

# Newsletter No. 1 3 February 2021



#### Welcome

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to our wonderful school: Adam Eilyaas, Addison Woodhouse, Adina Ibarra, Alyssa Lin, Aston Lin, Avery Chen, Charlene Zhang, Dora Li, Ella Cheng, Gabriel Yang, Kexin Ren, Lancelot Su, Maggie Mahdi Pour, Marttia Mahdi Pour, Matt Yuan, Nini Jiang, Rayaan Salameh, Ryan Liu, Ruri Lee, Vanessa Wang, Victoria Li, Cooper McIndoe, Ethan Yuan, Mia Sherman, Aiden Hove, Ivey Chen, Michael Matubede, Lauren Nguyen Do, Jake Agius, Haniya Aneeq, Katherine Chen, Lucas Vo, Sophia Choi, Emmy Xu, Kai Tseng, Enia Jaramillo Villafuerte, Handre and Isla van Loggerenberg, Sera Mo, Mishika Patel, Noah Kowalenko

# **Upcoming events**

# **Welcome Back**

Welcome back to Term 1! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new children and their families. We are very excited about the new year and the things we have planned. Term 1 is always one of our busiest terms of the year so make sure you read our notices, check the school calendar and our school Facebook page so you know what is happening and when.

Please continue to sign in and scan the COVID tracing app when you come in to school, to help keep us all safe and our community COVID-free.

## **Staff News**

I am delighted to let you all know that Sarah Dainty and her partner, Bevan, welcomed Imogen May to their family on 22 December 2020.

I would also like to congratulate Chantelle Rich who married her partner, Paul, on 16 January. Chantelle is now Mrs England.



our website: www.oteha.school.nz

# **School Organisation**

We have recently made changes to our website and we are still making changes to some of the pages. There is a lot of additional information on there so make sure you take time to browse through it, especially if you are new to our school.

Our organisation for 2021 has a couple of changes to 2020-here are the main points for your information.

We have 6 Collaborative Teams: These teams all have a Collaboration Leader: Mrs Nicole Rose leads our Year 1 team, Mrs Sandra Skinner leads our Year 2 team, Ms Sara Ingram leads our Year 3 team, Mr Matt Ingham lead our Year 4 team, Mrs Jenna Coote leads our Year 5 team and Ms Bex Wills leads our Year 6 team.

In addition to Team Leaders, we have a SENCO (Special Needs Co-ordinator) for all students across the school from Year 1 – Year 6. Mrs Heather Smyth works 3 days a week. Heather leads our team of Learning Assistants who support children who require additional support.

We have a growing ESOL team, ably led by Mrs Hsin-yi Yang. Mrs Siu-Ling Kuan and Miss Ruth Lin are the other two ESOL teachers and Mrs Hee Soo Kim is our English Language Assistant, supporting our Korean children. Mrs Antoinette Botha works in the ESOL team, supporting our children from South Africa.

Mrs. Sherryl Prangley, our Deputy Principal has overall responsibility for curriculum development across all classes. She also co-manages our anti-bullying programme, KiVA, with Mrs Kellie Gregory, another Deputy Principal. Sherryl and Kellie are both also responsible for the implementation of our Student Learning System, Hero. Kellie also has overall responsibility of our Year 1 classes and programmes.

Three of our teachers have lead roles in our Oneroa Kāhui Ako. Mrs Chantelle England is one of 5 Across School Leaders. She will be working 2 days a week on Kāhui Ako work and working 3 days in our school.

Mrs Nicole Rose, Miss Kristie Daniels and Mrs Hsin-Yi Yang are Within School Leaders. They will work with Within School Leads in other Kāhui Ako schools and work with teachers in our school. The Within School Leaders work in one of our Workstreams that are linked to our Strategic Plan; Cultural Awareness and Responsiveness, Wellbeing and Complex Needs.

numbers and team is attached. If you wish to make time to meet with your child's teacher with Mrs Smyth, or one of the ESOL staff please email them or contact them via the school office.

