

**Kia ākona te manako me te manaaki - Learning to Think, Learning**

Here we are at the end of another busy and successful year! We want to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the effort and commitment from our staff, students and families - you ensure our school continues to be a quality learning environment.

The 2019 school year started with us welcoming seven new staff members and many new families to our school. We appreciated the support and leadership of Matua Clive and members of our whānau hui who ensured the success of this pōwhiri. In term two we farewelled and thanked the Board of Trustee members who had given so much time and energy into governing our school for the past three years: Milou Barrett, Claire White, Richard Shearer, Mark Bolger, Chris Ferguson and Natasha Jackson. We also welcomed in the newly elected trustees who will govern our school for the next three years: Chris Ferguson, Hayley Bennett, Maria Townsend, Paul Veric, Grant Aitken and Natasha Jackson. We are very fortunate to have many talented people, past and present, provide such positive input into our school development.

At the end of term one we had a visit from a team of Education Review Office (ERO) reviewers. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the developments and initiatives that we have implemented since their last visit in 2015. We were very pleased with the final report and the overall evaluation judgement of 'strong' for our performance in achieving valued outcomes for our students. The key strengths identified were: the positive and respectful learning environment that supports students' engagement and learning; the broad curriculum that provides opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of activities; high expectations and a collaborative approach by trustees, leaders and teachers that promotes improved outcomes for students.

Academically our students achieve very highly, with the 2019 achievement records showing that 93% of our students are achieving at or above expectation in reading; 88% are at or above in writing and 90% in mathematics. We would like to thank and acknowledge our staff who put an incredible amount of time and energy into ensuring students are able to participate in these opportunities and achieve their personal best, not only in the core areas of literacy and numeracy but also in health, physical education, languages, science, social sciences, the arts, technology and digital technology.

Over the past few years you will have noticed the introduction of collaborative practice within teams and across the school. This continues to be an area of development for 2020. One of our aims is to prepare our students for their future workplaces by moving towards innovative, flexible and collaborative classrooms. We want students to make pro-active and positive choices on where, and with who, they learn best. We have seen many benefits for our students with the introduction of these new strategies – particularly of self-management, maturity and independence in their learning.



The Oakura-Matapu and Okorotua roopu competed at the Puanga Festival again and our school achieved a placing of 2<sup>nd</sup> overall – a major achievement that is a result of strong self-discipline and a lot of personal time to practise and then perform at this high level. We also came 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the haka, 2<sup>nd</sup> for our kakahu (uniform), 2<sup>nd</sup> for our kaitakitane (male leader) and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the korero (speech section). Matua Clive continues to lead our whole school for weekly sessions of te reo Māori, waiata, kapa haka and tikanga. His passion and expertise has

ensured a continuing development of our confidence and knowledge in te ao Māori. We also acknowledge and thank the members of our community who attend our whānau hui and provide valuable input into our areas of review and development. We are fortunate to have teachers, parents and senior students who encourage and support our students in learning te reo Māori – their efforts have resulted in us hearing te reo used more regularly in our school environment. This year is our first year as a member of a Māori Achievement Collaborative (MAC), a national professional development initiative that supports schools in developing leadership in te ao Māori. We greatly value the relationship we have with Ngāti Tairi and appreciated their support for our whole school visit to Okorotua Marae and school community hangi. This event always provides an opportunity for rich learning for all our school community.





We continue to raise our awareness and involvement in environmental initiatives, both in our school and local community. We have done this by carrying out our annual beach clean-up, reducing paper, promoting plastic-free lunchboxes, supporting predator-free Taranaki by trapping and selling TRC rat traps and many of our students travel actively to and from school. We also have a passionate group of students who belong to our Enviro Kura. These students plan, promote and participate in a wide range of environmental projects that enhance our school environment. We felt proud to be part of the Oakura Community which received the Taranaki Regional Council 'Environmental Action in the Community' award.



On a daily basis we see the value of our school being a 'full primary'. This means our school includes students from year one to year eight. Our year 7 & 8 students are wonderful role models for other students and help shape the culture of our school. They step up in their last two years with us and all take on important leadership roles across the school: Head Pupils, Enviro Leaders, Art Leaders, Sport Leaders, Media Leaders, Student Mentors, Manukura Leaders and ICT Leaders. The skills they learn through these leadership opportunities assist them in developing essential skills and competencies for their transition to high school. We highly value the tuakana teina relationship that exists between our youngest and oldest students. Through this relationship our students learn important life skills and we are continually impressed by the way they relate to, and care for each other.

We are very fortunate to have the Oakura Junior Sports Club (OJSC) operating in our community. Through the dedication of this volunteer group of parents our students get a wide range of quality sporting experiences. The high level of enjoyment and sporting achievement gained by our students reflects the commitment of these parents and the students themselves. We are also fortunate to have had experts from a range of different sports provide skill development sessions for our students within our school programme. These include: football, hockey, athletics, cricket and golf. Kiwi Sport is a government funded initiative that supports student's participation in organised sport. The funding that the school received this year has been used to provide some of this specialised sport coaching and access for students to attend interschool sports events.



Friends of Oakura School Committee (FOOS) is a group of parents who generously give their time to support our students, teachers and whānau. They continue to raise a significant amount of money so that the school can purchase resources that complement our school programmes and school environment. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to supporting our school and the children in our community. If you are not a member of this group please consider joining in 2020 as many hands make light work – and your children are the ones who truly benefit from the events they organise.

We are very fortunate to have an actively involved community who work in partnership with us in the education of their children. Thank you to all the people who have supported our school programmes this year in so many different ways: supporting your child's home learning, parental involvement in sport (interschool and OJSC), Friends of Oakura School Committee (FOOS), morning crossing duty, library help, PMP helpers, parent help in classrooms, transport assistance and supervision during school trips and activities. Without your help we wouldn't be able to offer as many opportunities for our students as we do. We truly value your support.



Once again we want to acknowledge and thank our wonderful staff and students for all that they do to make Oakura School a special place to be. We wish you all a happy and fun-filled summer holiday with your family and friends.

Lynne Hepworth  
PRINCIPAL

Chris Ferguson  
BOT CHAIRPERSON