

WHAIA TE ITI KAHURANGI!

# MAKARA SCHOOL MEMO

## Important Dates

Term 1 -

### THIS WEEK:

- Last week of Tech for year 7/8, Term 1.

- Artist in Schools continues (Tuesday and Thursday)

- Value of the week: ATAWHAI

### COMING UP

- Kārearea kids to meet their new teacher next Thursday (7th)

Term 2 - Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July

Term 3 - Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September

Term 4 - Monday 17 October to Friday 16 December

## Message from Caro

It is hard to believe that we made to it Week 9 without much COVID in the school! As we are now dealing with the inevitable wave, we are so grateful to have such a supportive and proactive community! Thank you so much for following our reporting and testing process, and keeping home your children who are not feeling well. Despite this new challenge, we are still getting great attendance rates, and we are so happy we are able to keep the school open!

As you will be aware, we conducted a feedback survey at the start of the year, to inform us of your views and priorities. Thank you so much for taking part and taking the time to answer the questions. This feedback is always invaluable to us as we seek to serve you, our community, in the best ways we can.

One of the questions was around after school care options, and whether there was an interest in our school community for this.

Results:

58.3% - Would not use the service at all

16% - would use between 3-5 days a week

25% - would use between 1-3 days a week.

I have presented this to the BOT, and they have agreed to further investigation around the feasibility of this.

I will communicate any updates as soon as we have done some more research about what is available, costs, resourcing and personnel availability.

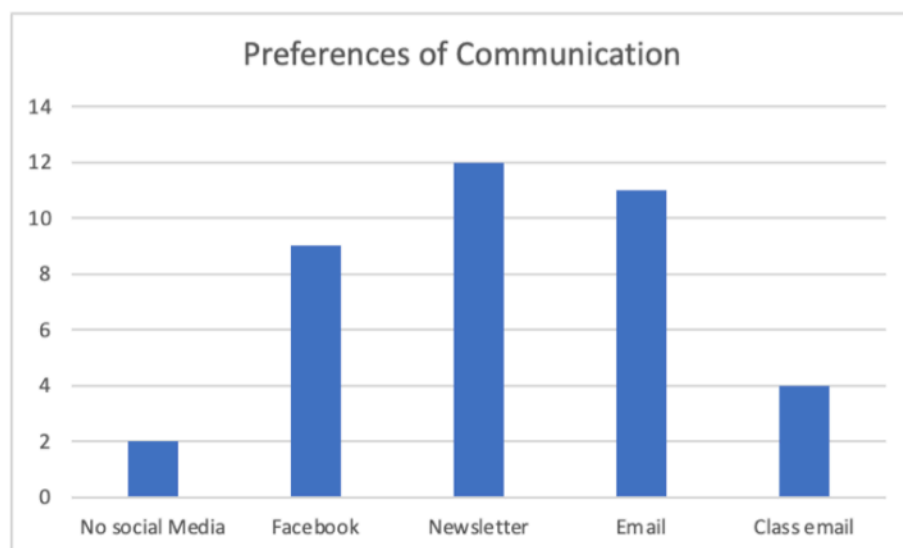
I will continue to share a summary of the survey data on the next page.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our school, staff and students.

Ngā mihi nui  
Caro



## What do you like about the way the school communicates with you?



The school newsletter is acknowledged as being most in demand as a form of communication, as is email. There was also note made of enjoying the facebook page and classroom emails. We will continue to share all important information via email and summaries of news and updates via the newsletter. Teachers will continue with sharing their updates via emails and

class newsletters too. Facebook will continue to simply be a supplementary and informal opportunity to share what is happening at school - given the community is still limited in ability to come into the classrooms - which is what many commented their appreciation of that connection.

## In what ways would you like the school to communicate more?

There was a theme of wanting more regular information from teachers around the classroom programme and what is being studied each week, so that parents can support and discuss at home. Mention was made of including key dates coming up - which is now being included in the newsletter. A few desired a hard copy of the newsletter - we have now made this option available for any who would like it. If you would like one, and haven't yet emailed Kiri to confirm, please do so. A school calendar was mentioned as being useful - so we will be getting one uploaded onto the school website. We have also updated our enrolment / new child packs, as this was also mentioned as needed.

