



KOHIMARAMA  
SCHOOL | EST. 1921

# Kohimarama Connect

2025



## Overview



- Principal's Update
  - The Kohimarama Way & Innovative Learning Pedagogy
  - Recent Independent Assessment Results
  - Learning Spaces
  - New Online Parent Portal for school information and services (ETAP)
  - Mitey
- Staff Introductions
- Board Update
- PTA Update
- Sports Co-ordination
- Visiting learning spaces to meet the teams and individual teachers

Tena Koutou o te whanau o te kura o Kohimarama.

Good evening, Thank you for your time this evening to meet as a learning community.

The evening will be in two even parts:

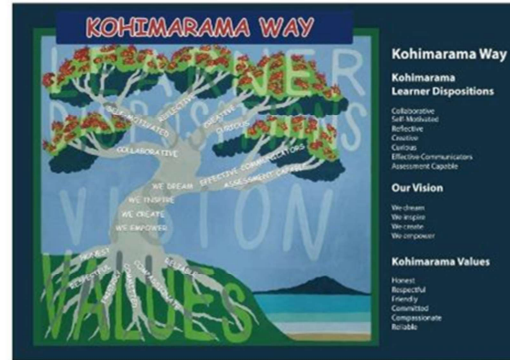
Here in this big learning space, the hall, we will look at our Kohimarama Way, Our Innovative Learning Pedagogy and the independent results that points directly to our success. We will also hear about particular aspects of the school from the Board, PTA and our Sports Coordinator.

The second part of the evening you will visit your children's teams and learning spaces and meet the teachers in those learning spaces, hear about their way of being and how you can support your children in their ongoing learning and development.

## The Kohimarama Way



- What is it?
  - The guiding philosophy that shapes our school culture, combining our **vision**, **purpose**, **values**, and **learner dispositions**.
- Why does it matter?
  - Ensures **academic excellence** is **balanced with** a focus on **character, social, and emotional development**.
  - **Equips students** with the skills, confidence, and values they need **to make a positive impact in the world**.



*Our Purpose: "Be a high-achieving community of learners, who are passionate about making a positive difference for themselves and our world."*

For those new to the school, or even if you've with us for a few years now, I'd like to touch on The Kohimarama Way because it is so integral to our School.

The Kohimarama Way is the guiding philosophy that shapes our school culture, combining our **vision**, **purpose**, **values**, and **learner dispositions** to create an environment where students thrive.

It ensures that **academic excellence** is **balanced with** a focus on **character, social, and emotional development** preparing students for success beyond the classroom.

Through a commitment to high achievement, innovative teaching, and a strong school community, The Kohimarama Way **equips students** with the skills, confidence, and values they need **to make a positive impact in the world**. Which reflects the essence of our purpose.

## The Kohimarama Way and Innovative Learning Pedagogy



A few years ago I presented a couple of short videos to explain why Kohimarama School was transforming and to explain learner agency. Since then we have done a significant amount of work on our innovative learning pedagogy, which is the way we teach here at Kohimarama School. Today I'd like to present another short video to explain that further to you.



So, we've just seen how our approach to teaching and learning—our innovative pedagogy—ensures that every student at Kohimarama School receives high-quality teaching that prepares them for the future. But, understandably, parents often ask: 'Does this approach actually deliver results?' 'Are we maintaining high standards in maths, science, and literacy?'

That's a fair question, and it's one we take seriously. To answer it, we don't just rely on our own observations—we also look to **independent, externally conducted studies** that benchmark our performance against other schools..

Let's take a look at what these assessments tell us about student achievement at Kohimarama School.

## Why Independent Assessments Matter



- Kohimarama School regularly reviews independent assessment data to ensure our students are achieving at high levels.
- In 2024, we received the results of two key studies that provide an external, objective measure of student progress:
  - **Curriculum Insights and Progress Study** – a NZ-wide assessment of student achievement.
  - **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)** – an international study benchmarking NZ schools in maths and science.
- These assessments are **conducted by independent assessors**, with students randomly selected to participate.
- Led by **trusted research institutions**, including the University of Otago, these studies provide an unbiased measure of our school's performance.
- The results allow us to **compare our achievement against schools with similar characteristics** and **national norms**, helping us track progress over time.

