



**Wellington Adventure**  
George, Sekani, Johnathan, Aliana and Charnée

**What's on Top?**

Tēnā koutou e hoa ma

As the year draws to a close I have to thank all the people that come together to maintain the best possible learning environment for all students. I thank our parent Board of Trustees members: Bena Denton, Blair Withers, Ginni Douglas, Darren James and Josie Roberts for their service to the school in such important roles; your valuable contributions to the school contribute greatly to the quality of our learning environment, and the ongoing drive to improve and adapt our delivery of the curriculum so that all learners experience success, develop a love of learning and a strong connection to our environment. Well done team.

Twenty nineteen has been a year that will be remembered for us becoming a Predator Free Taranaki school which culminated in winning an environmental award for our efforts. Our appreciation goes to our community's the Department of Conservation, for their support of this genuine collaboration of community organisations. With Emily Roberts and Chauncy Ardell as our local experts, all of our students have taken an active role in this authentic

project which makes full use of our Omata Bush and the National Park. Also of note this year has been the start of Kapa Haka for the first time. Matua Gary Pratt joined us in term 2 and led once a week sessions with the whole school in waiata, haka and te reo. Some senior students opted to join a performance group for extra lessons at lunchtimes with Gary. We are looking forward to continuing this mahi and progressing to having Kapa Haka uniforms in 2020. With our words and with our actions, we reflect the values and vision of Omata School.

**He hapori tauawhi He ākongā matatika**  
**A supportive environment challenging children to become responsible learners**

A major property project coming up is the new classroom space to be added in 2020 and the reconfiguration of the main block's toilet area behind Room 3 to create a more modern, flexible and usable space. Very exciting!

Huge thank you to the many, many parents who give up their time to support the school in a myriad of ways; fundraising, coaching, managing, parent-helping, transporting, baking, cooking, gardening, camping and all the rest. Well done for supporting your child through their education in such a tangible way.

Showing that you value education and that you will only strengthen their commitment to learning. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful support staff, Caroline, Sarah, Karyn and Mel, who go the extra mile for all of our students and teachers.

Farewell to the whānau who are leaving this year; we are grateful for your time, energy and commitment to the school in whatever way you have been able to contribute. Best wishes to all our Year 8 Omata Graduates. We will listen with interest to hear of your future achievements.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive holiday season and we will see most of you back in the New Year on Tuesday the 4th February 2020.

Ka Kite Ano Ngā mihi mō te Kirihimete  
Karen Brisco

**Omata Play-Group**

A huge thank you to Rebecca Valentine for taking over the organisation of playgroup.

You have done an outstanding job!

If you and your preschooler would like to come along in 2020 to playgroup and wish to know more please call Becs on 0274681577

**Board of Trustees Update**

**Bena Denton**  
Chairperson

Kia ora koutou,

This year has flown by and I look around at our children and am gladdened to see them being just that - children. Our community of teachers, parents and Board of Trustees values and ensures our children have the opportunity to remain children as long as possible at Omata School and be given a safe and caring environment in which to learn and grow - something I think we all treasure. It's been a rich and varied year of activities, underpinned by wonderful staff and principal, who work both at the coal face and behind the scenes to help every child attain their very best. The Board were presented at our last meeting with the Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Target outcomes, which show we are doing particularly well as a school. A new classroom has been successfully secured this

year - a particular thank you to Blair Whithers and Karen Brisco who by virtue of being 'squeaky wheels' made this happen. Construction will begin in 2020 next to room six. Omata School can be proud of so many of our achievements throughout the course of the year and in particular the award received for Environmental Action in Education for our involvement in the predator free project (thank you Chauncy Ardell and Emily Roberts). The other project that stands out is the Bollinger Service, which just shows that no matter your age with a bit of determination we can enact social change. In the year to come our strategic plan will undergo a review and we will be seeking your feedback and engagement, including what is it you love and want to retain at Omata School and what kind of learning environment you want for your tamariki. Happy summer holidays everyone! Nga mini Nui, Bena.



## Class Acts



### Tui 1

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2019. We have had a busy, fun term of learning. The term began with the biennial Ukulele & Marimba Festival which is something the children will remember for a long time to come. The children really did themselves proud. I was so impressed with them as they were the youngest from all schools.

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 the children have continued developing their research skills through finding out about an inspirational New Zealand history maker.

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

*Regards Vicky*

### Korimako 2

We started the term off with Pet Products, looking at existing products and what might constitute a successful new product in the market. We used the topic of New Zealand History Makers to help develop our research and writing skills, while also focusing on how we present our findings. For Reading we have done plays, looked at more 'close reading' and comprehension tasks, and continued with our reciprocal reading groups. In Maths, we have been going back over many of the concepts taught this year and trying to fill any gaps that may exist.

