

## TE KĀRERE - OUR LEARNING MESSAGES

From Rangatahi to Rangatira: Māori Student Leadership Council 2021



Tena koutou e ngā whānau.

Kua hui mai nei ki te nei whakaminenga ki te kawē mai i te aroha. Ka nui te aroha mō tō koutou māia ki te kawē mai, i ngā kōrero e pa ana tēnei wāhi.

From Rangatahi to Rangatira. This year five Māori students have been selected to represent Māori on the Te Puke High School Māori Student Leadership Council. They are: Ngatuputupu Orgias, Kiri Foulis, Faith Eru, Achaia Smith and Te Mote Marsh. This is due to their outstanding efforts and commitment towards Te Ao Māori within not only our kura,

but also our community. Te Mote Marsh says; "We value our kura and it is our job as not only Māori but as people to care for our kura, our whenua, the tangata. This is our vision because we believe in the power of manaaki, aroha and whanaungatanga. Our vision is clearly in sight and we will drive to the best of our abilities to attain it so that Māori within our kura can continue to strive, but stronger than ever before". He believes that the following whakatauki is at the heart of their role:

Whiria te tangata, Weave the people together.

### Connecting to Character - Youth Leadership Experience

On Friday the 28th of May, a group of students - some of whom are current leaders - were invited to attend the "Connecting to Character" Youth Leadership Day in Rotorua. This is an initiative created by the iSport foundation led by Richie McCaw and Dan Carter and aims to 'pass on the dream'.

It was truly inspirational. We got to meet a group of people who would call each other legends such as Richie McCaw, Dan Carter, Lesley Elder; Captain of the Black Ferns, Honey Hireme-Smiller; Black Fern, NZ League and NZ Sevens player, and the man himself, winner of the VC; Willie Apiata, which was an absolute pleasure. All of these speakers were incredible and had amazing advice for us to take home around how to build structure, stay humble and persevere. But one thing that I heard a lot throughout the day was, stay true to yourself and follow your dreams because they aren't anyone else's. To me, these are things we should remember. No dream is too big and we can make anything a reality if we believe in ourselves and take the opportunities that are given to us.

Willie Apiata reminded us that if we ever find ourselves drifting off to come back and reflect on ourselves. Do you like who you are? Would you follow you? Are you who you want to be? So at the end of the day when you come home from things like these, it leaves you inspired and thinking for a while about your goals, dreams and who you want to be in life. One way to make it happen is to write down your plans and dreams and goals. It was an incredible opportunity and an awesome day. So take every opportunity as it comes, stay humble and persevere through the hard times. - Karlina Steiner

