

# NEWSLINK Kawepūrongo



TERM 1  
2018



**Lead Ambassadors 2018**  
**Oliver, Olive, Mya and Jorja**

## What's on Top?

Kia ora koutou

H<sub>2</sub>O was not always our friend this term. Water is the most common substance on Earth and our body's major component: 60% in adults and 75% in children. That's great when clean water is readily available, but not so, when our water supply is compromised. Dealing with unpredictable, unforeseen events can be trying, however they can also present opportunities.

How we handle these uncontrollable surprises tells us a lot about our ability to manage ourselves and to care about others. The way our community managed after the cyclone, was akin to the way we coped after the thefts from the orchard; we fixed what we could fix, made changes where we could, stayed positive and moved forward, taking learnings with us. Text and facebook alerts were put to the test! Keeping our community as up to date as possible, meant everyone could make the plans they needed to. Information coming to us was at times contradictory, adding to the uncertainty, as those dealing with the Civil Defence emergency tried to make sense of what impact the broken water pipe would have.

What we tried to do was use some common sense; putting things into place as quickly as possible to allow the school to open and the camp and triathlon to take place, so the children would not be disappointed and parents could get back to normal. All the while we needed to ensure that the health of children was not compromised. No pressure!

The positivity of the children, staff and parents were highlights of this time; we all pitched in with support, and the practical comments were really helpful. Well done everyone, you modelled resilience yet again, and your children will take constructive life lessons from the way you coped under stress and showed patience and resilience.

This term has been a little disjointed to say the least yet we have still managed to pack in a very busy programme, making use of the warm weather. Swimming and the camp out for the seniors have been highlights. Winter sports are just around the corner and we have students joining teams for football, hockey, netball and basketball. We urge parents to pass on the mantra of 'fair play' to their children. We like to have competitive play within a supportive atmosphere; where players, spectators and coaches encourage each other to do their very best on the court

or field.

A stable roll is very important to maintain current levels of staffing and property and allow for growth. It is always a balancing act to have our classes small enough to maximise learning, while making the best use of property. (The development of Room 7 as a classroom is a good illustration of this). Being zoned means the onus is on the Board to know as accurately as possible how many students we have joining us in the years to come. It is somewhat unpredictable how many students turn up to enrol, but you can help us with future predictions by letting Bronnie know when a family in your area moves in or has pre-school children. We have a pre-enrolment list that predicts the next five years, so it is never too soon to enrol!

Ngā mihi

Karen Brisco, Principal

## Omata Play-Group

Sandra Antill invites all Omata School pre-schoolers and their parents to play-group held every Thursday from 9-11am in the hall during term time.  
Phone Sandra 0274186292



Hamish Logan  
Chairman

Term one saw our little school start with a very positive roll of 152 showing us that our community is continuing to grow.

With summer behind us and the pool closed, I thank Rachel Campbell for caring for the pool over the summer months. It is truly an asset to the school and wider community, being able to teach water safety to our children in our back yard is a privilege.

The dropping of National Standards is a hot topic at the moment, but the amount of misinformation around testing and reporting is of concern. Having no National Standards does not change our assessment procedures. We will still be using the same raft of robust assessments. BoT and parents will still receive clear reporting on where students are at. If you have any concerns around this please don't hesitate to contact the school for clarification.

At our last board meeting the draft Annual and Strategic Plan was adopted and will be submitted to the Ministry for 2018. Stuart Bennett also presented a literacy assessment with a visual report showing where our students are at, what has been achieved, along with targets for all students across a range of different cohorts for the remainder of the year.

The Year 5-8 overnight camp was in danger of being cancelled when the water crises was in force throughout New Plymouth, but determined staff rescheduled the camp, making it a great success for all.

I thank all of the community for their patience throughout the water issues that dogged New Plymouth with school closures, and the extra safety measures that were put in place. Our staff here at Omata did a wonderful job of turning, what was the water crises, into an opportunity of real life leaning and education for our children.

## Class Acts



### Tui 1

Wow how the time has flown. The children settled well into Ruma Tui and are enjoying learning together.

In literacy, we have been focussing on using descriptive language. It is pleasing to see that they can recognise that adjectives can add interest to their writing.

In numeracy, the children have been further developing their number knowledge and strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems.

Our topic 'Go for Gold', began with the children identifying their learning styles and ways to have a growth mindset. We have now moved into studying the Commonwealth Games. We began by identifying the flags of countries belonging to the Commonwealth and finding where they are on the world map.

The children have begun learning chords on the ukulele. I have been impressed with how quickly they are picking up their new found skills.

*Regards Vicky Aylward*

### Korimako 2

It has been an excellent start to the year in Ruma Rua and the children should all feel proud of the way they have settled in. 'Go for Gold' has been our term one focus and the children have been spending time looking at the type of attitude and mindset that is going to support them with their learning. This unit has flowed nicely into the Commonwealth Games which is our focus at the moment. It has been a busy one on the sporting front with swimming, inter-school athletics, Weetbix Triathlon, Omata Triathlon, and Rippa Rugby. In maths, we have been focusing on the use of mental strategies for solving problems and have recently started learning the more traditional method of using algorithms. The children have written a variety of different genres this term, including poetry, recounts and descriptive writing. Some amazing self portraits are on the wall, so please feel free to come in and have a look at these and the children's other learning.

