

PROSPECTUS



Middle School West Auckland

For boys and girls in Years 7-10





Our Story

Middle School West Auckland (MSWA) is a co-educational, small scale, middle school, for students in Years 7 to 10. It is located across two sites in Henderson, West Auckland, the largest being Jack Ralston House, at 287-289 Lincoln Road, which accommodates up to 180 students in three villas and Pohutukawa Villa, on Waipareira Avenue, the school's bilingual unit which has a maximum roll of 60.

The Villa Education Trust model, used at Middle School West Auckland, was created to suit students learning in the 21st Century and brings an ideal means of teaching and learning to the information age. The programme involves all students in fantastic learning experiences and caters for all intelligence traits and learning styles. Academic standards are high and expectations of the students are both demanding and fully supported. Teaching staff are given minimal administrative tasks as their prime focus is to teach to the best of their ability.

The Aims of Middle School West Auckland are:

- To provide a window of opportunity for outstanding learning for students in Years 7 to 10.
- To play a significant part in preparing students for full and effective participation in their future academic, cultural, sporting, social and working lives.
- To provide a learning environment that is thorough, innovative and able to be applied to the best advantage to each student through individualized education.

Our Vision Statement is:

To allow young people to develop and learn to give them a base for excellence in all spheres of life through effective teaching, quality facilities, an optimal day structure and an integrated curriculum.

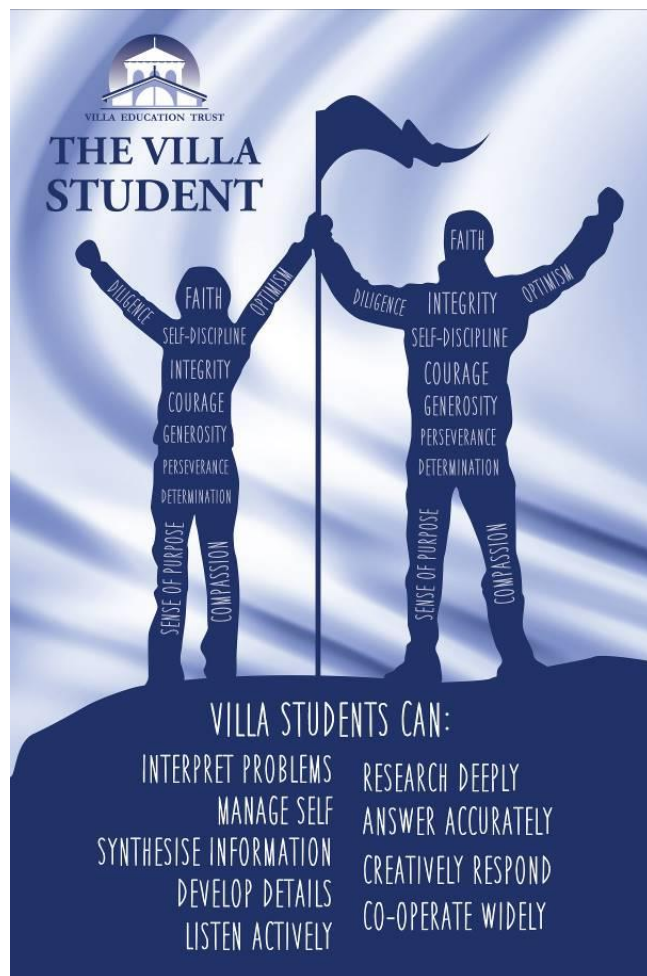
Holistic Education and Support

The Core Values of the school are:

- Excellence in learning.
- Cooperation among students, families and the community.
- Building of personal character through applied Christian values.
- A strong emphasis on thinking skills and students understanding how they think and learn.

Special Features of Middle School West Auckland:

- A small school environment.
- A student:teacher ratio of no more than 15:1.
- A project based, integrated, curriculum.
- Individualised education for each student.
- A modified day structure to allow excellent learning outside of the classroom and the use of community resources.
- Excellent learning resources including up to date and thoughtfully used ICT.
- Tikanga and kaupapa Māori integrated into daily practice with whanau interactions (Henderson Villa).



