

# KŌKAKO NEWS

ŌROPI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2023 TERM 1 WEEK 6



## Kia ora Whanau

The main event of the week has of course been our School Swimming Sports. Thank you very much for your support, to all our teachers and support staff who organised the event, and of course to all children participating and competing.

As you may all be aware, I am passionate about equipping our tamariki with water safety skills and learning to swim. This is an essential life skill living in an island nation.

I just wish swimming lessons for all children were affordable for everyone. I say to children that the most important thing with swimming is 'to give it a go' even if you are not confident. The only way to improve and become confident is to get in the water. There is so much leisure and sporting opportunity for people who do know how to swim. It 'opens doors' to many opportunities.

## **School Houses**

From the start of Term 2, we will reinstate our school houses. A parent survey is going out this week to get your feedback on whether we retain our current house names or change them. Please contribute to this survey because we will use the responses to decide if we change our house names.

We are currently working on putting children in house groups across the whole school and will 'kick off' the re-start with a celebration in the first part of Term 2. This will be to ensure we have it up and running for Term 2 events onward.

## **Bus Runs Review**

We are in the process of reviewing the Bus services for Oropi School to really understand the big picture needs, and work through a range of scenarios and solutions for current matters that need to be addressed. A survey for all families will come out by next week. Please ensure you contribute to this.

We also may come up with some temporary 'fixes' for the remainder of Term 1 and Term 2, before having permanent changes in place from Term 3, if any.

Your contribution to the survey is essential. We will then use this information to inform our review and hold a parent workshop

later this term to seek further feedback, outline key information, and workshop draft solutions. After the workshop, we will then make a final recommendation of changes to be in effect from Term 3 2023, if any.

Some of this review process is going to involve talking with Council and other schools and getting as much data as we possibly can from parent communities.

Ngā mihi nui

Andrew King

Principal | Oropi School

## **School Swimming Sports & Water Fun**

The Oropi School Swimming Sports was a very successful event this year!

We all enjoyed fantastic weather. The Middle and Senior School had an action packed day at Memorial Pools with the Y4-8 participating in competitive or noncompetitive swimming events. Much fun was had by all with students demonstrating competitive spirit and superb support of each other throughout the day. The Junior School had a wonderful time utilising the school pool, our slippery slide and several other water based fun activities to have a delightful afternoon of fun! Thanks to all the parents who assisted us and came to watch their tamariki in action!



# Junior Playground

We are thrilled to announce the Grand Opening of our new Junior Playground! The Playground is a great addition to our school, and we cannot wait to see the joy it will bring to our younger students.

We invite you to join us on Monday, March 13th at 9am for the Grand Opening ceremony. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to see the Playground firsthand, and witness the excitement on your child's face as they play on it for the first time.

We have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Playground is safe and fun for all students. It is designed to encourage physical activity, creativity, and social interaction among our students.

We are confident that your child will love playing on it and we can't wait to see them enjoy it!

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, March 13th at 9am.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mark Weston for his exceptional efforts in securing funds for the playground. We would also like to express our sincerest appreciation to the following organisations for their generous contributions:

TECT: \$30,000

NZCT: \$10,000

Lion Foundation: \$5,000

Grassroots Trust: \$5,000

Akarana Community Trust: \$5,000

Milestone Foundation: \$4,000





# Top Schools

We had a terrific time at Top Schools last week. Our Ōropi team of students gave their best during the events. Our team did us proud by working together as a team to compete in some very challenging events including: the 'Magic Carpet Ride,' 'Big Foot,' 'Pole Balance,' Thread the Needle and the 'Railway Track.'

Our highlight was coming second in the 'Leaky Bucket' involving a giant slide, as amazingly we managed to keep most of the water in the bucket during this event.

