

NEWS LINK Kawepūrongo



TERM 2
2019



Ngā Kaitiaki o te Ngāhere - Guardians of the Bush
Emma and Ella

What's on Top?

Tēnā koutou e hoa mā

We have had a wonderful term continuing our Bush rich topic, enjoying visits and visitors around the theme of keeping our school native bush and all of Taranaki 'Predator Free'. Next term the Omata area becomes a target for this 'Taranaki Taku Tūrangā' project and we will be hosting a weekend community information session in the hall.

How are you going with negotiating the complex world of cyber safety and managing children's use of devices? I don't think any of our parents will have been surprised by the plea to keep under 3's off devices completely and limit time for older children. As usual the key is getting the right balance, as there are all sorts of possible health and development risks. Common sense has always told us that children need a variety of physical and cognitive play. Too much of one thing will be limiting their well-rounded development. Pre-schoolers need to enhance their motor, visual and spatial skills which are essential for healthy growth. The practice of handing a device to a

child who is having a tantrum is alarming! This is no substitute for learning how to interact and control strong emotions. Setting up your expectations around devices from a very early age is important and will alleviate the 'battles' you may face as children get older.

Just as you demonstrate your own values to children by how you act and how you respond to challenges, you can also role model how you manage your devices. Devices have no place at the dinner table or in the bedroom and we put them down when we have guests or are talking. Setting these simple examples, will make a huge difference when your child turns into a teenager. It will be the norm.

At the other extreme, we do not want our children to miss out on connecting with our fascinating world through devices. They can chat to grandparents on Skype or FaceTime, play games, create, learn, read and socialise. We just have to make sure that they get the balance right and know how to safely manage themselves and their identity online.

Remember social media requires all users to be at least 13 years to access their services;

this includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. WhatsApp users now need to be at least 16. We have a copy of John Parson's book, 'Keeping your Children Safe Online' available for parents to read from our Parent Library in reception.

We appreciate the hard mahi that all our families do to ensure their children get an amazing and rich childhood.

Let's hope the weather is fine and children get to play outdoors these holidays!

Keep safe and see you next term

Ka kite anō Karen Brisco, Principal

Omata Play-Group

Huge thanks to Kylie Gunn for running the playgroup this year.

Now that Kylie has moved to the other side of town, we are looking for someone who would like to organise this.

Contact Kylie on 021 143 1000 if you want to know what it involves.

Board of Trustees Update Bena Denton Chairperson

Kia ora koutou. This term has flown by with some gorgeous weather and one crisp frost to herald the winter in – great planting time for those with a green thumb! I'd like to express a big thank you to the outgoing Board of Trustee members, who worked hard as your school representatives behind the scenes, ensuring our school's policies and key strategic planning have supported the delivery of a rich curriculum and high achievement. Bridget Eldershaw, Rachel Campbell and Hamish Logan – I wish you all the best and hope you make the most of your new free time!

I'd also like to welcome the new Board of Trustee members; Ginni Douglas, Josie

Roberts and Darren James, who along Blair Withers and Bena Denton make up your new parent representatives. This team is highly skilled and friendly, and I have every confidence in their ability, along with principal Karen Brisco and Stuart Bennett to govern and support the school well, bringing new expertise and ideas. I'd like to also thank the Omata staff for all your hard work, especially in light of the recent strikes. One of the privileges of being a board of trustee, is to observe the considerable thought and effort our teachers undertake, often above and beyond, to support our children's education and wellbeing.

Let's enjoy the up coming winter holidays with some down time to rest and recuperate. There have been many colds and flu this term. With our busy schedules it's easy to forget that rest plays an important part of being able to work to full capacity and that this rest is vital especially to growing wee bodies and minds. I'm off to the mountain with friends, mulled wine and my whanau – wishing you an equally enjoyable holidays. Nga mihi nui Bena



Class Acts



Tui 1

Another term has flown by. I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm the children have towards their learning. In literacy, we have been practicing writing in a range of styles. The focus has been to use precise language to give a clear picture to the reader. The children have further developed their multiplication and division knowledge, using arrays to show their understanding of the concept. We have also learnt the process of carrying out a survey through collecting, displaying and evaluating data.

Our Nga Kaitiaki o te Ngahere continued in the first half of the term where the children learnt about the predators to our native animals and bush and the impact they have on them. We put out tracking tunnels and we found many mice. After that we put out our traps and have been very successful in trapping many mice and a rat. This will be an ongoing project to ensure we remain guardians of our bush.

For the last two weeks we have learnt about Matariki and how it is an important part of the Māori New Year.

Regards Vicky Aylward

Korimako 2

The children should be very proud of how they performed in the inter-school sports this term. Although not confirmed yet, it looks like our football team, and possibly our netball team might make the semi-finals (which is played in Term 3). Many thanks to the teachers and parents who coached these teams.

