
Distinguished School
Rotorua Primary School



Te Uru O Te Whetu

To be guided by the star

Our Vision

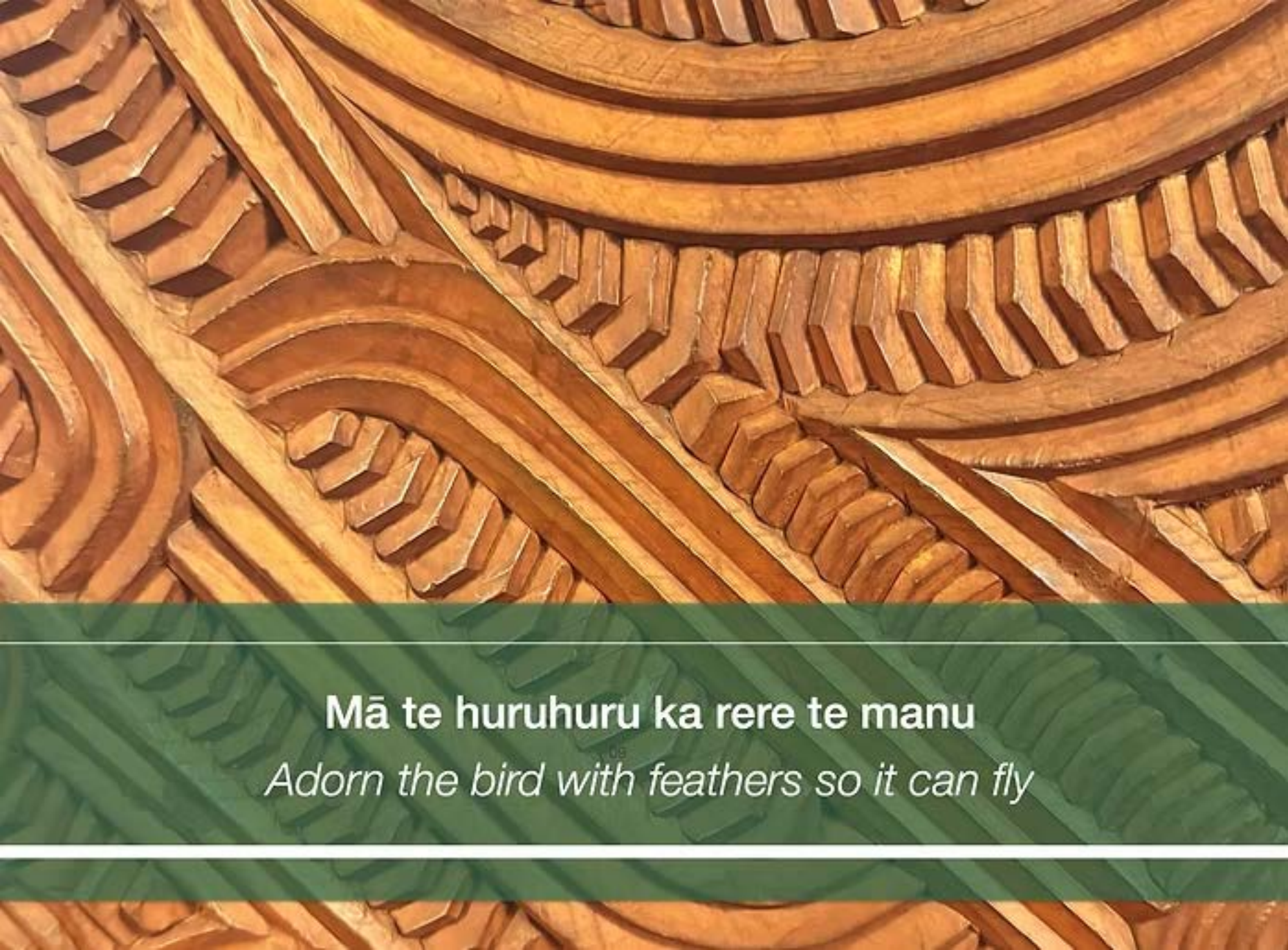


At our kura, we believe that every tamariki should reach for the stars—no challenge is beyond their grasp, and the world is at their fingertips, ready to be explored, ignited, and shaped into the future they envision.



Through our partnership with Apple, we embrace innovation within the context of Te Ao Māori, creating a learning environment where every learner thrives, every voice matters, and every dream feels achievable.

Curiosity, joy, and collaboration drive learning, with ako and kotahitanga guiding our approach. Our goal is to provide students with the tools they need to explore the world, ignite their passions, and become creators of their own future.



Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly

Technology as a transformative tool

Apple technology enables students to access meaningful learning regardless of background or ability, ensuring equity across the school.We believe diversity is our greatest strength, enriching our learning environment with the cultural wealth of our community.

Through apps like Keynote, students recreate pakiwaitara and animate pepeha, making learning engaging and relevant to their cultural context. The integration of Te Ao Māori ensures students develop both academic excellence and a strong connection to their heritage.

The concept of whakakotahi symbolises the unity of mind, body, and spirit in education. By combining culture and technology, our kura nurtures a genuine love of learning that lasts a lifetime.









Reimagining learning

We embrace the concept of ako, nurturing the relationship between kaiako and tamariki. We believe learning isn't a one-way street; it's a creative collaboration guided by the value of kotahitanga.

The relationship we nurture empower our tamariki to take ownership of their learning, blending independence and collaboration. By utilising Apple tools, including Classroom and Classwork, we enhance workflows and create culturally responsive learning experiences that provide equal opportunities for all.

Kaiako use the Maramataka to align lessons with energy levels, ensuring that both tamariki and kaiako thrive. The belief that what benefits Māori students benefits all learners shapes the school's practices, encouraging culturally responsive pedagogy and fostering cultural pride.









Preparing tomorrow's leaders





The school fosters growth and leadership through programs that inspire creativity, collaboration, and environmental responsibility.

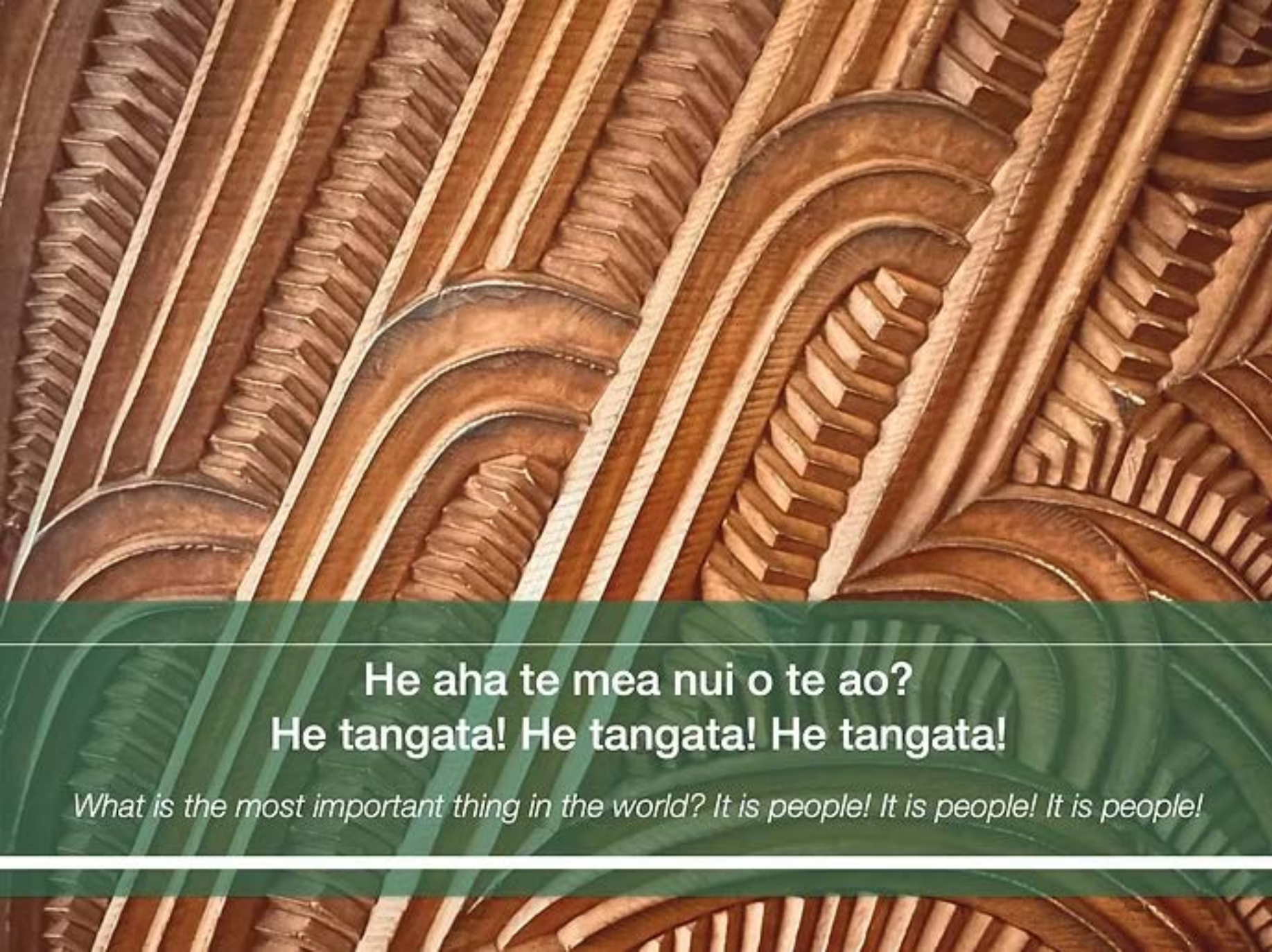
- **Engineers Club:** Open to all tamariki in Years 5 to 8, this club develops engineering and robotics skills through real-world challenges. Competitions like Aquabots Nationals and SeaPerch provide hands-on experience in teamwork and project management. Fundraising ensures equitable access, with media outlets such as NZ Herald and Te Karere showcasing the club's successes.

