

# OSCAR HOUSE MIDDLE PLCS

[www.oscarhouse.co.nz](http://www.oscarhouse.co.nz)

Tēnā koutou & Greetings,

Term 1's newsletter release was interrupted, as we all were, by Covid-19, so we are releasing a joint Term 1 & 2 Newsletter - so you don't miss out! These have been very interesting times for us all. We are so delighted to now be in Level 1 and welcome your children back into our OSCAR House whanau.

## TERM 1

A warm welcome to lovely Year 3 children who have moved to the Middle Programme and our new children and their families: Devin, Joseph, Kayden and Oscar - it is wonderful to have you join us.



We also have some awesome new staff who have been popping in and out of the programme. A big kia ora to Sophie, Caelin, Chaar, Dannielle & Elyssa. Please do feel free to say "Hi". The kids are loving the fun and exciting energy and games they bring to the programme.

For this terms reward challenge, we are trying something a little different. We are doing a 'Star of the Week'. Each week the staff choose a child who they feel is putting in extra effort. We want to acknowledge the children who try to be kind, play games fairly, include others, participate enthusiastically in activities and gives everything a go.

Congratulations to our first Stars of the Week

## Stars of the week

Excellent Listening	Fletcher
Quiet Homework	Yutallia
Lovely Manners	Caleb
Enthusiasm & Participation	Jai
Kind Helpers	Holly



This term the children have been very diligent in completing their homework each day. The children practice their spelling list, basic facts and finish with their reading books. They are encouraged with lots of praise as they try very hard.

The letter H is noted next to the time out column on the roll this lets parents know when their child has completed homework. For children who do not have homework or have computer assigned homework there is a selection of wonderful library books for silent read. Many children enjoy the staffs story time almost as much as the staff do.





Making playdough with children is a great sensory play activity. A couple of the children asked so nicely to be helpers. Each child had a bowl to make their own batch of play dough and were able to choose the colour they wanted. When it came to the final big mix, Kaitlin was saying how hard it was to stir. The bench is quite high, so we decided to take it to the floor. We all picked up our bowls and sat on the kitchen lino to make stirring easier! It worked really well and they all loved getting to dig their hands in to the soft warm dough at the end to smooth it out.



Do you have any jam jars etc that we could have? We made Egyptian Mummy lanterns, but we ran out of jars and would love to replenish our stash. It was a super quick and easy activity. The children soaked the bandages in glue and wrapped it around their jar, gave it a little drying time, and then the jars were ready for eyes and a battery tea light, so cute! The kids were super excited to take them home and try them out in the dark at night.

How much fun can you have with a box? Well it seems the bigger the box the bigger the fun. Each box fits 2-3 children so there is always a bit of negotiating about who's turn it is. It's wonderful to see a simple box stimulate so much creative play, time spent chilling and chatting with friends.

#### Emergency Drills:

Each of our OSCAR House programmes run two emergency drills per term, a fire drill in Week 1 and an earthquake drill in Week 6. The children also practice these in class so they're no strangers to evacuations and Turtles. The drills at the programme helps to cement our emergency protocols so they become second nature. We discuss expected reactions, assembly points and safety instructions with the children at mat time in the week prior to the drill so they're well informed - the only part of the drill that should be a surprise is the timing. OSCAR House Trial Evacuation Plans are reviewed by the Fire Department. Your children have become very efficient at drills; we'll see if we can improve our reaction times across the course of the year!



# TERM 2



**Bridget:** We were all so excited to come back to OSCAR after such a long break, it has been so lovely to see the children's happy smiling faces again.

It has been a wonderful to be back, playing group games and creating art activities. It occurred to me after working in OSCAR programmes for so long that it is a rare week that goes by without Group Games and sports. There is so much joy and excitement that it is the highlight of my day.

A big thank you to all the whanau adapting to our sign-out procedures during Level 2. It was lovely to see your smiling faces go by. The children were very good (with a little encouragement from staff) at going very quickly to meet you in the cloak bay.



The Senior Programme children have joined us at the middle house and participating in and helping us with lots of activities.

The lower numbers have meant we have had a little extra time for more elaborate crafts. the children carefully taped out stripes on to a canvas to be spray painted, drew their own or cut out a silhouette to cover glitter. They were all very proud of their designs and keen to display at home.



Lego has been hugely popular with all the children recently. We had a lovely end to a big week with the children creating their own amazing creations while watching an episode of Lego Masters.



## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

*Hey OSCAR family,*

My name is Sophie, I have been working at OSCAR since September 2019 and have really enjoyed my time so far.

I spend most of my free time walking and playing with my three big dogs. Animals have always been a big part of my life.

Other than dogs my hobbies have always been baking and dancing, so I look forward to teaching the kids some easy recipes and a few cool moves.

I really look forward to coming to OSCAR every day. I love hearing about all the exciting things they have learnt at school, or them showing me their new toy or trick they have learnt.

My favourite part of working at OSCAR is seeing the kids making new friends and developing their personalities.



# Cheerleading *With* Cheer



I have been doing cheerleading since the age of 10 years old. I started as a game-side cheerleader at rugby games and then moved onto competitive cheerleading - competing in both New Zealand and Australia. At the age of 14 I started assistant coaching and at 18 I became a fully qualified and registered cheerleading coach in New Zealand coaching kids from the age under 5 right up to their teens.

During the sessions at OSCAR House I will be covering the basics of cheerleading split into the 4 components- dance, jumps, tumbling and stunting. Cheerleading is the perfect sport where teamwork and communication is required regularly.

Seeing kids work together and gain trust in their peers is key and it is so great to see the OSCAR children getting involved and working to complete the set tasks. I think the kids are enjoying it too. Aalya said "I love cheerleading, I wish we could do it every day!"



Ngā mihi  
The OSCAR House Middle Team



## Annual contact details query:

Have you moved to a new house? Started a new job, got a new cell phone number? Please do let either the Supervisor or [admin@oscarhouse.co.nz](mailto:admin@oscarhouse.co.nz) know if you have had any changes in your contact details.

If you have already informed us – Thank you 😊.

## Fee payment information:

Just a reminder, as previously advised, parents/caregivers will need to **stop** the payment for the school holiday period 6th -17th July. Please remember, depending when you started back, you may need to amend the final payment to cover one weeks attendance only (this is 50% of the usual fortnightly amount) as OSCAR House's Term 2 is 7 weeks long. If unsure, please contact [kelsey@oscarhouse.co.nz](mailto:kelsey@oscarhouse.co.nz).