## Meet the Teacher

We are happy to invite you all to meet your child's teacher on Wednesday 17 February from 5.30—7.30 p.m. We will let you know the format for these and times for you to meet your child's teacher next week.

# House Captains and Travelwise Leaders 2020

We have four Houses in the school; each named after a famous/renowned New Zealander. Our Houses are:

Batten: named after Jean Batten; our famous Aviator

Hillary: named after Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to successfully reach the top of Mt Everest and return

Rutherford named after Sir Ernest Rutherford, the Scientist who split the atom

<u>Sheppard</u>, named after Kate Sheppard, who was our most famous suffragette

Each house has a house colour; Batten– blue, Hillary-green, Rutherford– red and Sheppard– yellow. Each term we have a House day where we do a House activity and children are encouraged to wear something in the colour of their house.

Siblings are all placed in the same house, to make it easier for parents. Teachers give House points in class and in the playground and each week the winning house is announced and House Captains fly the winning flag for the week.

Each term the house with the most house points gets a free mufti day the following term and at the end of the year all house points are added up and the winning house is announced and awarded the prestigious House trophy.

Congratulations to Rutherford House who were the overall winners of the House Trophy for 2020.

A full list of teachers and their email address, room



At the final House Assembly of 2020, the following Year 6 children were selected as House Captains for 2021:

Batten: Sophie Gallimore and Karry Gong

Hillary: Nina Fraser and Andy Yang

Rutherford: Gabrielle Talbot and Edric Legasto

**Sheppard**: Jade Bracey and Ethan Kilian

Congratulations to these children.

House Vice Captains will be chosen at the end of Term 1, giving all Year 6 children the opportunity to work towards gaining one of these leadership roles. Mrs Nicola Faulkner will be working with our House Captains and Vice Captains this year.

Our Travelwise Leaders also play an important role in our school, organising Travelwise events and activities. Our school has been a Travelwise School for a number of years and it is great the way children participate in all our activities. 2021 Travelwise Leaders will be announced a little later this Term.

Mrs Jo Illing will work with our Travelwise Leaders this year.

# **Teacher Call Back Days**

Teachers attended two Call Back Days during the holidays for professional development. One of the days was spent looking into our 'Revisioning' and some curriculum developments.

The second day we had a facilitator from Core Education who inspired us with theory and practical information and activities based around Wellbeing, which is one of our key focus areas for the year. We are working with the facilitator in 2021 and you will find out more information form your child about what we are doing to ensure our staff and children have Wellbeing as a priority. We are planning to offer parents the opportunity to come and see what we have been learning and doing, in the Wellbeing area, later in the year.

Teachers also spent a lot of time setting up their classrooms and preparing lessons and activities for the first week.

# School Apps – Communication App

To ensure you receive the appropriate notifications, please update your SchoolApp preferences with your child(ren)'s **new year levels and room numbers.**We have sent an alert which will guide you through the process. If you have not already signed up to SchoolApp we urge you to do so. To download the app on your phone, click this link - <a href="https://otehavalley.apps.school.nz/install/">https://otehavalley.apps.school.nz/install/</a>

## **School Donation**

Along with most other schools the Board of Trustees asks parents and caregivers for a donation to assist with providing additional resources and activities that are not provided for in the funding given to schools by the Government.

Schools are funded for operational costs, such as staffing of teachers (not Office or Property staff, or any Learning Assistants)), power, gas, water, telephones, insurance, basic classroom resources. We are also allocated a nominal amount for ICT and Sport provision. This is based on the number of students we have enrolled.

In addition, schools receive a small amount of funding to help provide for the needs of children who have identified special needs as well as children whose first language is not English. The Special Needs funding is based on our school decile, and as a decile 9 school we get a very small amount of money for special needs provision.

Our ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) funding is based on the number of ESOL children we have who meet the Ministry of Education criteria.

