

## Welcome

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to our wonderful school: Baruch and Theresa Boamponsem, Emily Tang, Carson Wu, Jagjot Basra, Heinrich and Leila Erasmus, Sarah Yan, Sarah Song, Thisaga Danwatta Liyanage, Charlotte Jia, Hesara and Nethara Wijesundara; Kingsley Jin, Hayden and Gordon Jung, Mia Malherbe, Alua Turgumbay, Chloe Khurana, Ryan Ji, Maxwell Gu, Luca Shin, Ella Bao, Aiden Zhang, Irene Deng, Sophia Kulikova, Harlow Jeppe, James Park, Aveline Chueh, Connie Chi, Mason Zhang, Quinton Pang, Ivan He, Violet Budel

## Upcoming events

<b>13 Dec</b>	<b>BOT Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom</b>
<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>Yr. 6 Graduation 11:30am – Year 6s only</b>
<b>8 Feb 2022</b>	<b>School commences at 8:50am</b>

*Upcoming events are also on our calendar on our website:*  
**[www.oteha.school.nz](http://www.oteha.school.nz)**

## Staff Organisation

We have finalised our staffing for 2022 and 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 10 December** to find out which class your child will be in next year and who their teacher will be.

We are unable to organise for children to meet their new teacher, before they leave for the holiday break, due to COVID restrictions. We know that some children may feel anxious about returning to school with a teacher they may not know and so this year all teachers will make a short video, introducing themselves and this will be uploaded to your child's 2022 SeeSaw class. You will be able to watch this after 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Organising children into classes is a very complex and important process. 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, 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.

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## Staff News

**Welcome:** I would like to formally welcome Monique Harding who started as a Learning Assistant during Lockdown. Monique is going to be supporting children across classes and some of our English Language Learners.

**Farewell:** Unfortunately, I also need to farewell some staff who won't be returning in the same capacity in 2022.

- Jenna Coote has decided to resign from her Learning Leader and full-time classroom teacher role at the end of this year. Jenna has been a valuable member of our staff for the past 3 years. The good news is, that she will be back teaching in a part-time capacity.
- Therese McKinley has worked part-time over the past two years releasing teachers for Leadership and Classroom Release Time. Therese is going overseas to see family for the first time in a number of years. She will also be back sometime in 2022 to work part-time for us again.
- Tina Kwok has been working as a Counsellor in our school for the past two years one day a week. She has been fortunate to secure more work at a High School, so we will sadly say good-bye to Tina.
- Warren Spanhake is a regular part-time teacher at our school. This year he has been job sharing with Mrs Shay Behague in Rm 3. This position finishes at the end of this year. Hopefully we will see Warren back in a relieving capacity in 2022.

**Baby News:** The OVS whānau continues to grow. Congratulations to Mrs Kirstin Craggs and her husband Danny who are expecting their first child in May next year. Kirstin will return for Term 1 2022 and will then take Maternity Leave.

Congratulations also to Monique Holding and her husband who are expecting their second child.



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## End of Year Class Awards

Teachers have selected up to 3 children from their class to receive one of our special end of year awards. We have been working over the past 3 years on refining our school vision and values. We have done some parent, child, and staff surveys to find out what is most important to everyone in our community. We are planning a 'launch' of these in 2022 but decided it would be nice to start including our new values in our 2021 end of year awards. This year, teachers were asked to choose the child who best demonstrated the following:

**Aroha- compassion**

**Maia- courage**

**Pākiki- curiosity**

Teachers will give these certificates to children who are at school on:

**Tuesday 30 November** for Years 0,1,3, & 5

**Wednesday 1 December** for children in Years 2,4, & 6

If your child is not attending school for the remainder of the year, and they are getting an award, the classroom teacher will let you know when you can collect this.

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## Year 6 Graduation

Our Year 6s deserve the 'send-off' that we have been able to give our Year 6s in previous years. Of course, COVID has meant we have had to reorganise the traditional way we farewell our Year 6s.

We asked our Year 6 parents if they wanted to have a virtual Award presentation this year or defer and try to have something together in February 2022. Overwhelmingly the Year 6 parents opted for a deferment, so we have set a date for Year 6 Graduation Ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022. We are keeping our fingers and toes crossed that we can get together and present the Year 6 Awards in person on the day.

We don't want the Year 6s to just leave on the last day of school, without any fanfare, so we have planned a 'ceremony' we will hold outdoors, to ensure we meet all the social distancing requirements, to farewell them. This will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and details will be sent to all Year 6 parents.