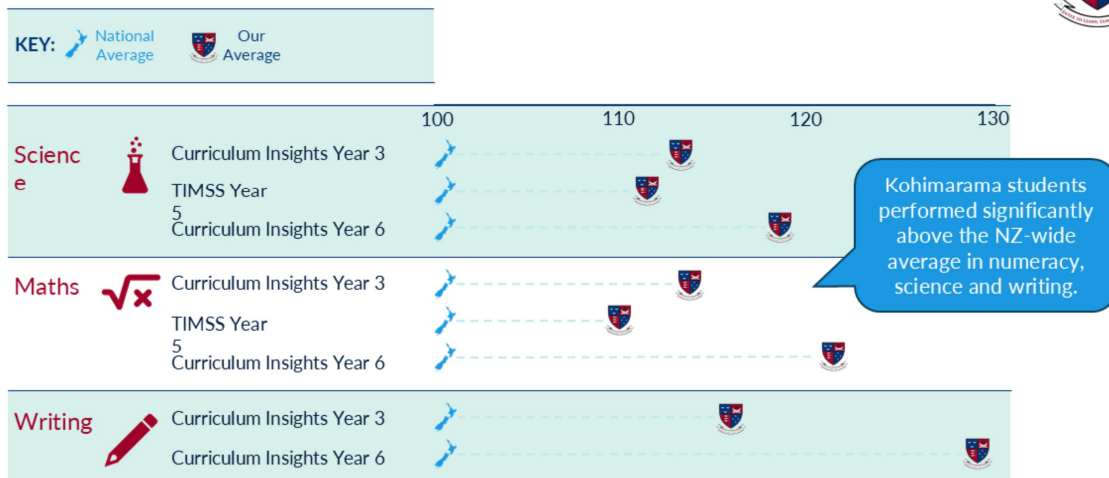
These assessments are important because they provide us with an **objective** way to measure student achievement—not just within our school, but in comparison to **other schools like ours** and **national norms**.

They are **conducted independently**, with **randomly selected students**, which means the data gives us a fair and representative picture of student learning.

These studies are run by credible institutions, such as the University of Otago, and give us a **clear benchmark** for where we stand in key subjects like maths, science, and literacy.

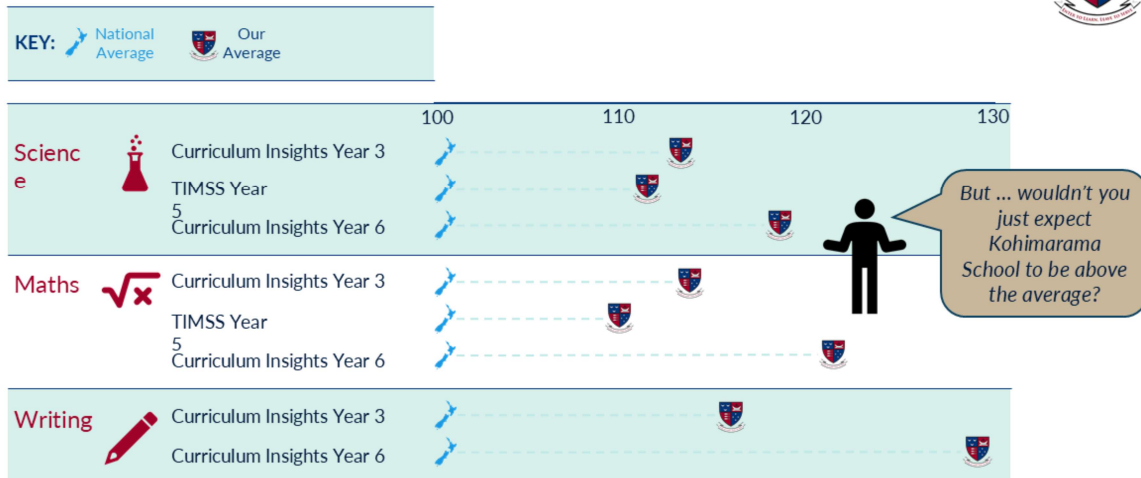
Most importantly, they help us **ensure we are maintaining high academic standards** while delivering an **innovative and future-focused approach** to teaching and learning.

