

# NEWSLETTER

No. 03 Term 1, Week 4  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Principal's Note

Dear Parents and Caregivers - Kia ora everyone,

Firstly, a great big thank you to the teachers and parents for their work with the PCT Discussions this week. It is a really valuable time for us to make sure that we have shared goals, aspirations and understanding for our children, a great way to start the year, and a good chance to start off as we mean to continue.

All of our staff take part in Professional Development every year, including various workshops and seminars. The Otago Primary Principals Association run seminars every term for both Principals and Teachers. The Term 1 2021 seminar has something a little special. Not only are we offering times for teachers and principals, there is also an opportunity for parents to attend as well. Aaron Ironside is a clinical psychologist who will be working through strategies for managing stress for ourselves and our children. The workshop for parents is to give strategies to help meet your child's emotional needs and understand the bodies reaction to stress. It will be held at Opohō School from 7-8pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of March. If you would like to know more, please let me know and I can help you out.

We have seen the start of our Summer Term sports with Touch starting last Thursday and Futsal this week. I am always proud of our children's behaviour and representation of the school. Can we please remind our children on the field and the side-line to show respect for themselves, their team mates and their opposition, thank the referees and thank their coaches. The best way to help our children develop these respectful skills is of course to model them ourselves. Please make sure that you enjoy watching your child compete, celebrate their successes and efforts, and help them to accept a defeat graciously. While winning is always nice of course, I do get more excited about the manner in which our children compete fiercely and fairly.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Gareth Swete

## Person of the Week



Congratulations to Donnie, Liam, Theo, Ava, Indi and Ayla who were nominated for Person of the Week. The trophy for Week 3 went home with Liam & Theo.

## Important Dates

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Mar Swimming Starts  
Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March Board of Trustees Meeting

## Classroom Notes

### Papatūānuku

This week in Papatūānuku we have learnt how to:

- Code on, an app called Scratch Junior. We can all put a scene in the background and make an animal move.
- We read a Maori legend called Ranginui and Papatūānuku. We all painted a picture about a part of the story. We added collage items to our art.
- We have had fun learning new static exercises to strengthen our core muscles. Our favourite ones are Superman, Aeroplane hold and all of the animal ones.
- Our Kelly Sports teacher taught us how to get better at balancing. We need to practice standing on one foot, arms out and focus our eyes on something.

*Report by Papatūānuku*

### Hine-Rau-Whārangī

Kia ora. It's hard to believe we've been at school for a month now. Thank you for making time to come and chat with me this week to set goals for your child. I really value open communication between home and school, and it's great the children see us working together as a team for them. We are well underway working on our

pepeha, and our goal is to share them at assembly next week, Friday 5 March. We are learning more how to use Seesaw and we are building up our work before sending a link home for you to see what we've been up to. You will notice homework coming home from next week. Homework will be based on the children's learning in reading and writing, and will include a short activity reinforcing from class. The homework book is a great way to communicate between home and school too, so please feel free use it pass on anything to me.

*Report by Mrs Barr*

### Tāwhirimātea

Jelly beans! The Tāwhirimātea children were so excited to be using jelly beans for Maths that they didn't even realise they were doing maths. After a quick chat at the end of the session we realised that estimating how many jelly beans were in the bag and then counting them in 2's and 10's is indeed maths! We also estimated which colours were most common and which were least, completed tally charts after sorting our jelly beans into colours and made graphs to show which colours were the most common and which were the least. We were surprised to find out that 3 out of 4 bags had the same amount of jelly beans and the other only had 1 more jelly bean. We had weighed the bags before counting and noted that one was slightly heavier than the others. Such a wide range of mathematical strategies used in one session! We have also been super lucky to fit in two Kelly Sport sessions this week, focusing on balance. We have learnt that if we keep our eyes focused on a point in the distance we can balance lots better than when we are looking around. We have also been working hard on defining what litter is and where it ends up. We are particularly interested to know more about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. We have completed a school wide waste audit and the Tāwhirimātea children have identified a problem with our outdoor rubbish bins - the wind easily blows the rubbish out of them, and the red billed gulls can also pull rubbish out of them. This isn't good for our environment or the ocean. We are now busy working on a way to fix this problem....watch this space!

