

Tēnā koutou katoa ki te whānau o te Kura Oaklynn - parents, whānau, carers and staff

A few words from Acting Principal Pilar

Kia ora e te whānau,

We have now completed half of the term, and time has flown by so quickly. It feels like we have accomplished a lot in such a short time. We have enrolled a significant number of new students and welcomed teachers - Greg Chalmers, Kim Perry, Amy Dinnie and Clara Fernandes to our teaching team.

We have also been getting ready for our annual **Whānau Day** this **Saturday, 10 - 2pm, 20 Mayville Ave.**

This is always such a wonderful event - with a range of food/refreshments available, activities and engaging sessions (dance, music, sensory stories etc). Plus we will have a number of special guests with us - including Individualised Funding Host providers, Māpura Studios (who provide specialist art programmes), disability support groups, health providers, and the Spectroom Play Zone team, just to name a few. So bring the whānau down for a great time and catch-up with some organisations who are keen to help our school community.

We look forward to seeing you here (the full invite has been sent to you this week).

Strategic Planning / Annual Plan = What are we working on at Oaklynn?



Strategic area	Vision/Motivator	Culture/Motivator	Community/Motivator
Under the sun	Wā - we learn together Mānawhaki - we are curious	Whānau - we are accepted Hono - we are safe and well	Whānauwhaka - we listen Mānawhaki - we uplift each other
Strategic goal	Strengthen teaching and learning for change with special learning needs.	Ensure that Oaklynn is a safe and inclusive learning place.	Strengthen partnership with all members of our community.
			

Each fortnight we will share some of our school mahi that contributes to one of our strategic goal areas.

This week we focus on the AET Framework

This comes from the strategic goal area **Curriculum**

Utilising the AET Framework at Oaklynn

When ERO visited us in Term 4 last year, we discussed with them our ongoing development of a progression framework to aid in assessment - to support our ākongā to progress through the sections of the school from Juniors right through to Tertiary. This has been in development over a number of years through our iCoL team led by Sian Pinchen (A.P) and utilises the international AET (Autism Education Trust) framework.

This Progression Framework has been designed to be accessible to practitioners in a range of education settings working with children and young people across the autism spectrum, some of whom may have additional learning needs or disabilities. For Oaklynn purposes this also means accommodating ākongā with a variety of needs and learning considerations.

The AET Framework looks at Essential Skills, which can be broadly described as skills required for living, independence, and communication.

Teachers are currently trialing this framework with additional support and guidance from the therapy team.

What this looks like is:

- Every student in school will be assessed against the ‘communication’ strand of AET by the end of Term 2
- Every student in school will be assessed against the ‘interested, routines and processing’ strand by the end of Term 4

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This area of mahi covers all three strategic goals - curriculum, culture and community

- Oaklynn School aims to ensure that its policies and practices reflect New Zealand's bicultural foundations and culturally diverse society
- We recognise the status of the tangata whenua and the partnership between Māori and Pakeha through the Treaty of Waitangi
- We recognise Te Kawerau ā Maki as our mana whenua

Each fortnight we will highlight some of the many ways we are honouring our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi:

- Our engagement with Te Kawerau ā Maki as mana whenua
- Our mahi with the Māori Achievement Collaborative (MAC)
- Our development of the Te Ara Whakamana programme
- Our kaitakawaenga role (cultural advisor role)

Māori Achievement Collaborative (MAC)

We have been very lucky to have **Phil Gordon from the Māori Achievement Collaborative (MAC)** join us this term.

Phil has been taking us through modules designed to support “unteaching racism” within our schools and for our rangatahi. What this means - is strengthening the recognition and importance of Te ao Māori within our setting. This has been very engaging and rewarding for our staff, further allowing us to think about our own understanding of the bicultural aspect of Aotearoa - and, by extension, the multicultural lens of our diverse community.

Through the modules designed by MAC, it has been very interesting to hear from ākonga across the country - and their experiences of being Māori within our schools. This quote was shared with us in Phil’s second session with us.

"One particular teacher, he was a big influence on me. He made me feel proud to be Māori; he encouraged it. He just made people express themselves more in that area. You're expressing your Māori culture, and you're being proud of your culture." (Learner's voice, Kia Eke Panuku)

We look forward to learning more with Phil about this important area of our mahi as the year continues.

MANAAKITANGA

is one of Oaklynn’s core values - it is a beautiful concept from Te Ao Māori (Māori world) and means “*hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others*”.



Oaklynn's manaakitanga initiative can support our community in many ways.