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## 2022 House Captains

COVID has once again forced us to re-think many of our end of year OVS traditions. This is disappointing as these events are very important for everyone, but we are doing the best we can under the circumstances to make some of these events still go ahead, albeit in a very different format.

We will be announcing our 2022 House Captains and Vice Captains to all the Year 5 classes on Tuesday 7 December. Unfortunately we cannot have parents on site for this assembly. We are announcing 8 House captains and 4 Vice Captains this year. An additional 4 Vice captains will be announced during Term 1 2022.

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 COVID they have been able to take the lead in a number of school events and initiatives.

Mrs Nicola Faulkner has worked with the Student Leaders this year and she is keen to continue doing this in 2022. Thanks to Nicola for all her hard work with the Leaders.

### Travelwise Leaders:

Thanks to Mrs Jo Illing and the 2021 Travelwise Leaders. Like the House Leaders, they were not able to get everything done that they planned, but we look forward to new Travelwise Leaders being announced at the start of 2022.

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## 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.

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## 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 soon as possible.

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## Stationery 2022

Online stationery packs for 2022 will be available to order in mid-December. Information on how to order will come out in a Mail Chimp.

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!

Your child may have some unused stationery from this year and we are happy for them to use some of that next year.

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## 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.



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## Pub Charity Grant

The school was successful in applying to Pub Charity Ltd for a grant for a defibrillator. This is positioned in the hall foyer. It is something we hope we never have to use, but it is reassuring to know that we now have one on site, and this will also be available for the groups and organisations who hire our hall after hours. I would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their support:

**Bridgehouse Lodge**

**Charlies Bar**

**Huapai Tavern**

**Jt's Bar & Grill**

**Warkworth Tavern**



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## Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa – North Harbour Sport

A BIG thank you to Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa – North Harbour Sport who approved a grant for \$5,478. This will be used to purchase some gymnastics equipment which will be stored in the hall and will enable us to start teaching some basic gymnastics as part of our PE programmes. One of our teachers, Mrs Charlotte Lee, has experience in teaching gymnastics, and she is going to be supporting other teachers to use the new equipment.



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## BOT News

Kia ora from the Board,

Well, what a year 2021 has been, not only for us as a school and community, but for the entire world.

As we enter into the last few weeks of the year and school is coming to a close for 2021, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the staff, students and whanau at OVS for your continued hard work, support and flexibility around the ever changing environment we find ourselves in due to the Covid pandemic. There has been so much mahi (work) from all areas at OVS to ensure classes and the school could continue to run as smoothly and safely as possible both online and in person. You are all wonderful and we as a board are so very grateful for you all.

Our hope for you all this summer is that you are able to enjoy the break, have some adventures and create some memories together with your whanau.

Stay safe out there.

Meri Kirihimete to you all.

George Dew

Presiding Member

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## New Classroom Update and Projects

**New Classroom Block:** During Level 4 all work on the new classroom block had to stop, but since we moved to Alert Level 3, the contractors have been very busy, making up for lost time. It is so good to see the building starting to take shape. Currently the expected finish time for the new classrooms is the end of February 2023, with removal of the portable classrooms, Rms 21-24 happening in June 2023. These dates are obviously 'best estimates', and as we know from the past two years, timelines and deadlines need to be flexible.

**Drainage and new Playing surface and seating:** The drainage work on the driveway side of Pod 1 is finished. We now have a porous concrete surface that enables this area to be used as additional outdoor learning spaces. We have plans to develop this further over the next couple of years- adding some seating and fencing around it.



The drainage work around the Year 3-6 playground and outside Rms 1-4 is finished. All of this area has an artificial grass surface, and some new seating and planting. It looks amazing, and it means that these areas can still be used after rainfall. They have only been finished for two weeks, but already have been well used by children on their days in school.



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## Upcoming Property Projects

We have a number of other property projects starting soon, and all of these are going to enhance our school facilities and resources.

**Sandpit:** The sandpit by the Year 1&2 Playground has been out of action for almost two years and I am delighted to let you know that work on refurbishing this will be starting soon. I hope that it will be able to be finished for the start of 2022, as our young children in particular love to play in the sandpit, and it is an important part of our Learning through Play programme.

**Heating in the Hall:** Many of you will have sat in our school hall over winter, layered up, to keep out the cold. We have had heat pumps installed in there over the last week, so the days of freezing cold assemblies and gatherings are over!

