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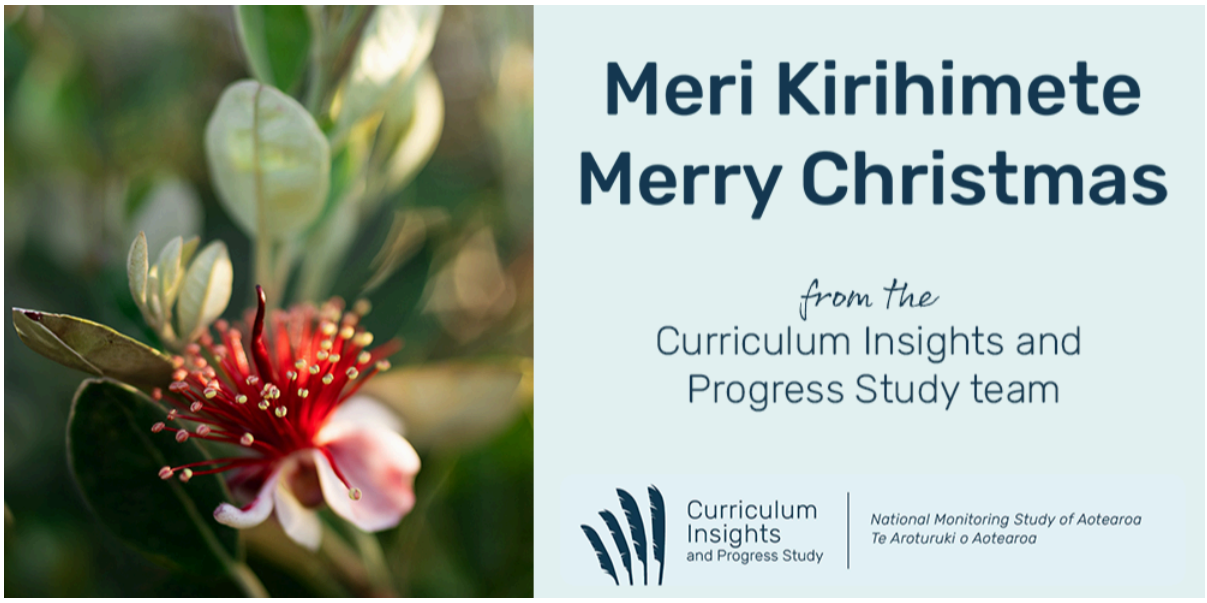
NAU MAI, HAERE MAI I WELCOME

Welcome to the third Instalment of the Tuituia pānui I newsletter for the **Curriculum Insights and Progress Study**.

As we come to the end of the year, we have taken a moment to look back with pride. So much has happened behind the scenes: careful planning, thoughtful kōrero, and steady progress on work that will take clearer shape in the months ahead. Even if much of it isn't visible yet, every step has been purposeful. We are grateful to everyone who has been part of the journey.

To ākonga, kura, kaiako, tumuaki, and partners across the motu: thank you for your energy, generosity, and support throughout the year.

Our study team wishes you and your whānau Meri Kirihimete | Merry Christmas, a restful summer break, and the chance to slow down and recharge. We look forward to reconnecting with you in 2026.



We encourage you to share this newsletter with staff, whānau, and friends.