About Middle School West Auckland:

Middle School West Auckland is based on a middle school age group with an integrated, project-based curriculum. The school reflects the 8 Essential Learning Areas as stated in the NZ curriculum - overlaid by a clear Christian philosophy and Christian values.

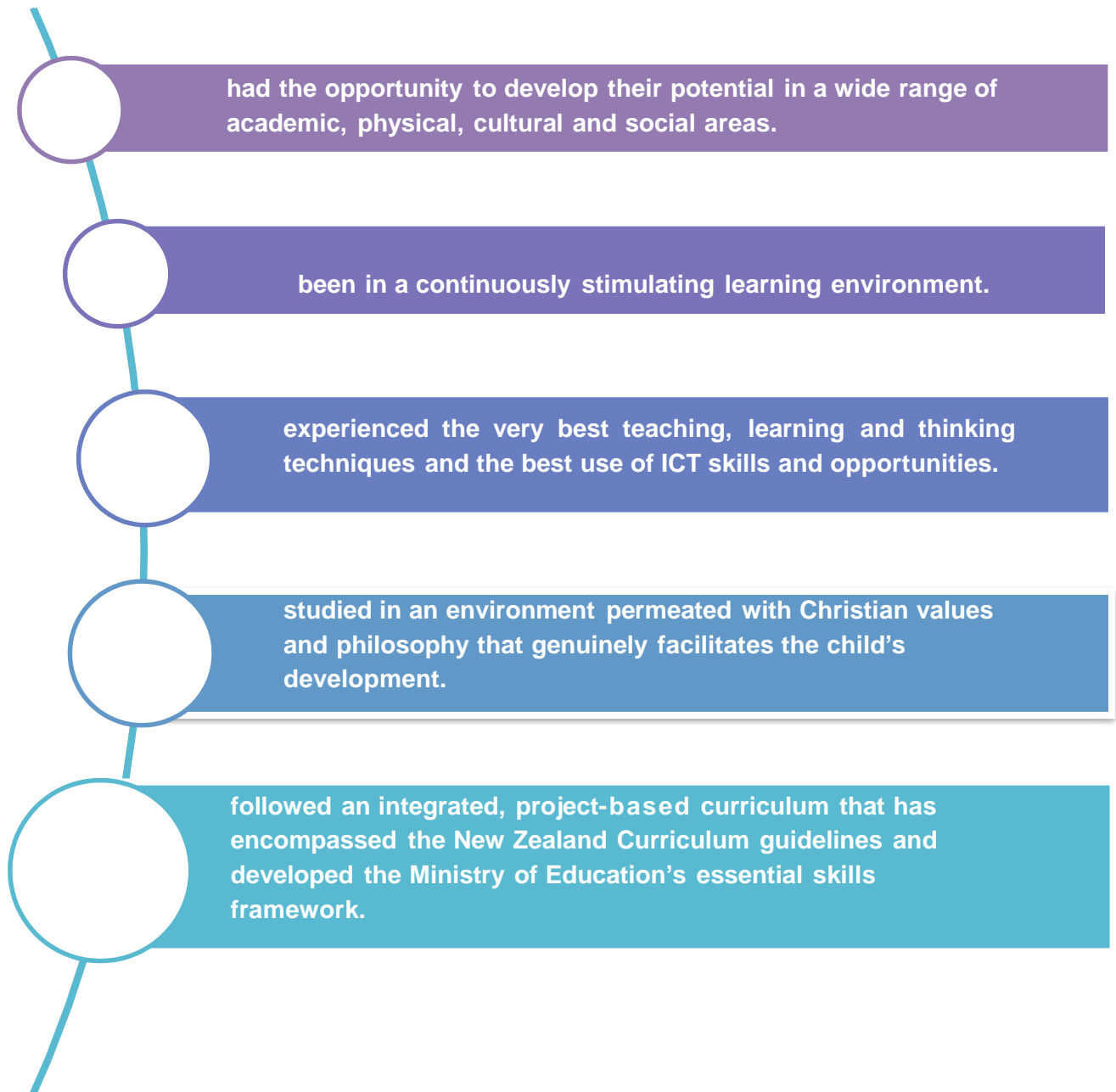
Parents have an integral part in school life and are kept informed of their child's progress. Staff know each child's educational needs and ensure they are met. The child's interest areas are affirmed and they have the opportunity to significantly develop the capacity to direct their own learning.

