



OPUA SCHOOL

*Manaakitanga me te Awhina
Caring and Sharing*

9th DECEMBER 2020
Term 4 Week 9

This year, again, I am fortunate to have worked with an experienced and committed group of educators. They are central to this school's many achievements. The quality of their teaching and commitment to the pupils' success are always apparent. Thank you very much Margaret, Lynette, Ineka, Camilla, Juliette, Margaret Civil, Michele Wilson and Debbie Cooke.

This week we are saying farewell to Debbie Cooke. We are going to miss Debbie very much. She has been a wonderful member of staff and has helped keep Room 5 as stable as possible in what has been an 'interesting' year. We wish Debbie all the best and thank her very much.

My public appreciation also goes to Lynne Oldham, Maree, Denny, Kylie and Gaye who have all worked very hard throughout the year for the benefit of the school, its pupils and its teachers. You are all very much valued. Have a super Christmas and New Year. There are, obviously, too many other people to mention who have supported the school and pupils this year but please know that your support, time and energy are all very much appreciated.

Another one of the many reasons for our success this year is the positive support Opua School receives from its Board of Trustees. I rely massively on the Chairperson, Malcolm, who has been incredibly generous offering his wise counsel and educational experience as the leader of our board. Thank you also to all the trustees; to Michele, Juliette, Glen, Mark and Paul, for supporting the school so consistently and constructively. Our board is focused on the children's achievements: we are very lucky to have you all on 'board'.

My gratitude to our positive and supportive P.T.A, and to the many superb parents who have, once again, been active in their help and backing this year. Finally, and most importantly, to the pupils: You are what this is all about. I have loved being your Principal again this year. Thank you for the wonderful memories. Be safe, be happy, enjoy Santa's visit, look after each other and keep learning throughout the summer.

School Staffing 2021

Room 1 Juliette Ridge
Room 2 Camilla Going/
Margaret Civil
Room 3 Ineka Halse
Room 4 Lynette Lindsay
Room 5 Ramari Pirihi

PRIZEGIVING THURSDAY @ 11am

Please arrive before 11am
The field will be open for parking.

All welcome!

LAST DAY

The last day of school is on the 11th of December. We will have our World Famous Talent Show from 1.30pm-3pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along. Please note that school will be finishing at 3pm. Please collect your child/ren by 3.30pm at the latest as there will be no staff here after 3.30.

Thank you.

Dates for the 2021 School Year

Term 1: 3 February - 16 April

Term 2: 3 May - 9 July;

Term 3: 26 July - 1 October

Term 4: 18 October - 14 December

**IF YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD HAS PUT
THEIR NAME DOWN FOR THE TALENT
SHOW AND YOU ALSO KNOW THAT
YOUR CHILD WON'T BE AT SCHOOL ON
FRIDAY - PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE
HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHO TO PUT IN
THE LINE-UP. THANKS!!**

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****** PTA RAFFLE ******

WE ARE GOING TO BE DRAWING THE PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TOMORROW

Please return all tickets to the school office (sold and unsold) to the school office first thing in the morning. Thank you all so much for selling the tickets.

We have made just over \$1000 for the PTA. All proceeds go towards paying for school camps, transport for outings and visiting shows.

****** ADVANCED NOTICE ******

TEACHER ONLY DAY TERM 1 2021

School will be closed all day on **THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2021**. All our teachers will be in Whangarei that day. Our School's Board of Trustees has approved this event and school closure. This is the 4th day of 8 permitted days that teachers have been given by the Government for training purposes in their latest union's Collective Agreement running from 1st July 2019 - 30th June 2022.

****** WINNER ******

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO RESPONDED TO OUR CURRICULUM SURVEY

We have drawn a winner from the pile and that winner is....Ara Apiata!

He wins a free school sweatshirt for next year.

The survey is a valuable tool for the staff to base their future planning on and it helps keep us in touch with our community. Nga mihi.

****** SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ******

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO USE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Please feel free to make use of the school grounds over the school holidays.

The pool area is out-of-bounds, but the rest of the school is available to use.

Keep an eye out for any damage or possible security issues. Let us know if there is anything we need to be aware of ASAP. (contact details on the front of this Newsletter) Thank you! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

****** FAREWELL ******

FAREWELL TO ALL THE FAMILIES WHO ARE LEAVING US

We are very sad to say goodbye to all of our wonderful Year 8s. Some of you have been part of Opuia School's family for a long time, some for only a short time but we will miss you all equally. We are also saying goodbye to a number of pupils who are heading off to Kerikeri High School. We wish you all the best and thank you for being a part of our school's community. If you ARE removing your child/ren from our roll and haven't let us know, please contact Simon, a teacher or Maree to let us know:-)

Xmas Parade Float

What a wonderful time we all had on Friday afternoon and what a magnificent turn-out by all. For the **FIRST TIME** Opua School's marvellous creation won the prize for the overall best float! **YAY!**

We have had so many positive comments about the float and the enthusiasm from all attendees.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Amy Crisp, Courtney Hughes and Gemma Nicholson for their amazing organisational skills and to the parents who helped out along the way.



HAVE A LOOK AT OUR NEW SIGNPOST!

Ms Halse and her Enviro Kids have been working hard, designing, painting and working with the sign writers at Fusion Graphics (support local!) to create this marvellous signpost by the school gate.

It is very interesting to know how far away these landmarks are.



Paihia Tennis Club - Free Family Fun Day

Where - Paihia Tennis Club, MacMurray Rd, Paihia.

When - Sunday December 13th.
(Alternate rain day Sunday 20th Dec)

Time - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Sausage sizzle and lots of spot prizes!

Bring - Sport shoes. Sun hat and sunscreen. Drink bottle. Tennis racquet if you have one. (Club racquets available to use if you don't.)



There will be: Quick round robins, fun tennis games, kid-friendly activities, and plenty of club members to meet and greet.

No need to register, just turn up on the day!
All ages welcome! (Parents must accompany children)

Paihia Tennis Club offers affordable family memberships, coaching, kids lessons and clinics.

Any questions?

Phone Club Captain - Sene 021 777 369



Sunday 17th
January 2021

10am - 3pm

Registrations any time
between 10.00am and
2.30pm

Back-up: Sun 14th Feb

Explore the waters of Tapeka Point, learn about kina barrens.

You may spot triplefins and reef fish. Fun for the whole whānau. Bring your own gear or get free hire of our mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuits.

Recommended for everyone 5 years and up. All children under 15 years must be accompanied by an adult beach observer.

Experienced guides and advanced safety procedures and sanitisation protocols will be in place on the day.

Koha/donations welcome.

Register at the event on the day. Sea conditions permitting. Postponements on our website www.emr.org.nz and [facebook.com/emr.mtsct](https://www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct) more info contact isabel@emr.org.nz

