



1 April 2025

Whānau Letter – Leadership Transition Update: Interim Principal Appointment

Subject: Leadership transition update – Interim Principal appointment

Kia ora e te whānau,

We'd like to share an important update as we continue supporting a smooth leadership transition at Ngāti Toa School.

As you know, Kathleen will finish her time as Principal at the end of this term. Our ākonga will be farewelling her at a special hui in the school hall on Thursday 10 April, 12pm and all whānau are warmly invited to attend. We are incredibly grateful for Kathleen's leadership over the past two and a half years, and we wish her all the best for the next chapter. We know she will carry with her the 'ahi mō te ao' – fire for the world.

Following the consultation with staff, whānau and iwi, the Board is using your feedback to help shape the recruitment process for our next permanent tumuaki. Your input has informed the qualities and priorities we're seeking, and this will be reflected in the job description and interview process.

We're pleased to let you know that Rhys McKinley has been appointed as our interim principal, beginning at the start of Term 2. Rhys is a seasoned school leader, and recently served as interim principal at another kura in Titahi Bay. He previously held the permanent principal role at Windley School here in Porirua. Now semi-retired, Rhys has continued supporting schools through short-term leadership placements. He lives locally in Porirua and brings a warm, steady presence and a deep understanding of our community context.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to get in touch with the Board, please email us at bot@ngatittoa.school.nz.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ngāti Toa School Board

Fiona King (Presiding Member), Jeff Hunkin, Rebekah Siave, Michael Rongo, Jessica Paea, Jude Nieland, Trishleigh Masoe
