

NEWS LINK Kawe pūrongo



TERM 4
2017



What's on Top?

Tēnā koutou e hoa ma

'Kāore te kumara e kōrero mō tōna ake reka'
translated this whakatauki says:

'The kumara does not speak of its own sweetness'

This proverb accentuates the value of humbleness and is fitting to use when speaking about Mr Murphy who retires at the end of this year. Pat has immense knowledge and skill that he willingly shares with his students and colleagues. I feel very fortunate to have worked with Pat for the last twelve years and I know when we appointed Pat, we felt straight away he was going to be a great fit for our school and bring out the very best in our senior students. This has certainly been the case. It has been such a privilege working alongside Pat to enhance and sustain the school culture. How sweet you really are Pat, we know it, and your students know it! We honour you and your career in education, which has always centred on what is best for your students; providing rich and meaningful learning experiences and knowing what makes each child tick. Pat astounds us with his scientific knowledge and his deep thinking around educational



philosophy and pedagogy. Staff meetings and after school chats include much debating about the state of education and much learning about the world, politics and just about everything!

Thank you hardly seems to touch the surface but we are extremely grateful you have shared your wealth of knowledge, thankful for your skills, appreciative of your kindness, respectful of your wisdom and lucky that you came to teach with us. All the best for the wonderful retirement you deserve and the new adventures you will have. You can now do what

you want, when you want with no more paperwork!

The community survey summary is now available on the parent noticeboard. The BoT pass on their thanks to everyone who contributed. There were some great suggestions to make Omata even better.

Special thanks and appreciation 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. You will be missed. Also to all our leaving students; all the best and we wish you well on your life-long learning journey. We will listen with interest to hear of your future achievements. We hope that Omata will always have a place in your thoughts and memories.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive holiday season and we will see most of you back in the New Year on Friday the 2nd February 2018.

Ka Kite Ano Ngā mihi mō te Kirihimete
Karen Brisco

Omata Play-Group

A huge thank you to Sandra Antill for running the playgroup this year. You have done an outstanding job.

Board of Trustees Update

Hamish Logan
Chairman

What better weather could you have asked for heading into Christmas. With the sun shining and the children enjoying their summer sports our school year comes to a close. I would like to acknowledge Pat Murphy's contribution to the school and community over the pass 12 years. Pat joined our school at a very strategic time helping guide and develop the senior end of the school. What he has achieved has helped create what is now part of the back bone of Omata today. I have had the pleasure of working with Pat in many roles, as teacher, Board member and Acting Principal. I thank him for his passion for our children's education and the greater good of Omata School. I wish Pat the very best for the future. Sean Kelly, a young teacher with a bright future will be joining the Omata family at the start of next year. I look forward to working with Sean in the New Year. At our last Board meeting of the year, the annual plan which runs alongside the charter, was reviewed showing us what a busy and very successful year it has been in all facets of our school. We should all be very proud of our children's achievements through the course of the year.

The orchard project has been a testament to what a community can achieve. The creation of a school orchard has been an educational journey for our children, staff and community to the highest level, making learning real and relevant to the world we live in. I thank all those who have been involved for your kind donations of time, money and products. You have really showed what can be done with a little 'can do' attitude. Our community pool will be up and running again soon, I thank all those volunteers that make this possible. When we think about the importance of teaching our children water safety we are so lucky to have our pool. To the many families that are leaving us at the end of the year. The value of your contribution to the school and students will always be part of Omata. Everyone leaves their mark here at Omata and that is part of what sets this school apart. Everyone seems so busy these days so I encourage you all to take the time of the festive season to spend time with family and friends and to stop and appreciate how lucky we are. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday.



Tui 1

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2017. We have had a busy, fun term of learning. This term 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 put our new found skills into practice by doing orienteering around the school.

During our science unit 'Changing States', we carried out a range of experiments where the children learnt to make a hypothesis and explain their science ideas based on the observations they made.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parents of Room 1 for the awesome support you have given me and your children throughout the year. I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Regards Vicky

Korimako 2

Term 4 saw the children exploring pets and the lucrative industry that surrounds them. We looked at some of the latest pet products and designed ones of our own. In reading we have covered a number of different topics, including Mysterious Places of the world. The children were really enthused by this topic and took it much further, researching a huge variety of mysterious places and creating booklets, posters and slideshows. In Maths, we looked at the order of operations, followed by negative numbers and we are now exploring how to solve word problems. For writing we have focused on Poetry, with the Omata bush and our year at school being the topics. In PE we have been lucky enough to have Taranaki Cricket and the Taranaki Tennis Association providing weekly lessons for the children.

