

Tēnā koutou katoa parents, whānau, carers and staff,**Special welcome to our newest member of staff.**

Amy Crean is the newest member of our therapy team. Amy joined us just before we went into Lockdown. Amy has been working as an SLT for 3 and a half years. Amy emigrated from Ireland in February and joined the Oaklynn team in March. She began her career working with children from areas of disadvantage before moving to work as part of a therapy team for children on the Autism spectrum. Amy is looking forward to getting to work within the school as part of the team.

Update from our Principal Louise

Oaklynn has Hauora (wellbeing) as one of its core values.

During Lockdown and also as we return to our new normal, we continue to hold the wellbeing of all at the heart of everything we do.

I have been researching how we need to take care of ourselves as we adjust to the feelings we have around the crisis of COVID and have found that there is something referred to as anticipatory grief. Anticipatory grief is that feeling we get about what the future holds when we're uncertain. Usually it centers on death. We feel it when someone gets a dire diagnosis or when we have the normal thought that we'll lose a parent someday. Anticipatory grief is also more broadly imagined futures; i.e; there is a storm coming or there's something bad out there. With a virus, this kind of grief is so confusing for people. Our primitive mind knows something bad is happening, but you can't see it. This breaks our sense of safety. We're feeling that loss of safety.

So this is why we need to check in with each other, take care of ourselves and those around us and continue to look after our collective hauora and **BE KIND**

COVID 19 update

Whilst New Zealand's numbers of COVID 19 remain low - there is still a sense of caution in the community as we return to a new 'safer normal'.

The second week on site has brought an increase in students - with students returning to school each day. It's great to see and hear how everyone is settling back into school life again and we would love to see more of our students return over the next week or so - remember:

**SCHOOL IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE
COME BACK TO SCHOOL**

Staff are vigilant with maintaining the hygiene measures - ensuring everyone is safe and healthy. Next week we will continue to reduce movement across the school sites. The therapy team have returned on site and are locating themselves in specific classes next week, as they did this week.

What's happening around the school

Junior School - Arahoe, Chaucer, Glenavon, New Lynn and St Leonards Rd schools

This week's focus: Chaucer - a few words from Marta Morton - class teacher

It was great to see some of our students back last week!

We've had a fantastic two weeks - going for long walks and spending nice sunny autumn mornings at Chaucer's playground (for the first time in eight weeks!).

We have been getting comfortable with our old and new routines (e.g. checking our body temperatures and applying hand sanitiser).

We have also managed to work on our independent tasks really well (without complaints - well done parents for carrying on this work at home). It is also amazing seeing our students being motivated and working hard on developing new skills.

We are looking forward to having everyone back next week!



Senior Satellites - Avondale, Green Bay School and Green Bay High schools

This week's focus: Te Aratika Tahī - a few words from Donna Conway - class teacher

It's so good to be back in school with such an amazing bunch of learners.

Since our return we have been focusing on the "new normal" and how this works for us within our

whānau. We have spent time discussing what has happened around the world and how this will impact on the world as we know it. As a class we have agreed that there needs to be a “balance” between learning, play, reflection and have started to include these in our daily routine.

Tahi students and staff have definitely returned to school more reflective and wiser. They have developed a greater understanding of what is important in life and all agree that this is *Family, Health, Friendship, Fun and Understanding (learning)*.

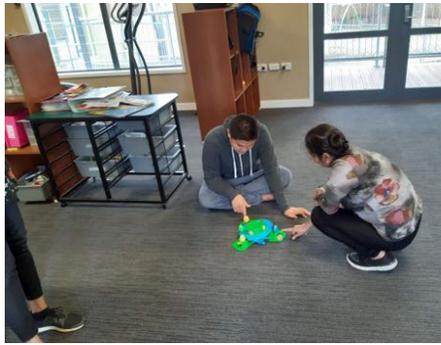
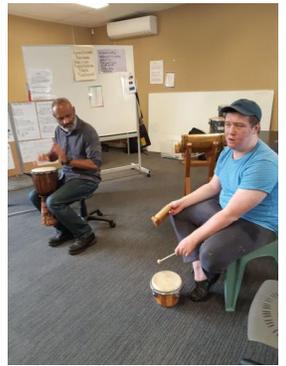


Alternative Learning Environment - 6 x Base classes and OakTEC (tertiary education)

This week's focus: Base Rooms 6 and 7 - a few words from teachers Sam Mata (Rm6) and Istvan Csata (Rm7)

Wow! Our “new normal” in Room 6 & 7 has been interesting to say the least. It was great to see some of our learners back at school as we ease our way back into term 2. *Exciting, different, unsure* - are some of the words that we will be hearing a lot of over the next few weeks, this is something we all share. For now, with some students at home and some returning, Room 6 and 7 have merged for the time being, to share resources, staffing and programmes. As a combined class, we have decided to implement programmes that can ease the transition between “lockdown” and school. We have enjoyed karaoke, drumming, drama, walks and play to ensure that our learners get back into that school routines successfully. It has been a fun 2 weeks!





Drumming, Curling and table tennis in room 6& 7

Therapy team

A few words from Sarah Robertson - our therapy team leader

It's been great to head back into some classes this week. The therapists have missed being able to see and work with students face to face. Although we are not able to freely move around the different sites that make up Oaklynn, each therapist has been spending a day in an assigned class which has been a great way to reconnect with students. Coming up each week, in this newsletter, we will focus on a different discipline that makes up the therapy team.

Notices from Niva

Friendly reminder: Any changes to contact details whether it be a new address, mobile number or even any taxi issues etc, please call the office and let me know.

Upcoming dates:

Friday 29 May - Teacher Only Day (school closed)

Monday 01 June - Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday

Take Care ,
Ngā mihi nui
Louise Doyle
Principal