Middle School West Auckland aims to develop the individual talents of every one of its students and to teach them to relate the experience to, and learn through, the everyday world.

We take full advantage of the excellent learning resources in the community. Parents are invited to take an interest in all aspects of the schools programmes. They are welcome to take part in both the morning and the afternoon programmes. Please discuss any special areas of interest with a staff member.

Pathway to Opportunity

Because of our specially-designed curriculum, every Middle School West Auckland graduate will have:



“Students leaving Middle School West Auckland will have developed outstanding learning and thinking skills to take into their final years of secondary school. They will be exceptionally prepared to excel at NCEA qualifications or other examination systems, while also having a love of learning and will hold values that will make them useful in their generation.”

(Villa Education Trust Academic Advisor), Alwyn Poole

Location and Facilities



Middle School West Auckland is spread across two campuses in the Auckland Suburb of Henderson. Jack Ralston House, the school's largest site, is located at 287-289 Lincoln Road and accommodates up to 180 students grouped into 'villas' of 60, each led by an Academic Manager. Pohutukawa Villa, which has a maximum roll of 60 students, is the school's Te Reo bilingual unit, located at 22-24 Waipareira Avenue. Each facility includes modern classrooms, science rooms, art and technology suites, ICT and areas set aside for quiet, individual and small group learning. Both sites also have a Whanau Room and welcome visits from parents and extended family.

In the afternoons, the local area becomes the school. Children use nearby parks and sports facilities (under supervision) as well as local businesses, libraries, museums and art galleries. Through the proper use of these resources and the internet, student learn in an environment without walls.



Information and Computer Technology (ICT)

The school is equipped with up-to-date computer technology and other ICT equipment. There is intensive ICT skill development and intelligent use of internet, with students learning filtering skills to enable them to distinguish between useful and credible information from the myriad of trivia. Each student has their own school e-mail address which can be used to send both internal and external electronic communication. ICT is used to foster creativity, allow access to a vast range of information, develop problem-solving skills, prepare students for 21st Century life, increase enthusiasm, improve research skills, develop communication skills and help students work cooperatively and internationally. In summary, it is used to broaden the scope and diversity of learning.



Day and Class Structure



The timetable is designed to allow students to maximise their learning through a number of contexts and experiences. It also allows parents to have effective input and be fully involved in the education of their children.

The school day is from 8.30am to 12.50pm, within classes and work groups, to cover the curriculum. Children work at their own level and with others of like ability. During this time, students are set a variety of tasks. Expectations of their input are high with little down-time.

A significant amount of the work is taught to ensure that the New Zealand Curriculum is covered in full. This includes Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies and Technology. This teaching is done within the context of the projects that the year groups are currently working through. Students also have a significant amount of time to direct their own work as individuals and in groups. Research, thinking, and presenting skills are developed in-depth.

In the afternoons (1.30-3.15pm), year group classes rotate through various activities which include: Art, Sport (twice a week), Community Service and Community Learning, and Music. Te Reo Māori is taught at our Henderson Villa.

Students work in their year groups during the morning sessions. We sometimes make changes for individuals to provide a better match to project, interest or need. The year groupings are used for the organisation of the afternoon programmes. Year 10 students are taught in a manner that keeps in mind preparation for their transition into the final years of schooling. Students are well prepared for entry into year 11 at a secondary school of their choice and have an excellent base upon which to excel in the new qualifications framework or overseas administered exams.