Most schools are not able to offer the kind of services, support and resources expected by parents, by just relying on the money allocated from the Government. Many schools enrol International Students, charging them large amounts of money for them to attend school, to help bolster funds.

Our school was going to apply to become a Signatory to the Code of Practice for International Students in 2020, but we did not proceed with this, due to COVID.

The Board also agrees to provide a range of devices, such as Chromebooks and iPads in all classrooms, so that parents are not required to provide a device for children. The costs of providing for constant access to a range of technology for students is an enormous part of our budget. This is just one area that your school donation goes towards.

School 'fees' are classified as 'donations' by the Inland Revenue Department and qualify for a tax rebate when you complete your 'Claim for Personal Tax Rebate form'.

Our donation level remains the same as for 2020:

One child: \$48.75 per term, or \$195 for the year,

Two children: \$97.5 per term, or \$390 for the year

Three or more children: \$125 per term, or \$500 for the vegr.

Any contribution you can make towards the donation is much appreciated.

We understand that the beginning of the year is a very tough one for families buying uniforms and stationery and we are very happy to accept ongoing payments of the donation throughout the year.

To pay the donation, please pay via Kindo. If you don't have an account, please see the instructions further down.

# **Activity Costs 2021**

We appreciate how difficult it can be to budget for school activities and we have put together a list of planned activities for the year and the approximate cost to give you an idea of when we will be asking you to pay for activities. Please note that some of these costs are estimates and exact amounts will be published closer to the time.

Kiwisport \$20 for the year for Kiwisport coaching.

Swimming–Year 2-4 - 6 classes  $1^{st}$  to  $5^{th}$  March and 7 classes  $8^{th}$  to  $12^{th}$  March

Year 5-6 - 15th to 22nd March 7 classes

The cost of swimming to be confirmed.

Year 5/6s visit to Te Hana Marae at the end of Term 1-cost tba

Each class also has an EOTC event in Term 4. We are still finalising details for these in an effort to reduce costs where we can. We are pleased that we have been able to secure bookings at an Auckland Camp for our Year 5 and 6 children in November. Costs will be confirmed as soon as possible and you will be informed so you can start putting aside some money.

Teams/classes may organise an additional trip linked to a curriculum area and you will be given plenty of notice before being asked to pay for this.

# Pick-Up/Drop Off Zones/Kea Crossing

To ensure the safety of children and adults coming to and leaving our school we have some very important rules about parking, dropping off and picking up your child.

Our school driveway is closed for all vehicles, except staff and business vehicles, such as couriers, throughout the day.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child you need to find a carpark on one of the adjoining roads around the school and walk down to the school gate.

If you are dropping off/picking up your child from SKIDs before or after school you need to do the same-please do not drive down the Fields Parade drive either before or after school. This is the exit for staff and business vehicles only.

We have a Kea Crossing outside the Fields Parade gates and Year 6 children are trained to be Kea Crossing monitors by the local Police Education Officer. They are in action every morning before school from 8.30—8.50 a.m. and after school from 2.45—3.05 p.m.

Please make sure you cross on the crossing and follow the instructions of the Crossing monitors. Our children are very good at using the crossing correctly,

Unfortunately, many of our parents/caregivers/family members are not good role models and cross anywhere on the road or do not follow the crossing rules. Please be a good role model at all times.

We need parents to monitor and supervise our Kea Crossing before school each morning, as teachers are busy getting organised for the day. Mrs Jenna Coote is our teacher in charge of the Kea Crossing and she would love to hear from you if you can help out, even if it is only one morning a week or fortnight. You can contact Jenna by emailing her: jennac@oteha.school.nz

# Communication

We believe that effective communication between home and school is very important. We keep you informed through our newsletter which is sent electronically once a month as we use other means to communicate daily or weekly messages and information to you.

The newsletter will be emailed to you if you are on our mailing list on the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to join up to the newsletter, you can do this through the website.

Our website has a school calendar so you can look ahead and see what events are coming up. We also have a noticeboard outside the Medallion Drive entrance to the school which is updated regularly to remind you of major events.

