



**Year 7 & 8**

**at**

**Oropi School**

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# Year 7 and 8 Oropi School .....*Be all you can be*

**Quality Education in a  
Rural School Environment**

## Why choose Oropi School?



- \* Our Year 7 and 8 Programme aligns with the intent of the revised New Zealand Curriculum.
- \* We offer personalised learning, and the opportunity to interact with others in our Rural School Cluster and mixed age group interaction.
- \* Our senior students are presented with many and varied opportunities to pursue and develop their individual interests and strengths.
- \* Digital Learning is enhanced through the provision of Laptops and Computers operating on a Wireless network, on a ratio of 1 Unit for every 2 students
- \* Opportunity is provided to engage in learning experiences beyond our immediate school environment.
- \* *The style and quality of education your child receives is determined by the school they attend .  
..... a good choice is an informed choice.*

# Retaining our Senior Students

## *Why is the retention of our Year 7 and 8 Students important to us?*

- \* As a focal point of our rural community, Oropi School provides quality education for children from the age of five through to the end of Year 8.
- \* Our highly qualified staff enjoy reflecting upon the results of their collective efforts as students complete their final Year 8 year at Oropi School
- \* Students who remain at our school for year 7 and 8 benefit from a seamless education, and do not experience a plateau in achievement as they adjust to a change in learning environment at the end of Year 6.
- \* Our senior students provide a positive role model for younger children within the school in academic, sporting, and cultural spheres
- \* Our Year 7 and 8 students provide positive leadership within the school

## Our Seniors



### *Being a senior at Oropi School*

- \* Our year 7 – 8 students are not just viewed as seniors by the school, but as leaders.
- \* As we have a smaller number of students, our kids are known as individuals rather than a number. This opens up many opportunities for our kids giving them the chance to not only participate in a wide range of activities but they have the chance to lead and create.
- \* Every child has the opportunity to rise up and become a leader. Our Year 7 – 8's are all role models that set and help maintain the culture of our school.
- \* We foster and help develop our seniors to become self managed learners that strive for new opportunities where they realise that in order to see results we need take action ourselves.

### *The things our children have created, lead and organised*

- \* School-wide cross country and swimming sports
- \* School wide Leadership day
- \* A variety of fundraisers. E.G. Sausage sizzle, Milk & Cookies, Hot Soup day
- \* School Badge
- \* Lunch time sports
- \* Full School re-naming-Native Birds
- \* A variety of lunchtime groups that include music, singing, ukulele and lunch time support for juniors



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# Our Learning Environment



- \* Our school prides itself on its 'family atmosphere' where children know each other, and staff are in a position to build a positive relationship and interact with students at all levels.
- \* We provide a stable environment within which to address the learning and emotional needs of the emerging adolescent.
- \* Students are not subject to negative peer pressure, and are able to maintain their individualism
- \* Our number of Y7&8 students within the Senior School enables us to successfully meet the individual learning needs for this age group.
- \* We provide extension opportunities for our High Achievers.
- \* Our in depth knowledge of our students as individuals, enables us to support them effectively in any areas of the curriculum where they experience difficulty.
- \* As we have a smaller number of Y7&8s every child has a vital part to play in the operation of the school. The seniors help the school operate while developing a culture of independence, identity and a safe environment.
- \* Oropi School's rich environment promotes out of the class learning where the children are immersed in regular interactions with people of all ages, helping them develop their self confidence and communication skills.

# Our Learning Programme



## ***What are the foundations of our Senior School Programme?***

- \* Our programme continues to have a strong Literacy and Numeracy Base.
- \* Students are provided with the opportunity to accept increasing responsibility for the direction of their own learning through an Inquiry Learning Approach, while encouraged to reflect upon their achievements and establish 'next steps' in their learning.
- \* Our students have access to a wide range of technologies and resources to support them in their endeavours as they acquire the skills appropriate for the 21st Century Learner.
- \* Computer/Laptop access currently stands at 1 unit per 2 students within the Senior School.
- \* We utilize Tauranga Primary School Technology Centre – a purpose built facility, in providing a range of additional learning experiences in the field of Technology.

