



Welcome

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to our wonderful school: Emma Ngy, Tayla-Jade Richter, Lucas Guo, and Leo Rodzevich

Upcoming events

2 Dec	EOTC Yr. 1 Little Bo Peep Farm
3 Dec	EOTC Yr. 1 Little Bo Peep Farm
	Yr. 6 Graduation evening 5:30-7:30pm
4 Dec	Yr 3/4 Assembly – 9-9:45am
7 Dec	Final House Assembly 2pm
10 Dec	Yr. 1 & 2 Awards 9:30-10:30am
	Yr. 3-6 Awards 11:30-12:45pm
14 Dec	BOT Meeting 5:30pm
15 Dec	Yr. 6 Graduation 11:30am –
	SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12:30pm

Staff Organisation

A full list of teachers, year levels and room numbers is attached. You will be able to log into Hero, our Student and Learning Management system on Friday 4 December to find out which class your child will be in next year and who their teacher will be.

We use a software programme, designed by a NZ teacher, Pluto, to organise classes for the following year. Teachers input a range of data, including academic, behavioural, social, and other factors into the programme and we can then generate several different class options. Teachers and Senior Leaders look very closely at all placements to try to ensure we get the best possible placement for every child. Your child may not be in the same class as a best friend, but that will be for good reasons. Sometimes children are better to be in a different class to their friends to help ensure they learn to their best potential. They can still see friends at break times and after school and in the weekend.

We ask that you are positive when talking to your child about next year's class and teacher. We do not consider requests for class changes so please do not request a change of class or teacher for your child.

Children need to learn to relate to different people; teachers and children, and new classes are an opportunity to make new friends.

We are very fortunate that our Board of Trustees continues to support creating classes with smaller numbers by funding for additional teachers above our entitlement we get from the Ministry of Education. Smaller class sizes enables our teachers to ensure all children have individual programmes that meet their needs.

End of Year Events

The end of Term 4 is always a busy, but special time as we end the year with some very special events. The first of these is our final House Assembly on **Monday 7th of December at 2:00pm**. This is where our 2020 House Captains share some of their highlights from their experience as a House Captains. It is also when we announce our 2021 House Captain. If your child is going to be a House Captain in 2021 you will be notified prior to the assembly as we hope you can make time to come and see them presented with their House Captain badge.

On **Thursday 10th December** we have our Awards Assemblies. The year 1-2 Awards Assembly is from **9:30-10:45 a.m.** and Year 3-6 from **11:30 a.m. - 12:45 pm**. Throughout the year teachers take special note of children who consistently demonstrate the qualities of our school values. Each teacher selects one child to receive a certificate for one of the values and these are presented at the Awards Assembly. Other children who have had whole school responsibilities are honoured as well. You will be informed if your child will be receiving an award so that you can attend if you wish.

For the past two years our Year 6 children have planted a Pohutukawa tree on our Fields Parade boundary. They choose a Whakatauki or proverb that is meaningful to them.

Our 2020 Year 6's will plant their tree in a special ceremony before next week.

Our last day of school for the year **Tuesday 15 December** is when our Year 6s present their Graduation Assembly to the rest of the school at **11.30 a.m.** Our Year 6 trophies are awarded along with Graduation Certificates. After the assembly, the Year 6s move on to the court where they are farewelled with a haka. This is a very special time for our year 6s and a lovely way for them to remember their last day at Oteha Valley School.

We ask that you do not tell your child if they are receiving an award at any one of the above assemblies, as we like to keep it a surprise.

2021 House Captains

House Captains for 2021 will be announced at our final House Assembly on Monday,

I would like to thank our outgoing Captains and Vice Captains for their leadership this year. Despite the interruptions to the school year due to CVOID they have been able to take the lead in a number of school events and initiatives. Vice Captains may be added to our Student Leader groups at the beginning of Term 2 2021.

I would like to thank Miss Lucie Mbewu for the great job she has done mentoring our Student Leaders. Mrs Faulkner will be working with the student leaders next year.

Travelwise Leaders:

Mrs Illing worked with our Travelwise Leaders this year and I would like to thank her and the Travelwise Leaders for all the activities they have organised to promote a healthier and safer journey to and from school. Our 2021 Travelwise Leaders will be announced before the end of the year.

Second Hand Uniforms

If your child is not returning to school and you would like to donate their uniform, we would appreciate any clean items to help other families. You can drop off any clean uniform items to the school office. We donate these to families in need as well as using them for children who may need a change of uniform during the day.