- Purchasing food, delivering food and other items to homes is one of our ways to provide support to members of our wider community.
- **\$70 buys a food parcel (like the one in the pic) for a family**

Here's how you can help

Going on our list of helpers email - manaakitanga@oaklynn.school.nz

Make a \$\$ donation to the school manaakitanga account
12-3109-0012500-00 with reference **manaakitanga**

What's happening around the school

Intermediate Learners - Avondale Intermediate 10

Nau mai, haere mai,

This term we eased back into school life with some of our favourite things: friends, fun, food and visitors like Louise and Pilar! During lunchtime swimming, where we are learning water safety and how to use kayaks, we have also been getting to know our mainstream friends.

In week 2 with the Avondale Intermediate Night Market happening - Room 9 & 10 worked together to make food to sell all while learning about the melting process using chocolate and marshmallows. Our marshmallow pops and rice crispy treats were a hit as were our corn fritters, pizza and 'Ota'i.

In ongoing class work, we are using role play to learn about the strength and determination of Tiriwa and ourselves in Drama sessions and with Zones of Regulation. So far we have learnt that we are all really strong and determined in our own ways; and that to stay that way we need brain and movement breaks. Every day we use lego, music, drawing, dance, walks, boxing, creating content and scooters to make sure that when it's time for class mahi we can focus and *make magic!*

Ngā Mihi,

Room 10 x





Other sections of the school Therapy - Occupational Therapists - Tripti, Olivia and Kylie

The OTs have been keeping busy since returning to school this year. We have been having lots of fun supporting the learners in our classes, connecting with students and working on building relationships with our new Oaklynn learners. Here are some different activities we have been doing this term.

In the Junior Classes:

- We have been supporting some movement programmes alongside our physiotherapists. These joint sessions help us to get a good understanding of our learners' motor skills. We like to include activities that provide some sensory feedback to support engagement and regulation.



- We have been swimming. Swimming has provided a great opportunity to support the development of dressing skills. This term we have been using a combination of visuals and “backwards chaining” techniques to enhance independence in this area. It has been awesome to see our learners become more and more independent, relying less on prompting and visuals.

- We have been developing body awareness through the Mat Man programme, while building the small muscles of the hand through using playdough to make faces. The students have been very engaged, enjoying these activities in a group.

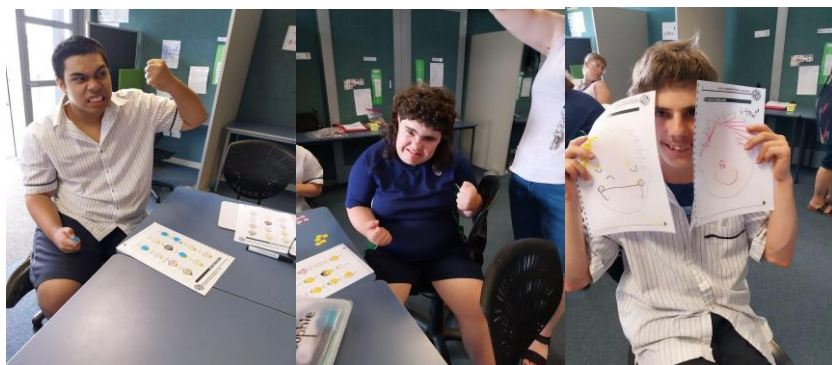


- We have been exploring different foods, tasting a range of foods and developing our skills within the class cooking programme. Drinking water after eating food has also been part of the regular cooking programme with opportunities to explore food at their own pace. Our ākongā have also been learning to spread toppings (on bread), cut sandwiches and pour their water from a jug for drinking. It has been exciting seeing such positive engagement in this activity.



In the High School:

- Some of our students have been learning about body awareness, their emotions, and interoception. They have been describing and enacting how this looks on their faces and how it looks on others e.g. surprised wide eyes. We have been also discussing what the faces tell us about how the person is feeling. The students have enjoyed drawing faces and acting out the relevant emotions.



Notices from the Office

Upcoming dates:

Whānau Day

- Saturday 16 March, 10:00-2:00

Easter Break

- Friday 29 March - Tuesday 02 April

Last Day of Term

- Friday 12 April

Take Care,
Nāku noa nā

Pilar

Acting Tumuaki

For those of you new to Oaklynn, new to Aotearoa or just new to Te Reo - here are some words in Te Reo Māori (Māori language) that we often use.

1. Tēnā koutou katoa ki te whānau o te Kura Oaklynn - Welcome / greetings to you all, the whānau of Oaklynn School
2. Whānau - family group
3. Ngā mihi - thanks / appreciation / regards
4. Nui - big / much
5. Mahana - warm (for greetings)
6. Tau Hou - New Year
7. Ki a koe - to you - one person
8. Ki a kōrua - to you two
9. Ki a koutou - to you three or more
10. Aroha - love, care. Blessings
11. Tamariki - children
12. Rangatahi - young adults
13. Ākonga - learners / students
14. Kaimahi - staff (workers)
15. Kaiāwhina - support staff / teacher aides
16. Kura - school