

**Mangere South Community of Learning Newsletter
Number 1 November 2016**

Na to rourou, na taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi

**My basket of knowledge, your basket of knowledge
Together our baskets become one. (Whakataukī Maori Proverb)**



Kia ora Board of Trustee members, staff & community members of Koru Primary School, Robertson Road Primary School, Southern Cross Campus, Sutton Park Primary School and Mangere East Primary School.

My name is Anthony Noble-Campbell and it is my privilege to be the Māngere South Community of Learning Leader and I am also the principal at Mangere East Primary School. In 2014 the Government announced that they had put aside \$355 million to support the creation of Communities of Learning (COLs) across New Zealand which had one clear purpose, that is, to raise education achievement of our students/tamariki.

The Government defines a COL as a group of schools that formally gets together to raise achievement and this year our COL was formally approved by the Minister of Education. This decision was confirmed in a letter each schools Board of Trustees received around September this year. This schooling pathway from primary to secondary is viewed by the Government as an investment in children and young people and their future. There will be plans in the future to link with ECE and post-secondary providers.

Working together allows our five schools to share teaching expertise and experience so every child in our schools can benefit. The funding available from the Ministry of Education will allow our schools most effective teachers to work with and support others, raising the quality of teaching across five schools. In Term 1 2017, our COL will be seeking to appoint 4 across COL Lead Teachers, who when appointed, will be working alongside teachers in all our five schools for two days a week.

In terms of overall outcomes of our COL, these are;

- setting shared goals and work together to achieve these
- using the significant new funding to share expertise and learn from each other
- supporting each other
- meeting regularly and monitoring our progress and success.

Each school will also retain its own special character, uniqueness and goals it has identified. The Mangere South Community of Learning goals are broader goals about what we want to achieve in terms of raising student achievement. Our COL goals will align with the Government targets to improve student achievement. This target is that by 2017 at least 85% learners leave with at least NCEA Level 2 or equivalent.

All schools within our COL will agree on shared goals and will use all the information and evidence they hold, alongside information provided by the Ministry of Education about students' progress, achievement (and barriers to achievement) in shaping these goals.

The agreed goals will also be underpinned by 'Theories of Effective Teaching Practices' for example; Assessment Literacy, Teaching as Inquiry, Accelerated Learning and Learning Focused Relationships coupled with the following Ministry of Education documents: Ka Hikitia – Accelerating Success (Māori Education Strategy), the Pasifika Education Plan (promoting closer alignment and compatibility between the learner's educational environment and their home and/or cultural environment and Tātaiako - Cultural competencies for Teachers of Māori Learners.

Our COL's Achievement Plan, along with our vision and values statements are currently being developed by working groups of leaders from across our five schools with the support of Ministry of Education facilitators. In my role as COL leader our drafting documents will be shared with you all as they become available. At this point in time we are aiming for the completion of our Achievement Plan by the end of Term 1 2017.

We also have established a Governance Reference Group to which I report back to on the goals within our achievement plan. This reference group is led by Mr Robin Staples, Principal at Southern Cross Campus. Robin is available to answer any strategic queries that will arise as our COL begins to implement our achievement plan. Initial contact with Robin around these queries can be made via the following email: RStaples@southerncross.school.nz

Finally, as COL leader, I am heartened by the collaborative way leaders from our five schools have worked effectively with each other as we shape the vision and achievement goals within our foundation documents.

Wishing you all a very successful end of Term teaching programmes, outdoor education trips, prizegivings and no doubt the occasional festive dinner and refreshments.

Nga mihi

Anthony Noble-Campbell
COL Leader