Moving School?

Please contact the school office if your child will not be returning to Oteha Valley School next year. It is helpful for us to know this information as we plan classes for 2020.



Book Character Dress Up Day

Last month children dressed up as their favourite book character. Funds raised went towards supporting the Back2School Project which provides assistance for families to gather necessary stationery items for their children. \$327 was raised. Thank you for supporting this.

Cultural Dress Up Day

Last month as part of our Cultural Week, we held a Cultural Dress Up day and many children dressed up in traditional costumes. It was lovely to see. There was a gold coin donation, and all proceeds went towards Foster Hope, \$466 was raised. Thank you for supporting this.

Stationery 2021

Online stationery packs for 2021 will be available to order in December. Information on how to order will follow in the next newsletter.

By supporting our stationery campaign this year, we were rewarded with over \$1,000 which was spent on Robotics equipment.

Stationery purchased will be posted to your home address. Purchasing online will support the school to purchase additional resources for the classrooms, ensure your child has the correct stationery, and means you can avoid long queues in the Stationery shops in January!

Cluster Athletics Success

Yesterday some of our Year 5 and 6 children competed at Kristin School in the Cluster Athletics. Congratulations to:

10 Year boys Carter Chase 1st place discus, 2nd place shot put

10 Year boys James Kim 1st place shot put

9 Year boys Edric Legasto 1st place discus

Well done!

BOT News

Meri Kirihimete from the Board of Trustees,

It's very hard not to make 2020 all about the pandemic. Instead I would like us to take some time to reflect upon our teachers and students:

- The resourcefulness and resilience to adapt to online learning and then the integration back into school life.
- The joy that our children still have in their hearts to be at school with their friends, learning and enjoying life.
- The enthusiasm our teachers and support staff have for helping our children to continue to learn and grow. We acknowledge that there has been a lot for our staff, learners, and families to navigate through this year and appreciate you all immensely.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to wish you all a very Meri Kirihimete and Happy New Year. We hope you have a lovely summer holiday and those coming back in 2021 are rested and refreshed. To those of you moving on from Oteha Valley School we hope that the future is full of fun, adventure, inspiration, and joy.

Ngā mihi nui

Georgina Dew

on behalf of the Board of Trustees OVS

"An effective board of trustees does not try to do the work their principal and staff are there to do. Instead, they are active in setting the overall direction of the school through strategic planning and review, monitoring and refining the school's progress towards its overall objective." - NZSTA Trusteeship, A guide for school trustees.

Meet the Teacher 2021

We are planning an evening next year for you to meet your child's teacher. You will have an opportunity to listen to your child's teacher tell you about themselves and explain a little about routines and expectations for the year. Please note, these are not individual interviews, just an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and other parents of children in the class.

We will let you know when we have confirmed the date for this.



Vandalism/School Grounds in the Holidays

Over the Christmas holidays we ask you all to be detectives and help us to keep our school tidy and damage free so we can all enjoy it.

If you see anyone damaging our property, or dumping rubbish etc., please write down the vehicle registration plate if they are in a vehicle or get a photo of them so we can report this ongoing vandalism to the Police.

We are very proud of our school environment and we need your help to keep our grounds and buildings in good condition and free from mindless vandalism.

We have recently changed Security Providers and our school is now closely monitored by Simple Security. You will see their named cars and uniformed security guards regularly patrolling our grounds after hours. Their phone number is on our gates and buildings.

Thank you for your support.

ICAS Results

Each year increasing numbers of children sit the ICAS tests. This year we have had great success in all tests with several children attaining Distinction or High Distinction. This places children in the top 5% (Distinction) and 1% (High Distinction) of all children sitting those tests across more than 20 different countries. This is an outstanding achievement and congratulations to all the children who achieved well in these tests.