Ngā rīpota hou | New Reports

POUĀRAHI I SUPPORTING ĀKONGA MĀORI IN WRITING

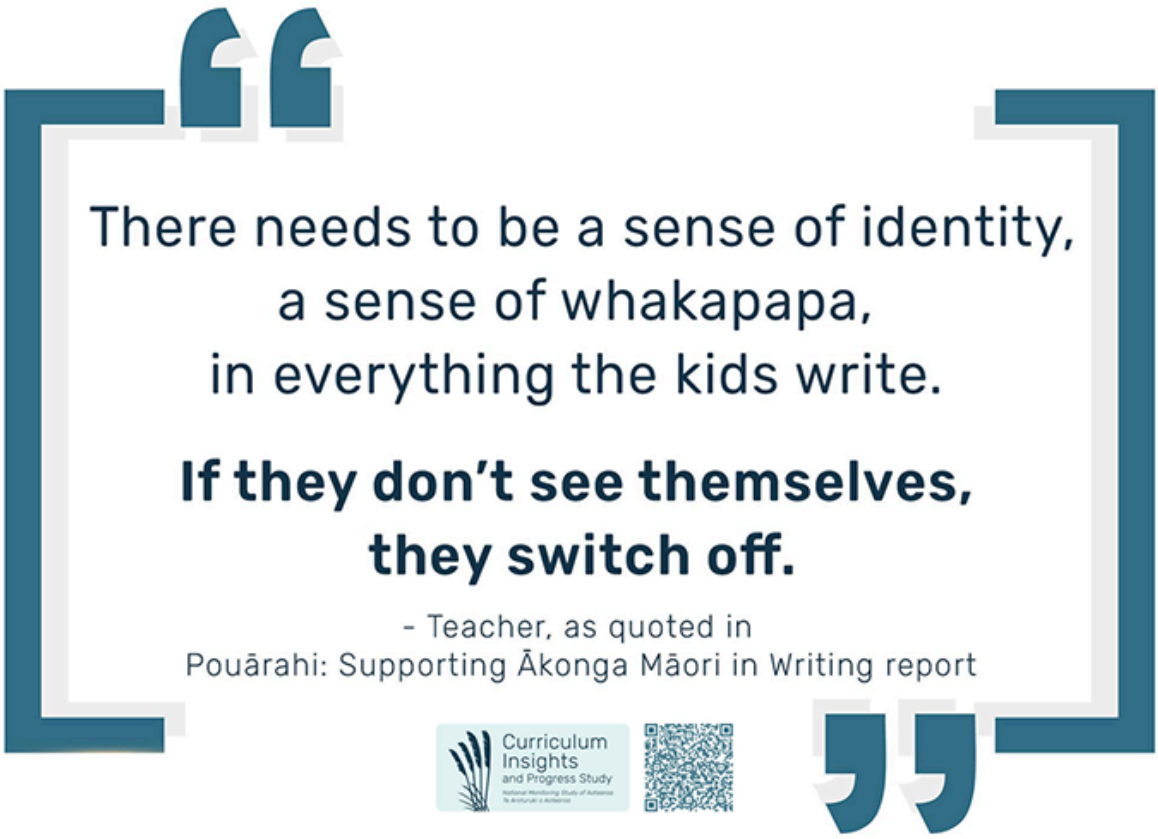
If you missed it the first time around, our Curriculum Insights report Pouārahi: Te tautoko i ngā ākonga Māori – Tuhituhi | Supporting ākonga Māori in writing is well worth a read. It explores a simple but important question: *what helps ākonga Māori flourish as writers?*

The research team spent time with schools where Māori learners are achieving strongly in writing. Their experiences show what's possible when classrooms centre whanaungatanga | relationships, kotahitanga | togetherness, and nga tumanako nui | high expectations.

Whether you're teaching, leading, or supporting ākonga in other ways, you'll find practical ideas here to spark reflection and shape your approach to writing.

Ka nui te mihi to the kura, kaiako, and tumuaki who welcomed us and shared their stories. Your openness and generosity have helped clarify the path forward for supporting ākonga Māori in writing.

Read Pouārahi: Supporting Ākonga Māori in writing



A mātou mahi | From the study

HE MIHI NUI I A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR STUDY SCHOOLS

We would like to acknowledge the kura who took part in 2025 (in the main study or as part of our Research Panel of Schools), offering their time, insight, and generosity. Your commitment sits at the heart of this mahi. By opening your doors, sharing your experiences, and speaking honestly about what's happening for your ākonga, you've helped build a clearer picture of student progress across Aotearoa.

Every kōrero, every example, every moment of reflection has shaped this work in a meaningful way. We simply couldn't do this without you, and we're deeply grateful for the care and openness you brought to the study.
Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou katoa.

RECRUITMENT FOR 2026 HAS BEGUN!

Though we are still wrapping up 2025, we have already turned our focus toward the recruitment process for our 2026 Study Schools.

It has been a busy year for everyone, and we recognise the pace and scale of change that the sector is currently navigating. With curriculum shifts, staffing pressures, and the sheer volume of mahi landing on kaiako, tumuaki, and ākonga, this is a undeniably challenging time across the motu. Many of us involved in the study are teachers, too, so we understand how stretched schools are feeling. That's exactly why this work matters. The

study continues to shine a light on what best supports learners, and your involvement helps keep that learning grounded in real classrooms and real experiences.

If your school is approached, we thank you for considering taking part, and for the ongoing support you show by opening your doors to this kaupapa. Your contribution makes all the difference to what we can achieve together.

PAE PĀPĀHO PĀPORI I JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Don't forget to join us on social media to keep up to date with all that is going on with the study.

Follow us on Facebook I Join us on LinkedIn.

Ngā kaupapa o te wā | Events

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

Our next edition will come with a new layout and feel, and we're excited to share it with you. Our team has worked hard to design something that better represents our kaupapa and the direction of our study.

If you'd like to share feedback or ideas for the Curriculum Insight and Progress Study, please feel free to email us. We genuinely value your perspective.

The Curriculum Insights and Progress Study is a collaboration between the University of Otago and the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, conducted on contract to the Ministry of Education.

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ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

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