



28/09/2021 UPDATE to community

We are still in Level 3

Kia ora e te whānau,

SPECIAL SCHOOLS CLOSED IN LEVEL 3

 As previously notified

- In consultation with the Board of Trustees we have made the decision that Oaklynn School including all satellites will remain closed in the initial stages of Level 3 and we will continue to learn from home

Vaccine update

- We had a great turn out to our vaccine session last Thursday.
- Everyone commented on how great it was to get out of the house and see other people.
- 74 people were vaccinated on the day - a mix of students and staff and their families.

LEARNING FROM HOME

Ako - learning and **Hauora** wellbeing are two of Oaklynn's school values.

- More hard packs will be delivered again this week to learners across the school.

Oaklynn Senior Leadership Team

I would like to take the opportunity this week to highlight the work of our Senior Leadership team. Just as you had a peek into my world last week - this week the other members of SMT will give you a glimpse of their days in noho rāhui (lockdown)

- All team leaders have had a major focus on ensuring the members of their teams are well and managing working during lockdown - hauora has been a strong focus for all of us.
- If a staff member is supported then they are in turn able to support others.
- Section leaders who support classes know that their work influences teachers, their own teams and their ākongā and their whānau.
- We have had several staff with their own personal struggles and senior leaders have all found creative and supportive ways to assist their colleagues in these times.
- Team leaders really are the main glue that holds this organisation together in times of crisis and challenge - I'd like to personally take this opportunity to acknowledge their work.

Rachel Russell - Admin team

It's such a pleasure to be supporting my team and the organisation from my corner of the world - aka study. Every day brings variety and keeps me on my toes. My family are essential workers so have been working in Level 4 and Level 3, so my fur babies keep me company. Afi mai, afi atu - caring for each other.



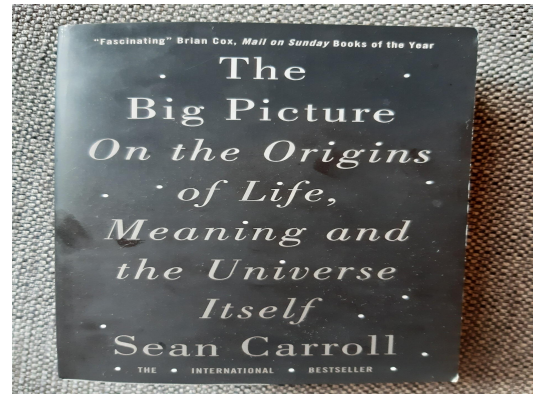
Kieron Hubrick - Alternative Learning Environment



It's been such a pleasure to be part of Zoom learning opportunities; participating in collaborative ALE sessions, either with Base or TEC learners and staff (or when ALE have come together as a full section or joined Rachel for music). I've even run a few Zoom learning sessions myself.

What's been exciting, for me, has been observing our learners adapt and connect, despite the bubble barriers of virtual learning. This has shown that our relationships are well-established, allowing 2D virtual representations of us to still be effective in connecting with our unique learners.

ALE thank you for your dedicated and dynamic mahi - I continue to be in awe of what you do!



Away from the Oaklynn universe, I have been delving into this wonderful book (gifted to me by my father). It's good to think of "The Big Picture" when things might seem cloistered, a little suffocating, generally locked-down. To find some wonder and thoughtful reflection within difficult times.

"The pressing, human questions we have about our lives depend directly on our attitudes toward the universe at a deeper level." - Sean Carroll.

Jonathan Clark - High School

Although I have missed seeing people face to face it has been great to connect with teachers and whānau over zoom. Our teachers have done an amazing job providing learning opportunities for our students and it has been a real highlight seeing the majority of our students interacting; not only with staff; but also with each other.

While the lockdown has been tough on all of us in many different ways it has highlighted the strength of the Oaklynn community and it has been a real privilege to be involved in the Manaakitanga group to ensure that support reaches our whānau.

I have spent the lockdown with my wife , Desiree and my daughters Hayley and Angela. My stress relief has been walks with Desiree and our two dogs Frankie and Benny.



Joan Cummings - Intermediate

Attending the class group zoom sessions including Intermediate music and fitness sessions gives me great pleasure. This is a way for me to connect with the students, families and staff. Everyone always seems very enthusiastic and excited to participate. I usually leave with a smile on my face and feel refreshed.

I realise that everyone put so much effort into planning these sessions and I just come and enjoy the fruit of their labour.

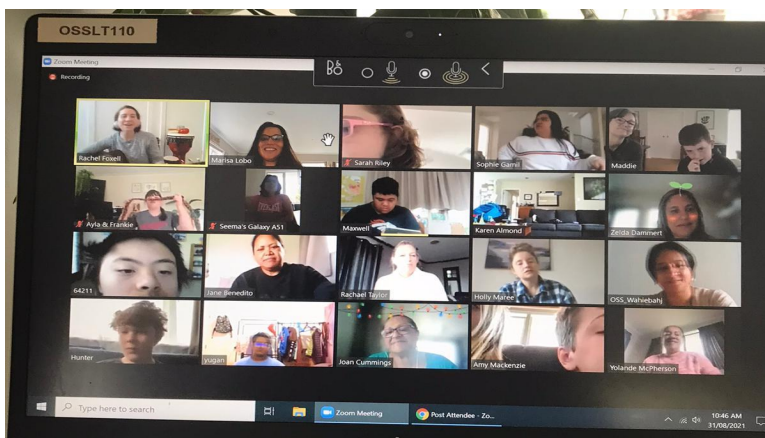
Thank You.