*Report by Mrs Swete*

### Ranginui

It has been a pleasure meeting everyone at Parent Teacher Conferences this week and getting to know your child from your perspective. We have published our 'Three facts and one fib' writing. The children were asked to be creative while truthful about themselves. These are proudly published in our classroom for sharing, have a read next time you pop in. We will share a few at this week's assembly. Every second Tuesday we have Kelly sports. This term is based around balance activities, ask the children to

show you some of the poses. Ranginui Children have a homework task this week. 'Me in a bag' This is to be completed and ready for sharing on Monday please.

*Report Miss Ruzsa*

### Hinemoana

We are getting really stuck into our topic this week - 'Human Impact on our Environment'. We have read a book and discovered lots of different ways we can deal with our waste so it doesn't end up in landfill and how to reduce our overall use of things like power and petrol (which works quite nicely with next week being Walk and Wheels Week!) to help our planet. We went on a Nature Walk around our school turning on our five senses and are working on turning these ideas into an interesting piece of descriptive writing. We have also been super lucky to have TWO Kelly Sport sessions this week where our focus has been all about balance. Lastly, thank you to those who came in to our interviews, it was great to meet you all and hear about your children. If you weren't able to make it and would like a time to chat, please feel free to flick me an email so we can make an arrangement.

*Report by Miss Laing*

### Tāne Mahuta

It has been a busy week in Tāne Mahuta this week. We have had our second session of Kelly sports this week and we are well under way with our class routines and have begun our Environment Topic. In this we will be looking at our backyards and the environment and how we can make changes with what we do to make a better planet. We will also be choosing a minibeast to research as part of this topic as they are a crucial part of keeping our environment alive. We are looking forward to researching this topic and writing a report on the information that we find. I'm sure we are bound to find some creepy interesting facts that we will be keen to share.

*Report by Mrs Brewer*

## Sport News

Touch	Team	vs	Score	POD
19th Feb	Titans	Kaikorai	9-1 (w)	Monty
	Nuggets	Tainui Y5-6	4-1 (w)	Ava W
23rd Feb	SBS City	GB Comets	0-3 (L)	Ava M
	SBS Rangers	Portabello	4-0(w)	Liam M
	SBS Hotspurs	Abbots 3	2-1 (L)	Rupert
	SBS Aston	Columba		
24th Feb	Villa	Yellow	2-4 (L)	Olivia

## School & Community Notices

### **Childrens Yoga**

Children's Yoga ages 5-12 years Thursdays at Ravensbourne Hall. 3.30- 4pm . & week term \$70. Try one before committing. Contact Kate 0226908077 more details at [www.templeyoga.co.nz](http://www.templeyoga.co.nz)

### **Walk n' Wheels To School Week**

We are delighted to participate in Sport Otago's Walk n' Wheels to School Week next week. The children will receive a card on Monday to record when they walk or wheel on the way to school or the way home. This card will be sent home on Friday. There is a QR code on the back of the card for you to enter your child into the prize draw. We're really looking forward to seeing the kids walking or wheeling next week!



### **Otago University Study**

Can you help us?

We are looking for families with children living in Dunedin who identify as New Zealand European with a child or children between the ages of 3½ years to 7½ years old for a study on children's understanding of the social world. We want to investigate the style and content of conversations between parents and their children and to determine how they relate to cultural identification, parenting goals and children's social understanding.

You and your child would come into the University for two sessions this year and two sessions next year. Each session is approximately 60 minutes and we are flexible with session time scheduling (e.g. afterschool and weekend times are available).

If you are interested please phone *Dr Jane Carroll* on 027 4117394 (or text me and I'll phone you) or email: [jane.carroll@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jane.carroll@otago.ac.nz)

### **Port Chalmers Book Library**

Kia ora Book Club people,  
Wow, February is such a short month that it's nearly After School Book Club day again! Come and join us this coming Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, for books, activities, friends and food with the Port Chalmers Library After School Book Club. We're looking forward to seeing you down here at the library from 3.30 – 4.30 (or 3.15 if you're keen for a snack beforehand).

Ngā mihi,  
Elspeth, Lucinda and the Port Chalmers Library team

### **Sawyers Bay School Bike Track**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 12pm in conjunction with Walk n' Wheels week we will be having an official opening of the new Bike Track extension. We will have DCC bike skills coaches on site. We encourage children to bring along their own helmets and they are welcome to bring their own bike or use a School one. All Parents are also welcome to join us.

