

School BOT Newsletter Term 3 2017

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In the past two board newsletters I have talked about the new policy support programme that the school has enlisted called School Docs. The board and staff have familiarised themselves with the intricacies of this new support service and we are excited to be able to share this resource with the community. You will find information on how to access this in the weekly school newsletters and I encourage you all to explore this resource at some stage at [http://oakura.schooldocs.co.nz/](http://oakura schooldocs.co.nz/) (note that there's no 'www'!). Our username is **oakura** and password **4314**. This term the Board has reviewed school policies around Learning Support, Appointment Procedures and Child Protection.



The Oakura School Community Survey has also been circulated this term. This survey is extremely important to us as it provides the board with valuable insights and feedback that help us to set the strategic goals and direction for the school looking ahead at the next three years. Thank you to those who have taken the time already to complete this and I encourage those who haven't, to do so. The links to the online version will remain open until the end of the first week of the school holidays. Families will also have received a PDF of this via their email. As I write this, 55 families out of 230 have completed that. We need to hear from more of you.

The board would like to welcome Lois Amery to our teaching staff. Lois has joined Kylee, Anna, Helen and Alison in the Junior School and will be teaching in Room 1 until the end of the year. It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Amber Bellringer who was on extended maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best for the future.

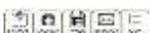
Property developments are progressing and our new classroom is still on track to be delivered to site sometime during term 4. We still anticipate the majority of work will be completed over the December/January school holidays. We continue to seek ideas and creative input from both our students and professionals about development of the outdoor learning area in front of the new classroom.

This term the Enviro Centre has been the welcome recipient of some much needed care and attention. Thanks to those families who offered their time at our recent working bee and a special thanks to the team at the BNZ who 'adopted' this spot for a team working bee. The difference you have all made in this space is incredible. If you haven't been down there recently please make the effort to check this ever-changing space out!

The board has also committed to replacing the fencing on the tennis courts closest to the school buildings and sports field. This should take place over the next few weeks.



Our Oakura School App continues to work well and I encourage you to look further into this resource as there is a wealth of knowledge about all the exciting initiatives, teaching and opportunities that are being offered across the school. Search through the team newsletters and class blogs! This is a great resource to keep an eye on the exciting things on offer as your child transitions from junior to senior and then to our intermediate school.



Students across the school have been exceptionally busy over the past term taking part in a plethora of events and activities both locally and nationally.



We have had sports teams representing the school at the AIMS Games in Tauranga (This event is for Year 7 and 8 students and now boasts more athletes than the Olympics! Over 10,000 this year!) North Island Ski Champs, Year5/6 regional representative team at the National Rippa Rugby tournament in Wellington, Cross Country events, chess competitions and our annual interschool competitions in netball, rugby and football.



Students have also participated and excelled at the Science Fair and Maths Spectacular competitions, Taranaki Arts Festival, Year 7/8 Debating Competition finals. Our yr5/6 have taken part in cycle skills training sessions and our senior students have been able to attend a careers expo day. Congratulations to everyone who took part in all of these events and thank you for representing our school in such a positive way.



At this time of year our senior management team, the board and Lynne start the considerable process of planning what the classroom and teaching structure and requirements will be for our school for the following year.

We are committed to raising student achievement across the school and agree that smaller class numbers are beneficial for both our students and our teachers. With this in mind the board has committed to funding an extra teaching position for next year to reduce class numbers across the school. The class numbers, at this stage will range from between 19 to 28 students in each classroom. This is an extremely positive projection for our school as I'm sure you will all be aware of some of the challenges around classroom numbers and space that some schools within our region are dealing with.

Have an active and healthy holiday period and safe travels wherever your destination may be.

Nāku noa nā

Claire White
Chairperson

On behalf of the Oakura School Board of Trustees