

OXFORD AREA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2nd March, 2017

At Oxford Area School we are...

- **RESPECTFUL**
- **CARING**
- **RESPONSIBLE**
- **POSITIVE**



Tēnā koutou katoa, welcome to the Oxford Community,

It has been a **very focused start to the school year**. Our learners have settled back into school life well. The last few weeks have seen students participating and contributing to learning outside the classroom, including Athletics and Swimming. We have held our annual junior and senior swimming sports and a senior athletics day. This week we host what has now become a regular to the Oxford Area School calendar: **Carnival Day**. This day focuses on inclusion by bringing the whole school together, participation, house spirit and most importantly **FUN!**

In a property update last year was dominated by the building of Aotahi and a number of works unseen. Amongst the numerous projects we have had **a new water mains installed** for the school, an **upgrade to our security and fire alarm system**, and we are currently in the process of having our **boiler and reticulation systems replaced**.

Above the ground the obvious, **the completion of Aotahi**, a state of the art, purpose built learning space the equivalent size of 10 standard classrooms which will provide a learning environment for students in Years 5 to 10+, **outdoor carpet** on the decking of the year 1 and 2 area, **soft filling all playgrounds**, and cleaning up what was a bit of a mud bath under the grove of trees to the side of the Waka by installing a new surface.

With the support of our wonderful PTA last year we **added a playground/fitness circuit, two UFO swings, two additional basketball hoops and football goals**. Our focus this year is on the small things, tidying gardens, painting and paths zone by zone. The first zone we are going to focus on is the zone in front of the Waka from hedge to hedge. Many hands make light work and we would like to invite helpers in for a working bee on 18th March at 10.00am. Please if you can help out come prepared to paint and do general gardening.

On to the learning, this year our professional focus as teachers is on the **SOLO Taxonomy** (Structure of Observed Learning Outcomes). Teachers started the year with a full day of professional learning lead by **Pam Hook**, an educational consultant working with schools in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. The model helps to move students from surface level understanding to deep understanding. SOLO implementation at Oxford Area School will see that learners are able and motivated to monitor their own progress in a learning task and to make smart decisions on their next steps. The expected outcomes of using SOLO are improvements in student learning outcomes, a rise in student confidence and increased student engagement in learning.

Nga mihi nui,
Mike Hart, Principal/Tumuaki

Oxford Area School
Te Kura o Te Poho Rakahua

Board of Trustees News

Wow, already week 4 is coming to an end! By now everyone should be settled into the 2017 school year, with plenty of good activities going on across the whole school.

Mike Hart mentioned in the last Newsletter how pleasing the preliminary results for 2016 NCEA were. The Board of Trustees would also like to congratulate all students who achieved NCEA in their subjects, well done to especially to those learners who achieved Merit or Excellence Certificate Endorsements. Outstanding achievements! We look forward to seeing the final results from NCEA for 2016 at our Board meeting.

Due to the busy nature of our Board members we have changed our meeting days from the first Monday to the third Thursday of each month. Our meetings are not public meetings, but they are "open to the public". This means that even if you're not a trustee you are welcome to attend as an observer although you will not have speaking rights the way you would if it was a public meeting.

Some items on the agenda may need to be discussed in private, for example if they concern a complaint to the Board or a disciplinary matter. This is called "in-committee". When this occurs in a meeting you will be asked to leave and may return after the in-committee discussion is complete.

A copy of the Board's meeting minutes can be asked for at the school office, but will not show anything that has been discussed in-committee.