English

High Distinction – Dennis Liu and Karry Gong

Distinction – Jimmy Wang, Gavin Xin, and Andy Yang

Credit – Ella Giles, Keddy Gong, Jason Hao, Justin Ren, Sharon Song, Emily Sun, Ryan Deng, Joshua Liu, Barry Xu, Alvin Chueh, William Han, Cleo Huang, Zoha Siddiqui, Alex Wang and Kay Wu

Mathematics

High Distinction – Jessie Dong, Keddy Gong, Jimmy Wang, Karry Gong, Ryan Deng, Gavin Xin, Barry Xu, and Kay Wu

Distinction – Jerry Cui, Jason Hao, Dennis Liu, Justin Ren, Yudi Wu, David Dong, Catherine Li, Joshua Liu, Andy Yang, Ryan Huang, and Cleo Huang

Credit – Kian Dolendo, Ella Giles, Nolan Guo, Eason He, Justin Huang, Sharon Song, Yilia Wang, Kyle Zhang, Dean Kim, Alvin Chueh, William Han, Ryan Newth and Cathy Wu

Digital Technologies

Distinction – Ella Giles, Keddy Gong, Jason Hao, Jimmy Wang, Ryan Deng, David Dong, Karry Gong, Barry Xu, William Han, Ryan Huang and Zoha Siddiqui

Credit – Dennis Liu, Joshua Liu, Gordon Peng, Adan Rajah, Gavin Xin, Alex Wang, and Kay Wu

Spelling

Distinction - Kian Dolendo, Ella Giles, Jimmy Wang, Victor Galang, Lucas Gan, Andy Yang, Ryan Newth and Cleo Huang

Credit - Keddy Gong, Jason Hao, Eason He, Dennis Liu, Justin Ren, Chloe Run, Sharon Song, Kyle Zhang, Ryan Deng, Gavin Xin, Ryan Huang, Nguva Hukuimwe and Zoha Siddiqui

Science

High Distinction - Karry Gong and David Dong

Distinction - Jessie Dong, Keddy Gong, Jason Hao, Dennis Liu, Jimmy Wang, William Han, Cleo Huang, Ryan Huang, Alex Wang, Ryan Deng, Lucas Gan, Joshua Liu, Gavin Xin, Barry Xu, and Andy Yang

Credit - Ben Liang, Justin Ren, Chloe Run, Sharon Song, Dean Kim, Catherine Li, Gordon Peng, Ryan Newth and Kay Wu.

School Leavers – EZLunch/Kindo

If your family is leaving our school and moving to another school that does not use EZLunch or Kindo for school payments, you need to close your account. If you're not sure about the new school log in, go to My Details and click on the list of schools, scrolling to find your new school.

If your new school is NOT on the list, use the 'close account' button on that screen. You can choose to donate your balance to school or have it paid out to your nominated bank account.



Ex Pupil Rico Bearman

Last month we were fortunate enough to have an ex pupil, Rico Bearman, visit the Year 3-6 children to promote BMX riding and to demonstrate his BMX skills.



Rico won his first National title at the age of 5! He has gone on to win numerous competitions and world titles and has travelled around the world with his sport. He is currently Year 12 at Westlake Boys High School. I'm sure he will continue to be successful; his next goal is the

Olympic games! We wish Rico all the best in his BMX career.



Teacher Only Days 2021

As part of the recent Accord between the Ministry of Education and the Primary Teachers' Union, NZEI, all Primary schools will have an additional 8 Teacher Only Days over the next 3 years.

The purpose of these days is to allow time for teachers to undergo professional development on all the changes coming into our Education System.

Our Kāhui Ako has co-ordinated our Teacher Only Days for 2021 as much as possible, for parents who have children at Primary and Intermediate School. This was not possible for Long Bay College as the dates for their Teacher Only Days were set for all colleges.

In 2021 we will have 4 Teacher Only Days where school will be closed. Teachers will be undertaking a range of professional development on all of these days.

We have tried to align them with long weekends to allow families to take advantage of these to plan for a family holiday.

These are the dates school will be closed in 2021 for Teacher Only Days:

Term 1 Thursday 1 April (Good Friday is the 2nd April)

Term 2 Friday 4 June (Monday 7 June is Queen's Birthday weekend)

Term 3 Friday 27 August

Term 4 Tuesday 26 October (Monday 25 October is Labour Day)

Kiwisport Dance

The children were pumped, and they showed it last Friday when they demonstrated the dances they had been learning for the past two weeks. It was lovely to see so many of you could make the time and come and watch the performances.

The dance programme is part of our Kiwisport, and we employ a trained dance teacher to work with all 620 children for two weeks and teach them all two dances. This year we were fortunate to have Omar as our teacher and if you were at the performances on Friday, I know you will agree he did an outstanding job in just two weeks.



