



*Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Mana College,
Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Fakalofa atu, Kia Orana,
Taloa ni, Malo e leilei, Greetings to you all.*

Welcome Back to Term Two

I begin my first newsletter by thanking the Board of Trustees, the staff, students and whanau of Mana College involved in the welcome powhiri on Friday 15 April at Takapuwhia Marae and following this at Mana College. The day was an amazing experience for my whanau and friends, the Taita College staff and students, and other guests who were invited. The combined haka performed at the end of the day by both Mana College and Taita College was an outstanding testimony to the character and vibrancy of the young people in both schools.

I have spent the school holidays working with the senior leadership team, interviewing staff and at community events. In my reading and learning at the school, it is encouraging to see the progress around attendance, engagement and achievement that is so promising, and shows off the enormous efforts of staff in making positive changes to achievement results for 2016.

For example, at the end of term 1, our collective attendance rate for the school was 90%. This is a very strong foundation for learning. And of course, if students are at school each day, the chances of achieving highly are much greater. At times we get carried away with lots of other data in a data rich world, but really it comes down to this basic fact - as the Air New Zealand advert once coined, 'Being there is everything!'

As a result of this good news regarding recent improvements, Mana College has been approached to be part of TVNZ 'Seven Sharp' programme on Wednesday night regarding the recent success of the school's NCEA achievement results for 2015, and the efforts of the BOT, staff and students coming together for a clear and direct and strategic approach in turning the school around. The programme will focus on the promising future ahead, thanks to the support of numerous groups particularly the Ministry of Education. If you have the opportunity to, please watch this clip in support of the college and the positive steps which have been taken to by the BOT, parents and the staff.

Term two is a very important time for student learning and participation within the school. We will hold a parent Meet the Teacher evening in the school hall on Tuesday 10 May and this is an opportunity to find out how your son or daughter is doing in class and in specific learning areas. I hope to see you there and introduce myself.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support of Mana College and I look forward to working with you and your family in the up and coming year.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou
John Murdoch
Principal



Coming Events

Tuesday 10 May	Meet the Teacher, 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 11 May	BOT meeting @ 6pm
Thursday 12 May	Yr 9/10 Pathway Conferences
Monday 23 May	Big Science Competition
Thursday 26 May	Massey University visit
Friday 27 May	Otago University presentation
Friday 17 June	Wellington Careers Expo
Wednesday 29 June	Senior Music Performance evening
Friday 8 July	Last day of Term 2