Getting the children to take more ownership in this learning continues to be a focus. "If you get it wrong, go back and find out why", is hopefully something that is now ingrained in the children's psyche! Folk dancing was another success and it was great to see such a turn out from the community.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2020.

*Regards Stuart*

### Kōtare 3

Room three has been enjoyed participating in a range of interesting and exciting opportunities

this term, such as folk dancing where we collaborated to refine our dance and put our best foot forward. We have appreciated the coaching sessions that Taranaki Cricket provided for us, teaching the skills of bowling, catching and batting. Our topic on New Zealand history makers saw us choosing, researching and collecting information on a famous New Zealander, before presenting that information in a pamphlet.

We had a range of pets coming into class for pet week, including lambs, dogs, birds, rabbits and even a blue tongue lizard! This term in mathematics we have been exploring measurement, before moving on to geometry to finish off our maths for the year. I would like to thank the Omata School community, as well as parents, staff, and students for their continued support.

*Regards Sean*

### Kiwi 4

A is for alphabet and all the sounds we can say

B is for busy learners on task and at play

C is for collaboration and making things fair

D is for Dojo's -ten minutes free time out there

E is for Exercise to keep our bodies strong

F is for the Fun we've had as we've gone along

G is for Mrs Glasgow and Bookmaking all year

H is for Happy faces ready to learn

I is for Imagination used at every turn

J is for Jump Jam and energy we burn

K is for Kiwi, the name of our room

and Keep coming Caroline each day

L is for Learning, more and more along the way

M is for Mindfulness and showing respect

N is for Numbers and a tick for correct

O is for Obstacles we learned to overcome

P is for Playing rhythm on shakers and drums

Q is for Questions we've asked all year

R is for the Reading Road that is getting us there

S is for healthy Snacks that make our brain clear

T is for Talking, listening and sharing ideas

U is for Unusual! It fits some things we've done

V is for Volunteers-parents and everyone

W is for the Wonder of learning how to

X is for eXtra special learners - it's him, it's her, it's everyone

Y is for Yes, it's been a great year

Z is for Room 4 Zest and now it's time for a rest!

Have a great Christmas break.

*Regards Viv*

### Pukeko 5

Term 4 has held many interesting topics, activities and learning, not to mention Pet Week which was a highlight for our students. The children all shared about how they care for and look after their pet. This was followed by creating some wonderful designs for some new and creative pet products.

In mathematics, we learned about fractions beginning with recognising a fraction of an

object and equal sharing and finishing with students being able to read numerators and denominators.

The folk dancing display was another highlight for the students this term, with the children practicing hard and putting on a great show on the night. They used the space around them and all enjoyed performing for their parents. Have a wonderful holiday break with family and friends.

*Regards Laura*

### Ruru 6

It has been an incredible end to a busy year. The Wellington camp in week four would have to be a highlight for all involved. The children learned so much as they worked together, challenged their boundaries and pushed their limits of thinking in the nation's capital city. Our class were an exceptional group to take away, soaking up every experience on offer. Thank you once again to all of the parents who came on camp with us.

Upon returning to school, the pace has not slowed down as we have been busy completing real life learning including a Dragons' Den activity where the students were developing, marketing and producing pet products. Mathematics has focussed on the statistical strand of probability, culminating in a statistics games day where learners created games of chance and analysed the probability of success.

One extremely important moment came with the culmination of a years worth of persistence from four students when the Bollinger brothers' names were unveiled on the Omata Memorial.

As always it is difficult to say farewell to our year 8 students, they have been an exceptional group of young leaders for our school and we wish them all the very best for their high school years.

*Regards Reece and Jemma*

### Piwakawaka 7

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

We have just finished our social sciences topic, New Zealand History Makers. The children chose their own famous New Zealander and produced a brochure that they shared with the class. For mathematics we are learning to solve money problems.

You may have noticed the 'Omata 4 Square' has been 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*



**Home & School News**  
Kelly Phillips  
Chairperson

As we move into the busy end of the year I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Home and School this year and to all our wonderful committee members. We have had lots of changes this year with finding a new rhythm for school lunches, new members coming onto the committee and myself settling into the role of chairperson. All the help from parents and the community supporting us with lunches and taking part in our fundraisers is so much appreciated.

We have enjoyed raising funds for all sorts of resources for our children - musical instruments, toys, games, climbing net, sports uniforms - none of it would have been possible without your help, so thank you. We look forward to organising some fun community events next year to bring us all together and raise funds for our children. We will keep you posted with ways you can be involved, and everyone is welcome to come along to our committee meetings that are held once a term. Wishing everyone a fun and rejuvenating summer break.