

NEWSLINK



TERM 3
2011



Cross Country Brilliance
Claudia and Tegan

What's on Top?

Tena Koutou E Hoa Ma

We have completed another round of 3D Conferences this term and we hope everyone found them informative and useful. The conferences are for strengthening the learning team, showing progress made in key areas and the next steps needed for success. Teachers are continuously making judgements about students' learning; Where they are at? What are the gaps? What do they need to learn next? These judgements are formed from synthesising many sources of information about a student. We break these into four main sources; measuring, listening, observing and surveying.

Measuring involves the testing that we do including standardised nationally normed tests like STAR, asTTle and PAT; school entry checks, 6yr nets and teacher-made tests for topics, basic facts etc. Analysis of these provide quality information on where strengths and weaknesses are, pointing the way to developing our needs' based learning programmes and also providing us with an indication of where the student is in relation to others of the same age.

We **listen** to the 'learning to learn' conversations of students when they are in pairs, groups or involved in class

discussions. We listen to parents both at 3D conferences and other times, everything we hear from, and about the student, provides valuable information.

We **observe** how students problem solve, question, explain and discuss their ideas. We observe how resourceful, flexible, creative and resilient they are; how they ask for help; how they perceive and tackle a task; how they take responsibility and how they demonstrate essential skills.

Surveying is part of our informal assessment where we do running records, check progress against exemplars, look at the evidence of learning in exercise books, task records, learning journals, 'Go for Gold' charts, goal setting and self/peer assessments.

Through these means we are able to form a professional judgement about a student's knowledge, proficiency and capability. This judgement informs our teaching and in most cases is shared with the student and of course with parents.

Research and good practice tell us that it is important to engage the learner in the learning process and give them the understanding of how to reach their next learning goals and what these are. Know where your child is at with their learning and how you can support their

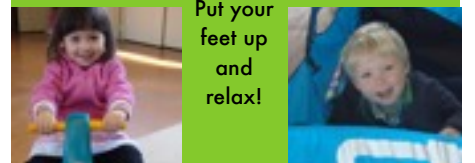
progress. Take time to speak to teachers as often as you feel the need throughout the year about progress or issues. You don't need to wait for interviews to do this. Communication is the key in any relationship and our relationship with our community of parents is the key to success for our students. So thank you for your attendance and continued support of the school.

The involvement in the cross country this year has been outstanding. Children have been fit and active participants and shown determination to do their best and improve. Our thanks once again go to John and Lynda Mathews and their team of horticulturalists for the use of the stunning Waireka Estate.

Enjoy the spring break
Ka Kite Ano Karen Brisco

Omata School Play-Group

We invite all pre-schoolers and parents to play-group held every second Thursday in the hall. Next play-group is: 3rd November 9-11am Phone Rachel Alford 7511957
Huge thanks to Rachel Shoter for running playgroup brilliantly.



Put your
feet up
and
relax!

Board of Trustees Update

Hamish Logan
Chairperson

As we have a break between winter and summer sports I would like to take the time to thank all of our fantastic coaches, without you the sports just wouldn't happen. Thanks also to parents for the support you show your coaches, it has been a great season with most children involved in one sport or another.

At our last meeting we had a curriculum report from Stuart Bennett on health and physical education. This highlighted the high participation we have in all sports and activities. As we head to summer, Stuart reminded us of the success of the swim programme in term one and the improvement we saw across our students. Vicky Aylward also presented a curriculum report on social sciences and senior reading. The Rotokare trip was a great success with the children learning a great deal outside the school gate and then applying this to their learning back at school. The reading report focused on some very motivational professional development that teachers took on. They have applied this to motivate our students and inspire them in different ways to read more and encourage each other.

The board is very impressed with the student council and bush council with the way they are highlighting any concerns and putting in place good solutions. It has been a big term with lots of visitors to the school. Thanks to Karen, (our wonderful principal who seems to have this knack of making things happen at the drop of the hat) the Ranfurly Shield and the Russian rugby team came to Omata. Our students put on a wonderful welcome and items for the Russians. All this helps the education of our children and makes school a fun place to be.

Go the All Blacks.

Class Acts



In literacy we have been writing speeches and will be ready to share some next term in Assembly. We are also researching information about the countries participating in the Rugby World Cup.

In mathematics we are doing a measurement unit where 'Time' is the main focus. The children are learning to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks. Our expert time tellers have moved onto learning about the 24 hour clock.

Regards, Vicky

ROOM 4

Room 4 and Room 7

Term 3 has seen fantastic progress achieved by all the children in their writing and reading. The new class set-up has certainly helped the children achieve with such success. The key Learning to Learn word we have had as our goal this Term has been PERSEVERANCE. The children have shown how they do this with all their learning. Everything from memorising their address and phone number in 'Keeping Ourselves Safe'; training and improving fitness for the cross country, developing co-ordination for skipping: learning all the letter names and sounds: moving up a list in the 'Quick to Spell' words, learning number facts to 10 and learning new techniques with art. It was a big thrill when one of the alternative World Cup's we designed was chosen by the Russian rugby team when they visited school to take back just incase they didn't win the real one! One of the big goals was for the older children in the class to now become more independent with their writing, adding detail, sequencing ideas and including 'wow' words. This has resulted in many 'Learning Power Heroes' and Principal Awards for their efforts.

