MĀORI EXCELLENCE

Motto

‘Kia Kaha Te Ora’ Virtute Experiamur - Let Courage Be Thy Test

Values

RANGATIRATANGA - LEADERSHIP
Our boys lead by example with courage, commitment & comradeship.
Our whanau guide & advise on achieving and enhancing kaupapa Māori at Westlake.

WHANAUNGATANGA - SUPPORT
As leaders, our boys support each other and the school with respect, responsibility and recognition.
Our whanau support Westlake students, staff and families toward the best learning environment from a Māori perspective.

HONONGA - ENGAGE & ENCOURAGE
Our boys engage and encourage excellence in Māori development.
Our whanau engage & increase opportunities for Māori students and encourage Westlake as a wider community in strengthening these ties.

Whanau Executive

The Māori Whanau Executive Group is made up of staff, parents and family of Māori students at Westlake Boys High School. We meet once a month to discuss events, issues and options for our boys. This group is open to anyone keen to participate.

Key Kaupapa

TE REO MĀORI
WHĀNAU FORM CLASS OF EXCELLENCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE
PŌWHIRI, TIKANGA
KAPAHAKA
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, or if you would like to join, please contact SMccraken@Westlake.school.nz
NŌ HEA MĀTOU? Where are we from?

Derived from the origins of our name, being ‘West of Lake Pupuke’ we link to our location. While there are mountains on the North Shore, they are located more so in Devonport (Mt Victoria - Takarunga). On a national scale and in relation to the Māori mythological connections to Lake Pupuke, Rangitoto is a suitable landmark of identity and visually, an iconic inspiration of strength.

KO WAI MĀTOU? Who are we?

To reflect the diverse community that is Westlake Boys High School, we identify ‘Ururoto’ (Westlake) as ‘whanau’ (family), rather than iwi. Our school is made up of many iwi from all over the world. We want everyone to be able to encompass this pepeha (introduction) in identifying as a Westlaker.

Historically, Tainui, Ngāi Tai, Te Kawerau, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whātua and Ngāpuhi all have links to Te Rakipaewhenua (North Shore). This area was the scene of many inter-tribal conflicts, where iwi came, fought, settled and moved on. Stories can be found in different places on the Shore, but most specifically in Devonport and North Head where the monuments and museum sites can be learnt on history trails today. Today, the North Shore continues to remain an ever-changing landscape with the community made up of a diverse range of nationalities.

This means that our role as tangata whenua (indigenous people), the tikanga (tradition) & kawa (protocol) are more dependant on the people than the place itself as tribal connections are many. In order to anchor our strength, our ideal is to align with other longstanding institutions in the area that are built on the same values.

In our support to raise good, young men in the modern world, we would like to build a relationship with Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa Marae (RNZN Marae). The RNZN’s Core Values are Courage, Commitment and Comradeship - inspirational in building a ‘brotherhood’. The kawa for whaikorero (speaking) on the RNZN Marae and subsequent RNZN hosted hui is Tau utuutu / Tu mai tu atu - the host and visitors speaking alternately. The host begins and ends the whaikorero. While people involved will change, these core elements will remain the same.

Future plans are to build our own marae, but as an institution who shares history, families and values with Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa Marae, it would be ideal to them as a tuakana (older sibling) in our development and to the future.

KEY IDENTIFIERS Māori mythology

Rangitoto is Māori for ‘Bloody Sky’, with the name coming from the full phrase Ngā Rangi-totonga-a Tama-te-kapua (‘The days of the bleeding of Tama-te-kapua’). Tama-te-kapua was the captain of the Arawa waka (canoe) and was badly wounded on the island, at a (lost) battle with the Tainui iwi (tribe) at Islington Bay.

A Māori myth surrounding the lake tells of a tupua couple, children of the fire gods. After quarreling and cursing Mahuika, the fire-goddess, their home on the mainland was destroyed by Mataoho, god of earthquakes and eruptions, on Mahuika’s behalf. Lake Pupuke resulted from the destruction, while Rangitoto Island rose from the sea as their exile. The mists surrounding Rangitoto at certain times are considered the tears of the tupua couple for their former home.
2016 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

2016 will be a year of revamp for Māori students and whanau at Westlake Boys High School.

TE REO MĀORI - 2016 will see the arrival of a new Te Reo Māori teacher to lead us into a new era.
PŌWHIRI / TIKANGA - 2016 will see more marae-based & schoolwide participation in tikanga Māori.
KAPAHAKA - 2016 will see a reinvigoration of kapahaka by way of a new tutor and set calendar events.
WHĀNAU FORM OF EXCELLENCE - 2016 will see the implementation of a new standard.
BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION - 2016 will see a member of the whanau nominated to the BOT.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES - 2016 will see the whanau group presenting key opportunities for our boys.

WW01 - THE WHĀNAU FORM GROUP

Become a part of the Māori Class of Excellence.
A brotherhood of achievement, this class is for students who want to join with others to develop their potential and share experiences in development.
Members must abide by the guiding values of courage, commitment and comradeship. This is a place where both recognition and reprimand comes from a combined network of teachers, whanau and peers.
Each member agrees to a bilingual environment in form class, where tikanga Māori is important. Morning sessions will include karakia, kōrero and waiata at the start of each week where boys are delegated to lead.
Beyond that, weekly wero (challenges) are set in a test of excellence to build individual and team points each term.
Achievement within this group is recognised by awards, trips and special taonga contributed through the whanau executive.
As a sign of the brotherhood, each member receives a taonga to wear as part of the uniform.

In growing leaders, a Māori Prefect shall be nominated to attend & report on progress to the whanau executive monthly meeting. Understanding governance is key and a WW01 student committee may be developed if required.

THE WHĀNAU EXECUTIVE TEAM

As a whanau, we align with the school charter under the principles of Ako (Learning & Teaching), Whanaungatanga (Family based ideals), Tangata Whenuatanga (Identity), Manaakitanga (Support) and Wānanga (Discussion and Development).

Our key role is to support the school in kaupapa Māori and advocate for development. This team is open to all families & staff willing to support and our monthly hui are run by long-standing chairman and parent, Whetu Konia.

The Executive Team is divided into working groups to concentrate on different areas. While our boys success is key, we believe our contribution to Westlake is also important. A future goal is the building of a marae at the school to establish a strong base of identity for all students of Westlake.

We nominate a member of our team to the school Board of Trustees as a representative on behalf of, and for Māori whanau and the wider community.

We have key kaupapa we help to support and are open to ideas of further development and opportunities for our boys. If there are any issues, whereby you require support from the Māori whanau, we are here to help.

A Calendar of Key Events for 2016 will be scheduled for release following the final Whanau Executive Hui in November.