

"Whāia teiti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei"

Pursue that which is precious and do not be deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain

Together we stood at the foot of our majestic mountain chief Otanewainuku. The mauri that flowed between us all was electric. With zeal, passion, and gusto 'Team Monday' set off... but this time accompanied by a new and much younger adventurer, Arlo who was much like 'Maui Mohoi the resourceful, resilient and determined.' Captivated and inspired at this opportunity to tackle the challenge and grow his learning Arlo stood at the base of the tree and planned his ascent. Lowering his body to remain balanced he gradually worked his way up the branch. The rest of the team stood in awe and Des decided to follow behind. The branch began to wobble and sway. Arlo found himself quite far from the lush ngahere floor and outside of his comfort zone. Figuring out how to get down was the next challenge...



Arlo, in November I wrote a story for you called 'He Mauri tangata: The child as an energetic life force'. This story captures how you came into this world as an intelligent and spiritual being with a deep desire to tackle challenges and grow your learning. Arlo, just like Maui mohoi, when you find yourself in moments of uncertainty, outside of your zone of comfort you tap into your resourcefulness, resilience, and determination to grow your learning. As I reflect on your mana aotūroa here today I see a continuation of this learning. A whakataukī also comes to mind, that is "Whāia teiti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei" Which means, "pursue that which is precious and do not be deterred than anything less than a lofty mountain." Arlo, this whakataukī captures your identity as a learner. You have always had a strong urge to go beyond your established limit, you see each challenge as an opportunity to wrestle with and grow your mātauranga.



Dear Arlo, on this occasion you may have been the teina within 'Team Monday', although you my friend are a mighty force to be reckoned with, one who inspired some of our well-seasoned and experienced tuakana to embrace uncertainty and stretch their learning... **As you continue to respond to the wonderful invitations that our beloved farm has to offer with the same gusto and zeal I can see that you will continue to grow your identity as a resourceful and resilient learner**, one who pursues his goals with perseverance, not deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain. Soon there will come a time for you to officially be a part of 'Team Monday', a community of learners who relishes challenges and takes managed risks. We set our own goals and through effort, practice, sheer grit, and determination we achieve those goals. I can see you not only weaving in your own ways of being, doing, and learning within this group and strengthening it, but pioneering and leading the way Arlo! I simply cannot wait...

Arohanui,
Molly

January
2023