# Learning Programme Continued...

- \* Our link with the 'Tall Poppies Cluster' enables our students to interact with and compete against others in a wide range of sporting codes and cultural pursuits including Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Problem Solving, Speech Making, and Social Dancing
- \* We foster qualities of independence and initiative, and encourage our Senior Students to accept additional leadership responsibility through taking on the roles of House Captain, Bus Monitor, Librarian, Sports Captain and a range of other duties around our school.
- \* Our senior students are involved in leadership opportunities beyond the school – including the Dynamos Leadership Programme and the National Young Leaders Day
- \* We continually seek to broaden our Learning Programme, and this year involved our students in the 'Swim Safe' and 'Learn to Surf' Programmes, and took advantage of programmes offered at both the City Library and Art Gallery.

## Creating Memories



### *Highlights of our school year at Year 7 and 8 level include:*

- \* Technology
- \* Disco and Senior Ball
- \* Organising Inter-House Challenges and events
- \* National Young Leaders Conference
- \* Otago Problem Challenge
- \* Personal Sporting Involvement
- \* Talent Quest
- \* Downhill Cart Racing
- \* Hot Air Balloon designing and flying
- \* School Choir involvement in the Combined Schools Music Festival
- \* Year 7 and 8 Quadathlon, Aims Games, Ski Trip, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Training, Water Safety
- \* Term 4 Camp and Leadership Camp
- \* Fundraising initiatives
- \* Input into the end of year Prize Giving
- \* Leadership opportunities with visitors to the school



# E.R.O's Perceptions of our School

## **What does ERO say about our school?**

- \* The school is set in an attractive, well-maintained and generously resourced rural environment, and is central to the community of Oropi.
- \* Students with identified learning needs are well catered for by specialist support programmes. These students are building confidence and skills and demonstrating significant progress in their learning.
- \* The school effectively uses an appropriate range of assessment tools to gather valid and reliable data on student achievement and progress. This data is well analysed and interpreted to inform decision-making by the board, school leaders and teachers.
- \* A team of highly collegial and committed teachers provides effective teaching practices that engage students in purposeful and interesting learning experiences. High quality relationships among teachers and students ensures that learning environments are positive, respectful and focused on learning.
- \* An open, trusting and inclusive culture with responsive and reciprocal relationships between board, staff, students and parents
- \* High levels of collaboration among staff who work in the best interests of all students
- \* Classroom environments are high quality, engage students in their learning, affirm their successes, and celebrate their achievements
- \* A wide range of strategies are used to engage students, resulting in high levels of on-task learning within classrooms

# Student Achievement

## **What does ERO say about our Student Achievement?**

- \* A significant majority of students are achieving at and above national expectations in reading and mathematics.
- \* Valuable professional development has resulted in teachers gathering more reliable, accurate data, and setting higher expectations for student achievement in writing.
- \* Students make good learning progress as they move through the school.

# The College Perspective

## ***What do the Colleges say about our Year 8 Students as they enter Year 9?***

Our students are recognised for their ability to:

- \* Complete a smooth transition into the College System
- \* Display a high level of self motivation
- \* Display well developed work habits and time management skills
- \* Display a high level of independence, initiative, and self responsibility
- \* Interact positively with other students and adults in a variety of situations
- \* Achieve success in academic, cultural and sporting components of the programme as a result of active involvement and consistent effort

# The Transition to College

## ***The move from a small school to a large college***

- \* *Oropi works very closely with the Year 9 Dean of each college to ensure that our children have a smooth and as carefree as possible move to their next school.*
- \* *As we have a smaller number of students making the move to college, we have a lot of communication about the placement of each individual child.*
- \* *The Deans work on a face by face placement.*

## A word from our current Year 7 – 8's

- \* We get more support with our learning at Oropi School
- \* I love the unique environment our school is set in. What other schools have a gully and a flying fox?
- \* I have a lot of friends because I know everyone.
- \* We get more opportunities to use equipment and do sports because there is less of us.
- \* We all have the same interests because we all grew up in the same environments.
- \* We get a say in our education and with what happens within our school.
- \* We are trusted more within the school because all teachers know us.
- \* We also get recognised more for our achievements in school and sports.
- \* There is less bullying at Oropi.
- \* We are trusted to do more like run things
- \* We are not a name or number, we are a face at Oropi. The teachers and principal knows each child individually.

## Year 7 – 8 at Oropi School

**We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements, and confidence in their ability to stand tall in any educational environment.**