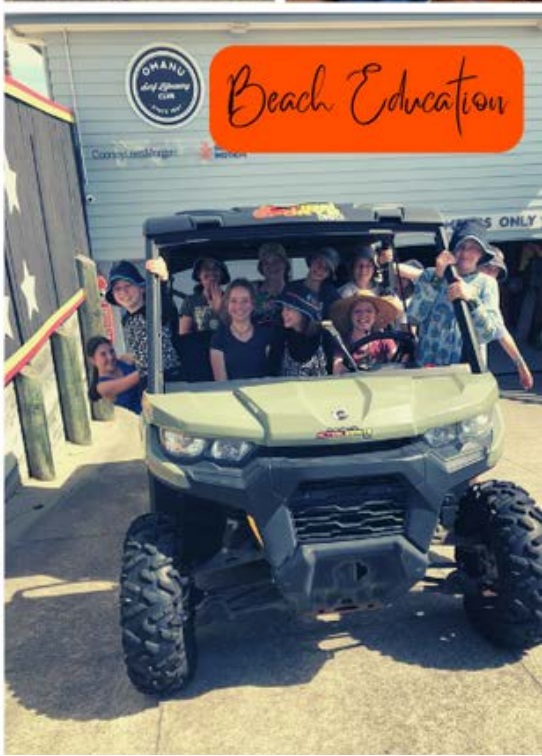
Gate Pa School did a great job of hosting this annual event, and we look forward to competing again next year in 2024. (See Photo montage in this newsletter.) A big thankyou to Jennny Tappenden & Demelza Pendergrast who supported this event and all the parents who cheered our Team on!







Junior Water Fun Day



Beach Education

TOP SCHOOLS 2023



ROLL!



BALANCE!



LEFT! RIGHT!



THREAD!





Oropi School PTA

# FROZEN FRIDAY ICEBLOCK FUNDRAISER

Order in Kindo.

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY  
FRIDAY 3 MARCH  
FRIDAY 17 MARCH

\$1.50 each. Lemonade  
popsicles & juices available.

# Family BINGO Night

31 MARCH 2023

OROPi COMMUNITY HALL

DOORS OPEN 5:30PM | EYES DOWN 6:00PM

LAST GAME 7:45PM

TICKETS	FOOD AVAILABLE • BAR • PRIZES
\$6	

YOUR HOST: MR MAC

LIVE AUCTION - EFTPOS AVAILABLE  
All parents and teaching staff from  
Oropi School welcome

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON KINDO  
(120 TICKETS AVAILABLE)



# Easter Cookies!!

# \$20 per bucket

IT'S ALWAYS  
**CookieTime!**  
For Serious Cookie Munchers®

CHOCOLATE CHIP  
SALTED CARAMEL  
GF CHOC CHIP

Order now through Kindo or  
purchase at the office



## **Attending School**

Oropi School is committed to ensuring that all of our students get the most out of their education, and wants to support our students to maintain regular attendance.

Students who attend school regularly learn more and achieve better results.

As parents, you have an important role in ensuring that your child attends school whenever it is open, unless there is a good reason for his/her absence. Acceptable reasons for absence include sickness or serious family circumstances, such as bereavement. Where there is a good reason for absence, please contact our school to let us know as soon as possible.

Your role in ensuring your child's regular attendance is so important that if you allow your child to miss school without a valid reason, you can be prosecuted under the Education Act 1989. While Oropi School does not want to prosecute any parent for their children's absence, we do take regular attendance seriously. We will be monitoring all unexplained absences and if students frequently miss school without an explanation being provided, we will be contacting parents to request a meeting and to work with you to encourage better attendance.

If the unexplained absences persist, we will send a formal warning letter, and may involve other agencies, such as the Truancy Service, to follow up on the reason for the absence.

Please work with us to support your child to attend school regularly. Attendance is important and every day counts.

## **Senior Parent Structured Literacy**

### **Evening**

We would like to invite you to a parent information evening regarding Structured Literacy in the Senior School for 2023.

Andrea Ford from Clarity Education will be leading this session for you. We are running on a tight schedule so we would like you to leave questions until the end.

When: Monday 13 March

Where: Multi Purpose Room next to the Staffroom

Time: 4:00 - 5:00pm

## **Keeping your contact details up to date**

Remember to keep your contact information up to date with the office. We must be able to contact parents and caregivers if necessary, especially if your child is unwell. This includes your phone numbers, physical address, and email address.

## **Closing Gates**

To ensure the safety of all children on site, please ensure the gate you enter and exit is securely closed once you pass through.



# Sport Update

## Year 7 & 8 Volleyball

Emma and Mackenna have joined forces with the Tauriko volleyball team this term and are having great fun on Friday nights at the QE2 centre. They are yet to win but have been close! They are learning lots of skills and are having fun!



Rippa Rugby Report for Oropi Golden Eagles on the 23rd Feb.

The girls had a fantastic start to the season. Despite the wet conditions they won 4-3 against Welcome Bay Keas. There were some great tries and awesome team work.

Ruby C was the player of the day this week for scoring the first try of the season.





# Sport Update

Kids had a blast today even though it was a little patchy with the weather. Xavier V was player of the day for the Cheetahs this week for volunteering to play for the other team and for fantastic attacking and great lines of defence.



