

# NEWSLINK Kawepūrongo



## TERM 3 2017

### What's on Top?

It has certainly been a term full of rich contextual learning. The orchard topic came to fruition this term with the development of the physical space behind the hall. What a wonderful addition this area will be, both to the community and the school. We began with the purpose of creating an orchard that is a: *'Sustainable, visually enticing, accessible space where children and community can connect with nature and nutrition.'*

The children's vision, ideas and plans were interpreted by Bena Denton into just such a space with the help and support of many other industrious parents who gave product, time and expertise to the construction. Huge thanks to the school and wider Omata Community who have also generously donated to this wonderful project.

Well done to the children of Omata who researched, planned and planted the orchard to be a place of learning and well-being where they can connect with nature, socialise, harvest and connect with where food comes from. We hope many generations of Omata children will reap the benefits of this project.

The learning experiences for the children reached beyond the science, and into values and the health curriculum, where they learnt

about healthy communities. After the theft of plants from our orchard, our students felt sadness, anger and loss but then they also saw how quickly the community reached out and supported them. They experienced what it is like to work hard and then have that spoiled by others and they experienced the strength of a community who rallied around and helped them restore what was lost.

Thank you all for showing, by example, how people care for each other and for reaching out with offers of help. Knowing what it feels like to be shown such manaakitanga; generosity, kindness, respect and support, will hopefully mean that your children will be kind and caring when others need a helping hand.

Ehara tōku toa i te toa takitahi

He toa takitini tōku toa

My strength is not due to me alone, but to the strength of the many

Room 7 also experienced the joy of giving this term when they made muffins and performed for the elderly at Summerset Rest Home. Tino kino te pai! Quite the best!

A group of Year 7 and 8 students and parents ran a very successful disco for the year 1-6 students. Ka mutu pea! How marvellous!

As I said, this term has been full and rich with the chance for some authentic, real life learning experiences alongside a challenging cross country. Huge thanks again to Lynda and John Matthews for their ongoing support of our cross country. Being able to use Waireka Estate makes for a stunning course that challenges all of our runners.

I hope that you valued the chance to come in for 3D conferences. Remember that you are welcome to discuss any aspects of your child's learning or well-being at any time throughout the year. Please pop in or ring to arrange a suitable time. The more information that we share with each other, the better we can support your child at school.

Looking forward to a busy and productive term four.

Enjoy the spring break everyone  
Ka Kite Ano Karen Brisco

### Omata Playgroup

Sandra Antill invites pre-schoolers and parents to playgroup held every Thursday from 9-11am in the hall during term time

Phone Sandra 9273200

### Board of Trustees Update Hamish Logan Chairman

As the rain pours down yet again for another day the term rolls to an end and believe it or not, next term we need to be summer safe and sun smart!

With Mr Murphy leaving us at the end of the year the Board and the Appointments Committee have employed Mr Sean Kelly to join the senior syndicate. With an array of strong candidates we were pleased when Sean accepted the offer to join the Omata family and are very much looking forward to him joining us next year.

I congratulate the Hall Committee on successfully getting funding from TSB Community Trust for the kitchen upgrade. This will be a great asset to the whole community, not to mention the benefits to the school when running events, school lunches and the like. Well done.

At the last Board meeting we had presentations from both Jemma Glasgow and Bridgit Barleyman. Jemma talked about the maths curriculum and the link between physical movement and learning. The impact of understanding this link and our ability to incorporate this into our programme can be huge. The success of the ALiM project was also discussed, especially around the shared knowledge between staff, where learning for one or two, becomes knowledge for all.

Bridgit holds the SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) role here at Omata. Bridgit gave a detailed report on the specialist support staff that come into our school to support students. Highlighted was the impact these people make but also again the skills acquired by the staff who work alongside students with learning differences. Continuously it has been a disappointment that the level of support from the Ministry of Education in this area is very limited. Looking forward to a warmer, drier Term 4.

# Class Acts



## Tui 1

We began the term with our Social Sciences topic 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. The children learnt about how much rubbish New Zealand currently produces and ways we can reduce rubbish through reusing and recycling. We then moved into technology, staying with the theme of reducing and recycling by making recycled paper using a production line. In literacy, we have written and shared speeches. For reading we have been developing a deeper understanding of what we have read. In mathematics we further developed our fractions knowledge, particularly equivalent fractions. We are currently learning about the units of measurement and how to tell the time using both an analogue and digital clock. We are looking forward to participating in the Ukulele and Marimba festival next term and are busy practicing and perfecting the songs.

Kind regards, Vicky Aylward

## Korimako 2

Our focus at the beginning of the term has been on 'The Way We Were', looking at what life was like in the early to mid 20th Century. It was quite an eye opener for some of the children and created a lot of discussion. Having the opportunity to visit Pioneer Village really finished this unit off in style. In Maths we have looked at Geometry and Statistics, exploring how to draw and interpret graphs. Energy sources for the future has been our focus for the science fair, with the children looking at this topic from a school perspective. How could we power a school in the future?

