

# NEWSLINK Kawepūrongo



**TERM 1  
2019**

## What's on Top?

Kia ora koutou

Even with reducing the size of our zone last year, we began this year with the largest starting roll ever, with a number of new entrants still to come in through the year. It is always a balancing act to have our classes small enough to maximise learning, while making the best use of property. The Board are actively seeking a new classroom space to be provided by the Ministry of Education and are hoping to have it ready to meet the increase. You can help us with future predictions by letting Bronnie know when a family in your area moves in or has pre-school children. This helps with convincing the Ministry we urgently require another classroom space. We have a pre-enrolment list that predicts the next five years, so it is never too soon to enrol!

'Ngā Kaitiaki o te Ngahere', Guardians of the Bush, has been our rich topic the last half of this term and will continue into the first half of next term. Having an extensive native bush area as part of our school grounds is a real asset to the community and for students to take part in authentic learning. Every two years we have a rich topic like this involving our bush environment. Also each class maintains

regular contact with the orchard through an on-going sustainability foci where they take responsibility for a particular area of orchard maintenance. Hasn't the orchard matured this year! Hard to believe the whole area was developed from a lawned space only 18 months ago. Well done to our team of parent volunteers and our students in the Garden Club who continue to develop new plantings and help manage what the classes are unable to keep up with.

The annual Omata Triathlon event was brilliant with a large number of spectators and enthusiastic athletes. The 'slide-in' to the finish line is always a highlight. Thanks so much to all the parents and extended whānau who came along to support students as they gave it their all. The swimming season was most successful. We were able to have daily lessons and the community certainly made the most of the balmy evenings and weekends. Thanks so much to Rachael Alford and the team of parents who kept the pool in tip-top condition all season. Beach Ed at Oakura was an extension of the swim and water safety skills that we feel are so important for our students. Winter sports are just around the corner. I urge

parents to pass on the message of fair play to their children. We promote competitive play within a supportive atmosphere; where players, spectators and coaches encourage each other to do their very best on the court or field. The children came up with a Fair Play guide for students, coaches and supporters a few years ago. The guide is on display in the corridor outside room one and teachers will talk through the guide with students early in term two. We promote involvement as a positive choice which teaches important lessons; appreciation of differences, dealing with winning and losing, growing confidence, building friendships, self discipline, patience, persistence, teamwork, developing fitness and physical skills to name a few.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Brisco, Principal

## Omata Play-Group

Kylie Gunn 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 Kylie 0211431000

## Board of Trustees Update

Bena Denton Chairperson

As the new chairperson for your Board of Trustees (BoT), I'm delighted to take up this role, as I am both passionate about holistic education and have a desire to contribute in making our school even better! You may know me from working with your children in the orchard and running the weekly garden club – a role that keeps me present and on the ground and is a good balance to the big picture thinking that is required at the board level.

A heart-felt thank you to Hamish Logan who has stepped down from his role as Chairman of the Omata School Board of Trustees, a position he has held for the last nine years. Thank you for all your hard work and wisdom Hamish. The recent glowing ERO report is testament to the hard work of Hamish, the BoT, Karen and the staff. Well done team! On another note, you may be aware of the significant changes proposed by the 'Tomorrow's School Report'. These changes are likely to affect the BoT structure and the schooling system in a 'transformational' way. This review is timely, in that New Zealand's education system performance is tailing in some areas in comparison to other countries, and with our children's future being a very different one to thirty years ago - when Tomorrow's Schools was rolled out. Consequently the Omata School BoT has put forward a submission expressing the areas we support and areas we feel require further clarification. You can find more information on the proposed changes at [www.coverstation.education.govt.nz](http://www.coverstation.education.govt.nz)

Enjoy the autumn sun.

Nga mihi nui, Bena Denton (Mum to Olive & Toby Rm 6)

## Class Acts



### Tui 1

The children are extremely motivated and enthusiastic about all the learning we do in Room 1. It has been great to take advantage of the fantastic weather with swimming and visits to the bush classroom. In literacy, we have been focussing on using descriptive language, they have put these skills into practice writing well thought out poems and descriptions of pictures. In maths, we started the year with algebra where the children identified repeating patterns and learnt about finding a rule for a pattern. Now children are further developing their number knowledge and strategies. Our topic 'Go for Gold' began with the children identifying their learning styles and how to be 'bucket fillers'.

We have now begun our 'Nga Kaitiaki o te Ngahere' unit where we learnt about the layers of the bush and identifying native birds of New Zealand. Learning the ukulele is part of being in Room 1. The children are motivated and are picking up the new skills quickly.

