



OWHIRO BAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
www.owhiro.school.nz

Issue No. 40

14 December 2011

Important Dates to Remember

- Cushion Concert and Farewell to Year 6's tonight —6.00—7.00 pm 14 December
- Farewell Assembly for Year 6 students—9.00 am 15 December
- Last Day of Year—2.00 pm finish 15 December
- First day for students at school in 2012—8.55 am start 31 January

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Kia ora, Nameste, Shalom, Talofa, Konichiwa, Guten Tag, ni Hao, Kia orana, Hello, Hi

It is hard to believe that tomorrow is our last day for the school year. I would like to take the opportunity in this last newsletter to thank all our wonderful students for the energy, enthusiasm and efforts they have put in to their learning in 2011. Also to our wonderful Year 6 students we wish you a fond farewell and all the best as they move from our school for Year 7 in 2012. We will truly miss you all, but wish you well in your new schools where we know that you will continue to "reach for the stars".

As for all our fantastic teachers and support staff. I would like to thank you all for your commitment in supporting every student to learn and strive to achieve of their best. The hard work and the professionalism is a credit to you all. I am always impressed with the energy our staff share with students and their dedication to supporting each child to learn and grow. Farewell to Abby who is leaving for exciting travels and teaching overseas.

Thank you also to our amazing Board who have very ably governed the school again this year. We appreciate the extra time and energy they put in to ensuring our school is focused on student achievement and improvement. Thank you also to their families who enable us to share some of their time which benefits the school and all our students.

The other groups who have worked tirelessly for our school are the wonderful Parentlink and Fair Organisation people. Thank you for the many hours where you have worked extremely hard to raise an incredible amount of money to support student learning. Also I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in raising funds this year and supporting Parentlink with fundraising.

And most of all thank you to you—yes you tremendous parents and caregivers who have supported the children, their teachers, the staff and school during 2011. Your generosity in supervising and transporting on trips, organising events, working and around the school, alarm call out people, building inspections and much much more—is very much appreciated. It also helps this to be the wonderful place of learning that it is.

You may like to take a look at the summary of this year's Safety Survey. This is undertaken towards the end of the year as a gauge for how safe students feel at Owhiro Bay School.

Talking of safety, please can we ask that you help to look out for our grounds and buildings over the summer break. There will be some painting contractors on site during the time and the cleaners doing the annual big "spring clean" not to mention the teachers getting ready for the new year. Owhiro Bay Kindergarten finishes for the year on 21st December and starts on 12 January in 2012

Please remember that the school finishes tomorrow at 2.00 pm and begins again at 8.55 am on Tuesday 31 January. So enjoy your last day of school tomorrow. Our final assembly is at 9.00.

Ka kite
Karen

THANKS....

To the parents who have been in class and around the school helping teachers pack up and tidy up before the end of term.

To the parents/caregivers who were able to make it along to the School Picnic last week—hope you enjoyed your day.

To the parents/caregivers who helped out at the Year 6 trip on Monday at the overnight camp and at the senior school end of year trip yesterday.



FAREWELL

To our Year 6 students, Anchal Chetty, Ayla Sweet-Edgington, Carlia Dalley, Ellen Griffiths, Finn Jobson, Georgia Gray, Holly Sharp, Jack Keddy, Jaegar Russell, Jason Morgan, Marco Brown, Martin McPhee, Ollie Wallington, Rosa Ketko-Trask, Sophie Tait, Sunny Wallace & Winnie Ng.

To the families of Anchal, Ayla, Carlia, Ellen, Georgia, Holly, Jaegar, Marco, Martin and Sophie who will no longer have children at Owhiro Bay School. Also farewell to Skyler Solomon-Gavin who is leaving the country with his family and to Abby Radford who leaves the school and the country over the holidays. We wish her all the very best with her travels.