Matt Riley (BOT Chairperson)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Feb OPL tramp/sea kayak Can do Cardz photos	28 Feb OPL tramp/sea kayak Boys Rite Journey Camp	1 Mar OPL tramp/sea kayak Boys Rite Journey Camp CCHS Athletics Championships	2 Mar OPL tramp/sea kayak Boys Rite Journey Camp	3 Mar Carnival Day
6 Mar Zone Swimming Championships	7 Mar CSS Athletics Prelims	8 Mar Goal Setting Day	9 Mar Crash Bash Presentation	10 Mar
13 Mar BOT Meeting	14 Mar OAS Duathlon Health Consultation- Puaka	15 Mar	16 Mar Y7/8 PALS Leadership conference	17 Mar Y1 to 6 Assembly
20 Mar Y12/13 PE Leadership camp	21 Mar Y12/13 PE Leadership camp	22 Mar Y12/13 PE Leadership camp PTA Meeting	23 Mar Y12/13 PE Leadership camp NCPSSA swimming Championships	24 Mar
27 Mar Canterbury Duathlon Y7/8 Kids Lit Quiz	28 Mar	29 Mar World Vision Leadership Conference	30 Mar	31 Mar Y3/4 Zone Sports Spectacular
3 Apr	4 Apr Y13 Electoral Visit	5 Apr Y7/8 camp Living Springs	6 Apr Y7/8 camp Living Springs Canterbury swimming Carnival Y9/10 Fusion first OXPO	7 Apr Y7/8 camp Living Springs Yr1-6 Assembly
10 Apr GRIP Leadership Conference	11 Apr CASAfest at Amuri	12 Apr CASAfest at Amuri	13 Apr CASAfest at Amuri End of Term1	14 Apr Easter

2017 Academic Assembly

Mr Marcus Cooper warmly welcomed students, parents and friends to this assembly held in the GP Hall on Tuesday 21st February to honour those students who gained Merit or Excellence endorsement in their NCEA certificates in 2016.

Mr Hart spoke of the importance of living and working above the line which included planning for the future and setting goals to achieve. Our guest speaker, **Emma Norrish**, past Head Student of Oxford Area School and now deputy-chair of the Papanui-Innes Community Board, encouraged students to take up challenges and make the most of every opportunity offered to them.

Presentations were made to the following students by Ms Norrish:

- Level 1 Merit Endorsement:** Sarah Hovell, Tara Norton, Ellie Riley, Quinten Rowe
- Level 1 Excellence Endorsement:** Stella Graydon, Shawny O'Brien, Casey Riley, Emma Rutherford, Samara Wyllie
- Level 2 Merit Endorsement:** Lucy Bennett, Aimee Flintoft, Sabrina Kerr, Bailie Piebenga, Reanne Rose, Caitlin Scarlet, Nicole White
- Level 2 Excellence Endorsement:** Kasey-Marie Morriss
- Level 3 Merit Endorsement:** Beccy Cochrance, Eli Hylands, Jeremy Kilgour
- Level 3 Excellence Endorsement:** Rhiannon Moore

Congratulations to these students on their wonderful results. It is noteworthy that this is the first time our students have gained Excellence endorsements across all three level of NCEA.

Rosemary Whyte (Senior Dean)



Student Goal Setting and Reporting

On the 8th of March Oxford Area School will be conducting three way conferences for Goal Setting Day. These meetings will run between 8.00am – 8.00pm..

These conferences will involve all students from Years 5 – 13 and staff will be contacting parents/caregivers to make appointments.

The Board has approved there **being no school for students in Years 9 – 13 on this day (8th March)** however there **will still be classes taught for Years 5 – 8 students**. They will leave class during the day with their parents to attend conferences.

Please ensure you have made an appointment. It is important that all parents/caregivers and students meet with teachers/form teachers on this day. The aim is to establish some personal goals for learning programmes this year and overall involvement in the school community. ***We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday.***

Last year we trialled a **fortnightly reporting of student's** progress based on the 5 key competencies found within the New Zealand Curriculum. We found this to be very successful and it allowed our parents to keep track of their students' progress at Oxford Area School more frequently than just having the mid and end of year reports.

This year we would like this to extend to our senior school (Years 11-13). This will take the form of "Attitude to Learning" which can be accessed through the parent portal on Edge, our student management system.

We will only be reporting on 3 of the key competencies, Managing Self, Relating to Others, and Participating and Contributing. The first of our fortnightly reports will be available on Friday the 3rd of March. If you do not have access to the internet we can and will send it out through the post if requested.

Year 9/10A focus on designing images to be chosen for a competition for a postcard to be sent home from the English department for students caught doing the right thing and demonstrating the Oxford Area values.



OAS Senior Swimming Championships 2017

The senior swimming championships were held on 15th February at the Oxford Community Pool in fine warm weather. 40 students entered from year 7 to 13 and all competed well and supported each other in their races.

A total of nine records were broken in the pool, 6 records were broken by Eloïse Savry (25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke, 25m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, and 3 by 25m medley). Hayden Rowe broke the 50m breaststroke, Tom Erceg the 25m backstroke and Ollie Graham in the 25m freestyle.



