

Conifer Grove School Description

Conifer Grove School is a full Primary School in an urban suburb of Auckland. Located just off the Southern Motorway in Takanini, Conifer Grove School is set in tree lined streets, with two street entries, walkways and local amenities close at hand. There are approximately 530 students, Years 1-8 with 44 staff including Principal, Senior Managers, Teachers, Admin and Support Staff.

We place strong emphasis on Literacy and Maths and recognize the talents and abilities of all students through a range of exciting and varied programmes, sporting and cultural opportunities. Conifer Grove School enhances student learning through The Arts, Sciences, Social Studies, Technology and ICT, Health and Physical Education and Second Language learning (Year 7-8). Students have opportunities to be involved in Kapa Haka, Pacifica Group, Choir, Band and various other musical groups as well as a wide range of sports where we achieve excellent results. The school provides Technology on-site for Year 7 and 8 students with Food, Digital, Hard Materials and Robotics Technology. The school strongly promotes STEM Development with strengths in the Year 5/6 area of the school after a 2-year funded trial program in STEM 2016-2017.

Our school has high standards and expectations and we believe that the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Caring and Excellence, are special and an important part of the culture for learning that we have here. Conifer Grove School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) School. This underpins learning and all that we do and value at Conifer Grove School. We believe our students can all be the best they can be, that they can strive for excellence and that is our role to encourage, inspire and foster a lifetime of learning, where they can realise their potential. Our students are polite, well behaved and visitors to the school praise their attitude and manners. Our students have excellent opportunities to develop leadership and our Student Council are organised and effectively run assemblies and events.

The school is currently completing a 3 Year Consultation process to develop a Strategic Digital Plan in 2018 – 2020. There have been BOT, parent, staff and student contributions to identify strengths, needs, direction and challenges for the future. The school has attractive grounds and well-resourced facilities – most classrooms have been upgraded in recent years with 4- 8 rooms soon to be upgraded once the 5YA Plan (2017-2018 on) has been signed off at the Ministry. The school has a magnificent Knowledge Centre / Library, a Hall (recently upgraded), a Music Room, and a STEM facility. There are 24 classrooms (2 used for other small group purposes). There are digital devices in all rooms, and class sets of computers in the Knowledge Centre, the Digital Year 7 class and in the Technology Room. The school has just completed an extra playground for students to link up older playgrounds.

The school has been open for 36 years has had three Principal's in this time, with the outgoing Principal in the role the last 11 years. The school has a DP and AP (also SENCO) with 4 teams all led by a Team Leader:

Year 1 – 2 Timata, Year 3 – 4 Haemata, Year 5 – 6 Whanake, Year 7 – 8 Kotahitanga. In the past 11 years, there have been significant changes in the demographics of the community with a very diverse ethnic breakdown and a very diverse economic range.

The school has an active and supportive Board of Trustees, a Maori Whanau Group (Te Ara Hou) and a small PTA who work hard for the students and help provide the extras in the areas of funding and our bi annual Cultural Festival. The school contracts out the cleaning of the school and a morning / after school care to outside providers.

The school is in a sound financial position with effective financial policies and systems in place. The school is part of the Papakura Principal's Network, and a COL that is still at the foundation and collaboration stage after 18 months of building collaboration and a foundation for taking next steps.

Challenges for the future include the ongoing progress along a continuum, in areas of Innovative Learning Pedagogy/Curriculum areas, Cultural understanding and Responsiveness, Engagement of all School Stakeholders and the potential growth of urban South Auckland. Currently a subdivision is being built on the school zone boundary, Enrolment Zones are yet to be established by the MOE. Conifer Grove School BOT is at this stage keen to retain the current school zone and take some students from out of zone to ensure steady numbers.

Please refer to school website for more information:
www.conifergrove.school.nz