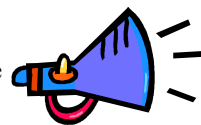
VIRTUES

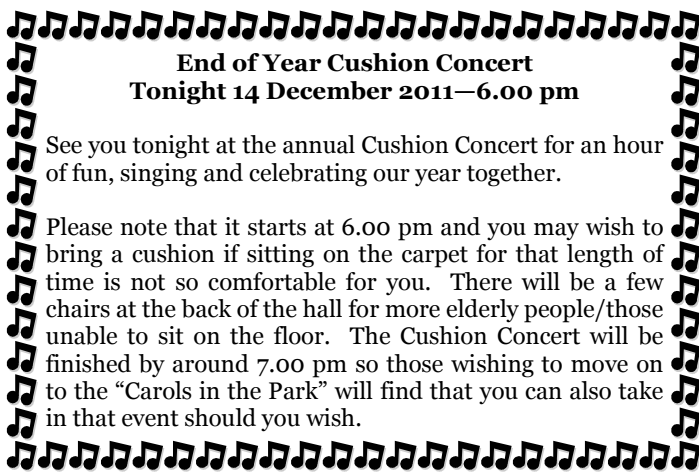
The focus for this week is "Cleanliness" or "Nohama" and a great way to end the school year and perhaps something your children will continue to practice at home during the week and over the summer break.

If you are interested in finding out more about The Virtues Programme developed by Linda Kavelin Popov try looking up www.virtuesproject.com

FAIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Well done everyone from the Kindergarten and School who worked so hard to raise funds at the Country Fair. The final amount has now been confirmed as..... \$20, 868.48. Hooray and well done everyone.





**End of Year Cushion Concert
Tonight 14 December 2011—6.00 pm**

See you tonight at the annual Cushion Concert for an hour of fun, singing and celebrating our year together.

Please note that it starts at 6.00 pm and you may wish to bring a cushion if sitting on the carpet for that length of time is not so comfortable for you. There will be a few chairs at the back of the hall for more elderly people/those unable to sit on the floor. The Cushion Concert will be finished by around 7.00 pm so those wishing to move on to the “Carols in the Park” will find that you can also take in that event should you wish.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check the lost property laid out in the corridor by the school hall for items that need re-uniting with their owners.

Any un-named, unclaimed items after the finish of school this year will be donated to charity.



STATIONERY 2012

A reminder that stationery lists are posted on the website below and you can order and have them delivered right to your doorstep. Alternatively, you can make your own arrangements to purchase your stationery at many of the local stores.

The My School website and the following link will take you straight to your page.
www.myschool.co.nz/owhirobay



STAR WRITER OF THE WEEK

Our star writer of the week is...

Mac Johnson—Pohutukawa (Room 3) Age 10

Paint ball

“Splat!” Shards of the outer paint shattered all over me. It’s a beautiful day at paint ball. Sounds of gunshots filled the air. People in blue masks staggering around hands raised high in the air. The sniping tower that I’m standing on is getting bombarded with paintballs. Our security is being breached and only a few people aren’t covered in paint. So that means that blue are getting wasted. We’ve taken over” the greens yelled. “Not completely” I thought, a grin spreading my face like the black plague. I jumped, rolled and sprinted of into the bush. But it wasn’t long till I got a mysterious case of déjà vu. I knew I wasn’t alone. I turned around and I saw....

A man. He looked like he was about 30. His eyes were twinkling like a madman. He blinked lifted his gun and shot. But I was too fast. I jumped behind a tree, mounted my weapon and shot. The paintball splattered against his wrist he scuttled up out of the bush. The air horn went and I emerged from the bush. We won!



END OF YEAR

A reminder that school finishes at **2.00 pm this Thursday 15 December** and resumes again for 2012 on **8.55 am Tuesday 31 January 2012.**

Have a safe and happy holiday



Owhiro Bay Safe School Survey Summary November 2011

Each year in the final week of November a sample of students are interviewed to give a snap-shot of how students perceive safety in our school and playground. As in past years 25% of students from each class were randomly selected to provide this feedback. The survey is done by speaking individually to each student using the same survey questions each year.

The results this year are wonderful, and very similar to 2010. They indicate that most students are feeling safe in most areas of the school. The summary below indicates the number of students and type of response. Please note that information from 2008, 2009 and 2010 survey is included to provide some comparative data.