*Regards Stuart Bennett*

### Kōtare 3

Room Three has had a fantastic start to the year. We have been helping each other learn,

as we co-construct the class culture, building the class environment into a safe, caring, and enjoyable learning space. Our literacy programme started with poetic writing, samples of which can be seen on our walls, followed by procedural writing which has ranged from making toast, to crazy recipes, to executing sports moves. Within numeracy, we have had a focus on developing addition and subtraction strategies to support our number knowledge. Our topic, 'Go for Gold', identified in what ways students can learn best and this helped us to develop our classroom culture, rules, and routines. We are now studying the Commonwealth Games, such as which countries have hosted the Games, which sports are played and who is part of the Commonwealth. Students are having a rich music experience through playing the marimbas, as well as supporting room one in learning the ukulele whilst further developing their own skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, whānau and students for welcoming me into the Omata Community; I have had a fantastic term.

*Regards Sean Kelly*

### Kiwi 4

We have had a wonderful term one with our little class of eight students. What an excellent way for the new students to transition to school life, being able to become familiar with new routines and organisation that make up the school day. I am very impressed with how all the students have taken on the idea of a growth mindset and the power of the word 'yet'. This can be seen with the improvement in their writing, with practise, you can improve and achieve new things. They are all so proud of their efforts. This learning power carries over to all new aspects of learning. Term one has whizzed by.

*Regards Viv Norris*

### Pūkeko 5

We have had a wonderful first term full of learning adventures. As the pūkeko is our class bird, we came up with questions about this bird. We learned that pūkeko can fly but are not very good at landing! Ruma Rima students are wonderful story tellers. We are able to plan and create our stories independently and love sharing ideas. By using our 'maths eyes', we can see numbers and patterns in the world around us. We each made a collection of objects at home to share at school.

As part of our visual arts learning, we looked at how artists show emotions on faces. We noticed that the position of the eyebrows can really change the emotion on a face. We learned to recognise emotions in others and to describe how we are feeling.

Recently we learned about the sports of the Commonwealth Games. We made a list of sports we thought might be included but after some more investigation we have since learned that food gobbling, crystal digging, pancake making and mountain climbing are not part of the games!

*Regards Kelly Madden*

### Ruru 6

The first term has been jam packed with events and opportunities for our Māngai Kāwanatanga, as they learn to be leaders and ambassadors. Our topics this term have been 'The leader in Me' and 'Go for Gold' which are both aimed at developing interpersonal and intra personal skills. The camp out, triathlon and ambassador training from our resource teacher for learning and behaviour have all assisted with building class culture, confidence and a willingness to put ourselves beyond their comfort zone.

Swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre with Julie Neilson developed both swimming and life saving skills. A really popular aspect of Ruma Ono has been coding and creating games using the 'Scratch' programme. Children are creating online games to be shared with the school next term. It has certainly been a busy and very rewarding term and I am pleased to be a part of the Room 6 learning journey.

*Regards Jemma Glasgow*

### Piwakawaka 7

What a busy term we've had. It was great having the warm weather for the swimming season even though it was too cold for our display. The students thoroughly enjoyed the triathlon and they wrote detailed recounts of the event using nouns, adjectives and specific verbs and adverbs that add deeper meaning to their writing. Each Wednesday we focus on a language skill and the students are now more confident discussing and using language features. Our writing this year also includes writing across the curriculum. The students have gained confidence using different word sources when proof reading.

Our 'Learning to Learn' topic was a great way to find out how we learn best, what helps and what stops us learning. We are now all familiar with the routines and expectations in Room 7, we are all aboard our waka.

In mathematics, we are learning to use our known facts, such as doubles and names for ten to solve problems with larger numbers. We have been using place value blocks and the abacus to build our knowledge of ones, tens, hundreds and thousands. Daily skip counting will help with our multiplication and division focus next term.

*Regards Bridgit Barleyman*



Welcome to all new families that have joined Omata school this term we hope that you have settled in and enjoying our school community. It's been a busy time with our school triathlon, the year 5-8 'Camp Out' in the midst of the water crisis and last week's Weetbix Triathlon.

Thanks to everyone who supported our sausage sizzle at the Information Evening at the beginning of term, to all our home bakers, helpers and to the rest of the committee.

Also to everyone who has returned slips offering help with the Friday Lunches, we will be in contact in the next few weeks.

The Friday Lunch is our biggest fundraiser and we really appreciate how Ann has run this for the past 5 years. All these funds go back into the school through donations for equipment, books and other resources which each of your children will benefit from.

Let's hope this beautiful weather continues for the school holidays and into term two.