We have a school app that I really encourage you all to download free to your phone. It is called School Apps and you just search for it in the App Store on your smart phone.

We use this app to notify you of any urgent messages. If the school had an emergency, such as a lockdown, earthquake, tornado etc we will use this app to keep you informed. This app is also used to let you know if there is a delay with buses from school trips or to remind you about mufti days or other events such as swimming.

There may be times during the year that you wish to communicate with your child's teacher. All teachers have a school email address (on the attached staff list), so please email the teacher to make a time to speak to them. Teachers have meetings and other commitments after school and preparation to complete before school so will not always be available to talk to you if you just 'pop in.'

If you have any comments, questions or concerns about your child's academic or social progress at school your child's teacher is the first person you need to speak to. If you have spoken to the teacher and would then like to discuss the matter further you are invited to contact the Collaboration Leader- a list of these is included on the staff list.

If you still have questions please contact Mrs.

Prangley or Mrs Gregory. If you have questions or comments about whole school matters, they can be directed to me, or the Board of Trustees for governance matters.

We acknowledge that we don't always get it 'right' so if you have a problem or issue with something please let us know straight away so we can sort it out quickly.

It is also lovely to get feedback from you about things we do well. If we do something well please tell others but please give us the opportunity to 'fix up' something first by talking to the appropriate person if we get it wrong.

# Growing Independent Learners

One of the positive outcomes of Lockdowns last year was the fact that our children became more independent at coming in to school and class on their own. This was especially noticeable for our Year 1 and 2 children. One of the Key Competencies we work hard to develop with all children is Self-Management, and carrying their own bag, coming into class and getting out their belongings and getting ready for the day is an important part of this.

After Lockdown we were very pleased that you were happy to continue letting your child come into class on their own in the morning. You are welcome to walk your child down to the classroom or pod, but we ask that you let them come into the classroom on their own in the morning. If your child is just starting school you are welcome in the classroom for the first few days to help settle them in, but we ask you leave at 8.45 a.m. so the teacher can get the class ready for the day.

Last year we started up what we called 'Whānau Friday' where we invited you into the classroom until 9.30 a.m. Many parents were able to take advantage of this and enjoyed spending time in the classroom and seeing how the morning starts. We hope that many of you will be able to come and join us on Friday mornings to share the learning that your child is doing.

# **Stationery 2021**

Stationery for 2021 can be ordered using the online service offered by Office Max. Go to: <a href="https://www.myschool.co.nz/otehavalley">https://www.myschool.co.nz/otehavalley</a> Orders are delivered to your home or work at a time that suits you.

We do ask that you use the products and quantities which we have selected as these have been specifically requested by teaching staff. If, however, your child has any unused items from the most recent school year, you are welcome to bring these.

Please note that we will not be selling stationery items from the school office until the end of February.

School Donations and Kiwisport payments can now only be made through Kindo. These will be loaded next year and can be paid from the beginning of Term 1.

## **Break Times and Lunches**

We have decided to continue with splitting break times for our Year 1&2, and Year 3-6 children again this year four days a week. The reason for this is a logistical one, as our school continues to grow it is very hard when all children have the same break times and are sharing our very small hard-court space. We do have one day a week, and this will be Friday this year, where we do have everyone with the same break times, so that children can play with younger or older siblings and friends. On the other 4 days Year 1 &2s have different break times to Years 3-6. On **Fridays** lunches can be ordered through EzLunch.

## **Thank You**

At the end of last year, the Kāhui Ako Student Council helped the Salvation Army by donating tins for families in need over the Christmas Period.

Thank you to everyone who helped by donating goods, you helped make Christmas and the New Year brighter for someone.



