



TERM 3  
2019

Bronnie  
23  
Amazing  
Years



**What's on Top?**

Tenā koutou e hoa ma



This term we sadly farewell Mrs Bronwyn Read. Bronnie, as everyone knows her at Omata, has been such an amazing first point of contact for our school. I know the children, parents and staff will miss her greatly. Bronnie inspires us all with her positive energy, her caring ways and always welcoming smile.

Thank you hardly seems to touch the surface but we are extremely grateful and thankful to have had Bronnie as part of our Omata whānau. The wealth of knowledge Bronnie has gained about our school over this time fills an impossibly large volume. We know we will be

in touch often asking for gems of information. We are so incredibly thankful for Bronnie's skills, so appreciative of her kindness and caring, so respectful of her patience and positive attitude, so grateful of her humour and extremely lucky that she came to be our 'Bronnie At-the-office' for the last 23 years.

*Hei konā mai i roto i ngā mihi  
Goodbye and thank you*

For New Zealanders, the learning of Te Reo Māori leads us to a greater understanding of our people and our land. As teachers, we are better able to deliver the curriculum to all of our students and be culturally responsive. It is interesting to hear how many of our whānau are also learning Tikanga and Te Reo. As we learn we are feeling more connected and more confident. Kapa Haka started this term for all our students with Matua Gary Pratt and we are fired up and excited about taking te reo and tikanga that next step forward. Next year we plan on taking a Kapa Haka group to one of the school festivals where a performance group will have a chance to both perform and see what other schools are doing. There is so much to do in getting ready for this and eventually we hope to have our own set of kapa haka uniforms.

Winter sports are coming to an end and what a wonderful season the teams have had. Huge thanks to all the coaches and managers out there for making it all happen for our children. Encouraging children to play sports doesn't just help with physical development and

health, it also develops social skills, leadership, self esteem, resilience and confidence. The dedication and practice required to play sports also translates into academic pursuits, where hard work and practice gets results.

Thanks again to our wonderful neighbours, Lynda and John Matthews, for their ongoing support of our cross country. Being able to use Waireka Estate for our event makes for a stunning course that challenges all of our runners and provides a wonderful backdrop for all our inter school events. Thanks to Stuart and Sean for setting up the course and to Stuart for running our events. It is also interesting to see the latest developments down at Waireka and how much the plantings have grown!

What a great resource the stockade and pa sites are going to be as we delve even deeper into the rich history of Omata. From the establishment of Omata School in 1853 as the first school in Taranaki, to the battle of Waireka in 1860, we have so much to for students to learn about right in our own backyard.

*Enjoy the spring break everyone  
Ka kite ano Karen Brisco*

**Omata Playgroup**

We invite pre-schoolers and parents to playgroup held every Thursday from 9-11am in the hall during term time. Thanks you to Rebecca Valentine who is now organising Playgroup. Inquires to Bee 0274681577

**Board of Trustees Update**

Bena Denton  
Chairperson

You may have heard the fantastic news - we will be receiving a new classroom! This has been long awaited and persistently pursued by your Board of Trustees and in particular Blair Withers who manages property matters for our school along with our principal Karen Brisco. Many details are yet to be resolved such as timing, but the new room is likely to be sited near room six. The silver lining side of having had a large number of students in the senior Y7/8 class this year, is the positive collaborative teaching that Jemma Glasgow and Reece Williams have delivered. This has been both innovative and highly effective which personally, having a child in this room, I have been really grateful for.

Bronnie, our much loved and respected secretary extraordinaire is leaving us. I'm sure there will be a few tears shed along with many well wishes from us all as Bronnie begins her new ventures – all the best Bronnie! At the same time, we welcome Melanie Clout (Mel) as our newly appointed school secretary, who has a wealth of skills to contribute, not least a friendly smile, as many of you have already discovered this week 😊. Let's all get outside into the spring weather these holidays!



### Tui 1

Our main topic this term has been 'Mahi Toi'. We began the unit by learning about how harakeke (flax) is useful in every day life especially for Māori in the past. The children learnt the protocol when harvesting harakeke and practiced the art of weaving by making harakeke flowers. Other learning we did was making poi and performing a dance as well as reading Māori legends and creating a piece of art to represent that legend.

In literacy, we have written and shared speeches in class which we will be sharing in assembly next term. In reading, we have been focussing on fluency and having a sound understanding of what we have read.

We have further developed our fractions knowledge, particularly finding a fraction of a set. Also, we identified different units of measurement and how to tell the time using both an analogue clock. We finished the term by practicing estimation and chance.

Kind regards, Vicky Aylward

### Korimako 2

Another busy term completed, with the Room 2 children helping in the organisation and running of four different cross country events. They all did a wonderful job, on and off the track, and should all be very proud of their efforts. Congratulations also to the inter-school netball and football teams who both made it through to the semi-finals this year. Many thanks to the parents and teachers who gave up their time for coaching, transport etc. Recently, we have been developing our cycle skills and road safety through the 'Let's Go' cycle skills programme. Our 'Mahi Toi' topic has allowed for the senior syndicate to come together in vertical groups and explore different aspects of art and Māori culture.

In maths, we have looked at Geometry, fractions and more recently word problems. Speeches and science fairs have been our focus in writing, and the children have been developing their skills with how to present a speech to an audience. They have all done an amazing job.

