

It is hard to believe that it was only last year that we celebrated the Oakura School 150th Jubilee – and here we are now into our 151st year of education at Oakura School. Every year something new comes our way, whether it be new learning opportunities for our students, or new property developments. This year is no exception with many exciting events happening throughout the year.



Just recently we have had another classroom placed on our site. This time it was in the form of a modular classroom, which provided a lot of excitement and interest for our students as it was delivered in three parts this week. Although this room has been placed on a much loved junior football field, there is still room for one more classroom to be placed next to it, sometime in the future. This will provide us with more space as our roll continues to grow. The new classroom is extremely high tech and designed to cater for a more flexible learning



and teaching environment. We hope that it will be ready for day one of the 2018 school year with our official opening for this room being soon after that.

Over the past two years we have been operating collaborative learning environments across the school, where students move between rooms to access teaching workshops, depending on their learning needs. Classes may no longer have one teacher for the whole school day. We have also been steadily updating our buildings and furniture to support this style of learning. Students are developing the skills to select where they learn best, depending on the task they are working on. As you can see in our newly developed learning environments the layout of the rooms look different, with rooms opening into each other with sound proof glass sliding doors and smaller 'breakout' spaces for smaller groups. This has allowed for more flexibility of learning. Students learn to make decisions around who they work with and where they learn best. Our goal is to have engaged, highly-motivated students who are self-managing in their learning.

Our school's curriculum has continued to be reviewed and developed this year. Our 'Learners Profile' has been developed following consultation with the community and we are now working on it becoming embedded in our learning programmes. We want students who are ko ngā kirirarau o tea o whānau - global citizens, and ako – active learners. We want them to develop the following traits in their learning: manaakitanga – to be inclusive, manawaroa – to be resilient, maia – to be confident, and auaha – to be innovative. Our ultimate aim is to have truly empowered learners.

We already see our students displaying many of these traits in a range of learning experiences that they take part in, not only in our school but also in local and national events. Their willingness to give everything a go, and the success they have as a result of their involvement and motivation, is impressive. Academically our students achieve well with the 2017 National Standards data showing that 88% of our students are achieving at or above the national standard in reading; 78.9% are at or above in writing and 80.5% in mathematics. They have participated in, and had success in sport, debating, speech making, music, cultural events, science and technology to name a few. I would like to thank and acknowledge our staff who put an incredible amount of time and energy into ensuring students have these opportunities and that all students achieve their personal best, not only in the core areas of literacy and numeracy but in health, physical education, languages, science, social sciences, the arts and technology.

Our staff continue to be involved in a wide range of professional development courses and are always highly motivated to remain upskilled in all areas of teaching and learning. This year they have all retrained in first aid, and been involved in a range of workshops in the teaching of languages, te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, health and safety, cybersafety, mathematics, leadership, phonics, IT, and reading. We wish all the staff a happy and well-deserved summer holiday!



Earlier in the year our whole school visited the Oakura Pa where our students and their whānau experienced a pōwhiri at the Okorotua Marae, followed by a hangi and a range of learning opportunities. Our school kapa haka roopu continues to grow – with nearly seventy students participating. Their performance at the Puanga Festival was impressive once again. 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 always looking for ways to improve our communication and engagement with our community. Our school website is being revamped, thanks to the generous support of TGM Design, and our app continues to be a main information hub and form of instant messaging. We moved our school policies and procedures from paper copies to being online at the Schooldocs site, allowing anywhere anytime access for our families. Along with this online communication we enjoy and encourage many opportunities for face to face engagement with our school community with such events as: new family afternoon teas, whānau lunch days, learning conferences, individual education plan meetings, information evenings, discovery time, sports days, the fun run etc. We always appreciate how well supported these events are throughout the year. We have recently consulted with our community on our school programmes and ideas for future developments. We are looking forward to collating all these ideas and developing new strategic goals for the next four years.



We continue to be involved in community-wide environmental projects. Thank you to 'Waxy Wraps' for helping us reduce our litter around the school. Through their generous support and the support of FOOS we have been able to gift a waxy wrap to all our new families this year. We have a keen number of students who are part of our Enviro Kura. They meet weekly during their lunchtimes and plan and implement environmental projects. We have been fortunate to have Impact Taranaki working with them this year, helping them understand the impact we have on our environment. Recently the Enviro Kura made and installed bird feeders in our Enviro Centre. Our senior students continued to work with the Department of Conservation on the Emerging Marine Reserves project. This culminated with a week's camp in Leigh. This

involved a range of activities such as overnight stays at the Auckland Zoo and Kelly Tarlton's and snorkelling at the marine reserve at Goat Island.

Our year 7 & 8 students continue to take on important leadership roles across the school. 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 relationships formed 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.

Our students are healthy and active. This is reflected in the high levels of fitness and the enthusiasm that our students show when participating in our physical education programmes and also in the number of sports teams to which they belong. The high level of sporting achievement reached by our students on a regular basis reflects the commitment of parents, students, OJSC and the school. We are also fortunate to have Sports Taranaki providing a range of sporting opportunities for our students throughout the year. 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 specialised sports coaching and access for students to attend interschool sports events, both locally and nationally.



Thank you to all the people who have supported our school programmes this year in so many different ways: parental involvement in sport (interschool and OJSC), Friends of Oakura School Committee (FOOS), crossing duty, library help, 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.

It is with sadness that we farewell two staff this year: Murray Laird and Alison Johnson. Murray retired at the end of term one after 24 years' service at our school and Alison retires at the end of this year after twelve years teaching at our school. Both Alison and Murray have given exemplary service to our school and community and will be missed by us all. We have appreciated their wonderful contribution to our school and wish them all the best for the future.

At the close of another busy and successful year for Oakura School we would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and we will look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Lynne Hepworth
PRINCIPAL

Claire White
BOT CHAIRPERSON