Regards Vicky Aylward

### Korimako 2

This term we have spent time discussing and modelling the types of behaviours and attitudes that will help us to learn. We have focused on how to research, by using focus questions to narrow our search for information. We then looked at how to rewrite the information we find in their own words and explored different ways to present and publish our findings. The posters and brochures the children have produced have been to an extremely high standard. In Maths, we have been looking at mental strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems and more recently have learnt how to solve these problems through using algorithms. We are now moving onto multiplication and division. It has been a busy term on the sporting front, with beach education, swimming sports and inter-school athletics taking place. The children have completed their self portraits which look amazing.

Regards Stuart Bennett

### Kōtare 3

We have been co-constructing the class culture by building the class environment into a safe, caring, and enjoyable learning space. Our literacy programme started with exploring

poetic writing and we are now focusing on adding detail to our descriptive writing. In numeracy, we have been exploring algebra and are now focusing on developing our number knowledge.

Our 'Go for Gold' topic identified the ways students learn best and this helped us to develop our classroom culture, rules and routines. In our 'Guardians of the Bush' topic, we have had some expert advice and lessons from the regional council in preparation for our BioBlitz. Recently we have been fine tuning our motor skills through different athletics sports. We have just started music with Jan Aiello and we are enjoying developing our music skills playing the marimba.

Regards Sean Kelly

### Kiwi 4

A very busy term comes to an end. Welcoming new students, setting up the class organisation and establishing routines to make learning fun and meaningful is the priority. The Class Dojo system is a wonderful motivator for the students as they learn how to learn and begin to develop a growth mindset. 'Some things are hard' and 'we learn from mistakes', are phrases often heard in Room 4. We had a very successful swimming season. With such good weather and the expert coaching of Julie Neilson all the students gained more confidence and improved their swimming skills. 'Guardians of the Bush' has been a major focus. With an initial visit to the Puke Ariki classroom the students have been learning about NZ's native bush, birds and animals and the destruction caused by predators. With our own school bush, the students have a real context to become involved in helping protect this environment. Room 4 farewells five students who are moving on to Room 5 next term.

Regards Viv Norris

### Pūkeko 5

Our 'Learning to Learn' topic was a great way to start the year off and created a lovely, positive class culture. We learnt the importance of having a growth mindset and the power of the word 'yet'. We also discovered that we all carry invisible buckets and we can fill people's buckets by showing kindness to others.

Ruma Rima students are avid writers. We are becoming independent and enjoy sharing our writing with others. In mathematics, we learnt about our brains and how they grow and change when we make mistakes. We collaborated to solve open-ended problems. During swimming the children were perfecting their 'X Y I' floating and streamline gliding. They demonstrated their growth mindset, during swimming, by never giving up. Currently, we are learning about how we can be 'Guardians of the Bush'.

Regards Laura Jensen

### Ruru 6

We have started 2019 at full pace in Room 6 and there is no sign of slowing down. Our unit on Mana Motuhake and He aha teTaonga was a chance to develop self motivation and a deeper understanding of each person's talents and the skills that combine to make a strong classroom culture. A strong emphasis has been placed on developing empathy, showing kindness and tolerance. As always, leadership is a strong focus in Room 6 and the ambassador programme has allowed different strengths to be shown.

Being in Room 6 provides the opportunity for students to step beyond their comfort zone with extra curricular activities and this term these opportunities have included swimming at the Aquatic Centre, Athletics, Inter-school debating, Epro8, Science Roadshow, Impact programme, Rippa Rugby, Otago Maths Problem solving and Beach Education.

In the lead up to ANZAC day, we have looked more closely at the causes of World War 1, following up with studies of some local soldiers and their story. Our Nga Kaitiaki o te Ngarehe study was introduced by Emily Roberts from the Taranaki Regional Council as we work towards improving and sustaining this valuable resource.

BTB is an acronym that we use in Room 6 which means Better than Before. All of our students should be very proud of how they have pushed themselves to be better than before and we are looking forward to the next three terms with this amazing class.

Regards Reece Williams and Jemma Glasgow

### Piwakawaka 7

It has been a really busy start to the year in Room 7. I am impressed with the students enthusiasm for learning and their ability to persevere at challenging tasks. We started out the year with 'Learning to Learn', identifying how we learn best, what helps us and what inhibits our learning. Discussing how we learn best is something we can refer back to throughout the year. It has been exciting exploring our school bush using our senses what we can hear, feel, see and smell. In our 'Guardians of the Bush' study we are looking at the various layers within the bush, and the pests and weeds that damage our bush. We have been having interesting discussions about what we can do about these problems.

In mathematics, we are focusing on our doubles and friends of ten and how we can use these known facts with bigger numbers.

I hope you have a relaxing holiday and enjoy the last days of the warm weather.

Regards Bridgit Barleyman