Tauranga Blue Rovers invites you to register for the Winter Football season.

Registrations are now open for all grades - both girls and boys.

Registrations are closing on Friday 17th March



To register please click on the following link:-

<https://blueroovers.co.nz/Register>

For more information please visit our club website on:-

<https://blueroovers.co.nz/>

## **Zespri Aims Games - Year 7 & 8**

Check the HERO post on 22 February for the Aims Games information. Registrations open soon.

Email Rochelle if you would like to register.

Email [sports@oropi.school.nz](mailto:sports@oropi.school.nz)



# Garden to Table

We are finally harvesting some summer veges due to all the recent sunshine - better late than never - and our dishes this past fortnight have reflected this. Last week's groups from Te Kōkako, Pūkeko and Kōtare Pendergrast were busy with four incredible dishes; Vegetarian Chilli, Flatbread with Herbs, Cucumber and Corn Salad and Lemon Muffins.

This week's groups from Kōrimako and Kōtare Tappenden are making 'Confetti Spaghetti' - a pasta salad made from colourful diced summer vegetables and herbs. Lots of accurate chopping is required to get the vegetables into uniform-sized pieces. On the side is Flatbread again but this time with an Italian twist with the addition of garlic

butter. Using our own apples from the school orchard we made Apple and Cinnamon muffins. Between the garlic butter and the muffins the kitchen smells amazing this week! The Kōtare classes removed our failed aubergine plants and our finished corn plants and planted more zinnia seedlings for garden colour. They planted coriander in shady spots and sowed more spring onions. Kōrimako planted our first broccoli seedlings which have shot up since they were sown last month, and sowed sorrel. Kōrimako Lewis scaled ladders to harvest the apples and pears - not a pretty crop thanks to the lack of sun and hailstorm last month but they're tasty on the inside!





# Nuts & Bolts 2023

## ADMINISTRATION

Josie Third and Kylie McHannigan make up the amazing admin team. Office hours at 8.30am to 3.30pm

View further information on our school website:

[www.oropi.school.nz](http://www.oropi.school.nz)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OropiSchool>

## ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Teachers are on duty at all times during the morning and lunchtime breaks.

Accidents of minor nature are treated at school in the sick bay/medical room.

Parents, or a nominated adult are contacted if an accident is of a serious nature. If parents and designated emergency contacts are unable to be contacted, the school will use discretion in obtaining medical aid. Parents will be notified if their child becomes ill and needs care at home.

## ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school, please notify by HERO, email or phone to the school office by 9.00am on the morning of the absence.

School office: (07) 543 1479

Email: [office@oropi.school.nz](mailto:office@oropi.school.nz)

## LOST PROPERTY

It is amazing how quickly the lost property box fills up with unnamed brand new clothes and shoes.

Please remember to clearly name all items of clothing. Unnamed articles of clothing can be found in the lost property bins outside some classrooms.

## SIGN IN AND OUT

In case of an emergency and for our Health and safety reasons we need to know who is on the school grounds. We therefore ask that you use the ipad at the school reception desk to sign in and out.

Reasons you need to use the ipad:

- Child/ren are late. Sign in.
- Child/ren are leaving school for an appointment or because they are sick during school time. Sign out.
- Parent/friend/family member is helping during school hours or attending a class event. Sign in and out.
- Child/ren returning from an appointment. Sign in.

## KINDO

Working together with Kindo, Ōropi School offers you a fantastic way to view and pay for all your child/children's school needs online. No cash, no paper, no hassle!

You can:

- view and make full or part payments on your family account



- register and pay for sports events and trips
- support fundraisers
- order school lunches.

More information can be found on our website.

## **SUN SAFETY**

Ōropi School is a Sunsmart Accredited School. In accordance with our Sun Protection, regulation school sun hats are to be worn during break times in terms 1 and 4. They can be purchased from our school office. Children without sun hats will be directed to stay in designated shaded areas.

## **UNIFORM ITEMS**

We have uniform items that are available to purchase through our school office.

Sun hat \$20.00

Polo shirt \$35.00

Hoodie \$65.00

Jacket \$60.00

## **START OF SCHOOL DAY**

We understand that students are keen to arrive at school and this is encouraging; however, before school, teachers use this time to meet and prepare for learning. They are not actively supervising students in the playground. Please consider the time you are dropping your child/ren to school and this is not to be before the first school bus at 8.15am.