Activity Costs 2021

We appreciate how difficult it can be to budget for school activities. Next year we will continue to have **Kiwisport and the cost will be \$20 per child.**

One strand of our Physical Education programme is swimming and as we do not have our own pool. Year 2-4 children will have 5x ½ hours lessons of water safety and Yr 5/6 children will have 10x ½ hours of lessons. The cost of this is to be confirmed.

Uniform Sponsorship

A big thanks to New World Albany who are kindly sponsoring new netball uniforms. Thanks to Antoinette Botha and Cordelia Girdler-Brown for approaching New World and arranging this.

We look forward to seeing the children in their new uniforms next year.

School Finishes Early on Tuesday 15 December

School closes on Tuesday at 12:30pm. If you are unable to pick your child up at this time you will need to book them into SKIDS. You can contact Emilio at otehavalley@skids.co.nz

Start Date 2021

School commences at 8:50 am on **Wednesday 3 February 2021.**

We are taking any new enrolments on **Tuesday 26th January from 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.**

A Few Final Words from me

It is hard not to mention COVID/Lockdowns when reflecting on 2020. None of us could have predicted or imagined how 2020 would play out.

The year started with such promise, and I am happy to say that we are ending the year with lots of promise also.

We ended 2019 with 582 children and we will end 2020 with 618 children. Our roll just keeps on growing.

Two of our teachers, Sammy Beadle and Caitlin Winter welcomed new arrivals into their families and we are delighted to welcome Jasper and Erica to the OVS whānau.

We welcomed several new teachers throughout the year, and we have loved watching them all become an integral part of our community.

It has certainly been a different and difficult year, but I am constantly amazed at the resilience we have all shown throughout the year.

From our youngest children who had just started school to all of you parents, family and whānau, our teachers and all our other staff, I was so impressed to see how well we all adapted to the very difficult times we had to face.

You all became teachers overnight and I know that many of you found that very challenging while also trying to juggle work commitments and other family members.

Despite all of that we have managed to have a great last term at school as we try to fit in many of the things that we couldn't do during the year.

Thank you all for your ongoing support throughout the year. Thanks to those of you who have given up your time to do jobs for us, such as those hardy souls who volunteer for Kea Crossing supervision before school. This is a thankless task, but a very essential one and we do appreciate those of you who do that.

Special thanks to Myra Sanches who helps out in the library and our Resource room by sorting out books and resources that need returning.

Thank you to all the parents who have helped with class trips, sports coaches, and managers.

Thank you to Emilio and his SKIDS team who look after your children so well, before and after school, and in the holidays. We have a long and very positive relationship with Daniel, Emma, Emilio and Paulo from SKIDS and we thank you for your support for our community.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the Board of Trustees. We are very lucky to have a group of parents who give up their time and continue to make ongoing and positive contributions to the school. I



would especially like to thank Georgina Dew, our Board Chair. George has been an outstanding support and advocate for our school – thank you! I would also like to acknowledge and thank our other Board members: Justine Haves who has given up many hours to meet with MOE on the plans and design of our new classroom block. Thanks to Lynn Tao, Brad Hicks, Norris Zhang and Viaan Janse Van Rensburg. I would also like to thank Hilary Ford, our Minute Secretary and Sherryl Prangley, who on top of all her DP responsibilities, is our staff trustee.

Finally, I would like to give a huge thank you to our amazing teachers, leaders, and other staff we have at Oteha Valley School. Teaching is an incredibly rewarding but very challenging occupation, this year even more so. Staff managed bubbles, distance learning, face-to-face teaching and learning during lockdowns, as well as managing their own families.

Many of you will know and appreciate that teachers do not just work from 8:50 – 2:50 and they certainly do not get 10 weeks holiday a year. They work incredibly hard to try and meet the needs of all your children, often spending their own money and family time doing things for your children.

Our Support staff do an outstanding job, largely behind the scenes. Thanks to all our Learning Assistants for the support they give our children who have additional needs or challenges.

Thank you to Rebecca Heap who, along with Rosie Muir, managed to set up a pop up library in the Resource Room so teachers could still access some books, when our Multipurpose Room needed to be transformed into classrooms.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our Property Manager, Paul Taylor, our gardens, and grounds make me feel proud every time I come up the drive.

Massive thanks to our amazingly patient, positive, and helpful office staff; Julie Bodger, Serene Chua, and Hilary Ford. Take a bow- you do an awesome job and are wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Finally, thank you to all of you for entrusting your most precious treasures, your children, with us. We have a positive and happy school community, and we look forward to seeing most of you again next year.