**Lino replacement in Pods 1,2, &3 toilets:** Over the Christmas holiday break, the lino in Pods 1,2, &3 will be replaced, and hot water will be installed in the boys' handbasins. When the school was built in 2004, hot water was only put in the girls' handbasins.

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## Vandalism/School Grounds in the Holidays

I would like to thank our Property Manager, Paul Taylor, for all his hard work on our school grounds. Most of you will not be able to appreciate how lovely

our school is looking, due to lockdowns, Paul has done a fantastic job of maintaining the grounds and gardens, with some help from Mr. Phil Hancock.

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 regular checks and patrols from our security company, Simply Security, throughout the day and night and if you all help ensure that everyone respects our grounds and equipment, it helps all of us. Thank you for your support.

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## Kiwisport Dance

We are dancing again in 2022! We are really looking forward to welcoming back Omar from NZ Dance Curriculum, in February next year. All classes will have two weeks of dance with Omar, culminating in performances for parents (should COVID restrictions allow us to have parents on site in large numbers again). The school subsidises the cost of the dance lessons and parents are asked to pay \$20 per child for 10 lessons.



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## Activity Costs 2022

At the moment we are unable to confirm Activity costs for 2022, apart from Kiwisport. We hope to be able to let you know early in the year what activities we are planning and the costs for these, but the uncertainty of COVID related restrictions, means we have not confirmed any other activities yet.

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## Teacher Only Days 2022

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 that needed to be taken before 30 June 2022.

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

We had to postpone two of our planned Teacher Only Days in 2021 and we have rescheduled these for 2022, meaning in 2022 we have some additional days that the school will be closed for instruction. We have tried to align these with other schools in the Kahui Ako, and attach them to existing long weekends, so that families may be able to take an extra family holiday for a couple of days.

On these days teachers will be involved in professional development sessions and activities.

**These are the dates school will be closed in 2022 for Teacher Only Days:**

### Term 1

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** (Good Friday is the 15<sup>th</sup> of April)

### Term 2

**Friday 3 June** (Monday 6 June is Queen's Birthday)

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June** (Friday 24 June is a public holiday for Matariki)

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## Last Day 2021

The official last day of the school year is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, but due to COVID restrictions only Year 6 children will be at school that day. For all other year levels, the last day of school and online learning will be

**Monday 13 December** for Years 0,1,3, & 5

**Tuesday 14 December** for Years 2, & 4

**Wednesday 15 December 12.30 p.m.** Year 6

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## Start Date 2022

School commences at 8:50 am on **Tuesday 8 February 2022.**

We are taking any new enrolments on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February from 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.**

**This is the last official newsletter of 2021, but I will send you all a final message to end the year on Monday 13 December.**

**Rose Neal**  
Principal





## 2022 Organisation

ROOM	Yr. LEVEL	TEACHER
1	1	Miss Clarisse Harman
2	1	Mrs Nicole Rose
3	NE	Miss Emily Hamill
4	Yr. 1/2	Mrs Jo Illing
5	Yr. 3/4	Mrs Collette Newman
6	4	Miss Hannah An
7	4	Mrs Joyce Ah-Ching
8	4	Mr Matt Ingham
9	2	Mrs Sandra Skinner
10	2	Mrs Kate Girvan
11	2	Miss Kimberley Currin
12	2	Miss Karen Liang
13	5	Mr Max Powderley
15	5	Ms Bex Wills
16	5	Ms Charlotte Lee
17	6	Mrs Chantelle England/Mrs Becky Jackson
18	5/6	Mrs Natalie Colville
19	6	Mrs Nicola Faulkner
20	6	Mrs Kristie Daniels-Burl
21	5	Mr Matt Killen
25	ESOL	Mrs Hsin-Yi Yang, Mrs Siu-Ling Kuan, Miss Ruth Lin
27	3	Mrs Michelle Casey
28	3	Ms Rosie Muir
29	3	Ms Sara Ingram
30	3	Mrs Kirstin Craggs
31	NE	Miss Ann Huang
32	NE	Miss Rosy Oh



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## OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



# ERICA STANFORD

Member of Parliament for **East Coast Bays**

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Authorised by Erica Stanford, 95 Beachfront Lane, Browns Bay, Auckland 0630



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07/21



**Newsletter No.7**  
December 2021

**Breathing life into learning**  
Hahatia te ora ki nga akoranga