	Gender		Age of Students									
	Girls	Boys			5yr	6yr	7yr	8yr	9yr	10yr	11yr	Total
2008	14	14		2008	4	6	3	6	1	7	1	28
2009	14	17		2009	5	5	4	4	6	6	1	31
2010	16	14		2010	5	5	4	3	6	5	1	30
2011	14	14		2011	4	4	6	5	2	4	3	28

Entnicities

	Maori	Pasifika	NZ E	Other E	Chinese	Indian/ Sri Lankan	Other Asian	Total
2008	3	3	17	1	1		3	28
2009	4	1	17	4	3	2		31
2010	3	3	16	3	2	3		30
2011	2	3	10	4	2	4	3	28

Summary of Results

Part 1 - Positive Experiences for that day.

Students said

1. they were helped today – **75%** (21/28 students) compared with 53% in 2010 (16/30 students) and 39% (12/31 students) in 2009
2. someone said something nice to them today- **82%** (23/28 students) compared with 60% (18/30 students) in 2010 and 65% (20/31 students) in 2009
3. someone shared things with them today – **71%** (20/28 students) compared with 73% (22/30 students) in 2010 and 68% (21/31 students) in 2009
4. they had been played with today - **100%** (28/28 students) compared with 100% (30/30 students) in 2010 and 87% (27/31 students) in 2009
5. had something that made them smile today - **61%** (17/28 students) compared with 83% (25/30 students) in 2010 and 77% (24/31 students) in 2009
6. someone had said “hello” to them today - **96%** (27/28 students) compared with 77% (23/30 students) in 2010 and 90% (28/31 students) in 2009

Part 2 – Negative Experiences for that term.

Students who

7. had been hit, punched, bitten, kicked or hurt their body – **nil** in 2011, compared with 7% (2/30 students) in 2010 and 16% (5/31 students) in 2009
8. had been called, names, sworn at or had people say mean things to them – **11%** (3/28 students) compared with 7% (2/30 students) in 2010 and 39% (12/31 students) in 2009
9. had experienced rude signs or had faces made to them – **4%** (1/28 students) compared with 3% (1/30 students) in 2010 and 10% (3/31 students) in 2009
10. someone said they would hurt them – **4%** (1/28 students) compared with 10% (3/30 students) and 10% (3/31 students) in 2009
11. they were left out/not allowed to play with someone – **18%** (5/28 students) compared with no students in 2010 and 10% (3/31 students) in 2009

Part 3 – Feeling safe and unsafe at school

Where feel safe

All students said they felt safe at school and everyone could identify places where they felt safe and people they felt safe with at school. **29%** this year (compared with 13% in 2010 and 23% in 2009) said they **felt safe “everywhere”**, 50% identified the classroom (compared with 53% in 2010 and 26% in 2009) as a safe place and 61% (compared with 30% in 2010 and 39% in 2009) identified outside playground areas as a safe place for them.

Where feel unsafe

36% (10 students) compared with 43% (13 students) in 2010 and 39% (12 students) in 2009, identified a place in the school where they felt unsafe or sometimes felt unsafe – 54% (compared with 57% in 2010 and 13% in 2009) said there is “nowhere” they felt unsafe. There were three students who mentioned the courts area (because no one there, gate open or someone could come in the gate) and a few one off places mentioned in the responses but no area of real concern/identified as an ‘at risk’ for student safety.

People who make you feel safe

At 82% identified “their friends” (compared with 83% in 2010 and 71% 2009) as the most significant group for helping students feel safe at school. 93% identified teachers/principal as people who helped them feel safe (compared 73% in 2010 and 42% 2009). 18% identified the Peer Mediators compared with 3% in 2010 and 7% in 2009. This year 14% mentioned ‘big kids’ as helping, and one student said “all – everyone”.

People who make you feel unsafe

89% of students (compared with 90% in 2010) said there was no-one who made them feel unsafe. This year 4% (1 student) said there were people who they felt scared of and 14% (4 students) said that sometimes they were scared of people, compared with 10% (3 students) 2010 and 45% (14 students) in 2009, identified people they were scared of at school. This year each student who said they were scared of someone identified/named a different student – two students were identified twice (one boy + one girl). These named students were already being monitored by staff, including a teacher aide during break times.

A big congratulations to all the staff and students at Owhiro Bay School who continue to work to promote a safe, inclusive environment for learning by following up or through with safety issues as they arise. Well done everyone!

