

Role of the School, PTA, KCA and Community

Kaharoa School:

Kaharoa School has an important role within the community. Many families have or have had children at the school. The facilities and grounds have received significant community support to establish, such as the shared council domain and school field, the swimming pool, the astro turf, and the beach volleyball. The School, the Community Hall, and the adjacent domain are the structures that would be considered similar to Kaharoa's 'centre' with the absence of other shops or significant buildings.

The primary role of Kaharoa School is to provide quality education for students that attend from Kaharoa, Hamurana, Ngongotaha and surrounding areas. This is achieved through the implementation of the National Education Priorities in the three yearly School Strategic Plan, and annual implementation plan. The primary role of the Board is to ensure the school leadership team are implementing these goals towards aspirations of highest possible educational attainment for all students within the resources available to the school. The primary role of the Principal and leadership team is to run the day-to-day administration of the school and continually improve on teaching and learning opportunities for students to achieve 'Our Best Always / Tā Mātau Pai Ake' as they implement the plans and goals agreed on with the Board.

Kaharoa School Board and Staff believe that regular community interactions are a vital part of a healthy school community. When students and whānau feel connected to and welcome at the school, this leads to more effective partnerships and therefore more effective teaching and learning for students.

The focus for Kaharoa School is to build partnerships with students and whānau that enhance student learning. This is conducted through events such as Whānau Picnic and Meet the Teacher, parent interviews, celebrations of learning where whānau walk through student classrooms and students share their learning, orientation evenings, assemblies, and the end of year prizegiving and graduation.

The school is also committed to supporting the community by providing access and support for the use of school facilities and equipment. For example, pool use by the community over the summer, astro turf used for the tennis club, and use of the BBQs and other school equipment to support community events. The School grounds are also open for the community to use out-of-hours - such as the basketball court which is well used by past students, and families that visit the playground on the weekend.

Parent Teacher Association:

The PTA supports Kaharoa School in providing exceptional education to our children. They strive to continuously improve the learning environment at Kaharoa School. They foster stronger community spirit and engagement to enhance student success. The PTA helps provide an important support network to the Kaharoa School community. This is achieved through fundraising to provide extra material resources and involvement in the organisation of social and educational activities.

This is achieved through the following:

- To assist in promoting the strong sense of partnership between the school Kaharoa School Board staff, parents, students and local community.
- To raise funds for resources and opportunities to enhance the learning programmes at Kaharoa School.
- To provide support and assistance to the staff at school activities.
- To encourage greater family and community involvement at Kaharoa School.

The PTA considers opportunities over the year where families can meet each other or be involved in events. For example, the Hamurana Flyer, the Kaharoa Cull, quiz nights, or school discos.

Kaharoa Community Association:

The KCA is an incorporated society of Kaharoa residents. The KCA has the interests and welfare of the residents of Kaharoa at heart. The committee meets monthly and is primarily responsible for overseeing the use of and maintenance of the hall in conjunction with the local council. The KCA advocates to various groups for funding and resources for the Hall and local residents such as the purchase of the AED unit. The KCA supports the Neighbourhood support initiative. The hall, the domain and the facilities are there to be used, especially by KCA members and residents. The hall has been used for weddings, funerals, birthday parties, church, band practice, yoga, exercise classes, and meetings. The KCA initiates opportunities for community members to connect such as the monthly social night, a community garage sale, and an annual Christmas party.

ENGAGING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:

Kaharoa School, the PTA, and the KCA work in partnership to organise and lead community events but have different roles and purposes.

- The role of The School staff is building partnerships with current families that enhance student learning.
- The role of the PTA is to create opportunities for social activities and networking, alongside fundraising.
- The role of the KCA is to support the wider local community with social and community activities, and advocate for the Kaharoa community.

Conclusion:

There appears to be a desire within the community for opportunities to build relationships between parents and whānau, and for the wider community to have events that bring the community together.

Kaharoa School Board and Staff also hope to see continued opportunities for social and networking events, and see the PTA and the KCA as the primary organisations that build this within the community with the support of The School. The role of the school is to provide access to facilities and equipment, and through the promotion of PTA and KCA events to students and school families. School staff are also committed to attending PTA fundraising events where possible, and supporting these events on the day.

To further this partnership, Kaharoa School has established a twice yearly flyer printed and distributed to the local community with updates from the School, PTA, KCA, and Kōkākō trust.

Through effective partnership between The School, PTA, and the KCA we hope to see increased opportunities for social and networking events in Kaharoa. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with the contacts below:

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