

Oakura School

Intermediate Team Newsletter

Term 2, 2017

Dear parents/caregivers and students,

Welcome back to school and Term 2. We hope students and whānau have had a restful break.

The intermediate team would like to welcome Mr Sean Kelly to Oakura School. Sean is studying teaching with the University of Waikato and will be joining the intermediate team for the first eight weeks of this term. He is based in Room 9 with Jay although will be teaching a range of students depending on grouping and learning contexts. We look forward to having an extra teacher in the team for this time.



This term is our major focus for learning is around how students can make healthy choices to maintain a healthy lifestyle. As well as learning about the physical health aspects of being a teenager, we will also be addressing social and emotional health and well-being. Students will be attending health lessons with 'Harold the Giraffe' in the Life Ed Bus during Weeks 2 and 3.

We have noticed that stationery items for some students need to be replenished. Not having the right tools can be a barrier to learning and we'd appreciate your assistance in discussing stationery with your child to see if there are things that need to be replaced. We also strongly encourage that everything is clearly named. Please also help your child to develop diary habits by helping them to remember to bring it to school every day, and to check it at home on a regular basis.

As always, our doors are open to parents and whānau. Please feel free to offer help, discuss your child with teachers and/or let us know if you have any further queries. Teacher's email addresses are listed below.

Term 2 Learning Focusses

Mathematics	Algebra, Fractions, Ratios and Proportions
Reading	Comprehension - inferring, identifying key information and ideas, evaluating texts. Novel study and reciprocal reading.
Writing	Procedural writing
Inquiry	"My leisure and pleasure choices have an affect on my hauora" (well-being) Health science, healthy communities, rights, roles and responsibilities
Science	Physics
Art	Printmaking
Performing arts	Responding to and creating: Drama, Music and Dance
Physical Education	Hockey, rippa rugby, indoor bowls
Te Reo Maori	Te Marae, kai, and sport
Languages	Mandarin, French and Japanese

Camp Term 4 and fundraising

We are really excited about our new camp venture to the marine reserve at Leigh in Term 4. We will keep you up to date with information as plans are developed. Hopefully your children have started fundraising for camp through the workathon. We've heard of some excellent entrepreneurial ideas and love that students are taking responsibility for earning money for their own camp fees. We will also be asking for help with other fundraisers throughout this term. We would also really like to encourage parents to set up regular payments for camp as soon as possible if this is a payment option that suits your family.

Technicraft

Our students have made a strong start to Technicraft at Devon Intermediate this year and have already produced some outstanding products. Please remember to pay the fees for technicraft learning directly to Oakura School.

Excellence Awards

Students have already started earning credits for Excellence Awards through their participation and excellence in learning, taking on roles in our community and representing the school in various events. There have been minimal changes to the Excellence Awards this year but we have introduced new credits that students need to earn by coming up with their own ideas or projects for the specific awards. We look forward to seeing how students choose to contribute to their learning and the community, to earn credits.

Citizenship

Year 7s will continue to work on developing their communication skills, confidence and conflict resolution skills through Peer Mediation. Every Year 7 student is rostered to act a Peer Mediator this term. The Year 8s have developed their understanding of leadership and specific leadership skills and are now moving into putting these understandings into practice in their projects.

Room 11 - A reminder that Kim Ramsay will be teaching full time in Room 11 for Weeks 6 - 10 while Natasha is in the role of Acting Principal. We are lucky to have Kim as she already knows all of the students in our team and is experienced in our collaborate and flexible learning environment. Her email address is also below.

Upcoming Events



School Photos - Tuesday 30th May

Learning Conferences - These are to be held in Week 5 of this term. The dates for conference are the 30th and 31st May, and the 1st June. We look forward to meeting with you and your child to discuss their progress and to set goals for their learning.

Interschool Debating - Judy Hanline will continue to work with our debaters to prepare them for their debate at the end of the term.

Marae Visit - Our visit to Oakura Pa has been adapted to suit the change in weather for this term. Our team will go to the marae on Thursday 25th May for our learning experiences but we will not stay overnight. We will then return to the marae on Friday 26th May to welcome the rest of the school onto the marae and enjoy the school's marae and hangi day. We thank those parents that had offered to help at our Noho Marae and all the families for their willingness to support our students by preparing and providing kai.

Upcoming Events (contd)

Elemental Technology Challenge - We have already completed technology challenges this week to select teams of four for the Elemental Technology Challenge. Teams will be selected to practice challenges as well as prepare a long term challenge for the competition in early Term 3. We need parental support to assist these teams and would love to hear from those parents that would be interested in this.

Fonterra Science and Technology Fair - Near the end of this term students will be participating in learning to specifically prepare for and submit entries for the science fair. Students will be able to select to develop entries for one or more of the following categories:

Scientific Investigation
Observational Drawing
Water Rocket Challenge

Technological Development
Scientific Photography

Scientific Journalism
Advertising Poster

Rippa Rugby - An interschool rippa rugby tournament is diaried for **Monday 26th June**. Prior to this we will be holding trials to select two teams and practising. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting in the selection and coaching of these teams.

Indoor Bowls - All students will learn bowling and some will be selected to participate in an interschool tournament late in the term.

Otago Problem Solving Challenge - Students selected to participate in this extension mathematics opportunity will continue to develop skills and compete in monthly competitions on a Monday morning.

VLN - We continue to have small groups of students learn a range of languages, as well as Astronomy and Extension Maths on the Virtual Learning Network.

Leadership - The Head Pupils will be attending a Young Leaders Conference on **Monday 15th May**. Further information to come.

As you can see we endeavour to plan for and provide high quality learning opportunities for our intermediate students to suit a range of strengths, needs and passions. Parents can support us by discussing their child's learning with them, helping to ensure diaries are being well utilised and by offering to help at different times. We truly value parental input and a strong home-school relationship to support each and every child's learning, as well as the practical help as demonstrated in Term 1 with our extensive outdoor learning experiences.

Our email addresses are:

natasha@oakura.school.nz

gillian@oakura.school.nz

jay@oakura.school.nz

kim@oakura.school.nz

Ngā mihi,

Jay, Gillian and Natasha