The house competition, usually dominated by Weka was this year won by Tui, followed by Kaka, Weka and Kereru. Tui won the junior relay and Kaka won the senior relay. The staff verses Year 13 students relay was again narrowly won by the students.

The overall results were:

Senior girl	– Rebecca Jones	Senior boy	– Hayden Rowe
Junior girl	– Ellie Tizzard	Junior boy	– Toby Salt
Under 14 boy	– Tom Erceg		
Under 13 girl	– Rebecca Doe	Under 13 boy	– Alex Sillars
Under 12 girl	– Eloïse Savry	Under 12 boy	– Hayden Webber

Junior Girl Champion – Eloïse Savry

Senior Girl Champion – Ellie Tizzard

Junior Boy Champion – Hayden Webber

Senior Boy Champion – Hayden Rowe

Congratulations to all who competed and especially to winners and record takers. Thanks to **Peter Hildyard, Tara Egerton and Sue Williams**.

Combined Country High Schools Swimming Championships 2017

A team of 13 students from the senior school competed at the Combined Country High Schools Swimming Champs held at the Dudley Aquatic Centre on Monday February 20th.

The team consisted of **Noémie and Eloïse Savry, Hayden Webber, Sofia Tizzard, Rebecca Doe, Nicole White, Ellie Tizzard, Hayden Rowe, Tom Erceg, Beka Hunt, Rebecca Jones, Neve Andrews, and Ollie Graham**.

All swimmers competed really well gaining 6 first places, 6 second places and 5 third places overall.



Noémie Savry won 3 of her races in butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke and came second in the 50m freestyle. She broke the CCHS record for her 50m backstroke swim in 39.71seconds

Other successes were:

Eloïse Savry	- 3 rd in 50m backstroke	Beka Hunt	- 2 nd in 50m freestyle
Hayden Rowe	- 1 st in 50m breaststroke	Ellie Tizzard	- 1 st in 50m backstroke, 2 nd in 50m breaststroke
Rebecca Jones	- 2 nd in 50m breaststroke	Nicole White	- 2 nd in 50m breaststroke, 3 rd in 50m freestyle

In the medley relays, the under 12 girls came 3rd, the under 14 girls 3rd, the under 14 girls 3rd, the under 14 boys 3rd and senior girls came 2nd.

In the 4 x 50m freestyle relay, the under 14 girls came 3rd and the senior girls came 1st.

Congratulations to all who competed and especially to our place getters. They represented their school with pride.

Other swimming news – Noémie Savry competed in the Oxford Area School junior swimming champs where she broke three school records in 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 50m breaststroke. Congratulations Noémie.

Dave Malcolm

OAS Sports Co-ordinator

OAS Junior Swimming Sports

The Year 5-8 Swimming Sports were held on Tuesday 21 February in very hot conditions with strong numbers entering in the competitive events. Swimmers were positively supported by parents, grandparents and friends who all tried to keep in the shade. Students were keen to be swimming through the refreshing water to keep themselves cool and made good use of the chairs under the shade sails and gazebo which allowed plenty of shade.

Through our swimming lessons, we as teachers, observe the daily improvement. But it is also impressive to see those who are prepared to use their learning and challenge themselves to compete in the events offered. Following the length events that part of the programme was completed with the Year 5/ 6 House Relays followed by the Year 7/ 8 House Relays. Tui House were successful winning both these relays.

Without everyone competing we would not have a successful time so thanks to all. To the following students, congratulations on making the OAS team to represent our school at the Eyre Cluster Swimming Champs to compete for entry to the Rakahuri Zone Event. Good luck! **Yohann Savry, Blake Taylor, Micah Stagg, Brianna Taylor, Eloïse Savry, Hayden Webber, Neve Andrews, Mia Cederman, Sofia Tizzard, Kitty Weatherly, Hillary Cooper, Noémie Savry, Jordan Galway, Emma Ferguson and Kody Stubbs.**

Enthusiasm was clearly on the faces of the next competitors in the width events and small pool tasks. Participating in these events is great in building water confidence in as many students as possible while having fun. The free swim was well received by all swimmers for a final dip before packing up for the day.

A **special thanks to Mike and his team** at the pool for their support, input and advice for our swimmers during the events. Huge thanks **to Sue, Jodi, Nicola and Kim** for assisting with the timekeeping and judging placements for the competitive swimmers. Last but not least, thanks to the Y5-8 teaching teams who helped in many ways to give all students a rewarding experience in hot temperatures.