## Our Performance at a Glance



You can see from the diagram that Kohimarama students performed significantly above the NZ-wide average in numeracy, science and writing.

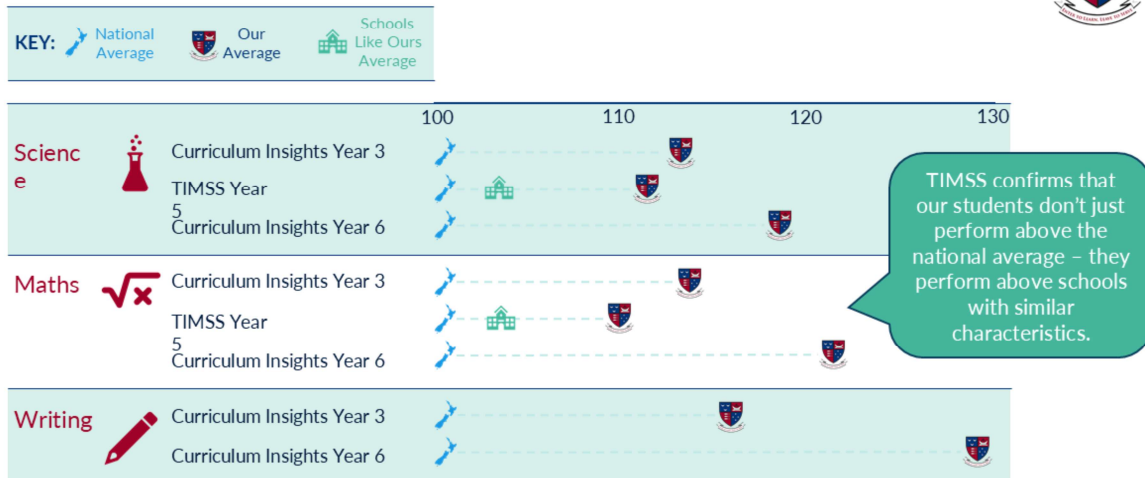
## Our Performance at a Glance



You might be asking, But ... wouldn't you just expect Kohimarama School to be above the average? Being a high decile area our students come to school ready to learn, and we have many highly educated professional people in our parent community.



## Our Performance at a Glance



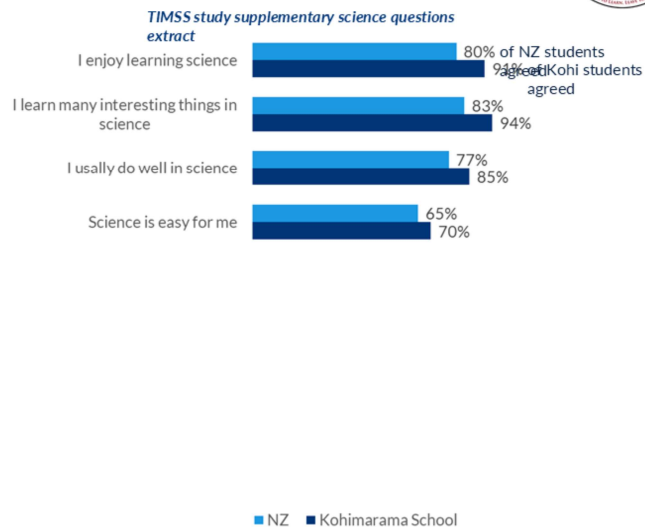
TIMSS confirms that our students don't just perform above the national average – they perform above schools with similar characteristics, including some integrated and private schools. So what's behind these exceptional results?

