



Arahunga Special School and Outreach Service

Whanganui, Taranaki, Manawatu and Horowhenua

Tena koutou katoa,

As I write this our Transition Class are busy preparing for the community dinner tonight, a time when we invite whanau and community members to celebrate our students' success. Its also our way of saying thank you to the people who have supported our students over the year. All this busy preparation activity going on around me is a reminder of how active our students and staff have been this year. Whether learning in the classroom, exploring on field trips or participating in local community events our students have grown enormously as a result of both their own hard work and the dedicated teaching and support of the staff and adults around them.

This year was a significant year of remembrance for our nation as we mark 100 years since the Gallipoli campaign. Just one of the many places that our forebears sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. It has also been 175 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, a document that has come to signify the importance of partnership in our nation. To us as a school this document reflects the struggle for equality and empowerment that we, as a community, continue to be involved in on the behalf of our students. The recognition that neither race, religion, economic status or disability should be a barrier to being active, confident members of society.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy the extra time you have with your children over the break. Your children are a gift and blessing, but we are happy for you to take them away for six weeks! The good news is we will be equally happy to see them when they return to us next year!

To the students and their whanau who are leaving this year: thank you for journeying with us through your education, it has been a privilege for us to watch you grow and develop into amazing young people and our prayers and thoughts are with you as you journey into the next stage of your life.

E te Atua Manaaki ki a koutou,
Nga mihi mo te Kirihimete.

Daniel J. Price
Principal

