discussions and a valuable opportunity to connect. We hope to make this a regular

event within our Kāhui.



7. Feilding Intermediate Numeracy Visit:

Earlier in the term Feilding Intermediate opened its doors for teachers within the Kāhui to come and hear about their maths programme and see their teachers in action. This opportunity extended our practice-based learning from other school visits and Google Meets that have been happening to encourage discussions between our schools and increase our understanding of the current NCEA Numeracy assessment requirements that our high school students have to meet.

Important Dates for 2025: Key dates for 2025 and the Kāhui Ako calendar will be shared with Principals and WSLs once they have been finalised.

Ngā manaakitangi
Wendy, Rose, Kasia, Bridget, Kathy, Shaun, Paora, Ben and Jo
Te Kāhui Ako ō Kawakawa Leadership

