

Board Report Term One 2017

On behalf of the Oakura School Board of Trustees I would like to welcome all our new families and welcome back all of our existing Oakura families for another year as part of our Oakura School whānau.



The school calendar in Term 1 is one of the busiest in the school year. There is so much going on as we try to complete the majority of our outdoor events whilst the weather is agreeable. And as you all know this has been a challenging few months with regard to this! Despite this the school have been very active with trips to Govett Brewster Art Gallery, Pukeiti, coastal sports events, Oakura Beach and Corbett Park, Ngamotu Beach for snorkelling and sailing, Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits Education Centre and to other schools for a range of academic and sporting events.

A highlight of the term is the whole school being involved in activities that see them enjoying, caring and respecting the truly spectacular environment we are lucky enough to have on our door step. The board recognises the importance of swimming and water skills as essential life skills for all our students and are committed to making these opportunities accessible. Beach clean-up day, beach safety training, marine exploration modules and snorkel training for our senior school and swimming lessons school wide are all important opportunities.



We have taken great pleasure in watching our new members of staff get to know our community and participate in many of the exciting and unique opportunities that we are able to offer as a school.

- Welcome to Janine Williamson who joins us from Auckland and has stepped ably into the team leader role for our middle school. Janine has family who live in Taranaki and she tells me she is enjoying and adapting to the slower pace of life here. Janine brings a wealth of knowledge in a range of areas, particularly IT and the arts.
- Also welcome to Jay Smith who has joined our senior team on his return from living in the UK. Jay is teaching in Room 9 this year and has a particular interest and strengths in drama. We are looking forward to our students benefiting from his skills in this area.
- Kylie Burgess has also joined us in the junior school. Kylie is skilled in the transition from preschool to primary school and her role finds her in the perfect position to utilise these strengths. Kylee has a real interest in play-based learning and has recently completed study in this area.
- We would also like to extend our welcome to Kiel De Buisson who has been appointed this term to teach in Room 5 from the beginning of term 2 until the end of the year. This appointment follows the retirement of one of our longstanding teachers Murray Laird.



Murray has been a part of Oakura School now for 24 years. He is a much loved and respected member of our staff and community. Over the years Murray has held a number of different roles within the school however the one in which he has had a special interest is in sports. He has wonderfully managed and grown this area of our school, coordinating and supporting numerous teams, being the staff representative for the school with OJSC, and continually sourcing and upgrading all of our equipment as well as cheering on the sidelines! Oakura School has benefited so much from the service Murray has given over the past years. We are a better school from having his input and it is without doubt that hundreds of Oakura children have benefited from not only his fantastic teaching skills but also his wonderful sense of humour! Murray's expertise in and out of the classroom, enthusiasm and fun personality will be missed by us all and we wish Murray a well-deserved, very happy and healthy retirement.

Over the summer period, with the help of some significant fundraising efforts from FOOS last year we were able to build six new raised gardens and these are located outside of the middle school classrooms. This term has seen our students enjoying planting and harvesting some rotational crops. Next term will see these beds planted with some berry and fruit trees and non-rotational crops for the students to study and hopefully enjoy the fruits of their labours as the seasons' progress!

Our school grounds are looking amazing at the moment and special thanks and acknowledgement must go to Noddy and Vicky Jury for their ongoing hard work in this area.

Our school continues to grow and following the consultation and discussions we had last year we are delighted that the MOE have allocated a new classroom for our school. This will be another very exciting new space of learning and at this stage we think it is likely that ground preparation for this project will commence later in the year. The placement of this classroom will be on the grass area adjacent to the penguin room. With this in mind we are incredibly grateful for the support FOOS provides for our school. Their latest initiative aims to raise funds for the 'Development of an outdoor learning environment for the middle school'. Your support of a black tie dinner and auction next term would be much appreciated. Our students and staff are being consulted at the moment for their input into what they would like to see in this space. Exciting times!

We wish our principal, Lynne all the best for her sabbatical in Term 2 and look forward to working with Sandy Taylor and Natasha Jackson who will share the responsibility as Acting Principals over the next term.

Wishing you all a safe and very happy holiday period.

Ngā mihi

Claire White

BOT Chairperson

On behalf of the Oakura School Board of Trustees: Milou Barrett, Richard Shearer, Mark Bolger, Chris Ferguson, Natasha Jackson, Lynne Hepworth