## What's Behind Our Academic Results?



### Engaged & Confident Learners

- Our students enjoy and are interested in learning
- Our students feel confident in their abilities



At Kohimarama School, we don't just focus on what students learn—we focus on how they learn. When students are engaged and enjoy learning, they are more motivated, curious, and willing to take on challenges. This mindset is critical, not just for academic success, but for developing lifelong learners who are confident in their abilities.

Confidence in learning comes from knowing that effort leads to progress. Through our approach—our innovative learning pedagogy and building student agency—our students develop the skills and mindset to take ownership of their learning, reflect on their progress, and set goals for themselves.

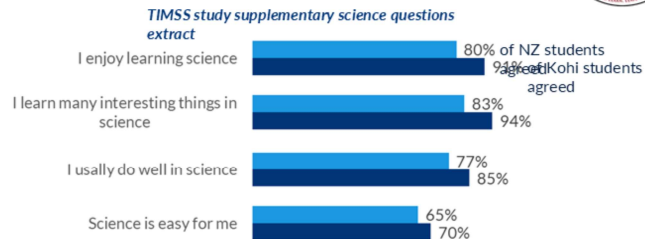
This engagement and confidence are the foundations of academic success, and they are nurtured by our high-quality teaching staff, who bring expertise and passion into every learning space

## What's Behind Our Academic Results?



### Engaged & Confident Learners

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### High Quality Teaching & Strong Curriculum Delivery

- We have high calibre professional teaching staff
- Our teachers are constantly developing and improving their practice
- Our innovative pedagogical approach effectively delivers the curriculum



■ NZ ■ Kohimarama School

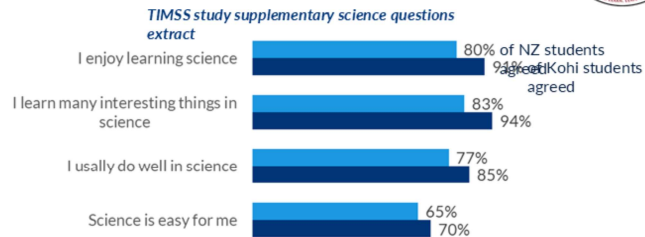
As a school, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and highly skilled teaching team. Our teachers work incredibly hard to support every student's learning, and they do so with professionalism, care, and expertise. Teaching is a profession that requires 5-6 years of University study, training, ongoing professional development, and deep commitment. Just as we expect our teachers to uphold the highest standards in the learning area, we also ask our parent community to recognise and respect their professionalism. The Kohimarama Way is built on values like respect, friendliness, and reliability, and these extend to the way we engage with one another—including our teachers. Positive, constructive relationships between parents and staff help ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

## What's Behind Our Academic Results?



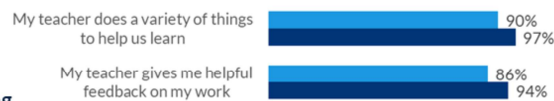
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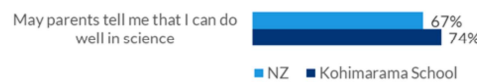
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### Engaged Parent Community

- Our whole community are engaged in ensuring our students achieve



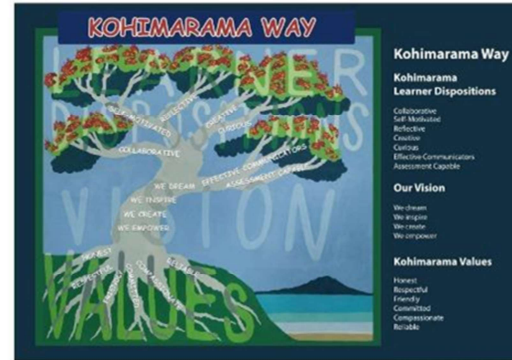
While our teachers play a crucial role in student success, learning doesn't stop at the door of the learning space. Our engaged parent community is a key part of what makes Kohimarama School such a high-performing environment. We know that when parents are actively involved in their child's learning—whether through reading at home, supporting homework, or simply showing an interest in what their child is learning—it has a direct impact on achievement. Beyond academic support, parents also help shape the culture of our school. Your involvement in school activities, your encouragement, and your commitment to our shared values—The Kohimarama Way—create an environment where students feel supported and motivated to do their best. So I want to acknowledge and thank you, our parent community, for the role you play in ensuring our students achieve.

