

NEWSLINK



TERM 2
2011



Football Heroes

What's on Top?

Tena Koutou E Hoa Ma

Participation in sports teams has grown over the last few years to the point where we have over 80% of students in teams throughout the year. At present 90 students play football, 18 basketball and 8 netball. In summer we have children playing cricket and touch rugby. I believe this participation impacts positively on the students and families. As well as being exercise for the body, it is great for social and mental development.

Learning to be part of a team, learning about rules, having a shared responsibility for the game and the outcome helps students develop many capabilities that are required for living. Participating and contributing, relating to others, managing themselves and thinking are all enhanced through the students involvement. Being responsible for turning up to practices and games and being a team player is helping students develop positive attitudes and values which they will carry with them into their adult lives.

Parents have a great opportunity through sport to model their values to their children. Don't miss this chance to show respect, integrity, and perseverance when next your child's

team takes to the field or the court. Celebrate and strive for the wins and take the losses. Learning about winning and losing is a natural part of childhood experiences and through the primary years children also learn about the meaning of 'cheating' and 'fairness'.

If you play plenty of games with young children where they have experiences of winning and losing (like snakes and ladders), it is good practice for when they play other games where they may not win as often. Think about how your actions and what you say affect your child. The way you cope with losing yourself, and by what you say after wins and losses will influence your child's response.

So well done Omata parents, keep encouraging and supporting your children with their sports, enjoy the day and help them improve their skills for next time.

The introduction of our four pods of six ipads this term is proving to be exciting for teachers and students as they discover the learning opportunities available. Technical barriers are taken away with ipads and they are magic in the hands of children. People that have shied away from other forms of technology for fear of getting stuck or making a mistake and messing it up are

loving the no fuss access to amazing apps that engage children in practicing skills and being challenged to push their learning further. The ipads will have homes in Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 5 but are accessible for other rooms on request.

We acknowledge the generous support from a TSB Community Trust grant and the Home and School which helped purchase twenty four ipad2s.

Thanks also to all our families for the support given to our teachers and the school. It makes the world of difference when our expectations and standards at school are backed up by parents at home. Welcome to all our new families and don't hesitate to come in and talk to us. We value your involvement and welcome your feedback as we are always striving to improve.

Enjoy the winter break

Ka Kite Ano

Karen Brisco Principal

Omata Play-Group

Rachel Shotter invites all pre-schoolers and parents to playgroup held every second Thursday in the hall. Please give her a call if you would like more information.

Next play-group is:

4th August 9-11am

Phone Rachel 751 4529

Board of Trustees Update

Hamish Logan
Chairperson

Hard to believe we are halfway through the school year with the second of two long terms behind us. With winter sport well under way wasn't it great to see all our soccer teams at home. This along with the wonderful book sale, coffee, cake and sausage sizzle had everyone well catered for. Another great community event at Omata School, thanks to Home & School and all who supported the day.

Our 10ypp (ten year property plan) which is part of our cyclical maintenance programme has been developed and gone to the Ministry for approval. Other than the general maintenance of the school, the 10ypp allows us to plan for the future and growth of the school, not only for today's student, but tomorrows students as well; keeping our school a modern and inspirational place to learn.

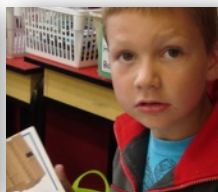
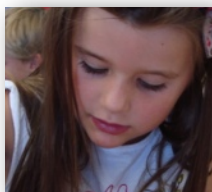
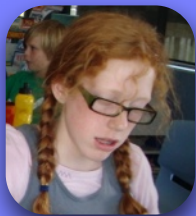
The government's promise of high-speed broadband for schools is on the horizon but no fixed date as yet.

With new projects on the 'to do' list, watch this space.

The BoT, working together with staff and with feedback from yourselves, have reviewed the strategic plan to include

National Standards and keep pace with our ever changing world of new technology and way our children learn.

This all supports our vision of a supportive environment challenging children to become responsible learners.



Another term has flown by, I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm the children have towards their learning.

In literacy we have been writing reports. The children have learnt the importance of having specific research questions and how to structure a report. In reading, we have been focusing on ensuring a deep understanding of what we have read.

During term 2 the children have further developed their multiplication, division and fraction knowledge. Times tables have also been a focus and it has been pleasing to see that six children have achieved the learning of all their times tables and many others are very close.

Room 3 have enjoyed learning about birds and their environment. We have now moved into flight and are investigating how things get into and stay in the air.

Art Studios have been a highlight this term. The children were buzzing with enthusiasm and excitement in creating their artworks.

Regards Vicky

ROOM 4

A very wet Term 2 almost over. We continued the Rich topic of Nga Manu and had a very lucky day to go on the trip to Rotokare with no rain and some sunshine. The children enjoyed the bus trip and the learning activities we did there, followed by the bush walk.

This term Room 4 has started using our new pod of six ipads. I have downloaded some excellent learning activities (apps) involving reading, spelling and mathematics which the children use in group teaching and then as an independent activity. With this resource in the class the children have focussed once again on being responsible for class equipment and the rule is that any child on the stop sign will not be able to use the ipads.