## **New Classrooms**

I know that I have been talking about our proposed new classroom block of 18 classrooms for several years now, and you are all probably wondering (as I have been) if we are ever going to see them! At the end of last year the Ministry of Education confirmed that our plans for the build have gone to Auckland Council for consent, and once that is approved the programme can go out to tender. This is very exciting, and I can't wait to see all the diggers, workmen and women arrive to actually start the work. We are hoping that construction can start around the middle of the year, with a tentative finish date of December 2022, allowing us to (hopefully) occupy the new classrooms for the beginning of 2023.

Once the plans have been approved, we will put up some of the plans and designs on our website so you can see what we have been working on. It is going to be a massive build- a 3-storey classroom block with 6 learning spaces on each level. We have worked hard to ensure we have created the best use of space we can and incorporated designs that reflect our Vision and our place in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

## Term Dates 2021

Term 1 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 16th April

Term 2: - Monday 3 May – Friday 9th July

Term 3: - Monday 26th July - Friday 1st October

**Term 4** – Monday 18 October Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

There are some other days that our school is closed during the year, for public holidays or Teacher Only Days. The Ministry of Education has allocated additional days that schools are closed for instruction to allow for teacher professional development.

School is closed on the following days:

#### Monday 8 February- Waitangi Day

**Thursday 1st April -Kāhui Ako Teacher Only day** for all schools in our Kāhui Ako: Long Bay College, Long Bay Primary, Torbay Primary, Glamorgan Primary, Sherwood Primary and Northcross Intermediate

Monday 26th April- ANZAC Day observation

Friday 4th June - Teacher Only Day

Monday 7th June Queen's Birthday

Friday 27th August Teacher Only Day

Monday 25th October Labour Day

Tuesday 26th October Teacher Only Day

School events are listed on the calendar on our website.

We endeavour to give you as much notice as possible of upcoming events and will put reminders in the newsletter where possible.

It is a real privilege to be part of this school and community. We have great staff, wonderful children and parents, family and whanau, and a supportive Board of Trustees. I am really looking forward to a positive and exciting 2021!





# 2021 Organisation

Rm	Yr.		
1	2	Ms Rosie Muir	rosiem@oteha.school.nz
2	2	Miss Kimberley Currin	kimberleyc@oteha.school.nz
3	2	Mrs Katherine Wylie	katherinew@oteha.school.nz
4	2	Mrs Sandra Skinner	sandras@oteha.school.nz
5	2	Mrs Kate Girvan	kateg@oteha.school.nz
6	1	Mrs Nicole Rose	nicoler@oteha.school.nz
7	1	NE Class	
8	1	Mrs Michelle Casey	michellec@oteha.school.nz
9	1	Mrs Kirstin Craggs	kirstinc@oteha.school.nz
10	1	Miss Ann Huang	annh@oteha.school.nz
11	1	Miss Clarisse Harman	clarisseh@oteha.school.nz
12	1	Mrs Jo Illing	joi@oteha.school.nz
13	6	Mr Matt Killen	mattk@oteha.school.nz
15	6	Ms Bex Wills	bexw@oteha.school.nz
16	6	Miss Kristie Daniels	kristied@oteha.school.nz
17	5/6	Mrs Jenna Coote	jennac@oteha.school.nz
18	5	Mrs Annie Meissner	anniem@oteha.school.nz
19	5	Mrs Nicola Faulkner	nicolef@oteha.school.nz
20	5	Miss Candice De Villiers	candiced@oteha.school.nz
23	4	Mrs Collette Newman	colletten@oteha.school.nz
24	4	Mrs Joyce Ah Ching	joycea@oteha.school.nz
25	4	Mr Matt Ingham	matti@oteha.school.nz
26	4	Mr Matt Powderley	mattp@oteha.school.nz
27	3	Miss Karen Liang	karenl@oteha.school.nz
28	3	Miss Hannah An	hannaha@oteha.school.nz
29	3/4	Ms Sara Ingram	sarai@oteha.school.nz