Ngā mihi nui

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. I hope you manage to spend quality time with your family, whānau and friends. If you are

travelling around our beautiful country be safe and look after our natural environment.

Have a happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you back in 2021 for another (hopefully uninterrupted and COVID-free) year.

Have a wonderful Kiwi Christmas

Meri Kirihimete!



Kia kaha, kia haumaru

Rose Neal
Principal



2021 Organisation

ROOM	Yr. LEVEL	TEACHER
1	2	Ms Rosie Muir
2	2	Miss Kimberley Currin
3	2	Mrs Katherine Wylie
4	2	Mrs Sandra Skinner
5	2	Mrs Kate Girvan
6	1	Mrs Nicole Rose
8	1	Mrs Michelle Casey
9	1	Mrs Kirstin Craggs
10	1	Miss Ann Huang
11	1	Miss Clarisse Harman
12	1	Mrs Jo Illing
13	6	Ms Bex Wills
15	6	Mr Matt Killen
16	6	Miss Kristie Daniels
17	5	Mrs Jenna Coote
18	5	Mrs Annie Meissner
19	5	Mrs Nicola Faulkner
20	5	Ms Candice de Villiers
21	ESOL	Mrs Hsin-Yi Yang, Mrs Siu-Ling Kuan, Miss Ruth Lin
23	4	Mrs Collette Newman
24	4	Mrs Joyce Ah Ching
25	4	Mr Matt Ingham
26	4	Mr Max Powderley
27	3	Miss Karen Liang
28	3	Miss Hannah An
29	3/4	Ms Sara Ingram
30	3	Ms Charlotte Lee



Community Notices

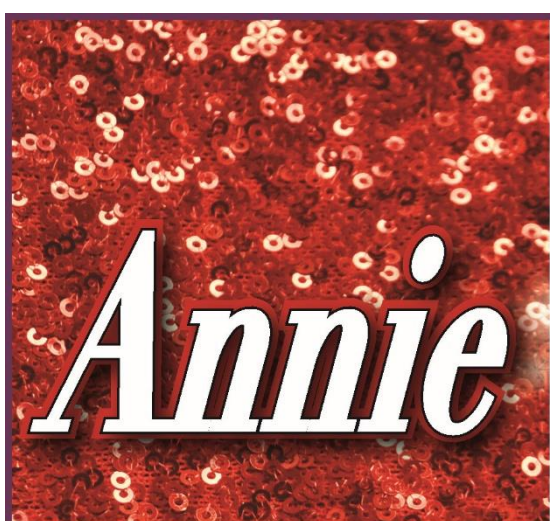
GUITAR LESSONS AT OTEHA VALLEY SCHOOL

Hi, my name is Phil Moore and I have been teaching guitar at Oteha Valley School since 2012. Students learn a range of traditional and contemporary styled songs and techniques **during school hours on Wednesdays**. The lessons are group classes in which students play and sing together a group and take turns to play to the group as individuals. It's a really fun format and is popular at the four schools I teach at on the North Shore.

To view some of my students in action, click on the following link...

https://www.musiqhub.co.nz/teacher/9173/Phil_Moore

To find out more about the lessons contact phil.moore@musiqhub.co.nz or 021761441



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This is a fun yet educational week for students aged 5 – 15 years.

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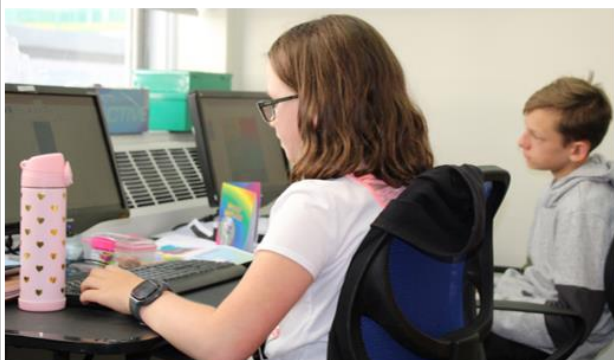
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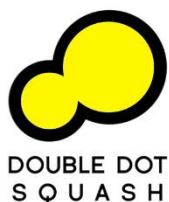
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05/20



Newsletter No.9
2 December 2020

Breathing life into learning
Hahatia te ora ki nga akoranga

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