Personal Development

The middle years, ages 10 – 15, are a crucial developmental period in the lives of young people. Middle School West Auckland is a developmental window as well as a learning window. It provides a safe environment where children can have their personal, emotional, academic, physical, social and spiritual needs met in a very supportive manner. One of our aims as a middle school is to give students an opportunity to be children for a little longer; to give them more time to explore their own interests and dreams without the pressure for precocious social development that can occur at intermediates and large secondary schools at the junior level. They will develop personally and academically, they will improve their cooperative learning skills, they will learn to work as a team and respect others, as well as developing a love of learning.



Reporting and Assessment

Comprehensive formal reports are issued after the end of Term 2 and at the end of Term 4. Each project receives a full marking schedule aimed at improving the student's academic schooling and there is constant verbal and/or written feedback to parents and students. Parents are welcome to request feedback when they are in school and to ask for more formal appointments when they see the need. Emails are welcome and will be responded to promptly. Parents are also welcome to call in and observe part of their child's class.



At the end of every second project (i.e. the end of each term), students will also be tested in assessments based on the traditional subject divisions. This is to allow based them and their parents to be sure that they are being advantaged by the mode of learning we use and to give them a comparison against normal New Zealand school criteria. Some of the projects also require students to make clear subject divisions within the aspects they are studying.

Over the course of the year we use E-asTTle, ongoing class tests, teacher observations and discussions with students to determine a student's understanding. Teachers meet regularly and review student progress in order to ensure any concerns are addressed promptly.

Homework

There will be varying amounts of homework during the school year, most of which will be student-driven. Any set homework is expected to be completed on time and to the best of the student's ability.

Free schooling

Middle School West Auckland provides outstanding education for students – FREE OF CHARGE – there are no hidden costs or extras. We provide:



Uniform	Stationery	Extras
To provide an identity for students and for practicality for parents, a full school uniform is provided FREE OF CHARGE to all students. In addition, PE kit is provided for sports.	Middle School West Auckland will provide stationery, textbooks and personal art materials to all students FREE OF CHARGE.	We do not require or ask for donations, charge enrolment fees or ask for contributions for school trips, technology, art, sports and extra activities.

Behaviour Code

This Code will be explained at school assemblies and at parent interviews and will be displayed on posters and in documentation throughout the school. It will also be fully explained in the classroom.

- No student is to disrupt another student's learning.
- If removed from class, the student will work at a desk in the office area for the remainder of that class.
- If the inappropriate behaviour continues, the student may be withdrawn from the afternoon programme for a defined period of time. This can be a specific afternoon class or a number of consecutive classes.

Disciplinary Steps

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|---|--------|
| 1) Talk to student | > | Restart | > | Action |
| 2) Talk to student | > | Restart | > | Action |
| 3) Meet Senior Staff Committee | | | | |



Rules

The Trust Board sets rules to ensure that all students are treated fairly, have respect for each other and for property. Rules may be changed from time to time as the Board sees fit. Given the location of the school and our community involvement, it is important the rules are kept.

Attendance – students must attend school each scheduled day. When there is sickness or another good reason, the school must be notified as soon as possible on that day. When students return to school, a written note is required.

Inappropriate Items – the normal items that schools exclude are not to be brought to Middle School West Auckland (gum, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, inappropriate literature or electronic material).

Internet Use – the Internet and e-mail facilities must not be misused in terms of sending or downloading inappropriate materials. All students/parents will be required to sign a standard Cybersafety agreement form.

Off-Site Behaviour – When off-site during school hours, Middle School West Auckland students must wear their uniform well, treat all people with respect and obey all laws with regards to traffic.



Term Dates 2020

Term 1: Thursday 30th January to Thursday 9th April

Statutory Holidays: Thursday 6 February (Waitangi Day),
Friday 7th Feb
Friday 10th April Good Friday

Term 2: Tuesday 28th April to Friday 3rd July

Statutory Holidays: Monday 27th April (Anzac Day)
Monday 1 June (Queen's Birthday)

Term 3: Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

No Statutory Holidays in Term 3

Term 4: Monday 12th October to Friday 11th December

Statutory Holidays: Monday 26 October - Labour Day

Integrated Project Based Curriculum

What is Integrated Curriculum?