## Are you able to talk with your child about what he/she is learning at school? What makes it easy or difficult?

A majority of responses indicated that the children's learning is often discussed at home. Some things that would aid these learning conversations would be more information about what is being taught in the classroom, as well as how parents can help at home. This will partly be addressed in the goal setting interviews that have just occurred, as well as overview sheets that can be made available to anyone who wants them (email teacher for a copy). Snapshot folders are a positive method of sharing a child's work, and opportunities to have walk throughs and open days recognised as beneficial. These will be planned for as soon as the restrictions allow.

## Student Wellbeing: How often do you and the teacher discuss your child's health, happiness, and learning at home and at school?

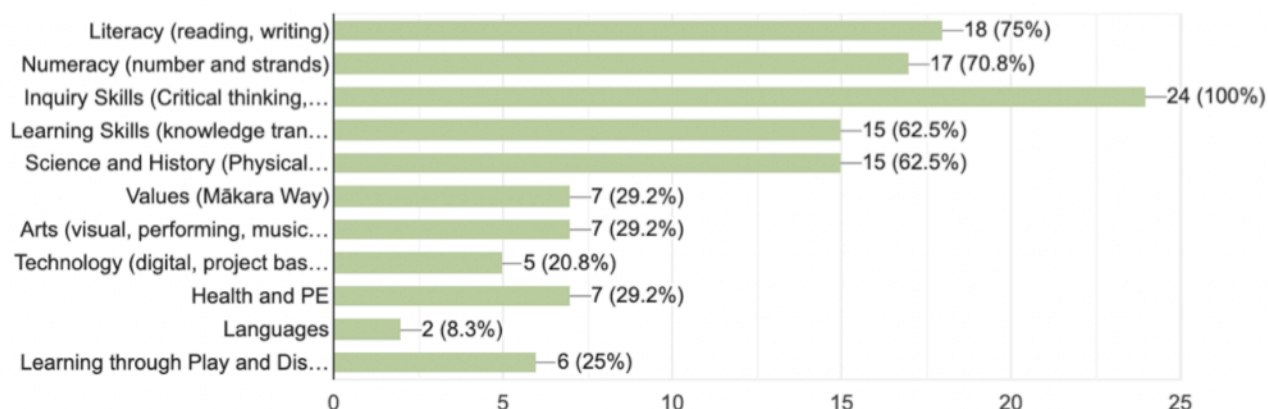
This was an area that most responses indicated satisfaction in being able to discuss their child with the teacher and school. Note was made of the challenges that COVID restrictions have placed on the ability to have face to face catch ups. More opportunities for informal meet and greets was mentioned as something to look forward to once again when the restrictions begin to lift.

## Are there any topics or themes that you think should be taught at school that you, your child, or your community could help with?

Thank you for so many suggestions, we have a skilled community who are willing to share these skills with the school, which is wonderful. Some things mentioned as areas the community can share skills are: World culture and history, STEM, IT and Programming, Values, Sustainability and Enviro, Life Skills, Yoga and Mindfulness, Music and Drama and Inquiry.

I have already had some approaches about volunteering skills, so please do make contact if this is something you would like to explore further (especially when restrictions lift).

## Which areas of the curriculum would you deem most important (top 5)

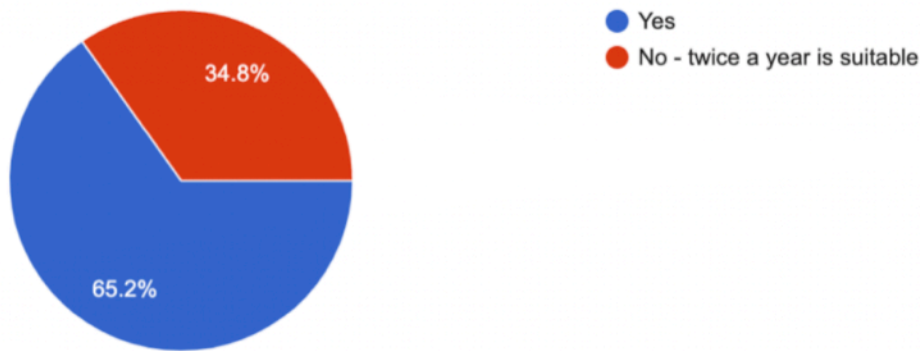


From this information, Inquiry skills are clearly deemed as very important, followed by numeracy and literacy skills. Learning skills, and science/history were close runner ups too. This reflects the wonderful hands on, discovery and real-life learning focus which is valued by the staff and students too, so aligns well.

