



Jonathan Lumsden | Georgia Delany
 Sanel Sahu | Pashshun London
 Maddy McGregor | Paige Barnes
 Paige Rothery | Kyra Mina
 Millie McGoram | Dylan Francis
 Sean Brown | Jeston Kwok
 Iris Yue | Amy Yue | Vula Milton
 Rowan Elvin | Casino Roberts
 Calvin Munce | Christelle Venter
 Abby Angell | Stephanie Kavumbura
 Isabella Kearney | Liza Zhang
 Lucy Wessels | Lui Tsujita

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The two week transition to Winter Uniform begins as from Monday 4 May [Week 3, Term 2] with all students in full Winter Uniform as from Monday 18 May.

SWIMMING POOL SITUATION

The existing school swimming pool is near the end of its economic life [50 years]. Starting back in 2005 the Board of Trustees started to negotiate with a private swim school to build a new \$2million dollar heated indoor pool at our school.

This would be a fantastic asset for our school and our intention was for the school to use the professional instructors to give our students lessons at school. This would be the equivalent of having private swim lessons that people pay for now e.g. at Lloyd Elsmore Pool.

Negotiating anything with the Government is a long and arduous task, especially getting them to agree to a state school working in partnership with a private company. Every month for the last ten years, the issue of the pool redevelopment has been on the Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

At the end of last year we had professional advice that we would need to spend tens of thousands of school money to upgrade the existing pool i.e. fix leaks, replace skimmer boxes, repaint etc. With an end in sight for the new pool development proposal, the Board decided that rather than spend this money and then have the pool bulldozed, we would make one last concerted effort to get the new pool underway.

Last week, Board members together with the swim school owners and their solicitor met with Member of Parliament Maurice Williamson to ask his assistance in working through all the bureaucracy and red tape. He has agreed to support us and we now await a further response from the Minister of Education's Office.



Debra Steffany

6 Feb 1960—20 Mar 2015

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Board of Trustees member Mrs Debra Steffany, after a short illness.

Debra has been associated with our school spanning many years, initially as parent of our school, served as a Board of Trustees member since 2005, as a member of our Parent Teacher Association and as Director of Accent on Kidz, our before and after school care facility.

Debra's support our school students, staff and parents will be sadly missed.

A Memorial Book has been placed in the Office area and if you wish to write a message in this book, you are encouraged and welcome to do so.

Where does the time go? We have nearly reached the end of Term One and close at the normal time of 3pm on Thursday 2 April.

Term Two starts on Monday 20 April for a busy, challenging and fun filled 11 week term.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Our first semester school reports will be distributed to parents at the end of Parent Teacher Conferences, scheduled for Wednesday 6 May and Thursday 7 May. Bookings for these conferences are made online and a separate notice will be sent to you to explain the steps to take.

Please note that on Wednesday 6 May, students will conclude their days tuition earlier, at 12.30pm. We ask that you collect your children from school at 12.30pm or make other arrangements for them. You can contact the After School Care 'Accent on Kids' by phoning Sharone Clyma on 021 287 6876



WIN AN EASTER BASKET



The Board of Trustees is so grateful to the families who have made their full annual donation or part thereof for 2015. The donation was set by the Board at \$240 per annum, or \$60 per term. This donation equates to \$6 a week, or \$1.20 per day, or 20c per hour for your child's schooling. Where else could you get such value for money? If you have paid your full years donation of \$240, or at least the first term of \$60 by the end of Term One, you will be in the draw for this fantastic Easter Basket.

PARKING MATTERS

Sergeant Jane Field asked if we could place a reminder in our school newsletter regarding safe driving practices around our school.

Local Police will continue to monitor safe practices and may issue Stationary Vehicle Offence Infringement Notices for any offences seen.

Common offences and Fees are:

- ⇒ Parked on or near a pedestrian crossing - \$60 fine
- ⇒ Parked on a broken yellow line - \$60 fine
- ⇒ Parked across vehicle entrance - \$40 fine

The term 'parked' includes the stopping or standing of a vehicle.

The purpose of police patrolling the area is to keep children and other pedestrians safe.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attending school is compulsory every school day, except for illness or in the case of special family circumstances eg. a funeral. Having days off on your birthday or to go shopping etc is not appropriate and is regarded as truancy.

In the interests of student safety, the school office is charged with the responsibility of checking every student's absence each day. This is a huge task and requires your diligence and support to make it easier. You can do this by phoning any absence into the school. The notification can be done 24 hours a day on our answer phone service on our school phone number 538 0060.

You can also send an absence notification via our skoolbag app, which can be downloaded through both the iTunes and Google Play stores.

You are required by law to follow up your child's absence with a note to the class teacher on the first day back at school.

Students are expected to arrive at school from 8.30am each morning, ready for a prompt 8.45am start. If your child arrives prior to 8.30am, they are asked to wait in designated shelter areas until the 8.30am bell. The reason for this, is we don't wish to have unsupervised access to classrooms prior to 8.30am.

After school supervision stops at 3.15pm daily as staff are required in meetings/preparation after that time. For safety reasons, children cannot remain unattended at school after 3.15pm.

If you are unable to collect your child by this time, you may wish to consider our After School Care facility. The contact for this facility is Sharone Clyma on 021 287 6876

EDUCATION REVIEW

Every three years our school is visited by the team from the Education Review Office [ERO]. ERO is a Government Agency which reports to the Ministry of Education and publically on the quality of education in all New Zealand schools.

Our school welcomed the ERO team at the end of last year and our report is now available. This can be accessed through www.ero.govt.nz, through our school website www.owairoa.school.nz, or on desk copy loan from the school office.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAYS

We are expecting some International Student and Adult visitors in July and August this year. If you would like to welcome some visitors into your home for 1-6 weeks and receive money for doing so, please register your interest with our Homestay Manager, Paula Inger on 021 846 163 or homestay@owairoa.school.nz

COMING EVENTS

April

- 2 End of Term One
- 3 Good Friday
- 20 Term Two Begins
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 27 ANZAC Day Holiday—school closed
- 28 PTA Meeting 7.30pm

May

- 4 Winter Uniform Transition starts
- 6 Parent Teacher Conferences 1pm-8pm.
Students finish at 12.30pm
- 7 Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30pm—6.30pm

With kind regards,
Alan McIntyre, PRINCIPAL