## The Kohimarama Way is integral to our success



### Engaged & Confident Learners

- Our vision creates an environment that fosters the dispositions needed for agentic and lifelong learning



I'd like to bring this back to the role of The Kohimarama Way in these results. Our vision creates an environment that fosters the dispositions needed for agentic and lifelong learning

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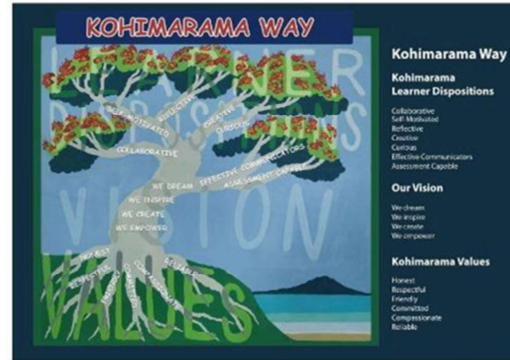


### Engaged & Confident Learners

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### High Quality Teaching & Strong Curriculum Delivery

- Our professional teaching staff embrace our purpose and innovative pedagogy to deliver a curriculum that not only ensures academic success but also nurtures our dispositions and values in every learner.



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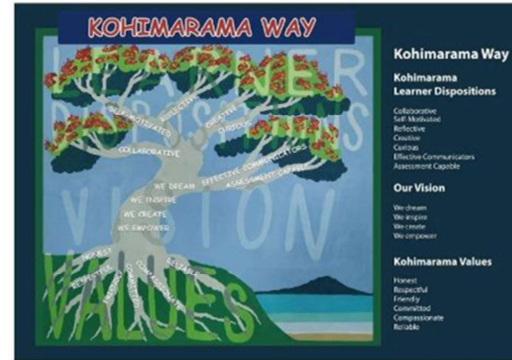
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### High Quality Teaching & Strong Curriculum Delivery

- Our professional teaching staff embrace our purpose and innovative pedagogy to deliver a curriculum that not only ensures academic success but also nurtures our dispositions and values in every learner.

### Engaged Parent Community

- Our parent community supports students beyond the classroom, reinforcing the values that underpin our school culture.



***Our Purpose:** "Be a high-achieving community of learners, who are passionate about making a positive difference for themselves and our world."*

And our parent community supports students beyond the classroom, reinforcing the values that underpin our school culture.

## What this means for Your Child



- Your child is receiving an outstanding education in a state school setting.
- The evidence shows that Kohimarama Schools teaching methods (student agency and innovative learning pedagogy) drive exceptional results beyond national norms.
- High achievement is matched by strong learner engagement and confidence.
- Success isn't just about scores—it's about preparing students for the future.

Kohimarama School is not just a high-achieving school—it is a place where you can feel confident that your child is being prepared for the future, academically, socially, and emotionally.

So what does all of this mean for your child? Your child is receiving an outstanding education in a state school setting. No matter what your intentions are for schooling beyond Kohimarama School, know your child is well set up to succeed in the future, with whatever success means for them.

The evidence shows that Kohimarama's teaching methods (student agency and innovative learning pedagogy) drive exceptional results beyond national norms. This is for the reasons mentioned.

Our consistent pedagogical approach across year groups plays a key role, irrespective of the type of learning space. (Note that students in the studies were from a cross section of our learning spaces namely Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6).

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We know that some parents have strong views about hubs and single-cell classrooms. We also know that, for some, these views are shaped by past experiences or perceptions rather than what actually happens in our learning environments today.

The reality is that effective teaching and learning are not about the shape of a room or whether it has walls—it's about the pedagogy, the expertise of our teachers, and the way learning is structured.

