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"He tōtara kua wehe"

To the Conifer Grove School Community,

It is with a heavy heart that the Conifer Grove School Board of Trustees announces the resignation of our Tumuaki, Principal and leader Raj Dullabh. Raj's last day with us will be Friday, 28th June 2025.

Raj has led our kura through some amazing change and growth. His steadfast commitment to educating and growing lifelong learners has had a massive impact on tamariki who have attended our kura during his tenure. He has led with an unwavering passion for our Tamariki, our staff and community.

Under Raj's leadership, our kura has navigated some unprecedented challenges which the country, and the world have faced. His steady leadership not only saw us through that time, but also guided our kura on the pathway to recovering from that event.

Raj has built a culture of collaboration and inclusiveness within our kura which has facilitated the vibrant learning environment our staff and Tamariki enjoy. A major highlight has been the relationship he has led with manawhenua, Te Akitai. The relationship built has facilitated learning for not only our Tamariki, but our community as a whole.

We understand that Raj has accepted a new opportunity that will allow him to grow further in his journey. We are all grateful to have had him as our Tumuaki for 9 years, and we also acknowledge his 28 total years of experience as an educator. We also acknowledge Raj's whanau, who have gifted our kura with their husbands, their fathers time and energy.

Mate atu he tētēkura, ara mai he tētēkura - When one leader departs us another is ready to appear. The board have unanimously chosen to appoint Lee-anne Maxwell as the Acting Principal upon Raj's departure. This will ensure continuity and stability in our kura. We acknowledge Lee-anne for accepting the responsibility of the role, and she will have the full support of our Board in the role.

The Board will now begin the process of appointing a new Tumuaki/Principal who will continue to build upon the strong foundations Raj has established. We are committed to a thorough and transparent process to ensure the best possible leadership for our school. We will keep the community informed as this process progresses.

He totara kua wehe, ka nui te mihi ki a koe Raj me tō whanau. Whaia tō iti Kahurangi. Me mau tonu koe i te ihi, te wehi, me te wana mā rātou, ngā tauria!

A steadfast totara leaves us. We acknowledge you Raj and your whanau. Follow your aspirations, and always maintain that love and passion for your students.

Warren Rakena, Presiding Member
for Conifer Grove School Board of Trustees