In mathematics we have been learning to skip count in twos, know doubles to ten or up to twenty and then using everyday context to solve problems finding half of a set.

All in all a busy term, so enjoy a good holiday break.

Kind regards Viv

ROOM 5

The Nga Manu rich topic has been our main focus for this term with great learning happening in several curriculum areas. The children have developed their knowledge of birds and their adaptations and this learning was supported by our fantastic trip to Lake Rotokare. There has been some amazing artwork created alongside this topic also, both

in the classroom and in the recent art studios. The children have also written information reports on New Zealand birds.

In P.E. we have been focusing on Large ball skills and the Year 1 & 2's were lucky enough to get a fine day to show off our skills at the Oakura Ball Skills afternoon. In Maths we have been working hard to learn our basic facts and to use these to help us solve tricky addition and subtraction problems. The recent addition of six ipads to our classroom has opened many new learning windows for us and we are excited about this wonderful opportunity to integrate technology into our everyday learning programmes. Have a safe and well deserved break over the holidays.

Regards Alex

ROOM 6

One of the rewards one gets from having taught for more years than one would care to admit, is in seeing students take on for them, what are new ideas and new contexts for learning that you may have explored in the past with other groups of students and then seeing them push the boundaries of what is possible far beyond what you have seen students achieve in the past. This is currently happening in Room 6. First, it was with isometric drawing which was introduced to the students as a device to help them visualise 3D shapes. What some of the students have created has been amazing, including futuristic cities and even some M.C. Escher like illusions of impossibility. Currently it is happening again when LOGO was introduced to the class to help the students explore the construction of geometric shapes. For anyone unfamiliar with LOGO it is a simple word based computer programming language invented in the late 1960s and used as a tool for constructivist teaching by the likes of Seymour Papert a leading thinker in educational theory. The special quality of LOGO is that while it is relatively easy to learn it is completely open ended, as there is no limit to what is possible. To see Year 7 and 8 students completely absorbed in what they are doing; calculating angles, accurately measuring distances and using logical thinking to solve problems so as to write programs that will make the Turtle daw prescribed and invented geometric designs has been very rewarding indeed.

Another interesting initiative introduced this term are Literacy Circles in which groups of students explore ideas and language, based around a series of books that they actually want to read. The idea is working well, though some fine tuning is still needed. Once again it will be a case of the students who will push the boundaries and show what is possible, raising everyone's expectations and standards. The expectation at this stage is that Literacy Circles will be bedded in as a regular component of our reading programme.

Regards

Pat Murphy

ROOM 1

Our rich topic Nga Manu has been a great success. The students have learnt so much about about how birds survive in their particular habitat. We found it really interesting that you can tell what sort of food a bird eats by looking at its beak and feet. For our home learning some children chose learning activities while some completed a project on a specific bird. I was very impressed with the children's enthusiasm and the high quality of learning that was involved.

For numeracy we have been learning about multiplication and skip counting forwards and backwards. Most students are learning their tables and are keen to be tested for our quick ten chart.

For the last few weeks of term we will be designing, researching and making bird feeders for a technology topic.

In physical education it has been great to see the children gain confidence with their gymnastic skills.

Enjoy your holidays, hopefully we will get some fine weather.

Regards Bridgit

ROOM 2

Term 2 saw a continuation of our Nga Manu unit and a focus on researching using the internet and report writing. These reports are currently on the wall in Room 2 and well worth reading.

In maths, our focus has been on statistics and in groups we have conducted surveys, graphed our results and interpreted those results. We also incorporated formal letter writing into this unit. These projects are also on display in the class.

In PE we began the term by looking at large ball skills (basketball & soccer) and then moved onto gymnastics, with the Year 6 students recently showcasing their gymnastic skills at Okato.

There has been some amazing art completed this term in class and we have also been lucky enough to once again have Rei Hendry and the studio art groups operating.

We are now studying flight and are in the process of making scaled down replica models of planes and completing technical drawings of these models; with an emphasis on measurement.

Kind Regards Stuart

ROOM 3



Hi, my name is Glynis Kemp and I would like to initially take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairperson for Home & School. My daughter, Rhiannon Moon, is Yr 5 in Vicky Aylward's class and I can usually be found outside Rm 3 on a Thursday or Friday. Term 2 has whizzed by, with a fun, community fundraiser - the 'Book & Bake Fair'. The money raised went towards a replacement BBQ and art supplies to assist with the wonderful artwork the children are creating at present. On Sunday the 21st August next term, we have Icon Photography coming to school to take family photos; details will follow soon, but this is a fantastic opportunity to get up-to-date family photos.

I am looking forward to the end of term Music Assembly (Friday, 15 July); this is always a great way to acknowledge the effort that the students put into their music learning. H&S are going to be holding an Omata Cafe straight after assembly that day, so hope to see you there for a hot drink & cake and have the opportunity to have a chat.

Thanks for all your efforts in Term 2 and have a safe and enjoyable holiday.