We've just seen the independent assessment results, which show that our students are thriving academically. If hubs were truly a barrier to learning, we wouldn't be seeing these high levels of achievement.

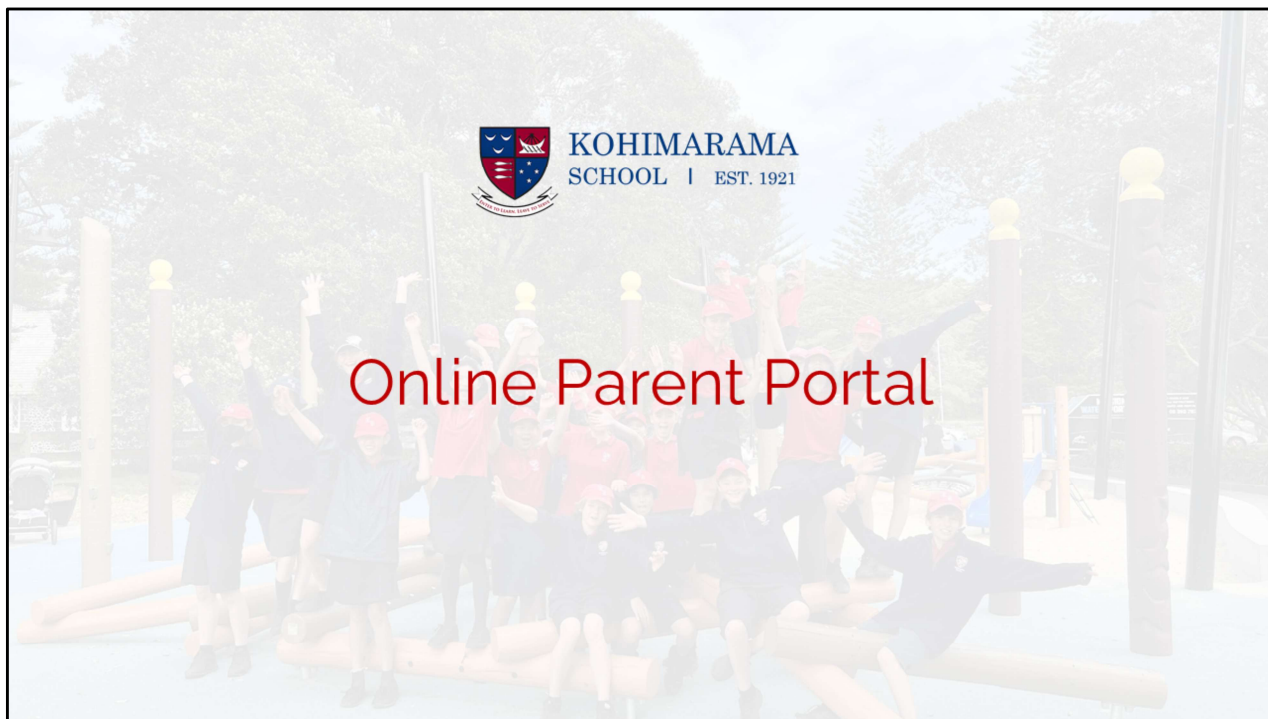
We want to move past outdated labels and focus on what really matters—how teaching and learning happen at Kohimarama School. That's why we are shifting to calling all our classrooms 'Learning Spaces.' This reflects the reality that every space functions as a place for high-quality learning, where teachers collaborate and students benefit from shared expertise. This Hall is also a learning space as I hope that you have gained knowledge and insight into our Kohimarama School, Way of Being.

I encourage you to engage with your child's learning experience with an open mind. What's important is not the physical structure, but the high-quality teaching and strong student outcomes we see across the school.



