

10 December 2020

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa - Greetings to you all

Nearly there ... three and half more school days until the end of the 2020 school year. We couldn't have written the script for this year if we had tried – truly unique! I am so proud of our school community (staff, students and parents) for the flexibility, resiliency and kindness they have shown through these challenging times.

We spend a lot of time reviewing events throughout a school year. This ensures that we can continually develop, adapt, improve and/or endorse our processes and practices. This year we were determined to look at situations from a 'glass half full' perspective. The big message we gained from this year's reviews were the positives that came out of stopping, slowing down, connecting with family and enjoying the time spent with each other. We aim to keep that uppermost in our minds as we move forward into 2021.

WELCOME: to the following students who have started at our school recently: **Ashton and Cohen Orchard, Vesper Whalen, Charlie Churchman, Gabby Fearon, Isabel and Jon van den Bemd, Ryan and Megan Chapman.**

FAREWELL: Over the next few days we farewell two of our staff: **Julie Salisbury** (R6 Teacher) and **Catrin Noack** (R3 teacher).

- Julie has taught at our school for two years and we have greatly appreciated the contribution she has made to our school. We wish her all the very best for 2021. We know she will love spending more time with her family and we look forward to her being back next year as a reliever.
- Catrin joined our team at a very unique time – right in the middle of lockdown. We really appreciated the way she made connections with her class, their parents and our staff while picking up and running with distance learning. We wish her all the best for 2021 when she joins the team at Sophia Pre-School.

SCHOOL REPORTS: The students' end of year school reports will be emailed out to families after school today. If you do not receive your child's report please contact us asap and we will check the contact details we have recorded for you.

ROAD PATROL: Next year we require three more adults who would be willing to commit to patrolling the crossing on a fortnightly basis on every second Tuesday from 8:25am through to 8:55am. If you would like to put your name forward please contact Maree at the school office. Thank you.

A big thank you to all the other parents who have made themselves available again next year.

THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLY: Tomorrow's assembly will be at **2:30pm** rather than 1:45pm.

FINAL DAY FOR THE YEAR: Our school finishes at 12:00 midday on Wednesday 16th December. The school bus will not be operating on this day. Parents of children who normally travel on the bus will need to make alternative arrangements for their children to and from school on that day.

HAVE A WELL DESERVED HOLIDAY EVERYONE! Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to Oakura School during 2020. There is no doubt it has been a year 'like no other', with many challenges but also many positives. A special mention to....

- Our wonderful **students** who have had a successful year of learning both at home and at school. They have been flexible, creative and innovative in their learning this year, finding their way through unique learning challenges with a positive mindset, whilst also continuing to look out for each other. We are very proud of them all.
- Our hard working **staff** who genuinely care for our students. They put 100% effort into providing a rich curriculum, a wide range of learning opportunities, whilst always ensuring the hauora of our students. I have seen this on a day to day basis this year and feel proud to work with such a caring, talented team.
- Our **Board of Trustee members** who have been a wonderful support again this year. They have all worked extremely hard to ensure that we access the resources we need to cater for our roll growth in a timely manner – and to develop exciting plans for the development of our school.
- **Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) committee members** who continue to work hard to fundraise for extra resources for our school and to make our new families feel welcome. We loved the new fundraiser, 'The Spelling Bee' that they organised - it was a lot of fun and learning at the same time. A big thank you to **Trudie Hudson and the committee members.**

- Throughout the year we have asked our **community** for support in many ways and your response has been tremendous as usual. The way you all stepped into being your child's distance learning teachers was impressive. We loved seeing the creativity and rich learning that went on at home during the lockdown, and the care you showed towards each other during this time. Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive of the staff and school. We see the education of your children as a partnership between home and school and this year was a true reflection of this.
- The **Oakura Junior Sports Club (OJSC)** has once again provided a wide range of sporting opportunities for our students. OJSC has manoeuvred their way through postponements and cancellations of sporting events this year and have still been able to ensure our students have had wonderful sporting experiences. I would like to thank **Susan Eagar (OJSC Chairperson) and the committee members, the coaches, managers and supporters** for all the work they do organising the teams and celebrating our students' successes.
- Best wishes to students who are leaving Oakura School this year and to the families who have their last child leaving Oakura School and moving on to other schools. Thank you for your support over the years and we look forward to catching up with you all sometime in the future.

