



**TE KURA KAUPAPA MĀORI
O HOANI WAITITI MARAE**

Indigenous Māori Education Centre

4 June, 2021

Kia ora koutou,

Further to our previous letter of support for the ATAWHAI program, run by The Kindness Institute; this is an update on our growing and thriving partnership.

Working together since 2018, we have now had a group of rangatahi graduate from the program, noticing significant, tangible and positive changes in their overall wellbeing and mental health. These have been observed by kaiako and whānau, noticing increased engagement in class, improved communication skills and relationship management, increased connection to their mātauranga, as well as stepping into leadership roles within our Kura.

We are excited to continue to work together as the graduates from ATAWHAI move into the tuakana role, supporting the next group of teina, creating a positive cycle of support for our young people's mental health and wellbeing. We acknowledge the strength of the rangatahi-led approach, allowing them to support each other once empowered with the appropriate tools.

The Kindness Institute works collaboratively with our kaiako and kaimahi to create a program that works specifically for kura kaupapa rangatahi but is universal in its approach to support all young people. We see the direct positive impact that this program has on rangatahi Māori and others. We continue to endorse and support this program and encourage funders to support this important and much-needed kaupapa.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nāku nā,

Hare Rua
(Tumuaki/Principal)

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