

Tēnā koutou katoa, talofa, ni hao, namaste, hola, marhabaan, kon'nichiwa, sata srī akāla, selamat siang, vanakkam, malo e lelei, bula vinaka, fakalofa lahi atu, kiaorana, hello to our parents, whānau, carers and staff,

A few words from our Principal Louise

As we approach the end of term, I am sure there are mixed emotions amongst our school community as we head into the two week school break. Some families may be feeling apprehensive about having their young person home again for an extended period after having them home for nearly eight weeks during Lockdown. On the other hand there will be many staff who are looking forward to a well-earned break after a very long term of 12 weeks - and for those who worked through the Easter holidays it will be a well-earned break after 21 weeks.

So with that in mind I hope that whoever you are, and whatever your circumstances are, that the next two week of school break “**go well**” for you.

Ngā mihi nui

Louise

COVID 19 update



As we reflect on our successes and hiccups over the COVID experience, there is a strange sense of uncertainty around the place. When things feel different for me – or make me puzzle – my way of responding is to research!

I have recently found this article (written by a psychologist about New Zealand, in an international newspaper that starts to explain how we may (or may not) be feeling.

“In lockdown, we had a very structured plan,” she says. “Our numbers were going in the right direction, so our efforts were being rewarded, and we were basically cocooned in our bubble of safety.” As long as people followed the rules, Maguire (clinical psychologist) says, they were safe – especially as the lockdown appeared to have quelled the pandemic’s spread. Most New Zealanders never personally knew anyone who had contracted Covid-19.

But now its inhabitants (New Zealanders) now face a burgeoning **anxiety that some find more difficult to cope** with than the fear of the pandemic, analysts say: an open-ended uncertainty about their own futures and New Zealand’s place in the world if the virus continues to rage elsewhere.

“The brain doesn’t like ambiguity, it sees it as a threat and it interprets it in the same way it would a target coming after you,” Maguire says, adding that New Zealanders – rather than focusing on their own situation – were watching news reports of other countries’ struggles with apprehension. *“Ambiguity turns on your fight or flight system from a survival perspective.” and so now, anxiety about the pandemic has worsened for some.”*

Update – Parent, whanau carer survey

Thank you to those of you who were able to complete the survey, we have had 35 entries and there is a range of responses. Here is a sample of some of the comments that came from parents.

We will use this information to reflect on our work and areas that we can make improvement - if we ever had to repeat this experience - But here's hoping that we never have to live through the whole COVID lockdown again.

What did we do well? :

- *My son was initially very confused over hearing teachers' voices whole been at home, but soon enough he adjusted to a new routine and was happy listening stories and songs on YouTube and Storypark, clapping and giggling along. Hard packs were useful for me to get ideas what to do with him and school newsletters provided me with an update on what was happening with school life*
- *They kept my child engaged with school staff and it kept me informed of what the school's policies were at each level.*
- *The hard copies were very useful in keeping our child on track, we were grateful to have them.*
- *While the situation we were in was certainly very unique and no-one new exactly how to react and what to do, school quickly reacted to a changing circumstances and provided my family with help and support needed in that challenging time*

What could we improve on?:

- *We did receive quite a lot thru email & it was a bit overwhelming & some of the activities were not of interest to our child so we made a lot of copies of the things she liked doing*
- *Online videos were great but it was a bit all over the place Storypark google drive if in one place would have been easier*
- *More consideration for low function students, whom the parents are struggling with them at home.*

What's happening around the school?

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

This week's focus: St Leonards Road School – a few words from Disha Sanjanwala

Kia ora koutou dear whānau! We continue to have wellbeing as our main focus this term. We work to building positive relationships with lots of fun play-based learning in: learning circles, work rotations, in the playground, riding bikes, music, art and sensory play. Our tamariki have been learning more about each other, forming stronger, happier friendships through sharing toys, playing games with the St Leonard peers and enjoying Experience Sharing sessions. In Te Reo, we learnt about the Matariki Star Sisters via a waiata, and made seven sparkly star! Cooking and fine-motor skills based activities have been helping us hone our finger strength and writing abilities. Kylie, our lovely Occupational Therapist, has been supporting our PE sessions which we all thoroughly enjoy! We've had a busy term and look forward to a restful winter break! Arohanui from all of us in Room 9 ☺



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

This week's focus: Avondale Intermediate – a few words from Wahiebah Johnstone

Kia Ora from Avondale Intermediate Room 10! At the start of this term, Art helped us settle back into school life. Each student made an individual art piece based on their interest. Some students were still learning from home via zoom. Everyone has now returned and settled into their previously established routines and are following their individual timetable with great confidence. Yoga plays a big part in our morning routine as it helps us to get our mind and body ready for the learning day. In maths, we have been looking at tally charts and are using games such as Tic Tac Toe and curling to help us understand the concept. We are also learning to recognise NZ coins and notes and how money works. As an end of term treat we will go shopping to see what \$5 can buy us. Well done Room 10 for showing such dedication to your learning! Have a restful break!



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

This week's focus: Base Room 6- a few words from Sam Mata

Talofa lava and Kia Ora everyone! We have reached the end of something that looked like an ordinary school term even though realistically, it was an extraordinary term for all schools in Aotearoa. We managed to get some normality back into our Oaklynn school life even though we started the term with a few students away. Room 6 settled back into our usual daily programmes such as: yoga, walks, work activities, chores as well as our weekly Base get together for drama, drumming and assembly. It did not take long for our students to get their day-to-day rhythm back as we tried to make some sense of a very unusual start to the year. Our topic for the term was, 'Rerenga', or *journey*, which was so relevant and meaningful in regard to the recent unprecedented global events of the last couple of months. We took some meaning from Matariki, as well as playing and listening to our New Zealand music (May NZ Music Month). So all in all, we have enjoyed being together again, and going about our daily activities enjoying each other's company. Here are some of the pictorial highlights of our term.



Therapy Team Update:

A few words from our Occupational Therapists – Kylie, Stephanie and Tripti

Kia ora whānau! The friendly Occupational Therapists at Oaklynn have been working with the students and staff from various classes to promote skills development, sensory processing, strength building and visual perception. It has been lots of fun and everyone has been working super hard, with great results all round. Each term we adapt these programmes to challenge the students, together with the team.



Scooterboard promotes strength building



Visual attention and co-ordination



Balance and co-ordination training



Tunnel crawling promotes strength building



Notices from Niva:

Reminder: If you have any issues with taxi ie. If you move house, or your child going to respite or you have a change in timetable, or even if you have a new contact number, please feel free to give us a call at the office (09) 827-4748.

Upcoming dates:

Fri 03 July

Last day of term – finish at normal time

Mon 13 – Fri 17 July

Holiday Programme at Base (for those registered), 9:00-3:00pm

Mon 20 July

Term 3 starts, 9:00am

Fri 21 August

Teacher Only Day

Ngā mihi nui

Louise Doyle

Principal