An integrated curriculum treats knowledge as being seamless and interrelated. It is a means of breaking down the artificial barriers between subjects as they have been traditionally taught. It is also an effective way of broadening the possible topics that may be learned/investigated. Within the school's written curriculum, the staff will ensure that all areas of the Essential Learning Areas (ELA's) are covered at the appropriate levels.

What is a Project-Based Curriculum?

A project-based curriculum treats the investigation of a topic as the basis for learning. Students complete eight projects during each school year. Within each topic, the staff identify the areas of the national curriculum that need to be overtly taught within the ELA's. Each year, the topics will encompass the full ELA requirements for that level.

Within each set project, all of the Learning Areas are included and the students have the opportunity to direct their own learning and work to a depth and breadth that is difficult to achieve within a traditional structure. Their learning skills (e.g. goal setting, planning, investigative research, presentation, computing, etc) are enhanced, as are their thinking skills (e.g. metacognition, evaluation, synthesising information, etc).

Their basic academic skills (reading, writing, mathematics) are in no way ignored; instead, they are leveraged on and used as a building block for in-depth work.



Individual Student Care

As well as working through the school's curriculum, each child will have highly individualized care through Villas of 60, classes of 15, in-depth record keeping and communication with parents. Each child's range of abilities will be recognised and developed using the best learning theory and applications available under the knowledge that intelligence is not a fixed entity, but able to be developed in each child.

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies 8 Essential Learning Areas - Language and Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, the Arts, and Physical Health and Well-Being. Middle School West Auckland's curriculum is based on these learning areas and the National Curriculum Statements that are written from them.

Key Competencies

The New Zealand Curriculum specifies five groupings of key competencies to be developed by all students across the whole curriculum during their schooling. They are broad groupings and we look to develop the specific skills that make up these groupings and other areas as well. The 5 key competencies listed in the national curriculum are:

- Thinking
- Using language, symbols and texts
- Managing self
- Relating to others
- Participating and contributing



Music and Art

As integral parts of the school culture, music and art have set afternoons dedicated to them respectively. Like all subject areas, students are able and encouraged to incorporate aspects of music and art into their project-based learning. There is a practical in-class programme involving Guitar and Keyboard Skills. This time can also be an opportunity for students to have private music tutoring. As in a normal school situation, this tutoring is at the parents' expense – the difference is that the child does not have to be withdrawn from normal classroom time. Other options parents can seek to take up include speech and foreign language extension.

For art, students are given the opportunity to present their material in varied and creative ways. This includes the study of artists and their work in their historical and social context and always involves practical Art projects where students explore a variety of art techniques including painting, printing, sculpting, photography and ceramics. Students then create works that link back to the theme of their current project. There is also a designated afternoon each week for each year group set aside for Art and a specialist teacher is employed to oversee that time and give guidance.



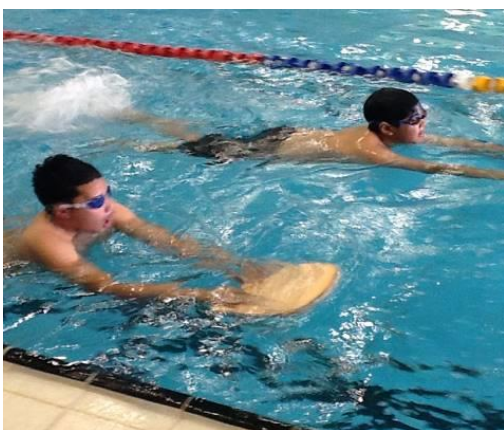


Sport and the Great Outdoors

Development of sporting skills and good attitudes towards sports and physical activity is a key curriculum aim for the school. Part of our learning philosophy is that learning can happen anywhere and not just in the classroom. Each year group will have a total of 2 sport afternoons each week, comprised of both health and fitness skills.

During that time, parents can withdraw their children for specialised coaching in an area of choice. The school will compete in inter-school sports where the numbers required allow it. The school has also developed strong links to high-quality coaches and sporting providers.