It's been a great year and I wish the children all the very best for next year. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Regards Stuart

Kōtare 3

We have enjoyed the chance to learn outside with the improvement in weather. Co-operation games, ball skills, folk dancing, tennis and cricket coaching from experts has been a real highlight of this summer term. The children

really enjoyed discussing their pets and having so many visits during pet week. It was great to see the connection children have with their animals.

Our chemistry topic went off with a 'bang' as we explored the concepts of chemical reactions and physical changes. Rounding off the term with technology challenges focused on engineering skills, led to some creative solutions for problems. Finishing the reading programme for the year with group plays has offered the children a chance to read, act and express themselves. It's been a year full of rich learning with a great group of children. Thank you Room 3.

Regards Jemma

Kiwi 4

Term 4 and 2017 is all but over. There is some amazing learning that is achieved in a student's first year at school.

Learning to read, to write and build on number knowledge. Also children develop social and emotional skills. I have introduced students to many coping strategies for when things go wrong. Learning to be resilient, deciding how big a problem is; rating them from a glitch to an emergency, calming down with the five finger breathing technique. Developing a growth mindset means we talk about the Power of Yet. It is okay to make mistakes, that is how we learn and we give new things a go rather than 'I can't'. Great learning power capabilities that will set these students up for their future learning. Have a Safe and Happy Christmas break.

Regards Viv

Pukeko 5

Ruma Rima students began the term by learning about The Five Freedoms of Pets. We bought our pets along to share at school and created some wonderful posters around how to be responsible pet owners. These are now on display at the New Plymouth Vet Group to inform their clients about what responsible pet owners need to do. We completed a series of very exciting kitchen chemistry science experiments. We made a rubber egg, magical milk and even dancing raisins!

During our folk dancing sessions, we had to use the space around us and remember some complicated routines. We all enjoyed performing for our parents and we loved getting our parents (and Ms Brisco) up to dance too. As part of the Skills For Life programme, we participated in some exciting collaborative games. Through these games, we learned about taking turns and considering our team mates. In the lead up to Christmas, we compared the different ways people around the world celebrate Christmas. We made Dutch cookies called Kruidnootjes and we learned about Sinterklaas, the Dutch Santa Claus, who arrives on a boat and travels on a white horse!

On that note, thank you Ruma Rima students and whanau for a most memorable and rewarding year. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Regards Kelly

Ruru 6

As the end of the term rapidly approaches it also brings to an end my twelve year stint as a teacher at Omata School, it also ends my forty years full time in the classroom. Change over that period of time is a given, but to me what has really stood out is the rapid increase in the pace of change that has taken place over the last ten years. It is easy to forget that the iPhone has only been around for seven years and such smart devices are now part of the fabric of everyday life. Are we in a better place? Mostly yes, as teachers we have a much greater understanding of learning and learners, we have access to resources at our fingertips which I couldn't possibly imagine forty years ago.

There are also challenges, one is the growing bureaucracy, much of it justified by a perceived need for greater accountability. This obsession for detail means that the big picture philosophical underpinnings about what education should be about are obscured. Perhaps the biggest problem is that, despite our greater knowledge and understanding, schools are unable to attract sufficient funding to support the special learning needs of many of our students.

Despite all this, I believe our school system has punched well above its weight, mainly due to the passion and the commitment of ordinary everyday teachers. I personally feel privileged and thankful for my long unexpected career working along side such people. I would especially like to thank the Omata staff and the wider school community for your support and I know that the future is in good heart because of the constant stream of wonderful students who have passed through my classroom during my time at Omata School.

Regards Pat

Piwakawaka 7

What a busy year it has been. Firstly I would like to sincerely thank all the Room 7 parents for all their help they have provided in so many ways.

We have just completed a science topic 'Changing States', which included learning about changing states of matter 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