We have managed to create electrical currents from fidget spinners and wobble chairs and explored the use of solar energy. This topic has leant itself nicely to persuasive writing, where the children have been arguing what type of electricity generation would be the best for New Zealand. The children also completed their speeches this term and should be proud of not only the writing they completed, but also the way in which their speeches were delivered.

Kind regards, Stuart Bennett

## Kōtare 3

Learning this term has been a combination of a blast from the past and a peek into the future. Learning about the way we were in New Zealand, specifically looking at pioneering showed children the changes in technology that have made

everyday life easier. The visit to Pioneer Village helped to consolidate our thinking with a specific focus on how the use of electricity has changed over time. Leaping forward for our science fair, we have explored how energy will be generated in the future. Groups have created: power generating lino, shoes that create and electric charge when you walk, hover powered cars, solar powered cars and solar energy circuits. It would seem we have many solutions for cleaner energy in the future. Using the multiplication and division knowledge developed last term, we have focused on fractional and decimal numbers for maths. Thanks for a great term full of powerful learning.

Kind regards, Jemma Glasgow

## Kiwi 4

This term we covered a Social Science topic exploring what is a want and what is a need in our daily lives. We compared needs and wants in a different poorer society and noticed that some things we now think of as a 'need' in our daily lives are still 'wants' in different societies around the world. In mathematics, the students have been learning to skip count in twos, and are able to apply the skill in everyday situations. As most students now know letter/sound combinations, they are beginning to become more independent with their writing, stretching the word out and writing the dominant sounds they hear. Mystery Doug came into our science inquiries. Each week Mystery Doug appears on our computer and we get to vote on which one of three 'I wonder' questions we would like to find out about. The students love it and some of the things we have discovered is 'Why do zebras have black and white stripes?' and 'Are there really poles at the North and South Poles?'. Rain, rain, rain has been a constant theme during Term 3; Let's hope we begin to get sun, sun, sun in Term 4.

Kind regards, Viv Norris

## Pukeko 5

During term three, to encourage us to think of others, we have been completing 'Random Acts of Kindness' for our classmates and whanau. We have been helping out at home, doing things without being asked to, showing initiative and even surprising our classmates with homemade goodies! We have recorded over 100 Acts of Kindness during the term and have collected these on our 'Kindness' wall. To celebrate Māori Language Week we learned several waiata. We also created whanau art around the koru shape to represent the members in our family. We even made soup from a stone! Everyone bought a little to add to our soup and everyone contributing, we

were able to share a delicious meal complete with homemade scones.

'Discovery Time' continues to be a highlight of our week. We have enjoyed exploring magnets, creating booklets, designing our own fidget spinners, building marble tracks and making huts. We learnt to collaborate and we share our skills.

We have enjoyed seeing the orchard development and using our 'maths eyes' in the orchard, we looked at elements of design, with the curved seating area being our favourite!

Kind regards, Kelly Madden

## Ruru 6

Our major focus has been the return of what we call the 'People's Court.' This year there is an added twist, in that the students will be presenting their stories as a short documentary film. Our theme is 'Famous in New Zealand.' While the learning revolves around literacy skills, the underlying theme is our history. This is something that tends to be neglected. I personally believe in the wisdom of the early twentieth century philosopher Santayana who claimed: 'Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.' Knowing about our past is part of becoming a good citizen. Presenting ideas as a documentary film will be quite a challenge for our Year 7&8 students, demanding higher level thinking skills. It is also a very relevant one for our current generation of YouTube natives. We are looking at running a film festival and parents and family will be invited to come and watch probably in Week 7 of Term four. This will allow us time for our interlude away in Wellington during week 5 when we will be also learning more about who we are by visiting Parliament, Government House, Pukeahu National War Memorial and TePapa.

Kind regards, Pat Murphy

## Piwakawaka 7

We completed our social science topic with a very successful trip to the supermarket. The children wrote questions to ask the various managers in their departments. A huge thank you to Countdown, especially Carol, the manager for giving up her time showing us around the store. The students learned about where the products come from and how they are marketed. This topic led on to our production and process technology topic 'What is in the Packaging?' We made, packaged and labeled muffins that were suitable for the elderly. There were many requirements to consider, for example were they soft enough to eat, could the elderly undo the tag and what was a suitable label. Our trip to Summerset rest home included interacting with the elderly, performing two musical items and giving out our packaged muffins. For mathematics we have studied fractions naming, ordering and finding a fraction of a set. Some students enjoyed the extension activities linking mixed fractions with improper fractions.

Kind regards, Bridgit Barleyman