I have also had the pleasure of visiting homes and dropping off learning packs of not only students from Intermediate classes but from across the school.

Of course this was done very safely with Health and Safety in the forefront.

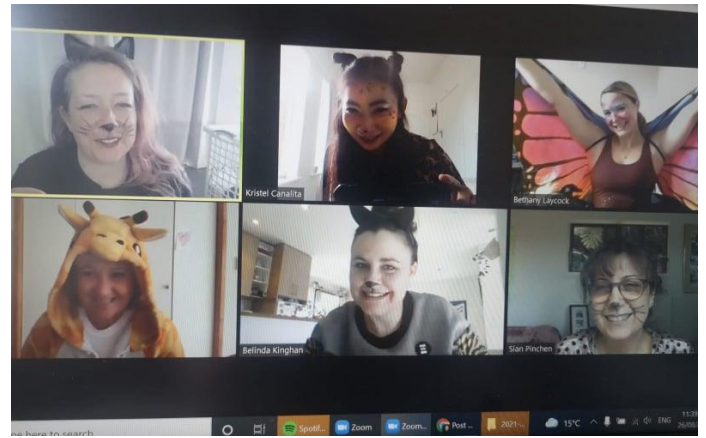
I love being outdoors and it also helps me move a little more, also the added bonus of a quick hello or chat with a parent .



Sian Pinchen - New Entrants



We have had a lot of fun running New Entrant Zoom School. The aim of the sessions has been fun and connection for our tamariki. I love the chance to channel my inner 5 year-old princess!



Emma Cutts - STOS (Outreach Service)

I've been enjoying connecting with the STOS teachers, our Oaklynn teacher aides and colleagues we work with in mainstream schools. We've been working on our professional development, reading and watching some fantastic experts and reflecting together how we can use this knowledge to support our students.

I've also managed to really brush up on my trampolining, play doh, rough housing and general hooligan skills hanging out with my two boys Arlo and Knox.



Sarah Robertson - Therapy Team

Just like all the working parents out there, I have been busy juggling between home schooling and work and sometimes the two crossover. Piper, my daughter, has enjoyed joining in with the new entrant zooms. She has decided she would like to be a teacher when she grows up. Carter, my son, enjoyed a Bakugan battle with one of our learners over zoom.

We also spent the day making squishies to go into hard packs for some of our learners.

Behind the scenes I have been busy supporting the therapists, attending professional development and working on various SMT projects.



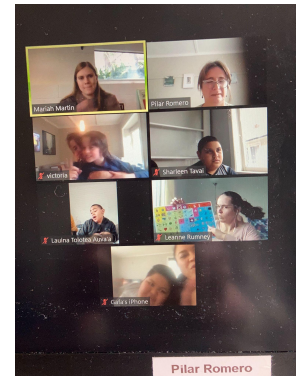
Pilar Romero - Upper Juniors

Balance!

I thought that was the way to go when I received the news that we got back to lockdown. As the days passed, I realised how unrealistic this was, when you have a child with additional needs wanting you to be just there for him all the time!

Then, I started to listen to very clever people that shared the importance of quality interactions for our children, rather than spending time with them connected to our devices for longer periods of time.

I've realised that spending half an hour with Kai everyday fully engaged, with my full attention, would set Kai up for the rest of the day and would allow me to get on with my work schedule.



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".

THANK YOU



Metro Auckland



...taikura**trust**

Thank you to Disability Connect for reaching out to us and confirming that they are providing food parcels for our whānau over these next two weeks
Thursday 30th September and Thursday 7th October

Oaklynn manaakitanga will provide food parcels for Thursday 14th

Disability Connect is supported by New World Metro, Foundation North and Taikura Trust to support our families with food.

+64 9 636 0351 admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

disability connect. helping families



Oaklynn's manaakitanga initiative can support our community in many ways during lockdown;

- Purchasing food, Delivering food and other items to homes
- **\$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**

This week the manaakitanga initiative is extending a **gesture of kindness** to a handful of members of our community who are doing it tough - be it due to experiencing a loss in their whānau or coming out of hospital in this difficult time. We know that a simple act of kindness goes a long way to making a difference in someone's day or even week.

SCHOOL BREAK

The next two weeks are the school holidays. Teachers will be taking a break from school and then the "Learning from Home" programme stops for these two weeks.

We will be in touch again towards the end of the second week - week ending Friday 15th October with information about the start of Term 4.

AND LASTLY

You may be aware that our friends and teacher colleagues Naomi L and Bethany have lost a very dear and special member of their whānau. Lena Harrap was Naomi and Bethany's cousin and was taken from the whānau in the most distressing of ways. This is such a tragic event that touches all of us as she was one of our own - a special soul with unique and different needs. Oaklynn and the wider special education community feels this loss deeply and our collective heart goes out to Naomi and Bethany and their family at this time 🙏❤️

Stay home, stay safe, be kind and kia kaha

Noho ora mai

Louise Doyle,
Principal

