

NEWSLINK



**TERM 4
2011**



Rebecca, Miles, Yazmin and Connor with the 'Christmas Recipe'

What's on Top?

Tena Koutou E Hoa Ma

The Education Review Office (ERO) visit to Omata this year confirmed and assured us we are making a positive difference for student achievement and education. My appreciation goes to all our staff whose efforts combine to make Omata a great place to learn and work. The philosophy behind 'The way we do things here' has stood the test of time and this year we have reaped the rewards of consistent and quality teaching. Honest, constructive reporting, positive relationships and excellent teaching, are cornerstones to developing responsible learners and meeting our goals of having: engaged learners, responsible behaviour, high achievement, community partnership and a safe and healthy environment.

Our four lead ambassadors have made a powerful difference by helping us review our curriculum and supporting us as we respond to learners emotional physical and intellectual needs. I thank them for a successful and productive year and for the care and leadership they have shown. Through the Student Council, students themselves are taking responsibility and 'ownership' of their environment and their behaviour. I express my thanks especially to the Board, who enable staff to concentrate on the learning and teaching in such a wonderful



**Evie, Zac, Michael and Charlotte
Lead Ambassadors 2011**

environment. Our Board members; Bridget Eldershaw, Jos Hobson, Hamish Logan, Andrew Crawshaw, Tracey Lusk and Pat Murphy and I, continue to take on the challenge of reviewing and improving the school to meet the needs of our learners. Within this Board environment, a collaborative atmosphere exists that allows open debate to take place ensuring our decisions respond to and make a difference for our students. We welcomed a new member to the Omata School Community in August. 'Holloway Feline' (aka Holly), decided to adopt the school as her home. After trying to ignore her, canvassing neighbours and shooing her away, she persisted and insisted this was the school for her. We duly microchipped, medicated and supplied her with all the modern

conveniences. Holly now has the run of the school and has trained staff to meet her every need. Holly is grateful to families who are supporting her with cuddles and nourishment over the breaks!

Also I would like to acknowledge the tragedy in Christchurch this year with loss of life and trauma experienced. Our community responded in kind and our hearts went out to everyone affected, including our colleagues and children in Christchurch schools.

Very special thanks to the families who are leaving us this year; thank you all for your time, energy and commitment to the school in whatever way you have been able to contribute. Also farewell to all our leaving students. All the best for your future learning journey wherever that may be.

I wish you all a happy festive season and we will see you back in the New Year on Thursday the 2nd February 2012.

Ka Kite Ano
Karen Brisco
Счастли́вый
праздник!



Omata Play-Group

A huge thank you to Rachel Shotter and Rachel Alford for running the playgroup on Thursdays. Playgroup starts again on 16th February

Board of Trustees Update

**Hamish Logan
Chairman**

What a very busy year with term lengths changed to allow for the winning of the World Cup. Well done to Graham Henry and the boys, 24 years is too long to wait.

When we reflect on the year and think of all the activities and opportunities that are available to our students not just at our school but within our community I feel proud to be able to be part of our children's learning. What a great place we live in and a huge thanks to all our staff for their passion and commitment to our students education. Self-review is well embedded in our school systems. Recently, Bridgit Barleyman presented curriculum reports for special needs and assessment. These outlined the school's learning enhancement programmes and monitoring of student progress. Highlighted was how these programmes benefit all students, the process that monitors children's progress and how information is shared between staff for the benefit of the students.

The reading recovery report was tabled and this programme is working well with all students making great strides.

The development of two flexible learning spaces in the new year is a project which will help keep our school a modern inspiring place to learn in the future.

ERO visited the school this term and we have had very positive feedback, assuring us that we are making a difference to the education and well-being of our children. The ERO report will become available for you all to read early in the New Year. The future is bright here at the Best Little School in the West.

Happy holidays

Class Acts



ROOM 1

What a busy year it has been. Firstly I would like to sincerely thank all the Room One parents for the help they have provided in so many ways.

We have just completed a science topic, 'As Cold as Ice', which included learning about changing states and the water cycle. For mathematics, we are learning to solve money problems. You may have noticed the 'Omata 4 Square' is up and running and proving very popular. The shop is a great way to learn about adding up totals and giving change.

I hope you have a wonderful relaxing summer holiday with your family.

Regards Bridgit

ROOM 2

Speech writing was the focus for the beginning of term 4, with the children presenting some outstanding speeches. It was great to see the other children in the class discuss each speech afterwards, highlighting positives and giving advice for future improvement. Our writing emphasis is now on narratives. In Mathematics, we looked at decimals, word problems and are now learning about probability.