## **SWIMMING**

Swimming is a mandatory part of the Physical Education and Health programme. All children will participate with their class. Please ensure that all gear is clearly labelled. We strongly encourage students to bring goggles to support their swimming lessons.

## **PTA**

We have a very energised group of parents on our PTA. They have been passionate about providing for our teachers and students. There are many facilities and school equipment that have been provided through their dedicated efforts. If you are interested in being a part of this please make contact by emailing [oropi.pta@gmail.com](mailto:oropi.pta@gmail.com)

## **PARKING**

***For the safety of everyone, please cross the road at the road crossing by the bus turning bay. Do not walk across the road on blind corner.***

We encourage families to park at the Hall and walk up the path to school, especially while the road works are being completed. Please use common sense and refrain from parking across the driveways of our neighbours.

**Please do not park in the staff carpark.**



Term 1&2

# Important Dates

## Week 7

**13 March** Opening of Junior Playground

**13 March** Senior School Structured Litearcy Parent Hui 4pm

**13 March** Year 7 & 8 Mountainbike event, Summerhill Trails

**15 - 16 March** EPRO 8 Challenge Year 7 & 8

**16 March** Tennis Lessons #5 with Klaus

**16 March** Tall Poppies (Year 7 & 8) Swimming

**17 March** PTA Frozen Friday

**17 March** West Cluster (Year 5 & 6) Swimming Sports

## Week 8

**22 March** Girls Playing Sport Day Year 4 - 6

**23 March** Tennis Lessons #6 with Klaus

## Week 9

**30 March** Tennis Lessons #7 with Klaus

**31 March** PTA Family Bingo

## Week 10

**3 April** John Parsons Parent Information Evening

**4 April** BOT Meeting

**6 April** Term 1 ends

## Term 2

## Week 1

24 April Teacher Only Day

25 April ANZAC Day

27 - 28 April Year 3 & 4 Camp Totara Springs

*Updated 6 March 2023*



# Internet Health and Wellbeing Presentation

With John Parsons



Are you a parent/guardian concerned about how your child uses the internet or mobile phone?

Cybercrime is a very real issue facing families in NZ, but there are easy practical steps to reduce the risk. Oropi School invites you to a presentation on the issues associated with the inappropriate use of computers, mobile phones and the internet.

John Parsons is NZ's leading authority on Safeguarding children online. He is a published author and signed copies of his book 'Keeping Your Children Safe Online' will be available on the day.

Topics covered during his presentation include:

- Online grooming.
- Sexting.
- Cyber bullying.
- Learning to repel & report.
- Future proofing for employment.
- Screen time.
- Sleep.
- Families that eat together heal together.

• Educating young people to understand the value of identity is the first step to using ICT safely and ethically. Educating young people to respect and protect friends and family identity is the second step.



**Oropi Hall**  
**3rd April**  
**6.30pm**



www.citizen21.co.nz

www.facebook.com/johnparsonss2e

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE**



**Saturday 11th**  
**March 9am**  
**Omokoroa**  
**Domain**

**Apata**  
TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

**HAVE A GO TRY-ATHLON**

Hosted by Pahoia School



Registration includes  
**Event T Shirt**  
**Goody bags**  
**Placegetter medals**  
**Spot Prizes**

**Early Bird**  
**Registration**  
**\$30**  
**All 5 - 13 year olds**  
**welcome**

**Thanks to our sponsors**



**Registrations**  
**www.pahoia.school.nz**



**NIÁN NIÁN**  
**Yǒu Yǒu**

*May you have abundance every year!*

**Pronounced: Knee-en knee-en**  
**yo you**



**TE PUNA**  
**HUNTING & FISHING CLUB**

**Kids hunting and**  
**fishing competition**

**1ST 2ND 3RD LONGEST**  
**SNAPPER**  
**1ST 2ND 3RD LONGEST**  
**KAHAWAI**  
**1ST 2ND 3RD LONGEST**  
**TREVALI**  
**1ST 2ND 3RD**  
**HEAVIEST POSSUM**  
**1ST 2ND 3RD HEAVYST**  
**RABBIT**

**Briefing 6.30 pm**  
**friday 31st March.**  
**weigh in sunday 2nd**  
**April - 3pm cut off**

**\$15 PER**  
**TICKET**  
**OPEN TO**  
**KIDS FROM**  
**3 TO 15**  
**YEARS !!**

**PRIVATE MESS**  
**OUR FACEBOO**  
**PAGE FOR TICH**  
**DETAILS !!**