- **Empowering Girls to Code**: This initiative nurtures young wāhine to excel through coding challenges and collaborative projects that utilise Swift Playgrounds and app prototyping. By engaging in these activities, girls develop technical skills, confidence, and leadership abilities, empowering them to take charge of their learning and shape their futures.

- **Eco Warriors Initiative:** This environmental leadership program engages students through collaboration with the Te Kura Taiao Collective and hands-on science at Whakarnewarewa Living Village. By integrating Mātauranga Māori with modern science, students explore geothermal ecology and ancestral land stewardship. Partnerships with DOC and Victoria University enhance learning, helping students envision sustainable futures. Back in class, students connect global environmental issues with local action, becoming environmental trailblazers ready to lead innovative solutions.

These initiatives empower tamariki to develop technical expertise, environmental awareness, and leadership skills, equipping them to thrive in a dynamic world as innovators, creators, and change-makers.





He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!

At the centre of the school's philosophy is whanaungatanga—the value of building strong connections within the learning community. The well-being of tamariki and kaiako is prioritised, recognising that emotional and social growth are essential to academic success.

Our kaiako, as kaitiaki, lead the way in utilising technology to foster collaborative and culturally responsive learning environments. Through professional development that embraces Māori pedagogies, they harness the power of technology to uplift our tamariki.

Our Apple Learning Coaches empower kaiako by providing personalised support and resources that boost their confidence in using Apple technology. This collaborative approach creates a positive learning environment, ensuring kaiako feel valued and prepared, which ultimately enables them to effectively inspire and engage all learners.



Empowering our community

Our people



As a kaiako in a digital learning environment, my philosophy is centred on creating a student-focused learning environment that empowers each learner to take charge of their educational journey. By integrating digital tools into my lessons, I aim to make learning interactive and engaging, allowing tamariki to connect with the material in meaningful ways.

Collaboration is also essential in my approach; I encourage tamariki to work together using digital platforms, which enhances their communication skills and fosters a sense of whanaungatanga. I emphasise critical thinking and problem-solving, challenging students to analyse information and approach challenges creatively.

As an educator, I am committed to lifelong learning, continually updating my knowledge of new teaching methods and technological advancements to enhance my practice. I also prioritise teaching digital citizenship, guiding tamariki to use technology responsibly and respectfully in both their academic and personal lives.

Ultimately, my goal is to create a supportive environment that prepares students for success in a rapidly changing digital world. I aim to weave our Māori values, such as manaakitanga, into their learning experiences, ensuring that our culture enriches their education and helps them navigate future challenges confidently.



Tēnā kōutou, ko Waimiere ahau, he uri tēnēi nō Ngāi Tūhoe me Ngāti Awa. He kaiako Reo Rua ahau.

Apple Education Community



Creating Your Own Whakapapa (Family Tree) with Pages



Māori Picture Dictionary Using Numbers



Learning the Days of the Week with Keynote



Expressing Emotions in Te Reo Māori with Keynote



Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori 2024 - learning shapes in Te Reo



