

Tēnā koutou katoa ki te whānau o te Kura Oaklynn - parents, whānau, carers and staff**A few words from Louise**

Nau mai haere mai - a warm welcome to our ākonga, whānau and staff. We are all pleased to have had a calm start to the year with no extraordinary events.

It is great to see our learners returning to school happy and keen to start back into their routines.

You will by now have received newsletters from your teachers sharing the details of the class activities and staff. Please don't hesitate to contact the teacher of your tamariki / rangatahi if you have any questions or concerns.

As a reminder, last year I spent two terms in the Education Review Office (ERO) assisting with the review of 27 Specialist Schools (schools just like Oaklynn). There is some more work that requires my support and so I will be returning to ERO for six weeks from Monday 26th February. Pilar Romero, our Deputy Principal will again assume the role of Acting Principal in my absence and I know that with the support of the leadership team and staff Oaklynn operations will continue to run smoothly.

Mā te wā Louise.

Whānau Day on Saturday 16th March

We are currently planning our **Whānau Day - 10am - 2pm**, please save this date to join us for this event. There will be more messages about the day coming up. For now, if you would like to donate items for gift baskets which will be raffled on the day please drop them into our school reception. Thank you for your support!

Strategic Planning
What areas of work are we working on at Oaklynn?

All schools in Aotearoa NZ are required to develop a Strategic Plan that outlines the school's priorities for the next few years. Last year the senior leadership team along with the Board of Trustees worked to streamline and update our previous Strategic Plan.

Below is our Strategic Plan that will serve us for 2024 and 2025.

We would love your feedback on our plan and are interested in your thoughts.

Please send any feedback you have to feedback@oaklynn.school.nz

Oaklynn Board and Senior Leadership team are confident that we are meeting our legislative requirements as outlined below.

For your information:

There are four primary objectives for boards listed in Section 127 of the Education and Training Act 2020. These help boards to focus on what matters most for learners and their whānau. Boards must ensure that:

- every student at the school can achieve their highest educational standard
- the school is a physically and emotionally safe place, ensures students' human rights are upheld and takes steps to eliminate racism, stigma, bullying and other forms of discrimination
- the school is inclusive of and caters for students with differing needs

- the school gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi including:
 - working to ensure that its plans, policies, and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori
 - taking all reasonable steps to make instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori
 - achieving equitable outcomes for Māori students

<p>Oaklynn Strategic Plan plain language version 2024 - 2025</p> <p>Expanded version of strategic plan is available on Oaklynn School website www.oaklynn.school.nz</p>			
Strategic areas	Curriculum Matauranga	Culture Ahurea	Community Hapori
Links to Our values	Ako - we learn together Mahirahira - we are curious	Whakamana - we are accepted Hauora - we are safe and well	Whanaungatanga - we belong Manaakitanga - we uplift each other
Strategic goals	Strengthen teaching and learning for ākonga with special learning needs.	Ensure that Oaklynn is a safe and inclusive learning place.	Strengthen partnership with all members of our community.

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

This section of our newsletter highlights some of the many ways we at Oaklynn are meeting our strategic goals and 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)

Te Kawerau ā Maki - pūrākau (stories)

We are fortunate enough to be partnering with our local iwi Te Kawerau ā Maki in the Mana Kura programme. Last year at a staff only day our Mana Whenua partners Robin Taua-Gordon and Josie Wall shared with us a pūrākau about **Tiriwa** who is their tupuna at the very top of their pou - displayed at the Arataki visitors centre (as pictured). Staff are using this pūrākau for curriculum planning this year, linking aspects of Tiriwa to the curriculum as well as ngā matapono (our school values) We are very lucky to have descendents of Tiriwa share this taonga with us.



TIRIWA

- Tiriwa is the most ancient ancestor of Te Kawerau ā Maki and a Tūrehu - that is a supernatural being with some human attributes.
- One day while sunning himself Tiriwa was moaning that a volcanic cone was blocking his view to the entrance of the Manukau harbour.
- A friend suggested that if the cone offended him so much why didn't Tiriwa do something about it.
- Accepting the challenge Tiriwa recited a karakia which made him grow very large.
- He then strode into the Manukau, lifted the volcanic cone onto his shoulder and went towards the sea around Great Barrier Island where he intended to place it.
- However the water got deeper and colder and chilled his whole body so that he became impatient and heaved it away from him into the water and Rangitoto Island was formed.
- Mercer Bay is now officially named Te Unuhanga o Rangitoto - The Unleashing of Rangitoto in recognition of this event.

Mercer Bay

Rangitoto



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

Kelston Boys High School - Te Kura Tuarua o ngā tamatāne o Kerehana



Te Kura Tuarua o ngā tamatāne o Kerehana (Kelston Boys High School) we are very excited to be opening a new high school satellite at KBHS. Karen - BOT Presiding member, Louise, Pilar, Jonathan, Sarah, several therapists, ākonga, whānau and staff attended the powhiri on Wed 7th Feb where we received a very warm welcome.

Junior Learners - Te Kura o Pātiki 7 (previously known as Rosebank School)

Kia ora whānau and welcome back! It is so great to have everyone join us for the start of term and what a fun start to the year we have had. Over in Te Kura o Pātiki room 7 we have been settling back into our class routines and getting to know some of our new students. The tamariki have really enjoyed coming back to school and taking part in all their familiar programmes from last year. Such as Attention Autism, Matman, our pre-writing programme, arts and crafts and so many more. It has been so wonderful to see how well the students have settled within their environment, and we are looking forward to all the exciting things we have planned for this year.

Last year Rosebank primary school went through the process of changing their name to Te Kura o Pātiki. This was such a special moment to be a part of as many gathered from the community to come and celebrate the change in name.



Notices from the Office

Taxi issues

Kia ora whānau,

Firstly thank you for your patience as we start the term with taxi teething issues. We understand that such issues - particularly as your tamariki return - can be quite affecting and upsetting. To which end, we have been in dialogue with the taxi company from the very start - to try to facilitate better outcomes. This includes talking with the coordinator of the service and her management team. Additionally we have contacted the transport arm of the Ministry, who are seeking a face to face meeting with the taxi company to try to get to the crux of what the issues are and how, longer term, they can be solved. It's worth noting that the taxi issues Oaklynn whānau and staff have been experiencing are also occurring for our 'sister schools'.

Thank you once again for your patience - we are determined to ensure that we do our best to voice your concerns from home, and our own concerns from within the organisation.

Any Changes

If you are moving house, or needing to add a new 'drop off' or 'pick up' address, please let Niva know at the office as soon as possible, so that we can get the necessary information to the taxi company and to the Ministry.

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

Louise
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