Turitea School

Ko te poipoi, ko te atawhai, ko te manaaki

Summary of Turitea School Whānau Voice

This is a culmination of all the common themes from the 61 responses that we received from our Whānau voice survey that was sent out in June 2023.

1) What do you love about what or how we teach at Turitea School?

- Positive and supportive environment.
- Small class sizes.
- Structured Literacy and Play-based learning.
- Strong sense of community.
- Collaborative and communicative approach.
- Emphasis on school values.
- Integration of cultural elements present.
- Opportunities for lots of extracurricular activities.
- Personalized approach to learning and teaching.
- Focus on student well-being.
- Older students looking after the younger students.

2) What ideas/opportunities should we consider for learning at Turitea School?

- Improved Communication and Engagement
    - More communication with parents through platforms like Seesaw.
    - Clearer expectations and regular updates on students' progress and goals.
    - Sharing students' learning, achievements through assemblies.
- Curriculum and Learning
    - Strengthening the focus on literacy and numeracy as foundational skills.
    - Integration of Te Reo Māori in the classroom and a bicultural approach.
    - Incorporating Matauranga Māori and Māori history into the curriculum.
    - Increased exposure to different languages and cultures.
    - Focus on emotional intelligence, resilience, and emotional literacy.
- Outdoor and Environmental Education
    - Becoming an enviroschool and focusing on sustainability and environmental awareness.
    - Exploring our local environment more, including the Turitea stream and connecting learning to it.
- Extra-Curricular Activities and Experiences
    - More field trips, school camps and learning experiences outside the classroom.
    - Introducing robotics and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) activities.
- Collaboration and Expertise
    - Inviting external speakers, experts or professionals to share their knowledge with students.
    - Utilizing the expertise of parents, especially those involved in Massey University, NZ Army, AgResearch or other relevant fields.
- School Culture and Values
    - Reinforcing and bringing the school values to life through various initiatives and recognition.
    - Providing leadership opportunities for students.
    - Celebrating diversity and creating a culturally inclusive environment.

3) What cultural values & beliefs do you hold that you want reflected at Turitea School?

- Embracing Cultural Diversity
    - Celebrate and respect various cultures, including Māori culture.
    - Teach children about different religions and perspectives.
    - Continue to focus on Te Reo Māori, Kapa Haka and other local cultural learning opportunities.
- Kindness, Respect, and Inclusion
    - The importance of kindness, respect, and treating others with dignity.
    - You want your children to understand and appreciate diversity and be inclusive of all individuals.
- Environmental Awareness and Sustainability
    - Valuing the importance of caring for the environment and teaching children to be responsible stewards of the planet.
    - Support initiatives that promote sustainability and Kaitiakitanga (guardianship).
- Curiosity and Lifelong Learning
    - Believing in nurturing children's curiosity, encouraging them to ask questions, investigate, and ponder to foster lifelong learning and intellectual growth.
- Community and Connection
    - Appreciating the sense of community and connection within the school.
    - Valuing the focus on community spirit, relationships and working together for a common goal.
- Personal Growth and Individuality
    - Our children to develop strong self-confidence, resilience and a sense of personal identity.
    - The importance of treating each child as an individual and recognizing their unique strengths and needs.
- Transparent Communication
    - Clear communication with the school regarding children's progress and opportunities to help and get involved at home.
- Rural Identity and Traditions
    - Value the school's rural identity and traditions, emphasizing the importance of upholding community spirit and rural values.

4) What are some areas of property development or physical environment you would like us to focus on?

- Entrance and Welcome
    - Improvements to the entrance, possibly a waharoa (gateway) to create a stronger sense of belonging and make tamariki and whānau feel more welcome.
- Outdoor Area Improvements
    - Addressing the muddy field and adding fruit trees and more non-toxic native plants. Developing the area behind the hall into a micro forest for nature learning.
- Playground and Sports Facilities
    - Sunshades over the playgrounds, a bigger PE shed, swings, rugby goal posts, and improvements to the bottom playground.
- Car Parking Situation
    - The school's car parking area is a common concern for most parents.
- Environmental Initiatives
    - Installing solar panels on the roofs and creating carbon-neutral practices.
- Beautification and Maintenance
    - Murals, more vibrant classroom environments and regular maintenance of buildings and grounds.
- Safety and Accessibility
    - Reducing speed limit on Old West Road and improving access for walking and biking to school.

5) What could we do to retain and enhance the 'rural' character that we have at Turitea School?

- Sustainable Practices and Environmental Awareness
    - Reflecting the importance of caring for the land for future generations.
- Rural Activities and Traditions
    - Keep the school's rural traditions alive, such as Lamb, Calf, and Pet Day, and continue to foster a sense of community through events like Monster Garage Sale, Pool Party, and Discos.
- Farm and Animal Experiences
    - Organize trips to farms or agricultural research centers to provide students, especially non-farming children, with opportunities to learn about animals and farming systems.
- Nature-Based Learning
    - Incorporate nature-based learning experiences, such as pasture studies and visits to neighboring farms, to enhance students' understanding of the environment.
- Family Events and Activities
    - Continue hosting family-oriented events, gardening clubs, and activities like movie nights to promote a friendly and connected school community.
- Retain the Small School Feel
    - Maintain a small but sustainable roll to preserve the close relationships between students, families, and staff.
- Utilize the Rural Setting
    - Encourage students to be involved in planting trees, maintaining vege gardens, and interacting with animals to experience rural aspects of the school.
- Foster Community Connections
    - Organize regular hui/assembly gatherings where parents and families can come together to celebrate student achievements and strengthen community ties.
- Considering Farming Elements
    - Introduce farming fences and gates in a maze format or sorting system to offer interactive learning through play.

6) What is one thing you think we need to commit our energy to changing at Turitea School?

- An environmental focus and sustainable practices.
- More classroom resources.
- Bring back the whole school assembly.
- More Te Reo in and around the school and inclusion of Te Ao Māori (The Māori Worldview).
- Focus on academic achievement.
- Better communication with parents.
- More leadership opportunities for senior students.
- Maintain a high level of community involvement.
- Embracing diversity.
- A balance between academic and sporting.