Matariki Magazine Cover

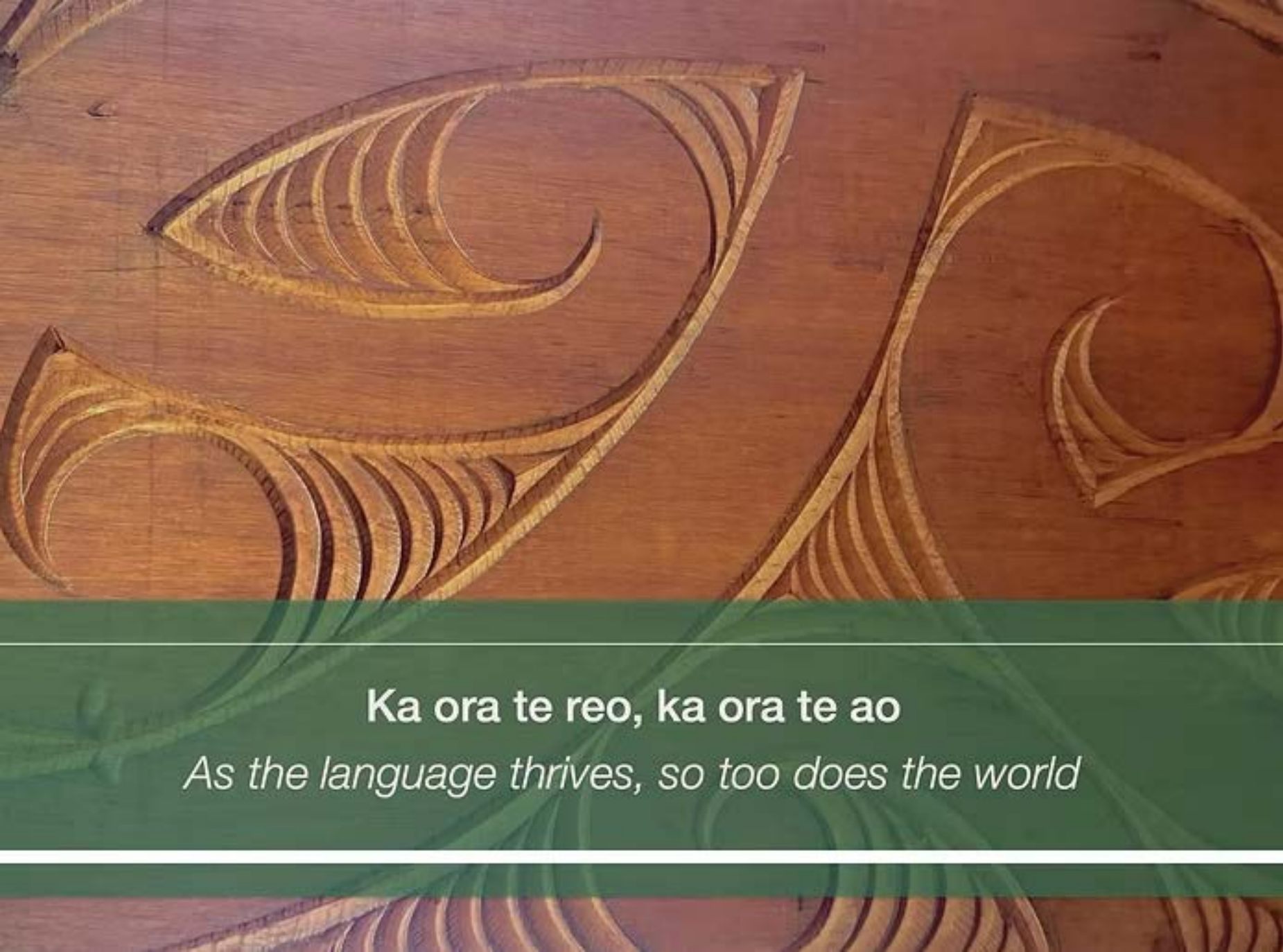


Ngā whetū o Matariki



Matariki (Reo Māori)

Our kura also empowers kaiako across Aotearoa to reimagine their teaching practices, especially in the delivery of te reo Māori through creative use of iPads. We are passionate about sharing our innovative resources with our kaiako across Aotearoa on the Apple Education Community Forum site.



Ka ora te reo, ka ora te ao

As the language thrives, so too does the world

A future without limits

Being an Apple Distinguished School means empowering students to be creators, leaders, and innovators.

We believe our tamariki are taonga, treasures to be nurtured and supported to thrive. Our mission is to grow lifelong learners through high-quality, collaborative education that respects individual and cultural needs. *Mr Fred Whata, Principal.*

At our core, we believe education should be joyful, deeply rooted in culture and empowers our taonga to know that their voice matters. With technology in our hands, our achievements are limitless.

The stars are truly in our reach.









Glossary



Kura	school
Tamariki	children
Ako	both to teach and to learn
Kotahitanga	unity, togetherness
Pakiwaitara	local stories or legends
Pepeha	genealogy, a way to introduce yourself by connection to the land and ancestors
Whakakotahi	integration
Kaiako	teacher
Taonga	treasure, something highly valued
Maramataka	Māori lunar calendar
Whanaungatanga	relationship, connection, working together
Kaitiaki	guardian or caretaker (of people, land, or taonga)
Manaakitanga	kindness, generosity and showing respect
Aotearoa	New Zealand