For our topic 'Changes of State', we focused on the water cycle and on what is happening inside matter when it changes from one state to another.

We spent term four, learning and practicing the athletics disciplines, with the year five and six children doing Omata School proud at the recent inter-school athletics day.

I hope you all enjoy your holidays.

Regards

Stuart

ROOM 3

We have had a busy, fun term of learning. Our mathematics focus has been geometry where the children learnt about 2D and 3D shapes, symmetry and tessellation. In the latter part of the term we have been developing our ability to find coordinates and read maps. We had fun orienteering around the school.

In literacy, we have been learning about the different features of poems. Our reading time has been spent performing plays to the class where the focus has on using expression.

Our 'Will It Rise?' science unit was very successful. The children developed a range of science ideas linked to chemical reactions



caused by yeast. We made a variety of different breads and observed the different textures of them.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents of room three for the awesome support you have given your children and myself throughout the year. I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Regards Vicky

ROOM 4 and 7

Whew, we made it! 2011 all but over, for the wonderful bunch of 'learnatics' in room four and seven. Julie and I are so pleased and proud with how they have all achieved such excellent learning this year.

I am always amazed when I look back at how the children were when they began school at five years and then the growth, motivation and confidence they have as learners after one year at school. We have had some great fun along the way. Thank you for all the home learning support and also those parents who have been able to help in the class throughout the year.

Have a happy and relaxing holiday and I'll see you all in 2012. Julie, however will be relocating to Hamilton and a new teaching job. Julie will be missed here at Omata but we wish her well.

Regards

Viv and Julie

ROOM 5

A lot of our learning this term has been based around our science topic "Egg-cellent Experiments". We have explored the different ways that we can change eggs and have had fun with activities such as separating, crushing and frying eggs, as well as making meringues. We have also based our writing around this unit, revisiting procedural writing as we wrote instructions for our experiments and creative writing as we wrote poems about the meringues.

In mathematics, we have learnt about fractions and have revisited number knowledge. The folk dancing display was a highlight for me this term. After all the effort the children put in to learning and practicing their routine, it was amazing to watch it all come together on the night. This term also marks the end of my journey as a beginning teacher and the start of another, as I have now gained my full teaching registration. I am very thankful for all the support I have received over the last two years from the entire Omata community. Have a fantastic and well deserved break over the holidays.

Regards Alex

ROOM 6

Once again, our school year rapidly draws to a close, term four has been extremely busy and it feels that it is all over before it has really started. For students, the highlight has been our recent week long camp in Wellington. As usual the behaviour of our students was exemplary and there was a great feeling of being 'on tour' together, with everyone not only enjoying the planned activities, but enjoying each other's company as well. For many of the students, the best moments were being let loose to explore downtown Wellington. For me personally, it was watching the amazing teamwork and the intense focus demonstrated by our students when putting together a live TV news bulletin in Capital E TV studio.

This last week has seen our student presenting their research project in a mock courtroom setting we call the 'People's Court.' This was the end point of many weeks of in depth research and essay writing where the students pushed their own personal boundaries of what is possible for them to achieve.

This year we have the largest group of year eight leavers yet, seventeen students in total, and what a wonderful group of Omata Graduates they are. As always, our Year Eights bring something new to our senior room and enhance the school culture in general. One of the outstanding qualities of our current year eights is the way they genuinely enjoy each others company and in the way they go out of their way to support of each other. As learners they are very focused and the many visitors to our school comment on the calm, but busy atmosphere in the room, which is a real credit to the way our students get on with things. This is very much our Omata way, and as such our senior students not only provide leadership, they also help set the tone for the whole school and truly live up to the qualities expressed in our Omata School Graduate Statement.

I would like to thank in particular our Ambassador leaders; Charlotte Jones, Evie Lindsay, Michael Anderson and Zac McLeod, for their input and their support and to also thank all the year eight students for being wonderful role models and leaders in their own way and wish them all the best for the future.

Regards

Pat Murphy



Home & School News

Glynis Kemp
Chairperson

Wow, another term flown by and the end of another year! We hope all that attended the Folk Dance enjoyed the evening; it was a wonderful success and what a great show the children put on - well done to all that were involved in the dancing preparation and thanks to those that helped with the BBQ.

Home and School this term have been delighted to donate over \$2,000 for library books and reading resources and \$2500 towards upgrading the sound system in the hall, which will benefit all our children. As we come to the close of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all children leaving the very best of luck in their transition to other schools and continued success with their education and say a massive 'Thank You' to all departing families for their help to Home and School over the years; you will be sadly missed.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and enjoyable summer break.