



Term 1 - 2021 Board Newsletter

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

Another school term has flown by and we hope you have all enjoyed a great summer. This time last year we were all locked down and our staff and students were adapting to distance learning. Fortunately, we have had only minor CV-19 related disruptions so far this year but as we head into winter, please continue to be mindful of good hygiene practices and keeping students' home if they are not well.

For the Board, the focus for the first term has been on governance items such as financial performance, policy reviews, property projects and setting targeted student achievement goals for 2021. We are very fortunate that a high percentage of our students consistently achieve above average academic performance and this is not only a credit to all our staff but also to the support we receive from all our parents and caregivers. Thank you.

There have been varied teaching and learning experiences for students this term. Students have participated in traditional summer term learning such as swimming, beach clean-up and visits to Okorotua Marae. These have provided a range of rich and enjoyable learning experiences for students, in which they have played an active role in exploring and looking after their local community. Classes have developed strong understandings of our school values and these are evident throughout the school. Learning is well underway, with a strong emphasis on students' personal learning goals, as set with whānau at learning conferences at the beginning of the term.



For term two, the Board will be focussed on progressing the numerous property projects that are included in our five-year plan. With our school roll continuing to grow, it is essential that our school property is safe and provides a modern learning environment that supports every student to achieve their personal best across all aspects of learning.

Staffing

Welcome to all our new staff (Eva Reid, Nicola Mills and Georgia Moore), we hope they have settled in and are enjoying our school and community.

At the end of this week Thais Farrant (Gecko Room teacher and Junior Team Leader) will be on Maternity Leave for a year. We wish Thais and her partner Drew the very best of wishes on becoming parents and the wonderful times ahead.

We look forward to welcoming Rebecca Wormald to our team next term. She will start in the Gecko Room from the beginning of term 2. Rebecca is familiar with our school, having been a student teacher with us a few years ago. She is really looking forward to being part of our school community again.



TSB Community Trust

We are very fortunate to have received a TSB Community Trust grant for \$21,600. The funds will be put towards upgrading the Library which provides such a great service to both our school and community. The Board would like to acknowledge the support of the TSB Community Trust and the amazing support they provide to organisations across Taranaki.



Property Update

Property development continues to be a high priority item. Hopefully, your children have been enjoying the new senior play area. Thank you to all our volunteers, Jeremy Pritt (Pritt Landscapes) and the team for all your work. It certainly looks great and is really pleasing to get this project completed ahead of further development plans which include:

- G Block (Rooms 9/10/11) roofing, cladding and drainage upgrades,



- Replacement of basketball hoops,
- C Block (Rooms Tawa,6/7/8) redevelopment to establish a six-classroom integrated learning environment,
- Outdoor Learning Area - establish a complementary outdoor learning area to the C Block redevelopment,
- B Block (Rooms 1,2,3) upgrade classrooms to enable an integrated learning environment,
- Pohutukawa Centre - extension plans towards road frontage.

It is important to note that none of this can happen without some levels of disruption to the school. It will affect all of us in some way and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work through the challenges, projects of this scale undoubtedly will throw at us.

Let's Go Update

The Let's Go team from the NPDC have been consulting with the Board on proposals to improve pedestrian and traffic flow on Donnelly Street. The Board have proposed feedback to the Let's Go team that include:

- New and improved footpaths,
- Wider bus turning bay,
- Improved turning area at end of Donnelly Street,
- More "kiss and drop" zones.

We will continue to work with the Let's Go Team to develop plans to improve the safety of traffic and pedestrian flows on Donnelly Street.

Friends of Oakura School (FOOS)

The board would like to acknowledge and thank Trudie Hudson for the time, energy and commitment she has given the role as FOOS Chairperson. The FOOS Committee, led so ably by Trudie, raised a significant amount of money for our school and provided fun student and community events. We are very grateful for the support that FOOS provides in this important role within our school community and would like to thank all the parents who volunteer their time to be on this committee. We welcome Justine Costelloe to the role of FOOS Chairperson for 2021.

Oakura Junior Sports Club (OJSC)

The board would like to thank the OJSC and all the coaches and managers of summer sports for their dedication and commitment. As we now transition into the winter codes, we are grateful to those parents putting their hands up to be involved. The OJSC has a mammoth task of allocating teams, equipment and coaches. We are so fortunate to have the services of Susan Eagar and the many volunteers at the OJSC to undertake this administrative task for our students.

Volunteering

I think we must have one of the most engaged parent communities in the country. If you are new to the school and/or want to contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We are always looking for volunteers (whether that be in the classroom, FOOS, on road patrol, in the enviro centre and sport & culture), every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a very happy and safe holiday and look forward to a fantastic term 2 at Oakura School.



Ngā mihi nui

Chris Ferguson, Hayley Bennett, Maria Peacock, Grant Aitken, Paul Veric, Natasha Jackson and Lynne Hepworth.