



## Oakura School Board Term 2 Newsletter

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

Another term has raced by and we are now half way through the school year. I hope you and your whānau are staying warm, dry and keeping well. It is that time of the year for coughs and colds so please remember to continue good hygiene practices and keep children at home if they are ill.

For the Board the focus of the second term has been on progressing the senior school area (G Block) upgrades and the establishment of a six-classroom integrated C Block (Rooms 6/7/8 & Tawa).

The Board, alongside Jeff Salisbury and the Ardern Peters Architects team, have been carefully planning new and improved school infrastructure to manage student numbers, and create collaborative and improved workspaces for students, teachers and our community.

At the forefront of mind has been minimising the school's footprint on the precious whenua that we occupy, while connecting with the environment. The C Block development will be a mix of reusing and enhancing three classrooms (Tawa, 7 and 8) plus, three new purpose-built classrooms, a teacher resource area, breakout spaces, learning streets and an outdoor courtyard.

Decisions made to lessen environmental impact include:

- Planting two native trees for every tree removed
- Moving the mature nikau to another position – already started this process
- Existing buildings moved to reduce the number of trees removed and maximise play space

- Pathways being designed to go around existing trees and maximise green space
- A water tank to be installed to collect rainwater for raised vegetable gardens
- Rainwater gardens established instead of storm drains
- Carpet choices are made of recycled products
- Permeable paving to be used
- Natural look/feel - use of plywood cladding
- Reusing three buildings - removing one that is not salvageable

Through colour, patterns and window positioning we will connect with Taranaki Maunga, the Kaitake ranges and our awa/river, Oakura-matapu.

So that we do not encroach on the school's sports fields, we need to remove a few established trees, including the large Norfolk pine, but plan to reposition those that we can, and also plant new vegetation to enhance the environment.

The final plans have progressed to the tender stage and an award decision will be made in the coming weeks. This will be a major milestone towards planned construction starting later in term 3.

In term 3 our school community will see these plans come to life via a 3D virtual model created and donated by Ardern Peters Architects. Huge thanks to Jeff and the team for providing this amazing piece of technology to help us all visualise this project. Until then, we have attached three images of the planned classrooms and courtyard area.





The Board has also been focussed on ensuring our kura is meeting its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In Term 3 the Board will be working through the Hautū cultural responsiveness review tool with Damon Ritai. This process will support us in assessing current practice and to set next steps.

Outside of the usual classroom learning, there has been a lot of other activity going on through Term 2. We cannot mention everything but some of the highlights were:

- A schoolwide focus on wai (water) which has involved working alongside Ngāti Tairi representative Tāne Manukonga, to monitor the health of our local awa (river)
- Yr 6 completing road patrol training to be able to help at the road crossings at the end of the school day

- Superhero dress up day in support of Taranaki Retreat
- Yr 5&6 interschool competition & Taranaki Rippa Rugby Champions
- Yr 7&8 Rippa Rugby competition
- Enviro Kura students planting along the beachfront
- Year 7 & 8 Camp to Wellington with visits to Te Papa, the Police Museum, Wellington Zoo, Adrenalin Forest and Parliament
- Regional Chess Power tournament
- Epro8 science and engineering competition where all Oakura teams made the semi-finals with one team making the finals that will be held next term
- Year 8's participating in the Police Competence Test with all teams making it through to the semi-finals
- Pyjama donations for WISE Foundation

And finally, a big thank you to the staff, FOOS, OJSC and parents who have helped to deliver all these activities and so much more. The support we receive from the wider school community makes a huge contribution to the richness of the education the school can provide.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all in Term 3!

Ngā manaakitanga

Oakura School Board:

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