

**ADDRESS TO THE DE LA SALLE COLLEGE COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF
THE NEITA AWARD PRESENTATION TO KANE RAUKURA, OCTOBER 12TH, 2010**

Good morning everyone

Naumai, Haere Mai, Tena koutou katoa

Talofa, Malo e lei, Kiorana, Bulla Vanaka and other international greetings.

- Mr Paul Muller
- Brother David Miller
- Kane Raukura
- Kane's family
- Staff, students and friends of De La Salle College

It gives me great pleasure to come to the College today as the National Co-ordinator of the National Excellence In Teaching Awards and to be able to publicly recognise one of our own teachers, Kane Raukura, who is to receive the top New Zealand award in the National Excellence In Teaching citation.

Quite co-incidentally, I happen to know Kane very well. When I was the principal of the College, Kane was elected as school captain in 1991, nearly twenty years ago. Of the seventeen school captains I worked with when I was here, he was an outstanding College leader. I'm sure Mr Singh and Mr O'Malley, who were here at that time, will agree with me about this.

One of the joys of today is to be able to come back to the College and present him with this award of \$5,000 which recognises that he is among New Zealand's top, very best teachers. Students, you already know this, because many of you have been in his classes or have seen some of his magic when he has run special assemblies promoting science as a worthwhile subject to study.

The panel of seven experts who selected Kane from over five hundred teachers who were nominated for this award extend their warmest congratulations to him on his outstanding success.

Besides Kane's extraordinary success, the College's principal, staff and you students, can also take a bow on this occasion, since it reflects positively on all of you.

I would also like to acknowledge Kane's wife, Meredith and their children; his brother, Harley and his family, along with his Dad, who is very sick and also his other family members. Most of you would not know that Kane's and Harley's mother died while they were lads at the College. Despite this bad setback in their lives, they picked themselves up and were successful at College and have gone on to be leaders in their teaching and police careers.

We honour Kane today because he is a leader. He is a leader because he always asks the question, how can we do this better and achieve at higher levels in class work, sport, work and relationships with other people? He is never content to be in the same old, same old way of doing things, when it is possible to have an eye to do things better, to achieve at a higher standards.

Leadership is one of the world's most precious resources. Nothing happens without it, in classrooms, in schools, in factories, in homes and in churches. Everyone here today has some leadership quality in them. That means you are always able to improve yourself and the lives of those around you, despite the difficulties you may have, either personally, at home or at school.

Our life is what our thoughts and ideas make it. If you have bright positive thoughts, you will have a bright positive life. If you blame others for all that goes wrong in your life you will be miserable and unhappy.

Mr Kane Raukura is showing us all he is a leader and a dealer in hope – he believes tomorrow can be better than today! He is generous towards his students and is not afraid to try out new ideas and ways of doing things. As a famous Chinese political leader said twenty years ago, "it doesn't matter whether your cat is black or white, providing it catches mice" – that means being a person of action who gets things done, who supports others and does good things for them.

Could I suggest to you all that disadvantage of any kind is not a destination in life, nor is it an ordained destiny? We are all able to achieve great things like Mr Raukura – how far you go in life is dependent on your attitude. If it is a 'can do' one you will be able to shoot for the stars and be happy in your life.

I conclude by again warmly congratulating your wonderful teacher, Kane Raukura, who is today given the very special honour of being a five star, first class teacher of excellence. We salute you Kane and honour you!! THANK YOU for the inspiration, dedication and hard work you put into the lives of your students at De La Salle College. They are the beneficiaries of your hard work and dedication. I wish you well and hope you enjoy spending the \$5,000.00.

Patrick J Lynch

National Co-Ordinator

NZ NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Awards)