



Upcoming events are also on our calendar on our website: www.oteha.school.nz

Welcome

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to our wonderful school: Youngmin Yoon, Eleni Gao, Jandre Botma, Charlotte Liu, Lexi Courtenay, Yuwen Qi, Hannah Chang, Kenzie Hicks, Sybil Li, Ellie Zhang, Daniel Pedroza Ramirez, Charlie Geng, Ava Viljoen

Upcoming events

6 Nov	EOTC Yr. 1 Rms 11, 12 & 23 Kiwi Valley Farm
7 Nov	EOTC Yr. 1 Rms 7, 8 & 10 Kiwi Valley Farm EOTC Yr. 2 Rms 5, 6 & 16 Science Playroom
8 Nov	EOTC Yr. 2 Rms 13 & 15 Science Playroom
11-12 Nov	Yr. 5 MERC
13 Nov	Muffi Day \$2 gold coin
15 Nov	Assembly Yr. 1-2 9am Rm 11 and Yr. 3-6 9:45 Rm 3 EOTC Yr. 1 Rms 9, 24 & 31 Kiwi Valley Farm
18 Nov	BOT Meeting 6pm
18-20	Yr. 6 Camp Adair
22 Nov	Onepoto Cultural Festival
29 Nov	Assembly Yr. 1 9am Rm 23, Yr. 3-6 9:45am Rm 4 Walkathon – time to be advised

Staff News

I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Shaun Donnelly, Room 27 teacher, has resigned from his teaching position due to a family emergency back home in Scotland.

Mr Donnelly has been with us for a year and a term and he has inspired many children and teachers in his short time with us. We wish him and his family all the best.

We are fortunate to have Ms Jennifer McWilliam, a regular reliever to fill in at such short notice and I would like to welcome her to the school. Ms McWilliams will teach in Room 27 until the end of the year and she will attend the Year 5 and 6 camps.

Walkathon

On Friday 29th November there will be a Walkathon to raise money for additional devices in classrooms. We are hoping that children will not only ask family in New Zealand to sponsor them but also their overseas family and relations. We will be using an online platform to make this easy to sponsor and donate money.

More information will follow.

Stationery 2020

Online stationery packs for 2020 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!

Tax Invoice/Statements

Next year parents will be able to access their child's account via Linc Ed which will enable you to see what has been paid and what is outstanding. This will make it much easier for parents to manage and will eliminate statements/tax invoices going home.

Further information on this will be available in January.

Strategic Plan Feedback

The Board of Trustees would like your feedback to help direct our Strategic Priorities for the next 3 years. Shortly we will send you a link and ask you to complete 4 questions. Once we have analysed your feedback, we will let you know what actions we will be taking. Mrs Yang will put a link on WeChat also.

End of Year Reports

A reminder that there will be no written End of Year Reports as we now report your child's learning through Linc Ed. We have been transitioning to Linc Ed this year as it enables you to access information about your child's achievement at any time, rather than waiting for the middle and end of the school year. It also means that the information is more up to date, than with the previous written/hard copy reports.

Your child's learning can be accessed at any time and you can use any device. You do need to be set

up on Linc Ed. If you would like more information on this, please click the link.

<https://www.otaha.school.nz/quick-links/linc-ed/>

Year 1 and 2 Playground

Last month we received several donations that totalled over \$4,000 towards the Year 1 & 2 playground repairs. I would like to thank all those very generous parents who contributed to this.

We also held a Pita Pit lunch and \$1 was donated from each lunch purchased. A total of \$488 was made. I would like to thank Sunnie Xie the owner of Pita Pit Oteha Valley for making this donation to the school. Coupled with a \$5,000 donation from the PTP, we were able to get the work done on the playground so that our Year 1 and 2 children could enjoy using it once again. Work on the repairs started last week and we hope to be able to have it open it again next week.

2020 Classes

Teachers are busy completing assessments on children and looking at combinations of children as we start to work on the organisation of classes for 2020. I am sure you will appreciate that with over 500 children to place in classes, this is a huge and complex task. When placing children in classrooms, we consider a range of factors such as academic strengths and needs, social groups, a balance of boys and girls, and individual teacher strengths and passions.

You will be informed of your child's 2020 class and teacher **on Friday 6 December**. Children will have an opportunity to meet with their new teacher and classmates in the last week of school. With our growing roll and some teacher resignations, we have appointed several new teachers to join our team next year, and we are excited about the strengths and passions they bring to our school.