Y8 GRADUATION ASSEMBLY: This will be held in the Oakura Hall on Monday 14th December from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend.

LOST PROPERTY: Please take time to check the lost property in the foyer between rooms 3 and 4. There are many unclaimed items – and anything unclaimed by next Tuesday will be given to a charity.

ECO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS - PREDATOR TRAPS: The predator-free traps are available at the school office for \$10. All proceeds will go to the school – thank you TRC! Extended family members or neighbours are welcome to buy their traps through our school.

BOOK AND UNIFORM AMNESTY: We are missing many school uniforms (athletic singlets, jackets etc) and school reading resources. Please check for these items in your homes and return to the school office asap. Thank you.

FUN RUN THANK YOU: This event was cancelled due to the bad weather. We will run a modified event on Tuesday where each class will get a turn on the infamous water slide if they wish. Pizzas can continue to be ordered on Kindo up until Friday evening and they will be distributed at lunchtime on Tuesday.

2021 STATIONERY: The 2021 stationery list is available on the school website and app - so items can be purchased over the school holidays. If you need a paper copy you can pick one up from the school office.

We have also teamed up with OfficeMax, Stationery Warehouse and Office Products to make going back to school easy! Your child's stationery list is now loaded and ready for you to start shopping on their websites.

WORKING BEE: Thank you to all the wonderful parents and staff (past and present) who helped out at the working bee on Sunday. We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive community who are willing to pitch in and help out when needed. All the bark is now out of the playground area ready for the installation of the astroturf over the summer holiday.

He rau ringa e oti ai
Many hands make light work



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR: Have a wonderful summer holiday everyone. Enjoy your time with family and friends and I hope you get the chance to get out and about and make the most of our beautiful environment. I feel very grateful to live in a country where this is possible!

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 4th February 2021 at 9:00am for the new school year.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Lynne Hepworth – Principal**



OAKURA SCHOOL



KELLY CLUB SUMMER 2021 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME:

Check out our holiday programme for the summer holiday period by clicking on the link below.

[Bell Block 2021 Summer Holiday Timetable .pdf](#)



nathanwallis
conscious intelligence

The Developing Brain

Wed 3 Feb 2021 : 7:30-9:00pm

The Teen Brain

Thurs 4 Feb 2021- 7:30-9.00pm

New Plymouth Boys' High School

New Plymouth Boys' High School is proud to announce that Nathan Wallis, the host of the documentary "All in the Mind", and co-host of the TV Series "The Secret life of Girls", is coming back to our community with his talks - **The Developing Brain and The Teen Brain**. Captivating audiences over 200 times per year to sell out events, Nathan has a profound reputation as a lively and engaging speaker. He uses humour and plain language to make this complex topic burst into life.

In **The Developing Brain**, Nathan provides an informative narrative on how our day-to-day interactions with children and young people, significantly the early years, plays a critical role in defining later outcomes for our children. In this talk, Nathan will guide you through the stages of brain development from the first 1000 days and into adulthood. He will reveal little tricks that will hopefully make parenting easier, and help you open up communication with your child.

In **The Teen Brain**, Nathan discusses how parts of the teenage brain are "shut for renovations". This is the part of the brain responsible for controlling the teenager's moods, for understanding consequences, maintaining focus and for thinking about the well-being of others. Understanding the changes that are taking place for the adolescent will help you to navigate successfully these important and formative years. Nathan will share strategies with participants to achieve better relationships and better outcomes for the adolescents we work/live with.

Tickets are available at www.eventfinda.co.nz.

Early Bird discounts are available so get in quick!



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