Have a good holiday and be refreshed to flex those learning muscles in Term 4.

Regards Viv and Julie

ROOM 5

It has been a fantastic term in Room 5, packed full of exciting learning. We started off our term with 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' where our main focus was to learn our address, our phone number and our parents cellphone numbers. For the second part of the term our learning has been focused around 'The Rugby World Cup'. We have been learning about our own country and also about Ireland. We have been very lucky to have some Ireland experts in Room 5 and this has provided some great opportunities for learning, including an Irish dancing expert who is helping us to prepare for folk dancing next term. In writing we have been focused on setting learning goals for ourselves and monitoring our success. We have learnt about persuasive

writing and we even tried to persuade Mrs Hill that the All Blacks are the best rugby team in the world. P.E has been another big focus for this term and we really enjoyed learning aerobics with Karyn and participating in the school cross country race, where all children gave it their best. In the last part of the term we have been doing Jump Rope and the level of skill children have in this area is amazing. We look forward to sharing our jump rope skills with you on the last day of term. Have a safe and enjoyable break over the holidays.

Regards, Alex

ROOM 6

Our major focus for Term 3 has been the return of what we call the 'People's Court,' this is a literacy based unit revolving around action research and writing an argument to put forward a particular point of view. This argument will be presented to the 'People's Court' with audio visual support early in Term 4. Our theme this time is 'The people and events of our past, that have had an influence on who we are as New Zealand citizens today.' In doing this we are trying to get our students to see that cutting and pasting text out of websites and calling it their own work is of no real value. Instead we want them to use their researched information to provide authoritative evidence in support of their claims they will be presenting to a critical audience (The People's Court). In doing this we are also introducing our students to the language structures and conventions that form the basis of essay writing and debating as well as demanding higher level thinking, something very much at the core of many future academic endeavours.

As a foretaste to the People's Court the students have recently completed presenting formal speeches. Every year the standard seems to get higher, of particular note this year was the way all the students demonstrated real control over the underlying language structures required for a good speech. It all bodes well for Term 4 and 'The People's Court.'

We have also recently completed our Cross Country season with our senior students competing and helping out with the running of our school event as well as the two inter-school events which we hosted at Waireka. This year we had a very good run weather wise. As always the way our students celebrated and encouraged runners reaching the finish line was very special and running through the ford is still a highlight for many. The tracks through Waireka were in excellent condition and we were particularly appreciative of the new pedestrian gates put in to by-pass the cattle stops. As always many thanks need to go to John-Paul and the staff at Waireka who have been very supportive and we really appreciate being able to use this venue to create a 'real' cross country course.

Regards, Pat

ROOM 1

If you hadn't guessed it already, Room 1 has been hit by World Cup Fever (like most of New Zealand).

We have been learning about what makes us New Zealanders and how we compare to our 'adopted' country Ireland. Thanks to Kylie Read, we have been learning an Irish jig, which we hope to share with you. Also we are keeping a record of cup events in our class modelling book. Before the big game against France we sent the All Blacks some of our learning, plus a good luck card.

After our geometry topic, that included 2D and 3D shapes, direction and rotations we will be revisiting addition and subtraction with larger numbers. It will be a busy end to term 3 with music assembly and a Jump Jam skipping demonstration to look forward to.

Regards, Bridgit

ROOM 2

Term 3 has once again been an action packed one, with cross countries and inter-school sports tournaments. The children did extremely well in the cross country and the results they achieved at the Coastal and Taranaki cross countries, really does reflect the effort they put in with training. Well done all of you! Our emphasis now in PE is Jump Rope.

At the beginning of the term we looked at 'Keeping Ourselves Safe', with particular emphasis on the internet and on the type of personal information that we share. If you have the internet at home, this is worth reinforcing from time to time.

In maths we have been focusing on geometry and fractions. We will spent the remainder of the term, trying to fill in any gaps that exist in the children's learning. Our topic has been the rugby world cup and the children have been researching different countries and planning a two week travel itinerary to their country. As a link to literacy the children have also been writing recounts of their two-week trip.

Kind regards, Stuart

ROOM 3

The start of the term began with Rooms 1 & 3 learning about the SPCA and how they contribute to the community. The children were very focused during this unit. To end the study the children participated in Cupcake Day by making and selling cupcakes for the SPCA. This was hugely successful. The children made a great donation to the SPCA and demonstrated the ways they can contribute to and participate in our community.

Home & School News

Glynis Kemp
Chairperson

Wow, another term has flown by and it's lovely to have the lighter evenings and spring weather arrive. This has been another busy term for the Home and School with the Art Calendars and Icon Photography fundraisers. We have donated \$2,000 to the school for 3 new iPad2's. I am looking forward to watching the jump rope display on Friday and a 'rest' in the holidays. Have a safe and happy holiday and look forward to next term.

