

The Stone Carvings by Class 7 2017, Class 8 2018 and Class 9 2019

The Class 7 impulse is about looking beyond the immediate horizon and beginning voyage of discovery that mirrors the students' own development. Pictures of bravery and sacrifice in daring to go beyond the known and to reflect upon the consequence of this is investigated. The great voyages of the Pacific is one aspect covered in this. Class 7 2017 explored the navigation skills of the people from Hawaiki and through the Astronomy main lesson learned about the star compass Te Kapehu Whetu. At this time the class wrote a play titled 'Te Kapehu Whetu' to demonstrate their learning. This play was all in Te Reo and depicted how the Polynesian people discovered Aotearoa through navigating with the stars. The Class 7 play 'Te Kapehu Whetu' became the inspiration for the naming of the school hall as it is the "centre" of the school. Also during this time a large stone was donated to the school and placed on the roundabout garden. Given that the existing stone resembled a compass point it was decided to have it pointing north and use some symbolised stone carvings to signify the various points of a compass.

Through their art lessons the Class 7 students' began drawing symbols that represented various aspects related to their 'Age of Exploration' main lessons and then modelled them out of clay. Following from this the stone carvings came about after discussions relating to the elements found in the Earth during a Physics main lesson which included exploring matter and combustion in preparation to their Wilderness Camp. The students in pairs chose elements and drew designs that they personally connected with. When it came to their handcraft lessons the students worked in pairs or three's to recreate their models into stone carvings. They had further discussions around how to design the form from their initial designs into 3D sculptures. The 4 chosen elements of fire, water, earth and air were chosen as they are present around and within us and are essential to all life - that they bring balance, maintaining balance ensures physical and psychological well being - hauora.

North - Ahi - Fire

Represents birth, transformation, change and imagination - it has a masculine energy.

It is represented by the full moon, summer and noon. The design is two flames twisting together reaching up, which acknowledges the ever changing form of flame and change.



South - Whenua - Earth

Represents knowledge, strength, wisdom and grounding - It is feminine energy.

It is represented by the new moon, winter and midnight. The design is a solid stone organic shape with relief style sculpting - depicting an unfurling koru - fern frond. The Koiri kowhaiwhai has been used, depicting a mother nurturing design of koru protecting the smaller koru unfurling underneath it. The Koiri represents looking back at past/ reflecting and looking forward into the future - which we thought was relevant to the mother earth theme.

West - Wai - Water

Represents emotions, heart , intuition, spirituality, dreaming and subconscious - it is a feminine energy.

It is represented by the Waning moon, autumn and the sunset. The design depicts two waves inspired by the Pūhoro kowhaiwhai - which represents future generations - there are a number of smaller waves coming through this design. The main two waves show fluidity, growth and movement.



East - Hau (Rangi) - Air

Represents protection, focus, clarity and the power of the sun - It is a masculine energy.

It is represented by the Waxing moon, Spring and sunrise. The design depicts the eternal flow of the figure of 8 - the cyclic nature of air and how we need and use it to survive - the never ending quality of the 8.

During 2018 and 2019 the carvings continued to be worked on by the remaining students. A lot of back ground work was done for the development of these carvings and have taken three years to complete. A special thanks for Charlotte and Lisa for their input and expertise throughout this process.

Mel Lints