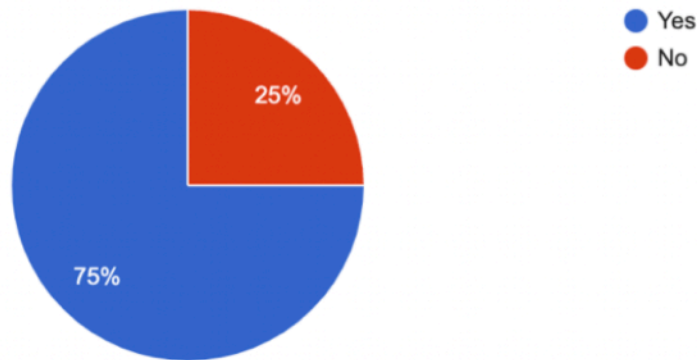
## Reporting: What is valued in reports:

The academic area achievements are valued, as are the next steps and how parents can support at home. General comments on skills, Wellbeing (social, emotional) and values are also highly valued. Looking at evidence of achievements and how this fits into the curriculum would be helpful. Frequent celebrations of success and achievements are appreciated too.

Would you see benefit in having progress information shared more frequently, or be accessible online whenever it suited you?



Would you find use in an app which brought together access to all of the school information - absences, finance, assessment, website, facebook, notices, updates etc?



From this information, we have investigated an app which is able to meet these needs. We will be looking at sharing more information around this as we finalise and formalise how this would look, and the timeline around rolling it out to the community.

I am grateful for those who took time to participate in this survey, and to share with me their thoughts and views. I really appreciated how open and honest they have been, and look forward to continuing to learn more about our community, our children and making sure that our school meets our communities needs and reflects our values and Te Ara o te Mākara.

Ngā mihi  
Caro



# Samples of Work



## KĀREAREA BEACH CLEAN UP

<https://litterintelligence.org/data/survey?id=1478>

On Friday 18th March, Karearea Class went to Makara Beach to do a beach clean up and a walk.

We left school at about quarter past nine. There were four parents there with their cars and there was Katrina, our teacher.

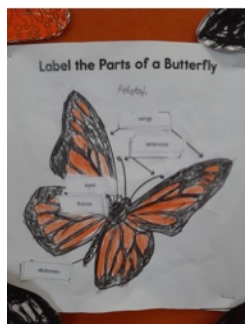
When we arrived at Makara beach we put on gloves and the adults had rubbish sacks and we began the clean up. Some people found some really crazy stuff like golf balls, a cow tag, a water bottle, a toothbrush, a vape, socks, a hoodie, a shoe, a shoe sole and bones (although the bones aren't rubbish).

When we had finished the beach clean up we set off on a long walk. We went up the hill to the gun emplacements and then down to Opau Bay and back along to Makara Beach.



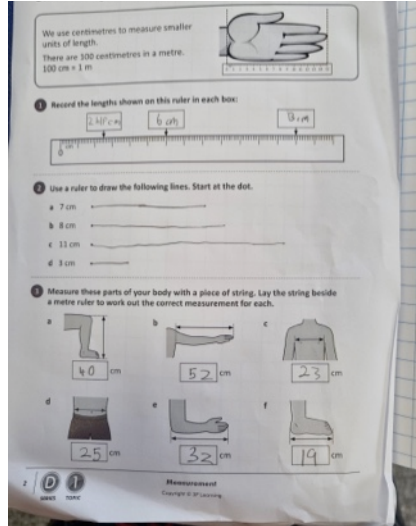
## TUI'S BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

Tui class has been learning about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. We saved some caterpillars from a swan plant outside and a couple of us were even lucky enough to see a butterfly lay an egg. We have watched our caterpillars grow and grow and this week we watched one turn into a chrysalis right before our eyes! We are counting down the days until we have a butterfly flying around our class.



# KIWI MATHEMATICS

Kiwi Class have been learning about measurements, focusing on using centimeters and meters, as well as how many centimeters are in a meter. We measured our heights as well, to find out who was the tallest and shortest, and who were the same heights.



# PĪWAKAWAKA

Our Pīwakawaka class have been hard at work learning all about the school values, and how we need lots of different skills to be a learner. For example, they have looked at their unique strengths and teamwork (Rainbow Fish) and get to learn that positive behaviours and values are rewarded (their Pīwakawaka Tree). What an amazing class they are!

