

# NEWSLETTER

No. 20 Term 3, Week 2  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021



## Principal's Note

Dear Parents and Caregivers - Kia ora everyone,

This week I have been away from the school at the New Zealand Principals Federation Annual Conference. There was a lot of information shared over the last few days that is both reassuring for our own school that we are on the right journey, and new ideas and initiatives that can be added to our repertoire to keep us moving forward, and providing the best possible balance of learning for our tamariki.

If you happen to watch the Breakfast Show on TVNZ 1, you may have seen an informative section on structured literacy on Wednesday morning. This has been an area of passion that we have been working through quite independently of our Ministry of Education over the last few years. We are therefore very happy to see that this is reaching the masses as we know it is the future direction for supporting all of our children to develop literacy. If you have the time, it is worth a 'google'.

I would like to congratulate our EnviroSchools teachers and Tāwhirimātea who were nominated for the Dunedin City Council Keep Dunedin Beautiful Awards on Monday. I am very pleased to announce that Sawyers Bay School came away with the top award for 2021 for a range of environmental initiatives. These include the waste audits and rubbish bin initiatives, recycling initiatives, planting in Pete's Patch and composting as well as the Tiakina a Tangaroa plastic cap artwork. We are very proud of our team for their work and will continue to push forward with our sustainability and environmental initiatives and education.

It is really great to be back at our kura after a few days away!

Ngā mihi nui,

Gareth Swete

## Person of the Week



Congratulations Isaac R, Zaria, Madeline, Rex, Pyper and Helen who were nominated for Person of the Week. The trophy for Week 1 went home with Madeline.

## Important Dates

Board of Trustees Mtg

Tuesday 10th August

## Classroom Notes

### Papatūānuku

We've had another fun week in Papatūānuku. It's been lovely to get outside and enjoy some sunny days while we have them.

We were excited to welcome a group of tamariki and kaiako from Pioneers Koputai Early Childhood centre who came to visit on Tuesday. This is always a lovely step in the transition to school process, where soon-to-be New Entrants can show their friends where they will go to school.

Our skipping is getting better and better! Even during a Physical Education activity, we see our school values being put into action. We are so proud of the way the tamariki are Risk Takers, trying something new and giving it go. This week's challenge has been to step into the big rope, while it is twirling!

On the theme of PE, we learned a new Olympic Sport at Kelly Sports this week, called Handball. Well, this was a lot of fun! We're just at the stage of learning the skills required, but it was fantastic to see Papatūānuku try something new.

Along with our counting forwards and backwards to improve our number knowledge, this week we have also started integrating our learning about shapes with creating art work for the upcoming Calendar Art fundraiser. We're cutting out lots of circles which is developing our scissor skills each time we do it! We are enjoying discussing the Olympic Games and building our knowledge about this world event. This week we have started a Medal Table which has lots of layers of learning as we add to it each time someone or a team wins a medal. Thank you for all of the discussion you're having at home around the Olympics. It sure is an exciting topic in our class at the moment!



*Report by Mrs Campbell*

### Hine-Rau-Whārangī

In Hine Rau Whārangī this week we have been learning about celebrations in Japan. Our focus has been on investigating Hanami (Cherry-Blossom Viewing). The arrival of cherry blossoms signals the end of chilly winter weather in Japan. The people of Japan celebrate this by gathering with friends and family under the cherry blossoms while picnicking.



Miss Finnie has been teaching us about our feelings using the book Aroha's Way

We have also had our first lesson with Kelly sports this term on Tuesday. Our focus was on using our ball skills for handball.

*Report by Mrs Brewer*

### Tāwhirimātea

This week the Tāwhirimātea children had a go at handball with Kelly sports. There were a lot of rules and skills to remember but we had a great time and are keen to have another go now that we know what we are doing. We have been following the success of our Olympic athletes and are enjoying adding to the medal tally almost daily. We have been learning about writing similes. We know that a simile must include either like or as and they are used to compare two objects to help paint an image in the readers mind. Here are a few we have written:

- My pony is as white as cotton. **(Ally)**
- The carpet is soft like a bunny. **(Cam)**
- The cave is as dark as the night. **(Francesca)**
- My dog is as sweet as candy. **(Tate)**
- I'm as fast as lightening. **(Freddie)**

We were very excited and proud to find out that our school was nominated for a Keep Dunedin Beautiful award. There were many schools nominated but we were lucky enough to be the overall winner in the school category. We take pride in knowing that our bottle cap art and our new rubbish bins (which have finally arrived and will be installed soon) contributed greatly to our winning of this award.

*Report by Mrs Swete*

### Ranginui

Thanks for popping in and seeing what your child has been learning this term. The children really enjoy showing their work to you. We have just started our statistical investigations with the children working through 'open ended questions.' These are questions that can lead on to asking more questions about information gathered on the first question. We all had fun learning handball skills with Kelly Sports on Tuesday and the children showed their kindness and sportsmanship by supporting their team members. Our poetry learning is part of our reading and writing programme. We have written cinquain poems this week and in reading we are discovering what stanzas are, and how poets can use comparisons of human traits to animals to write wonderful poems. Our Ranginui Olympic sport event results: Create a paper plane to fly the furthest. Bronze- Indy, Silver- Isabella G, Gold- Liam

M. This week's event: Use 20 cups to create the highest tower.

*Report by Ms Ruzsa*

### Hinemoana

Hinemoana is bringing The Ancient Olympic Games into the 21st Century! Our challenge is to create our own chariots using The Engineering Design Process. But instead of horses powering our chariots we are using spheros. When our chariots are completed and tested the games will begin! We are super excited to see who's chariot will win!

Here is some other interesting bits of information we have discovered about The Ancient Olympics:

- ✗ The very first Ancient Games weren't just sports, they had competitions for poetry, music and singing. **By Jack M**

There were not as many events as there are in the Olympics today. Competitors battled it out in chariot and horse racing, long jump, javelin, running, wrestling and boxing, shot put and discus.

- ✗ The Ancient Games made a sacrifice of 100 ox to honour the Greek god Zeus. **By Oscar**
- ✗ Married women were not allowed to watch the Olympic events. **By Anja**
- ✗ They competed in the nude! **By Jorjah** (Hinemoana is pretty glad this still doesn't happen today!)

*Report by Miss Laing*

### Tāne Mahuta

Students in Tāne Mahuta have been pushing themselves to learn lots of information about Statistics. We have been focusing on getting to know the different stages of the Statistical Inquiry Cycle and put these stages into practise. We have collected data about the different common foods we eat at different times of the day, and are in the process of comparing these to healthy food guidelines for children our age. This is linking in with our topic of the Olympics as we are thinking about different things that are important for Olympians. Being healthy and diet is a big part of Olympians being in peak condition! It has been interesting to see this data come together, stay tuned to see some of our graphs over the next week or so!

*Report by Miss Tenci*

## Sport News

Netball				
Tues 3rd August				
Year 5-6	Combined	St Joes Tactix	7-8 (L)	St Len

## School & Community

### Keeping Dunedin Beautiful Awards



**Sawyers Bay School pupil Hunter Swete (10) accepts the Dunedin Amenities Society Best School Project Award from society president Robin Hyndman. PHOTO: SIMON HENDERSON**

Winner of the Dunedin Amenities Society Best School Project Award was Sawyers Bay School, which created murals using recycled materials, audited its waste and recycling systems, made its own paper and took time to maintain a local piece of land called Pete's Patch.