

Principal's Newsletter

Term 2 2017



Greetings Parents/Whanau and Caregivers

Term two is well underway and students are once again in full swing of their programmes.

Welcome

We welcome our new students and their families to Oaklynn:

Harry McIlroy at Green Bay School, Inoke Taukolo at our Te Ara Hou satellite class, Paul Daniela-Fononga at New Lynn and Dayelle Fitzsimons-Nu'u at Base Rm1.



Harry



Inoke



Paul



Dayelle

Also welcome to Danny McGonagle
– our new Property Manager.



Brief from Board Of Trustees Chair Karen Burns

I would just like to introduce myself and say a big hello to you all. My son, Robbie Burns attends OakTEC and he will be 18 this year. As Board Chair I just want you all to know that I take this role seriously and very much want to be of service to the school and the community as a whole.



I went along to OakTEC a few weeks ago to hear and meet Katrina and Steve from 'Katrina's kitchen garden' who are based in Titirangi. They are very passionate about working with young adults with special needs. They are a community based business and they are passionate about the whole community working as a whole to make this a success for all. A group of students from OakTEC do work experience in the gardens every Friday afternoon and they enjoy it very much. Please contact Katrina to find out a lot more about her services/produce and what she has to offer on; katrinaskitchengarden@gmail.com It would be so great if we could spread the word and give them our support. You can also find them on Facebook.

At the end of May I attended a two-day workshop for Board Chairs and this was a busy two days with plenty of learning, understanding of the role and great information to ensure the BOT and I do the best we can.

Also I popped along to the morning tea for the parents of students in our satellite class at Arahoe School. It was a lovely morning with plenty of food and some wonderful home-made treats. Everyone was very welcoming and it was great to see the staff, students and parents enjoying time together.

I look forward to meeting you all along this great journey.

Parent Respite Meeting

Karen (BOT Chairperson) and Colleen (Deputy Principal) attended both Respite Care Meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and our families. The meetings were very well attended, with just over 50 parents attending either the morning or evening meeting. After gathering information from other caregivers and parents.

Key points were:

- MOH are looking at other ways they can improve support services for families.
- They are investigating a model, where Respite Care and Carer Support funding would be given directly to individual families. This would enable parents/carers to buy the services of Carers and Respite providers of their own choice, to give them a break either in their own home or out of home.
- More options need to be provided for respite; particularly for high needs and complex children like ours.
- MOH acknowledged that facilities are not readily available; of the few that are, they need replicating in the West or improving availability.
- There are unused beds in Respite Care facilities in Auckland.
- There is no emergency respite provision for families of children with disabilities, although there is a team looking into crisis management for families at the moment.
- Parents expressed that not enough information was given to them about services that could be provided through Taikura, and it was agreed that this was an area to be improved.
- Services co-ordinated through Taikura were also discussed; i.e. Respite Care, Carer Support, In Home Support, and Behaviour Support, and the unacceptable waiting lists for services from agencies contracted by Taikura Trust.

We'd like to thank you all for attending and hope your input will see services improved for all families in the near future.

Mid Year Reporting

As a result of a previous reporting survey and as part of our Annual Plan this year, we looked at ways to strengthen our reporting processes. Teachers have identified the aspects that are important when reporting your child's / young person's progress -

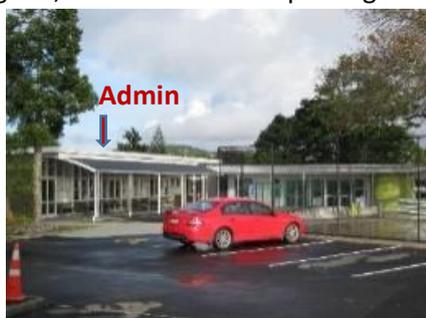
- specific statements about achievement
- finding ways to show you what they are learning using photos where appropriate

Some teachers are going to trial different reporting formats - so your child's / young person's report may look different.

We will also be asking you what you think of the changes.

Property Update

Base School students are making the most of the new/refurbished area – where they can ride their bikes/scooters or just walk around. We have had turf laid near the oak tree, which looks great, especially since our students love to play on the grass area. Our new Admin offices look good, and there is more parking on site.



Ngā mihi nui

Louise Doyle
Principal