With our topic 'Guardians of the Bush' we spent time looking at predators, how and why they were introduced and the effect they have had on our environment. We have built traps and are now helping to remove predators from our Omata bush. The children researched, wrote factual texts and created 3D life size models of New Zealand fauna. We were also lucky enough to have Emily Roberts from the Taranaki District Council come in and work with the children, looking at the pest plants in our bush. In Maths, we looked at measurement and decimals. More recently have been creating and interpreting graphs while looking at Statistics. In writing, we have been looking at instructions and also writing poetry related to colours.

Regards Stuart Bennett

Kōtare 3

We have had a sport filled second term thanks to our thrilling inter-school sporting events, which provide both fun and challenge for our participants. Our writing focus has been on creating narrative and descriptive stories, while using figurative language and descriptive vocabulary to hook our readers in. In mathematics we have been focusing on different strategies that we can use to help us solve challenging addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have been practicing weekly for our upcoming music assembly where we will be performing two songs on the Marimba. Thank you to Jan Aiello who has been supporting our learning.

Regards Sean Kelly

Kiwi 4

Thank you to Wendy Sander and Hayley Bennett who taught in Room 4 while I was away at the beginning of the term.

Since I have been back we completed the 'Guardians of the Bush' rich topic with some writing, experimenting with describing words.

The next topic was from the social science strand, the economic world. The students have been introduced to the concept, 'What is the difference between a **want** and a **need**?' Students gained the confidence to offer an opinion and share their ideas. As part of developing social and emotional regulation, the students have been discussing what reaction is appropriate when problems arise. Using everyday problems that arise in the class and with friends we discuss whether the problem is a glitch, little or big problem, or an emergency. We farewell five students who will be progressing into Room 5 next term.

Regards Viv Norris

Pūkeko 5

We began the term with a visit from Harold the Giraffe. He taught us about being a good friend and reinforced the idea of being a bucket filler. In mathematics, we learnt about shapes and patterns. We noticed that shapes and patterns are all around us. We have been building up our number knowledge and learning new strategies to help us solve maths problems. In literacy, the students continue to make impressive progress with their reading and writing skills. Towards the end of the term we began descriptive writing and focused on using adjectives to add interest to our writing. For our topic, we have been learning about 'Needs and Wants' and 'Jobs'. Many students have enjoyed having their parents come in to talk about their job. We have learnt a lot about the different jobs people. It was interesting to hear that a lot of jobs require a growth mindset. Students know what it takes to have a growth mindset and are often heard saying

things like, 'I don't know it YET', 'I can keep on trying' and 'Mistakes help me learn'.

Regards Laura Jenson

Ruru 6

We were lucky to have Mr Kieran McMarshall join us this term as the third teacher in our class, meaning there was plenty of time for extra instruction. The main focus for this term has been science, looking at scientific investigation through the environmental studies of our Omata School bush, as well as the investigation process for our science fair entries. We have increased our journalism skills, completing reports on a range of topics including investigating the possibility of Taranaki becoming pest free by 2050. Our mathematical focus has been applying multiplication and division strategies for real life situations including planning a full house design to meet a clients needs. Extra curricular activities this term have included our team taking first place in the Taranaki Jump Jam competition, making the semi final in the Taranaki Intermediate debating competition, two teams in the Intermediate Rippa Rugby competition, visits to Spotswood College to take part in the secondary experience, student-led learning with the Impact programme, the Kid's Lit Quiz, attending the LEAD 2019 conference in Palmerston North and the Police physical challenge day where our team came away with third place. It is always a privilege to see your children pushing themselves into such a wide range of activities.

Regards Jemma Glasgow and Reece Williams

Piwakawaka 7

It is wonderful to be back with the students in Room 7. A big thank you to Wendy Sander who did an excellent job teaching in the class. It seems like the students have all grown taller since I have been away!

Our rich topic, 'Guardians of the Bush', has made the children more aware of the different ways they can look after our bush. Next term, Emily Roberts from the Department of Conservation will be spending time with our class, helping the students pot up seedlings, increasing their awareness of predators and encouraging us all to notice more when we are in the bush.

In our social sciences topic, 'People Helping People', the children visited Countdown and learnt about the different types of jobs that people do in a supermarket and the services that they offer the community.

In numeracy, we have been learning about how repeated addition helps us with multiplication. Skip counting forwards and backwards and using equipment has really helped the students. This will lead on to the family of facts and division, sharing objects equally, in Term 3.

Regards Bridgit Barleyman



Sophie Flemming

After nearly three years this is my final Newslink as the outgoing Chairperson. Due to increased work and personal commitments, I stepped down earlier this term. I will still be involved in a lesser capacity as a committee member. Kelly Phillips will be taking over as Chair. She has already proved a valuable asset as the driving force behind this terms new eco- fundraiser. This has been a popular addition and we look forward to receiving our eco products in Term 3. We had our first Friday lunches a couple of weeks ago and both children and parents commented on how much the American hotdogs were enjoyed. We are hoping to run 3-4 lunches next term and would be grateful if anyone is able to commit to one of these Fridays for prep, serving or to go on the baking roster. If you are interested in knowing more about the Home & School please contact a member of the present committee or attend our next meeting in the staffroom Tuesday 30th July 3.15pm. Happy holidays to you all.