The next Y5-8 Sport event will be the **OAS Duathlon on Tuesday 14th March starting at 1:45pm**. We require several parents/adults to assist as course marshalls so if you can help please contact us. julie@oxford.school.nz or nigel@oxford.school.nz Thanks!

Julie Evans & Nigel Dodge

STAFF PROFILE – Melissa Johanssen (English, History)

Favourite food: Anything home-cooked. Goodness! Nothing beats a meal with family and friends around the table.

Hobbies: Big Game fishing, walking, spending time with my young son, Lachlan

Favourite place in NZ: Kerikeri will always be close to my heart as it's my home, but Canterbury stole my heart while studying here.

Time I value the most: I enjoy spending time with Lachlan and Tom, my husband. We love to spend most of our time out here, in Oxford.

Favourite part of my job: Working with Teenagers, the future of thinking. They have the freshest and most amazing ideas - can't wait to see our future leaders!

First impressions of Oxford Area School: Warm and welcoming, so far, so good! The students have been super accommodating.

If I wasn't a teacher I would be: Working in Retail - I love people and generally conversing with others.



Welcome all to OAS Library 2017.

This term's library display is on our new building 'Aotahi' why this name was chosen.

As normal, we have plenty of new books on display for your reserve. More are added every week.

We look forward to seeing you. The Library Team.

PTA NEWS

The PTA would like to welcome all students, their caregivers and their whanau back to school.

2017 will see the PTA continuing to fundraise towards the senior playground. It is great to see students using the playground, however we do need to finish paying back the last money owed to the BOT who helped us in being able to purchase the playground earlier than expected.

This year we would love to see some new members to join our team. If you feel that you have great fundraising ideas, can offer your time to help, have a skill you would like to share, or if you wanted to come along to a meeting to find out more about what we do, please contact us at pta@oxford.school.nz.



Some of our Fundraisers planned for 2017

Catering for the Women's Forum Meetings

Oxford A & P Show - Saturday 1st April

We will be running a **cake stall and grocery raffle** at the show. If you are able to donate towards the grocery raffle and/or do some baking, this again is a very worthwhile fundraiser for the school. Any time from now on, **grocery items** (tins, packets, bathroom and laundry items) can be handed into your child's classroom teacher. (Please, no "past due date" items). The more items we receive, the more successful, financially, this raffle will be. A notice re the cake stall will be sent out to students later in the month.

Ravensdown Catering_ - South Island Field Days - Kirwee Wed 29, Thursday 30th and Fri 31st March.

This is the same as the Christchurch Show. We require approximately 8 helpers each day to set out and serve the food in the Ravensdown Tent. No experience needed! We try to carpool and drivers are reimbursed for petrol. This is a **Great fundraiser raising \$4000 for the 3 days** which will be put towards paying off the senior playground. If you are able to help please phone **Jane Anderson - 021 073 5844**.

Oxford's Wearable Arts Show - Saturday 26th August 2017

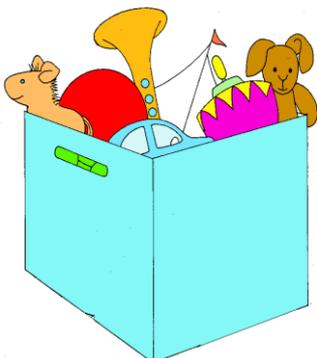
Yes, we are back this year so get those creative juices flowing! Entry Forms will be available next week from the School Reception and in classrooms. Entries are open for all school aged children from any school or district and the same for adults - the show is open to anyone who would like to push the boundaries of their imagination. Great prizes and to continue the tradition - the winners of the Student and Adult Trophies will be flown to Wellington to attend the WOW in Wellington! **Enquires to Jane Anderson - 021 073 5844**.

If you would like to be involved in helping to run this show, we would love to hear from you.

Selling Entertainment Books

Nikki Warwick

WANTED!



Clean, unwanted, saleable goods for a White Elephant Stall at the A & P Show.

The stall is being organised by students who are fundraising to go to Hamasaka, Japan in July this year.

Please bring any items to School from Monday 20th March to Friday 31st March.

Everything must be easily carried away from the Show, so no bulky or heavy items can be accepted.

Many thanks, Hamasaka Trip Students.