The school uniform is designed for outdoor use. A sports uniform is provided, but students will require trainers and a hat and sunscreen for the hotter months. In addition, a jacket is required for cooler weather.



Pohutukawa Villa – Te Reo Bilingual Unit

Middle School West Auckland has a Te Reo Māori Bilingual Unit named Pohutukawa Villa, offering a comprehensive Te Reo Māori programme, as well as a tikanga and kaupapa Māori (protocol) based programme providing a rich offering for parents and caregivers who wish to incorporate Te Ao Māori into their child's education. Pohutukawa Villa is located on Waipareira Avenue, in Henderson, and accommodates up to 60 students with class sizes limited to 15 students.



The villa is overseen by Middle School West Auckland Principal Warren Cook and led by Academic Manager Te Mete Lowman, from Te Arawa and Tainui iwi. Te Mete works with Community Liaison Manager Tamzin Cook to support the learning of all the students of Pohutukawa.

Talking about the ethos of the unit, Te Mete said: “Pohutukawa has adopted three overarching principles that are used daily to guide a student's decision making and attitude towards their surroundings. Tika, Pono and Aroha are based on the idea of developing a person who can do the correct thing, for the correct reason, in the correct way.

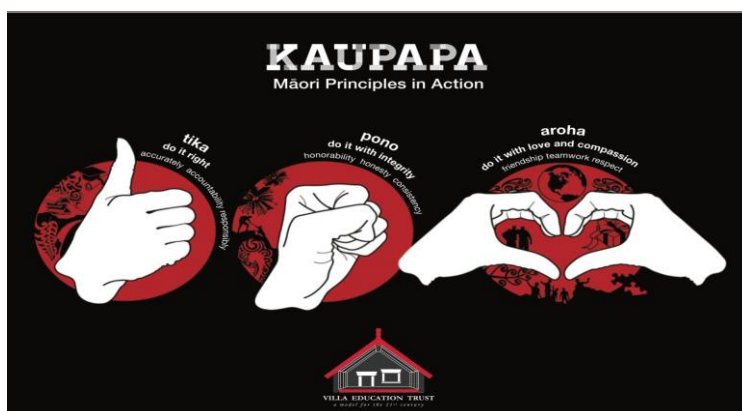
We continue to work towards having Te Reo Māori as the conversational language used within Pohutukawa Villa. Every student has a daily language lesson to assist with this and the use of language transfer techniques are at the core of the language acquisition program.

As a staff we also strive to provide opportunities for Māori knowledge and pedagogies to be integrated into the project based curriculum used at Middle School West Auckland. We acknowledge that Kaupapa Māori views can provide relevant and contextual pathways that lead to academic success for Māori.”

The villa is located in Henderson and has ample outdoor green space for students to enjoy the great outdoors, both in play and when tending to the school's abundance of fruit trees and allotment. Fruit and vegetables grown on site are often picked, cooked and enjoyed by staff, students and whānau.

Te Mete added: “Whānau are an important part to the success of many students. Schools in general finding it challenging to consistently engage large numbers of whānau, and Pohutukawa is no exception. However we pride ourselves on inclusion and are open to having whānau join in with the academic morning or activity based afternoons.”

Although located on a separate site to Middle School West Auckland's largest campus (Jack Ralston House) the students gather together once a fortnight for assembly and various sports and social events are arranged to ensure a feeling of belonging.





Middle School West Auckland Staff

At Middle School, West Auckland, not only are our teaching and support staff highly qualified, they are dedicated, enthusiastic about sharing knowledge and always on hand to support students' development in every way. With international experience and expertise, staff can empathize with students of all cultures and backgrounds, as well as enhance intercultural and interracial understanding.

Principal of Middle School West Auckland (both campuses):



Warren Cook: BA, Dip Tchg – Principal and Academic Manager of Matai Villa, Mathematics Teacher

Warren trained and taught at several Northland schools before relocating to Auckland to be involved in the 'Inzone Education Foundation'. Warren's vision for children and learning is driven by his fundamental belief in maximising the wealth of opportunity that surrounds us and the possibility of personal extension that comes from life-long learning.