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## Online Parent Portal



## New Online Parent Portal for school information and services



Kohimarama School



Penelope



School Docs



Attendance Reports



My Child



Kindo



School Contact



School Website



Calendar



Favourites



Absence



Newsletters



Settings

In order to make the access to school services and information easier, we have given you access to a front page which gives you a one stop shop to all of the various online components. This includes Kindo, Newsletters, Website etc. and later access to student learning via Spotlight. Spotlight will replace SchoolTalk as the Learning Management System. When fully implemented it will provide you with access to what your child is learning, Their progress and achievement and a variety of reports both static and dynamic. i.e. you can see a report based on where they currently achieving against the NZ Curriculum at any time.



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Mitey

Carrie Mills  
Deputy Principal

**We are excited to partner with Mitey over the next three years to grow and support the mental health and wellbeing of all our students.**



- The Sir John Kirwan Foundation has designed Mitey with NZ teachers and the University of Auckland to provide an evidence-based approach to teaching mental health education to primary and intermediate aged children.
- Built around the NZ curriculum and embedded into everyday learning, to ensure children are equipped with the age-appropriate skills and knowledge they need to recognise and respond to mental health issues in both themselves and others before they enter teenage years.
- Mitey has successfully implemented its approach to schools in Auckland and we are excited to be included.

## HOW IT WORKS...



- A Mitey Coach works with staff to develop teaching and learning. This will also ensure Mitey is tailored to our school's unique culture and community.
- Mental health education will be taught by our teachers in every classroom with the skills, knowledge and understanding of mental health woven into what is already being taught. The programme compliments our Kohimarama Way and our work on the Zones of Regulation
- Parents and the whole school community are an integral part of Mitey's approach and as with all our learning your engagement and support is a key aspect of educating our students.

## WHY THE NEED...

- Mental health concerns and issues amongst NZ youth have doubled in the past 10 years and we know that unhappy students don't learn.
- Youth suicide rates in NZ are among the highest in the world. Partnering with Mitey allows our school to be part of a transformational change for young people by enabling them to nurture their mental health – and that of others – for the rest of their lives.

**Mitey's homepage** [www.mitey.org.nz](http://www.mitey.org.nz)



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# Teaching Staff Introductions





**Meegan Hill - Deputy Principal**

**Kiri Team– Year 1  
Learning Space/Teacher(s)**

1. Nikola Karsten and Sarah Haynes
2. Anne Bradley (Team Leader)
3. Tayla Swart
4. Mikaela Yates

**Hillary Team – Year 4 & 5  
Learning Space/Teacher(s)**

11. Kelly Hunter
12. Don Forbes
13. Britta Schwabe (Team Leader)
14. Mollie McCagney
15. Caoimhe Morrissey
17. Sandra Stott

**Carrie Mills - Deputy Principal**

**Cowley Team – Year 2 and 3  
Learning Space/Teacher(s)**

6. Maruchi Botha
7. Saoirse Dwyer
8. Angelica Koltonowska (Team Leader)
9. Anna Pryor
10. Sarah Witchalls
16. Tessa Scott-Green

**Snell Team – Year 6, 7&8  
Learning Space/Teacher(s)**

18. Keely Wilson
19. Ella Folkard and Louise Alderman
20. Desiree Young
21. Roz Kennedy and Kate Lawrence
22. Hannah McCabe
23. Tom Viggo (Team Leader)







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## Board Update

Mark Thomson

Email: [bot@kohimarama.school.nz](mailto:bot@kohimarama.school.nz)

While our teachers depart for their learning spaces I would like to introduce Mark Thomson. Presiding member of the Board



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## PTA Update

Valerie Delaney and Alan Clarke  
Email: [kohimaramapta@gmail.com](mailto:kohimaramapta@gmail.com)

I would like to introduce to you Valerie Delaney and Alan Clarke to talk about the parent representative for each learning area.



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## Sports Co-ordination

Antonia Jackson

Email: [sports@kohimarama.school.nz](mailto:sports@kohimarama.school.nz)

I would like to introduce Antobia Jackson who will be coordinating sports this year. I would like to publicly acknowledge Antonia for putting up her hand to support sports across the school. It is now on the parent community to step up and support Antonia in this role for the benefit of our students.