30	3/4	Ms Charlotte Lee	charlottel@oteha.school.nz
ESOL Leader		Mrs Hsin-Yi Yang	hsinyiy@oteha.school.nz
ESOL Teacher		Mrs Siu-Ling Kuan	siulingk@oteha.school.nz
ESOL Teacher		Miss Ruth Lin	ruthl@oteha.school.nz
English Language Assistant		Mrs Hee Soo Kim	heesook@oteha.schoool.nz
SENCO		Mrs Heather Smyth	heathers@oteha.school.nz
Learning Assistants		Mrs Brenda Mitchell, Ms Kath East, Ms Anna- Lee Perkinson, Mrs Maria O'Keeffe, Mrs Antionette Botha	
ASL		Mrs Chantelle England	chantellee@oteha.school.nz
Part-time teachers		Sue Wilson Mr Phil Hancock Mrs Steph Johnson Ms Therese McKinley	suew@oteha.school.nz philh@oteha.school.nz stephj@oteha.school.nz theresem@oteha.school.nz
Office Staff		Mrs Hilary Ford- Office Manager Mrs Julie Bodger Mrs Serene Chua	hilaryf@oteha.school.nz julieb@oteha.school.nz serenec@oteha.school.nz
Property Manager		Mr Paul Taylor	pault@oteha.school.nz
Deputy Principals		Mrs Sherryl Prangley Mrs Kellie Gregory	sherrylp@oteha.school.nz kellieg@oteha.school.nz
Principal		Ms Rose Neal	rosen@oteha.school.nz

# **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://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOpLvAhe58NIYaXS5FBZrQMV5xbDwUdrD

To find out more about the lessons contact <a href="mailto:phil.moore@musiqhub.co.nz">phil.moore@musiqhub.co.nz</a> or 021761441

# Introducing our online school shop

Open 24/7 for orders & payments through our school website



Your myKindo account is designed to make it easy for you to manage school payments and complete school forms for your whole family, through a simple website.

#### Get started

Click the shop link on the school website to get started or visit myKindo.co.nz\*

\* If you have an existing EZLUNCH or myKindo account (at any school or club) log in and go to My Details to add your student at this school

#### Questions

Just pop in and see us or give us a call.

"I can organise stuff from work – rather than a rush in the mornings to get the right change, and make sure it gets handed in."

"So utterly convenient – one less thing to worry about when juggling work and kids."

"I enjoy having one service for all aspects of school donations, orders or permission slips. I feel more confident there is a record of payment documented, plus I can complete the transaction quickly."

# The good stuff

- Transact with school when it suits you... anytime, anywhere.
- No cash or paper forms, no looking up bank details, no visiting the office. Just log in and click. Even small amounts can be paid quickly and securely through Kindo.
- Lots of payment options.
  Build up a balance with regular
  bank deposits or pay as you
  go. Visa, Mastercard, Amex,
  UnionPay and POLi also
  available.

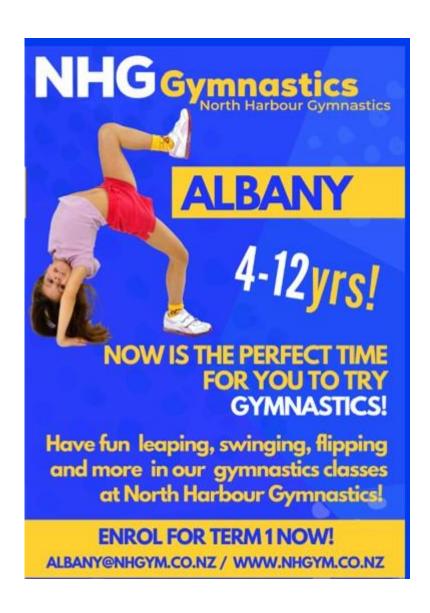


#### Need help?

Visit support.mykindo.co.nz or talk to the friendly staff at the Kindo helpdesk 0508 4KINDO or email hello@mykindo.co.nz.

Available 8am-4pm on school days.







If you want to be one of the community contacts, please contact Newsletters Unlimited, Ph/Fax: 09 817 3867, or Email: newsletters@xtra.co.nz