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Havelock North Intermediate

Learning together

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To Whom It May Concern:

Inspire in Education (IIE) at Havelock North Intermediate School (HNI)
Re: Testimonial for Conrad Waitoa

The IIE programme has been delivered at HNI for the past four years. My part of this incredible journey started in June of 2018 when I first started at HNI. Interestingly, Conrad was also a member of the interview panel for my position, and I can recall his passion, commitment and determination, through questioning, for somebody who understood the needs for Maori students, whanau and community interests.

IIE's mission includes a kaupapa Maori approach to realise potential, within an 'innovative' organisation. This approach is perfect for HNI as we have also embarked on the Te Ara Whakamana; Mana Enhancement journey and the principles between both align well. Conrad communicates with HNI management and staff regularly, providing insight and cultural guidance to our students and whanau, bridging the cultural divide to advocate and develop potential and strengths through innovation, and 'inspire' students and staff alike to take risks when being innovative in teaching practice, and conversations using Te Reo.

Conrad is a facilitator that makes himself vulnerable when speaking with others. He uses his own experiences and friends and whanau to deliver heartfelt learnings and has a unique way to connect with our students. I recently asked some of the students for their feedback on Conrad and the most common responses included: kind, generous, funny, great to be around, we can trust him, approachable, easy to talk to about our feelings and problem.

There have been numerous occasions in my time at HNI where Conrad as assisted the school by communicating directly with whanau and through his nurturing way, been able to transition progress positively and ultimately, to the benefit of the student. Trust and respect are often a barrier with some of our whanau and Conrad established within our community. His programme is essential to our more comprehensive curriculum, and we are excited to innovate alongside IIE to strengthen our relationships and progress of Maori students.

Nigel Messervy
Deputy Principal