Warren aims to inspire the youth/tamariki of today by enabling them to uncover their personal strengths, talents and goals.



Mike Fenwick: MA (Educational Leadership), B.Ed, Dip Tchg (Auckland University) - Academic Manager of Rimu Villa and English Teacher:

Mike began his teaching career at Auckland Normal Intermediate School before moving to St Peter's College. In 2000, Mike headed overseas for a two-year teaching post – which lasted more than 15 years! During this time he taught at Seoul International School, South Korea (Grade 8 English Teacher and Head of Department) and at the Chinese International School, in Hong Kong (as Learning Leader for Year 6). Mike has been involved in sport throughout his overseas tenure, coaching varsity level basketball in Korea and national rugby coaching - U18 & U14 - in Hong Kong.



James Young: B Phys Ed, BSW, Dip Tchg - Academic Manager of Kauri Villa and Mathematics/Science Teacher:

James has been teaching since 2012, the majority of that time was at Abundant Life School in Kaitia where he specialised in PE and Social Studies. James' passion is to see young people develop into people that represent their families and community in a positive manner. Prior to taking up a teaching career James graduated from Otago University with a Bachelor of Social work (Community and Family Studies) and Bachelor of Physical Education (Exercise Prescription). James also has been involved in coaching many sports teams and running Youth Groups over the years.



Te Mete Lowman: B.Ed. Dip Tchg - Academic Manager Pohutukawa Villa, Maths and Te Reo Teacher

Te Mete joins Middle School West Auckland from Westmere School where his role has been planning, facilitation and assessment of all core subjects for senior primary/students. This is through an immersion Māori medium with the specific use of language transfer pedagogy to develop the target language within the students. Integration of core literacy tasks through the inquiry based learning approach. Te Mete believes the origin of great educators comes from having the right attitude and being there for the right reasons. As an adult and now with his own children, he believes that together with this life experience, this knowledge, this way of knowing, being, and doing he will have an impact on the next generation, so that they may stand proud, and so that they may stand as Māori in this ever-changing world of ours.

Community Liaison Manager:



Tamzin Cook: Community Liaison Manager

Mobile: 021 464303, email:

t.cook@westauckland.school.nz

Tamzin has a wealth of experience both in administration and in dealing with children and young adults. Her previous roles included Matron at In-Zone Education Foundation where she provided live in pastoral care and support to 55 teenage boys. More recently she has worked as the Office Manager at Mt Hobson Middle School. As a mum of four, she is also an expert at 'multi-tasking!'



Cassandra Peach: Office Manager

admin@westauckland.school.nz

Cassandra is the welcoming face in our office at Middle School West Auckland, Jack Ralston House. Her previous experience has been in reception/customer services assistant in education and working with children with special requirements. Cassandra brings skills and understanding of daily school events for both parents and students.

Teaching Staff: Jack Ralston House

Maxine Chan: BCS; Dip Tchg - English and Social Studies Teacher at JR House:

Maxine is committed to helping students develop their capacity to strive for excellence while teaching the skills needed for learning as individuals and collaboratively with their peers. In the classroom she provides a supportive and enthusiastic learning atmosphere. Maxine has had experience teaching at Massey High School and Western Springs College. Maxine is a member of Women in Film and television and United Nations Women (Auckland branch).

Josiah Elder: BBIM – Technology Teacher and IT Support at JR House:

Josiah believes that all students are capable and of worth and that through a well-rounded and purposeful education they can become confident, life-long learners. Josiah has worked at Matipo Road School, Sunnybrae Normal School and Sylvia Park School and has worked with teenagers at Greenlane Christian Centre for the last 4 years.

Long Lu: B Engineering; Dip Tchg - Technology and Science Teacher at JR House:

Long is an experienced teacher in Technology, Hard Material and Design and Visual Communication. Long believes all students can reach their full potential in a positive and supportive teaching and learning environment. Long has taught at Papatoetoe High School and Melville High School.