Onepoto Cultural Festival

Our children will be performing at Onepoto Primary on 22 November at 11:30am in the indoor stage. The Kapa Haka group will also perform at school on Friday 29th November at both the Year 1 & 2, and Year 3-6 assemblies, and we warmly welcome all parents, caregivers, family and whanau to come and watch them perform.

Mrs. Rose has worked with our Kapa Haka again this year and I would like to thank her for all the time and effort she has put into working with them. We were fortunate to receive a grant from The Lion Foundation, that enabled us to employ a tutor to help prepare the Kapa Haka for their performances.

Thanks to Lani Ormsby for all her work with the group this year also, Lani taught the group some new waiata, poi and haka, so make sure you come along to the assemblies to enjoy their performance.

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 the 9th of December at 2:30pm. This is where our 2019 House Leaders share some of their highlights from their experience as a House Leader. It is also when we announce our 2020 House Leaders. If your child is going to be a House Leader in 2020 you will be notified prior to the assembly as we hope you can make time to come and see them presented with their House Leader badge.

On **Wednesday 11 December** we have our Awards Assemblies. The year 1-2 Awards Assembly is from **9:30-10:30am** and Year 3-6 from **1:45-2:45pm**.

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.

Our last day of school for the year **Friday 13 December** is when our Year 6s present their Leavers 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.

New Classrooms

The Board of Trustees are very excited to be able to give you a glimpse of what our new 3-storey, 18 learning space classroom block will look like.

There is a visual display in the Office foyer and a chance for a virtual tour using the QR codes. Come and have a look at the plans, and artistic impressions of what the interior and exterior may look like.

Work will commence in 2020 and we hope to have all 18 learning spaces ready to occupy for 2022. The building will be constructed behind Rooms 21-24. These are temporary buildings and will be demolished or removed once the new building is completed, allowing us to create much needed additional hard-court spaces for basketball, netball and general play areas.

I would like to acknowledge all the time that two of our Trustees, George Dew and Justine Haves, have dedicated to this project. George and Justine have attended fortnightly meetings with the Ministry of Education and our Architects, GHD Woodhead, for the past two and a half years. This is a huge commitment and I would like to thank them both for their dedication to our school.

Kelly Sports Athletics Fun Days

Kelly Sports will be running two athletics days in Week 8:

Thursday 5th December will be for New Entrants - Year 2 from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Friday 6th December will be for Year 3-6 children from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

All children will compete in 8 different events (a range of throwing, jumping and running events). It will be set up as a rotation and there will be an adult supporting at each station. There are no saving days for these events, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather.



Vandalism

Over the October holidays and Labour Weekend, we had a lot of damage done to our school. Over the holidays trees were pulled out of the ground and one was even thrown on a roof. Our gardens were damaged and several windows in Room 30 were smashed. We repaired the windows and then the same windows were smashed over Labour Weekend. We are in the process of working with the Ministry of Education to get additional Security Cameras down in that area of the school. The Ministry lease all those classrooms from Port-a-com, so we have to wait for permission to install anything on the buildings.

In the meantime, if you know anything about the damage please let me know by emailing me: rosen@oteha.school.nz. This kind of vandalism is mindless, and it is very frustrating as it costs us a lot of money to repair the damage, and this uses up money that was set aside for other purposes.

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. 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 test 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 20 different countries. This is an outstanding achievement and congratulations to all the children who achieved well in these tests.

Digital Technologies

Distinction – Barry Xu, **Credit** – Gavin Xin, David Dong, Joshua Liu, Kay Wu, Zoha Siddiqui, Nikita Lobanov.

Merit - Adan Rajah, Victor Galang, Joshua Park, William Han

Science

High Distinction – David Dong, **Distinction** – Andy Yang, Barry Xu, Alex Yang **Credit** – Gavin Xin, Ryan Deng, Lucas Gan, Joshua Liu, Kay Wu, Cleo Huang **Merit** – Ethan Wen

Spelling

High Distinction – Andy Yang **Distinction** – Caleb Lee, Victor Galang, Cameron Beck **Credit** – Lachlan Hicks, Gavin Xin, Ryan Deng, Jayden Yi, Nguva Hukuimwe, William Han, Alex Wang **Merit** – Ryan Huang, Alex Yang

Maori Weaving

This week our Yr. 5/6 Maori and Pasifika students were able to work with Ruth Port- an expert weaver and friend of our school. They learnt the Reo and tikanga around harvesting harakeke and raranga, and definitely displayed perseverance when working towards completing their pieces. Today they were able to use their new skills to teach some of the Year 4 students –tuakana/teina. Tino pai everyone!





Ngā mihi nui

Rose Neal
Principal



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10/18

