



February 2021

TESTIMONY: Conrad Waitoa

To whom it may concern:

As the Principal of Te Mata School I have known Conrad for many years in a variety of roles.

Firstly, as a parent of 2 delightful and engaged children, and then as a member of our Board of Trustees.

It was during his time on our Board that Conrad and his whānau became most engaged in Te Ao Māori.

A number of years ago Conrad's father Togi, became our school Kaumātua and Conrad's interest in student achievement and engagement heightened.

It is from these experiences of inequality that I believe Conrad's passion for making a difference for Māori children, particularly in the mainstream developed and 'Inspire in Education' was formulated.

Over the last 3 years Conrad has worked with our Senior Māori boys in such activities as Mihi, Waita, Haka and Taiaha. This has given these boys an opportunity to be 'Māori' within a predominantly Pākeha setting and fostered pride for their culture, respect for themselves and others, and an attitude of success.

Our boys thrived in the programme and visibly grew in mana and was reflected in the number of them who became leaders within the school.

I wholeheartedly endorse the genuine interest and passion that Conrad brings to these occasions and I am an active advocate for his aims and aspirations.

I am happy to be contacted directly should you require any further information.

Kind regards

Michael Bain

PRINCIPAL