



## Learning for Life and Making it Count

*Whāia te mātauranga hei ora mā koutou*

*Pursue learning for the sake of your wellbeing.*

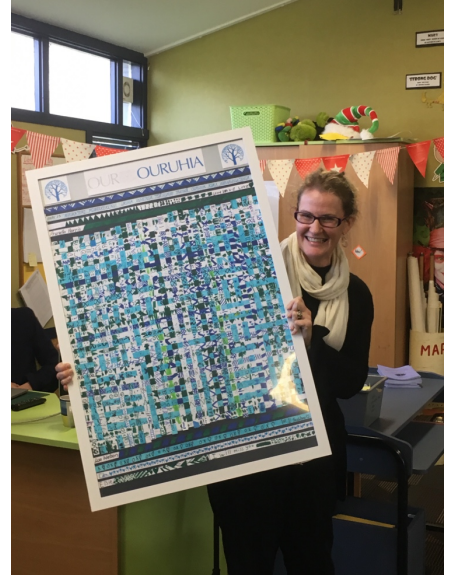
## Term 2 update...

Isn't it great to be past the shortest day! Just a quick update for the end of term...

Our school roll is currently 81. A special welcome to **Keira** and **Brianna** (in Room 1) who have started at Ouruhia since our last newsletter.

Sadly we have farewelled **Ruth Chapman-Smith** from Ouruhia School this month, as she has returned to Canada with her family. At a special assembly we presented a special picture woven with strips made by everyone at school. Thanks, Ruth, for being such a kind and caring teacher and colleague in your 5 years at Ouruhia.

We are very pleased to welcome **Sophie Lennon** to Ouruhia School as Ruth's replacement in Team Tipu.



## Sporting and Cultural success



What a lovely community event our cross country has become. We are so lucky to have the domain to use. The children ran hard, and the PTA's soup was a real winner too!

Congratulations to Brooklyn for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pegasus zone cross country earlier this month. She ran 2km in just over 9 minutes. (Winning times for the boys were around 4 mins per km!! Get training for next year...)



Also congratulations to Kytarni-Lee for being selected for the junior representative choir in the Christchurch Schools Music Festival in the Horncastle Arena in October. It is extremely hard to get into this choir as so many audition from all over Canterbury.

While on the cultural theme, we were delighted to host the Court Theatre at school last Friday, presenting He Kura Kōrero. Such a pleasure to view live productions!



## Cyber Safety sessions

A reminder that John Parsons is presenting cyber-safety sessions for children at Belfast School **tomorrow, 26<sup>th</sup> June**. Our children will be travelling by bus to these sessions during normal school hours.

In the evening from **7:00 – 8:30pm**, John is running a special **session for parents** in the Belfast School hall and we would thoroughly recommend this to you. He is a very entertaining speaker and has important messages for us all about **safe, confident and responsible use of the internet and social media**.

## Teachers' Contract Negotiations - NZEI position

You may have heard news reports recently about teacher contract negotiations. This month there are paid union meetings being held in Christchurch and Rangiora for teachers and principals to attend. Here at Ouruhia, we have chosen to manage teacher attendance at these meetings without having to close the school, as we know that parents often find school closures difficult. However we would like to bring to your attention some of our serious concerns about the current staffing and pay conditions, ask for your support, and flag the possibility of a half day stoppage on the afternoon of August 15<sup>th</sup> if our negotiations fail.

Our serious concerns are:

- **Lack of teachers training and staying in the profession.** Attrition in teaching is high, with many young teachers or teacher trainees switching to higher paid careers with less stress and lower workloads. Enrolments in teacher training have dropped 40% between 2010 and 2016, while school rolls have increased. 20% more permanent full time teachers left teaching in 2017 than in 2013.
- There are **huge workload issues** for teachers and **pay rates have dropped** in recent decades relative to other professions, so fewer and fewer people see teaching as an attractive career. Many teachers work very long hours after school each day with assessment, planning, meetings, and classroom set-up. They also spend a good portion of weekends and school holidays in catch-up mode. They have to deal with complex issues around student behaviour and changing whanau pressures and values.
- **Lack of access to services and resources** which support students with additional learning needs. Primary Schools have special needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) but these people are expected to carry out their duties before and after school...there is no release time for these teachers to do this essential job. (Secondary schools get staffing to release teachers to carry out their extra responsibilities.) It is very difficult to get professional support or extra funding for children with severe and even moderate learning, emotional or behavioural needs.

We believe that industrial action may well be necessary in order for our children to have access to a high quality education system, staffed by the best teachers who are attracted to a system in which they are paid fittingly and have the time to teach by having a sustainable workload. It is also vital for our teachers to have access to services and resources which support students with additional learning needs.

Teachers' pay rates have dropped dramatically over the past few decades when compared to other professions. The new offer is half of what it needs to be and does not address workload issues. This offer does not value either teachers or your children.

We hope that you will all fully support any future industrial action deemed necessary after our NZEI members vote. Teachers rarely consider stop-work or strike action (this last happened in 1994) and would only take such measures in extreme circumstances.

Please spread the word and give us your full support. We will keep you fully informed about all developments.

Mark Ashmore-Smith and Prunella Harris (our NZEI rep)

## Working Bee

A big thank you to the big team who helped at our second working bee recently. We got all of the gutterings cleaned of leaves, and tidied a number of gardens and the sports shed. We have also taken delivery of a propagating shed which will be used by our budding gardeners to grow seeds, cuttings and young vege plants for the school gardens. Next job: clear the northwest corner of the playground (by the long jump pit) so we can plant some more native trees. We are also working with the PTA and the children to plan a new play area north of the basketball court. Ideas include a bike track and landscaping.



## Principal's Sabbatical

Mark will be away on sabbatical in Term 3, looking at how schools are managing to deliver the performing arts curriculum i.e. music, drama and dance. Many schools struggle to find teachers with expertise in these areas, and there are no longer professional advisers to support teachers with workshops and professional development, as used to be available. At Ouruhia we believe that the creative aspects of the curriculum are so vital in developing the whole person, engaging pupils and making school a fun and exciting place, so Mark will be looking for success stories and sharing these with the Board of Trustees and Principal groups.

During Term 3, Teri Aylward will be Acting Principal, and will be released from teaching on Tuesdays and every second Thursday by Jocelyn Murray. Carolyn Watson will teach in Room 4 full-time to cover Mark's teaching component in that room, and Colleen Gallagher and Maree Fraser will be released for 5 Wednesdays each for administration and testing, and to support Teri in her role as Acting Principal.

## Yr 4-8 Mid-Year Reports

Year 4-8 reports will be sent home at the end of this term, and parent-teacher-student conferences will be held in the first week of Term 3.

## Other Notices

- **Choir** will be taken by Carolyn Watson in Term 3
- **PTA Disco:** Fri 29<sup>th</sup> June

*Ka kite anō,  
Mark and the team at Ouruhia*

### 2018 Term Dates:

#### Term 2: Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> July

PTA Disco: Fri 29<sup>th</sup> June

Y4-8 Reports go home: Fri 6<sup>th</sup> July

#### Term 3: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

Week 1: Yr 4-8 parent/teacher/student conferences

**Mark on Sabbatical**

#### Term 4: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Oct – Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

Labour Day Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Canterbury Show Day Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November