

**Tēnā koutou katoa parents, whānau, carers and staff,****Special welcome to our new students and their families and new staff.**

At the end of last term and just before the lockdown, a couple of students joined our Oaklynn whānau:

**Patrik Sexton** at our Te Ara Hou Satellite Unit and **Thu Thu San** who will be transitioning into Arahoe 1 over the next few weeks. Welcome Thu Thu and Patrik. We also have a new student starting at Base Rm 4 next week - **Lyquarn Potaka**.



Two new staff members have joined us over the last few weeks.

**Zelda Dammert** has been working within the education sector for 8 years, having previously worked in the Early Childhood and Primary Sector. Zelda immigrated from South Africa 18 years ago and began her teaching career in New Zealand at an Early Childhood Centre in East Auckland. Since then she has been at various centres and primary schools with the latest being Mission Heights Primary. Zelda is married with three children ages 14, 16 and 21 years old. Zelda's passion is working with children with special education learning needs and providing learners with opportunities to learn through various forms of play and through following their interests to support growth.



**Samantha Albuquerque** has been a teacher of special education needs for many years before immigrating to New Zealand 7 years ago. Samantha began her career in NZ at the Endeavour Centre at Mt Roskill Primary and worked with children on the autism spectrum in the new entrant class and then moved to Central Auckland Specialist School. Samantha says she is looking forward to ensuring that the students in her care get the opportunity to learn the way they learn best; be that through music, dance or maybe just by jumping on a trampoline or rolling on the grass.



Ngā Mihi, Sam

**Update from our Principal Louise**

It's great to see many of our Oaklynn community back at school. We have had a smooth and calm return to school in Alert Level 2 with 99 of our 170 students attending class. We still have some students who are learning from home and some staff working from home (we are staying in touch with those students and families and learning packs will be going out to meet individual needs).

That means several teachers will be juggling the onsite learning programme and the 'at home' learning programme.

Teachers have been happy to see the young people excited to come back, and settling well into their routines. We are all aware however that we are still working through the stages of a worldwide crisis and the return to school is a 'change of gear' for us all - students and staff. It is not the same as returning after a 6 week summer holiday!

So with this in mind we are taking an extra care and wellbeing approach to these next few weeks of school.

We are continuing to restrict visitors into the school as a way of taking extra precaution for the next few weeks. We are reducing movement across the school so ZOOM is our tool for connecting with each other. We have had several staff meetings linking staff from all satellites and those still working from home. Here we are - all 50 + of us.



## COVID 19 update



Special School Principals from across New Zealand had the opportunity to meet with Dr Harriette Carr from the Ministry of Health - to talk through some public health measures and hygiene protocols that might be unique to our schools.

She reminded us all that:

- the COVID virus is spread through droplets.
- you can only catch it via your eyes, nose and mouth.
- unless someone actually sneezes or coughs near you the only way you will catch the virus is through touching hard surfaces - so hand hygiene is our number one defence.
- your hands are “the gateway to your eyes, nose and mouth” which is why handwashing is so important.

## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19

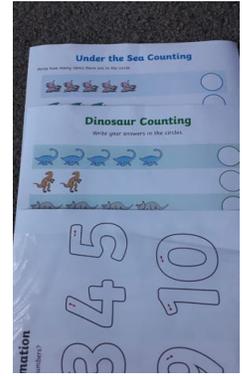
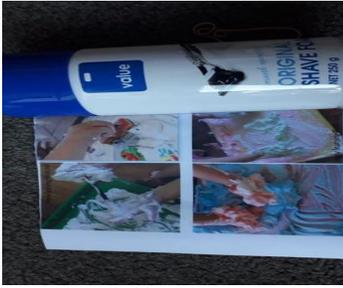
## What's happening around the school

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

#### This week's focus: Arahoe

Teachers and support staff from Arahoe were busy over lockdown preparing learning packs for our learners, with everything from phonics and counting sheets, to play dough, fine motor activities and shaving foam. Together with our therapists, we put together movement routines, stories and lessons on video, and shared them via Story Park and Google. Some students enjoyed Zoom chats with us. We were amazed by the variety of creative ways students and teachers found to engage in teaching and learning, as we responded to the needs of the times and the individual learners. It's been a successful

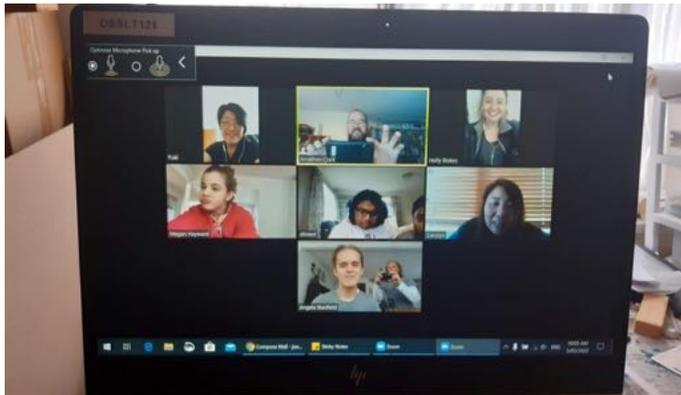
return for Term 2.



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

### This week's focus: Te Aratika Rua

In Te Aratika Rua we had some lovely Zoom sessions during the lockdown. It was great to see our students, parents, staff and therapists in their respective bubbles. There was lots of laughter, dancing and catching up. A highlight was Daniel Stanfield sharing his steel drum playing with the class. I am really grateful to our parents who supported their young people during this extraordinary time and for keeping in touch. Students that have returned to class under Level 2 are settling into routines well.



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

### This week's focus: Oaklynn TEC



Lockdown got Oaklynn TEC into the groove of online learning with a full timetable of Zoom sessions each day. We've made several movies about our time on lockdown including a Toilet Paper Toss, Handwashing and our own adaptation titled The Oaktec Bunch (check these out on our Oaklynn YouTube Channel). It

helps to have a talented movie maker on the team! Our learners who are back at OakTEC are settling well into a new normal, and a small group are continuing their learning from home with Zoom classes. Thank you to our amazing team at OakTEC who have been incredibly supportive over the last 4 weeks of online learning.

## Notices from Niva

During the lockdown the admin team worked in behind the scenes getting 'Wellness Buckets' organised for each class. As part of our more stringent hygiene measures we have provided more disinfectant spray n wipe, gloves, hand sanitisers for each staff member, cloths, paper towels, as well as infrared thermometers.



### Upcoming dates:

Friday 22 May - Pink Shirt Day in aid of 'Anti-bullying'  
Wednesday 27 May - Flu vaccinations for those advised  
Friday 29 May - Teacher Only Day (school closed)  
Monday 01 June - Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday



Thank you for your ongoing support during the Lockdown, Alert Level three, and now, as we move into Alert Level 2.

Take Care  
Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Doyle".

*Louise Doyle*  
Principal