Kind regards, Stuart Bennett

### Kōtare 3

Cross country has been a highlight for many students in room three, with students training hard daily as well as pushing themselves to run further and achieve better times. Our

mathematics focus started by exploring fractions, before we moved into decimals and then statistics. Our writing focus has been on persuasive writing, where students have been trying to argue their point of view for a range of topics. We have also done speeches this term, which have been student led. We had a range of topics which were written at school using the students own ideas and information that they had researched. We have been rotating through senior school classes with different activities, such as drama, arts, carving and poi making for 'Mahi Toi', our rich learning topic. We have also been working weekly with Jan Aiello in preparation for our music assembly.

Kind regards, Sean Kelly

### Kiwi 4

Term 3 always starts with excitement as the Jump Jam fitness programme begins. Instructors from Room 6 learn the moves and then teach the junior classes. It was great to see R4 students having a go at trying new coordination skills and then volunteer to be up on the stage, demonstrating with the instructors. This aerobic fitness is the build up to cross country training. The students were very motivated with their individual 'PB' training chart. I also used this as maths learning, teaching the students how they could count the laps completed on their charts more quickly in twos. Some students had to count in twos past 20!

The school-wide rich topic, 'Mahi Toi', was an opportunity to explore some traditional Māori arts and language, which included, extending te reo knowledge, creating koru patterns, learning a mihi, and making a traditional child's toy (with modern materials).

Kind regards, Viv Norris

### Pukeko 5

Ruma Rima has had an interesting term learning about 'Mahi Toi'. We have created some beautiful Maori art, made a class korowai, and shared our pepeha. Currently we are learning to ask someone how they are feeling and respond, in Te Reo. Time and temperature in mathematics has been a highlight, as children have learned to write and read the time, to the o'clock and half hour. Cross Country and Jump Jam has been our Physical Education focus. Everyone focused on achieving their personal best.

'Discovery Time' is always a highlight of our day. The children enjoy participating in creative play and using their imaginations. During this time they develop the skills of relating to others, through listening, collaborating, taking turns and problem solving.

Kind regards, Laura Jensen

### Ruru 6

As we look back on the term, we are proud of the numerous opportunities that have been provided for our students, and the mature way in

which they have responded to them. Our term started with the finishing touches being put on all of our Science Fair entries. We came away with a plethora of prizes including a clean sweep of 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings in the Year 7 essay category. Other notable achievements included 2nd place in the Year 8 technological development category, and 3rd place in the year 7/8 photography category, as well as numerous merit awards across all categories.

Our writing focus this term has centred around writing a persuasive piece as part of a small debate team and competing against other groups within our class. This was an 'out of our comfort zone' type experience for many of our students, but through perseverance and a little bit of resilience all students achieved success. This was followed closely by preparing a speech to present to the class that would either inform, entertain or persuade. This was all good practice for speaking to small groups of people and increasing our confidence levels. Maths has been a mixture of building on our number strategies, as well as applying these strategies in real-life contexts in algebra and measurement.

Extra curricular activities continued to play an important role in room six, as we participated successfully in sports exchanges with Coastal Taranaki and Puketapu. We trained hard for our school and full-primary Cross Country staged locally, as well as learning valuable life skills in the cycling skills sessions. Our Year 8 students started thinking about High Schools in 2020 and started developing relationships with these schools. We look forward to a well-deserved break where we will be re-invigorated for a busy term 4 that includes our school camp week in Wellington.

Kind regards, Jemma Glasgow and Reece Williams

### Piwakawaka 7

I can't believe how quickly the term has flown by. Room 7 have really enjoyed our Mahi Toi rich topic. We made poi with the help of parents and learnt a waiata with ruma tahi. Also we created wheku masks, played e papa (Māori stick games) and have been involved with kapa haka.

In numeracy, we have been learning that division means sharing equally. This understanding has been helping us with fractions, naming, comparing and finding fractions of a set. As an extension activity some students are making the connection with improper and mixed fractions. The students enjoyed the end of our topic dividing the pizza equally and eating it! To end the term we have been writing algorithms for the bee bots and testing these instructions on a grid. We turned ruma whitu into Top Town to watch the Charlotte's Web movie for a fun activity on the last day of term.

Kind regards, Bridgit Barleyman

## Home & School News

Kelly Phillips  
Chairperson

Kia ora koutou. I have been happy to step into the role as chairperson for the Home and School and carry on the great work that Sophie Flemming and the committee have been doing. This term we had the eco fundraising items arrive and it has been great to hear all the positive feedback on how these products have helped reduce waste and plastic for families.

We have also had lots of fantastic calendar art coming in from students which will be distributed early next term, and have enjoyed all the happy faces we see at Friday school lunches. Thanks for your support with these initiatives and special thanks to our parents who have helped with lunches. We have been happy to donate funds towards more basketball singlets for all the keen basketball players this term, as well as more games in all the classrooms for winter time fun for the students.

Our next meeting will be in the staff room on Tuesday 22nd October at 3.15pm, we would love to have you join us. You can also email me with suggestions for fundraisers to [kellyinthenaki@gmail.com](mailto:kellyinthenaki@gmail.com). Wishing you all a wonderful spring break.