RobynAnne Abd El Rahman: B.Ed. (Major in Education and English, Massey University), TTC (Massey University College of Education), Dip Tch (Massey University) – English, Social Studies and Drama Teacher at JR House:

RobynAnne has more than 20 years' experience in teaching and learning and is dedicated to assisting her students to achieve the highest individual academic goals through a holistic approach. Although she trained as a primary school teacher, she went on to be a Head of English at secondary level and later a tutor at Massey University College of Education, specializing in 'How Children Learn' and 'Language and Reading'.

Wayne Todd: B.Mus, Dip Tchg – Music and Social Studies Teacher at JR House:

Wayne began his teaching career in Music and English at Rangitoto College and One Tree Hill. He has a passion for the performing arts and was instrumental in establishing the Excel School of Performing Arts where he taught for 18 years. Wayne was also a key player in gaining course accreditation for the school and overseeing the staff. Wayne is an accomplished musician and plays piano, sings and writes his own songs. Wayne lived and taught in Germany for four years and speaks fluent German.

Angela Withers: BA - Deakin University (History, Literature and Journalism), Dip Ed - Monash University (History and English) - Social Studies Teacher at JR House:

Angela taught History and English in Australia for four years before moving to the UK for three years where she taught History, Drama and Religious Education. She then returned to Australia for seven years to teach History, Geography, English and Drama. She moved from Melbourne to Auckland in August 2013. As well as her passion for teaching History, she also enjoys directing school musical productions.

Mose Apineru: - Cert Tertiary Tchg – Maths and Music Teacher

Mose has a great passion for teaching students and making an impact in the lives of young people. His vast international experience has seen him teach Mathematics and Science at Flaxmere College in Hastings, at the Coral Reef Academy in Samoa, and tutoring Engineering to AUT students in Auckland. He is completing an Engineering degree to compliment his teaching qualifications, speaks fluent English and Samoan and brings a wealth of Pasifika knowledge to the school. Mose also has extensive experience as a youth worker and mentor for Child Youth and Family. He is a father of four and loves to help kids bring out their full potential.

Teaching Staff: Pohutukawa Villa

Monika Toko: B.Ed, Dip Tchg (Auckland University) - Te Reo and Art Teacher:

Monika graduated from the TKKM o Hoani Waititi Marae, the first total immersion Māori school in the world, with awards for leadership, innovation and excellence. Monika has recently graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Teaching through the Huarahi Maori programme.

Felicia Skilton: B.A, Dip Tchg – English and Social Studies Teacher:

Felicia is passionate about her subjects and making a difference to students. It is her desire to help ākonga to develop their potential by believing in them as capable individuals. Learning is a lifelong process which takes place in many different forms and on many different levels. One of my greatest hopes as a kaiako is to instil a love of learning in my ākonga as we embark on our journey of learning together.

Zachary Press: B.Sc , -Science Teacher:

Zach is a new teacher at Pōhutukawa Villa bringing a passion for science and the outdoors, with a Bsc in Marine Biology and previous work experience in pearl oyster hatcheries and as a commercial diver in Australia. Zach is currently completing a Masters of Teaching and Education Leadership as part of the Teach First NZ: Ako Mātātupu program. Zach believes that all students are scientists at heart with the potential to achieve greatness in which ever field they choose.

Ashley Craig: BA , MTEL - English Teacher:

Ashley is joining the Pohutukawa villa as an English and social studies teacher. Ashley has recently graduated from the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and Maori studies. Ashley is currently apart of teach first, Ako Matatupu where he is working towards his master's in teaching and Educational

leadership. Sport is a major part of Ashley's life, he has previously represented New Zealand at the Oceania games in athletics. He has also represented various age grade rugby teams in Otago and Southland. He firmly believes that creating a comfortable learning environment allows students to reach their potential in education.

Jacqueline Demeter – Office Administrator

Contact Information

Jack Ralston House
287-289 Lincoln Road
(entrance off Paramount Drive)
Henderson

P: 09 972 1744

E: admin@westauckland.school.nz

Pohutukawa Villa
22-24 Waipareira Avenue
Henderson

P: 09 972 1745

E: henderson@westauckland.school.nz