

## Principal's Review of 2020

2020 is a year we will all remember. It brought with it many challenges that we hadn't imagined. I would like to thank our staff, parents, whanau and Board of Trustees for pulling together to provide the best outcomes for our children.

Despite the interruptions due to Covid we met our Charter goal for Maths and exceeded our Charter goals for Reading and Oral Language. We were very pleased with the progress made by the children through our focus on Oral Language. Our current Year 6 cohort did extremely well with 74% making accelerated progress. 100% of our Year 6 Maori students made accelerated progress and 83% of our Pasifika children.

Charter Goal	Outcome at end of 2020
By the end of 2020 in Year 2 at least 28% of students will be working at Gloss Stage 4 or above.	This goal was met with 30% of our children working at Stage 4 or above by the end of the year.
By the end of 2020 we will increase the number of students working at Level 2 of the curriculum or above in Reading from 29% to 40%.	Despite the disruptions due to Covid we far exceeded this goal with 74% of students working at Level 2 or above by the end of the year.
Out of the Year 3 children who were achieving at level one for vocabulary at the end of 2019, 40% will show accelerated progress moving at least two sub levels by the end of 2020.	We also exceeded this goal with 73% of our target group showing accelerated progress.

Online learning was of particular importance in 2020 and we used a range of programmes which proved to be highly effective. The programmes target individual needs for the children in literacy and numeracy. They provided targeted practice in areas where the children have gaps in their knowledge or need extra support to cement their understanding. Again having these programmes running alongside quality teaching in the classroom has accelerated progress for many of our learners.

### Maori Achievement

We have been pleased to see our Maori students continue to make good progress as they move through the school. At the end of Year 6: 71% were working within Level 3 for Reading, 76% for Writing and 70% for Maths.

One of the highlights for us in 2020 was our new Matakana Pod opening where children from New Entrant to Year Six work in a whanau setting. The three classes have a greater focus on tikanga and Te Reo Maori than the rest of the school and come together each morning to learn waiata and karakia. We are looking to build on the positive start made in 2020 and look forward to working with whanau throughout the year.

### Staffing

At Katikati Primary School we have a highly committed and dedicated staff. We are pleased to welcome two new faces to our teaching team for 2021. Mrs Cathy McGeedy is returning to our school and Ms Lisa Tawhiti will be joining us. We will sadly be farewelling Mrs Jean Berquist early in Term 1. Jean has worked in our school office for 24 years so is well known to our school community. She has been a real asset to our school, we wish her all the very best for the future. Replacing Jean will be Rachel Butterworth. Rachel and her husband have just sold Sapphire Springs so you may well recognise Rachel when you see her in the office. We also have a new librarian Ms. Jo-Lynn Gold. Jo-Lynn is an experienced librarian and a published author, so we are looking forward to benefitting from her talents.

### What's new in 2021?

**Ready for Learning:** Our junior school teachers were trained up in Ready for Learning last year which is a programme designed to ensure that children are equipped with all the skills they need to be able to become great learners in the classroom. The programme focuses on the 5 foundation skills of speaking, moving, seeing, hearing and print. All of our junior teachers will be tracking children's strengths and needs in these areas. Needs will be targeted through the classroom programmes. To further strengthen children's abilities in these areas, Mrs McKeown and Miss Patterson will be taking reception classes in 2021. They will be focussing on these essential learning skills. Once your child is ready to engage in a more formalised curriculum, they will be transferred to one of the other Year 1 and 2 classes. Every child learns at a different rate so some children may stay with these teachers for a few weeks, other will stay until the end of their first year at school.

**Numicon:** In order to accelerate the progress of our junior school children in Maths, we will be using the Numicon approach this year. Numicon emphasises three key aspects: communicating mathematically; exploring relationships and generalizing. It is a very hands on programme with a multi-sensory approach, aimed at engaging children in their learning. It uses meaningful contexts, encourages inquiry, and enables children to see relationships and patterns. Children enjoy the visual, practical open-ended activities. They learn to recognise the maths found in everyday situations and gain confidence in themselves as mathematicians which encourages them to persist in finding solutions.

**Oral Language:** Oral language was a focus in the Year 3 – 6 classes last year and we saw some great achievements by the children. The teachers will build upon this in 2021 looking at how to develop the children's use of oral language across the curriculum.

**Localised Curriculum:** In order to make the curriculum relevant for children, we will be looking for ways to base the children's learning on our local area. This means that they will learn more about the history, culture and environment of Katikati. We will use what's in our surrounding area to make learning interesting for the children.

Ngā Mihi Nui, Andrea Nicholson – Principal

### **Board Chair's Review of 2020**

As I reflect on what has happened over the past year, I am reminded of the significant progress that we have made in spite of the many challenges that have arisen from the global pandemic, that is COVID-19.

2020

- Working as a community to look after our children and support their learning during Covid
- The opening of Matakana Pod
- Positive outcomes from our Ready for Learning and Oral Language programmes
- Completion of our Outdoor Classroom for the junior area (thank you to Ben Hurley and POTS for their hard work and commitment to raising funds for this project)
- An increase in the number of children earning their Erica All Stars Award through showing our school values

First and foremost I would like to acknowledge our school's management, senior leadership team, teaching and support staff for their tireless professionalism and dedication in supporting our children throughout the pandemic, transitioning from classrooms to home schooling provided challenges to support our students with resources and online access to our students' teachers.

I would also acknowledge all of our parents during nationwide locked that supported their child/children's education from home while juggling work for those in essential services and working from home. Your commitment to your child's education is reflected within our school's successes in exceeding our Charter Goals for 2020.

We envision for our students a diverse and exciting future ahead. Literacy and numeracy are essential skills which underpin the wider curriculum and unlock opportunities for our students. As such they will always be our major priority. In addition to these skills however, we want to present our children with a broad range of opportunities and experiences. We want to enable our children to become problem solvers and effective communicators, who are self-confident and equipped to thrive well in their adult lives.

I would like to acknowledge the community support our school receives through the many voluntary groups, to enhance our student success. This additional support makes a huge difference for our children. Special thanks to our P.O.T.S Team who have committed to fundraisers that have supported initiatives for our school and students, thank you for your time and commitment throughout the year.

Thank you to our parents that give up their time to support the school and staff with camps and sports, without our families supporting and walking beside our school we could not run successful student initiatives.

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate our Year 6 senior students moving onto the next step in their lives - secondary school. We wish you well on your education pathway and know that the seeds that were planted in your early years of education with us will grow and flourish. Reflect on your time with us, celebrate your achievements and successes with your family, I wish you all the best for 2021 and all that follows.

Roy Nathan – BOT Chair

