

# Oropi School



**SINCE 1899**

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Information for International  
Students and Families





# Mission Statement

“Inspiring our students to believe in themselves and realise their potential within our community, so they can move forward as confident, contributing members of society.”



# Welcome to Oropi School

There are a lot of exciting developments currently happening at Oropi School and in planning for the future. Our school is dynamic and at the cutting edge of many aspects of education for the 21st century, applicable to the New Zealand context. We are a semi-rural school within close proximity to Tauranga city (within 13km).

With 260-300 children, we can offer a wide range of educational opportunities and programmes, enabling all children to opt in to experiences that will broaden their educational experiences. We pride ourselves on the way in which we cater for individual needs. A part of this is due to our rural-school feel and the fact that all children are known as a person. We endeavour to foster a culture of inclusiveness for all, where all children feel they are part of a team with the opportunities for mixed age group interaction. Peer pressure is minimal at Oropi School and it is a place where children can enjoy being children. Our senior students help foster this sense of togetherness through their leadership programme and daily interaction with the junior and middle school.



At Oropi School, we offer a unique environment for our children to be a part of because:

- Children are in a peaceful rural setting, with many places and opportunities to explore and be creative
- There are many opportunities for our children to interact with one another, across all age levels (5-13 year olds)
- Our community offers a diverse range of resources and learning opportunities related to the local environment
- We offer modern and dynamic learning environments with excellent resources
- We identify learning needs quickly and have strong programmes in place to meet individual learning needs Communication between home and school is excellent
- Our community is very supportive and involved
- We have a range of extra programmes in place outside of daily classroom programmes to enrich your child's education such as: swimming lessons, instrumental and vocal music tuition, Mandarin and Maori language learning, camps from Year 3-8, summer and winter sports options, kokako garden projects and leadership opportunities.
- Cutting edge programmes in Language learning (Mandarin – Chinese and Maori) and our Discovery Learning programme

We welcome visitors to our school and would love the opportunity to show you around. We have even had the privilege of hosting our very own New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr John Key, in the school, August, 2015. Other have included teachers from China and the USA. We have strong connections with schools nationally in New Zealand and our local cluster of schools in Tauranga.

Kind regards

Andrew King

Principal

# Our unique educational resources

- 12 modernised classrooms
- Up to date and creative use of Information and Communication
- Technology resources throughout the school for all children to access and use with Ultrafast Broadband and online digital learning opportunities
- Inquiry Learning
- Discovery Learning programme from Year 1-6
- Language Learning – Mandarin (Chinese) and Maori
- Strong programmes in Reading, Writing and Mathematics influenced by current research, professionals, literature and education consultants
- Kokako Garden project (school gardens)
- Native Gully play area for free exploration
- Playground with flying fox
- Hut building bush area
- Sandpits and water play
- Heated swimming pool
- Astro turf courts
- A wide range of sporting opportunities: Tennis, Athletics, Gymnastics, Flippa Ball, Touch Rugby, Rippa Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Swimming lessons
- Music lessons: Voice, keyboard, guitar, recorder, music theory
- Gala Day/Harvest Festival/Fair
- Calf Club Day
- School and Cluster based swim sports, athletics and cross country
- School-wide cultural events and learning celebration opportunities (eg: Matariki celebrations in June)
- Mixed age group and co-operative inter-house opportunities





# General Information

School Hours	8.55am until 2:40pm
Morning break	10.40 – 11.00am
Lunch break	12.40 – 1.25pm

Office Hours 8:30am - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday

## Learning Environments

We have a mix of Modern Learning Environment classes and 'single-cell' classrooms. Further information can be found on our school website about this.

We have three MLA pods and three single cell classrooms. The MLA pods are equivalent spaces to two classrooms worth of children and have two classroom teachers in the pod.

## School Bus

We have three bus runs that bring children to school and take them home at the end of the day. There is also a User pays bus is for families who live from Warner Road South to Johns Produce.

## Dress Code

Oropi School has no daily school uniform. Children will need to dress appropriately for school in clean clothing. Parents will be advised through class newsletters of activities requiring specific clothing to be worn.

## Sports Uniform

Students representing the school in competitive and interschool sport are required to wear our correct sports uniform consisting of an Oropi School Shirt and black shorts.

School polar fleeces are also available.

## Hats

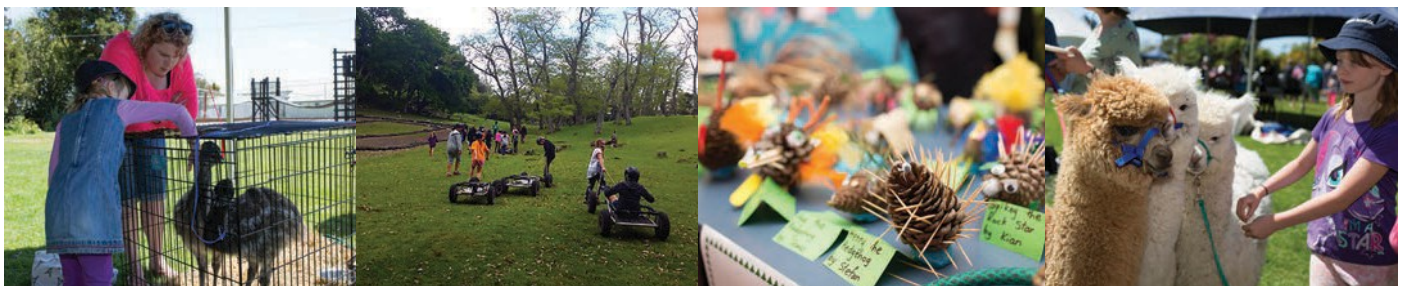
In line with the School Policy, during Terms 1 and 4 all children must wear a hat when outside from 10.30am through to the end of the school day. The PTA provides a school hat for each student. Replacement hats can be purchased from school office. The school hat must be worn.

## Newsletters

A School Newsletter is emailed each Friday. In addition to celebrating our successes each week, these documents outline upcoming events during the remainder of the term. Newsletters can also be viewed on our website.

## Open Days

We schedule an open day for new families in July/August. In addition to these days, parents are very welcome to visit the school at any other time following arrangements made through reception. Each term, we have a "Learning Link" evening where teachers share information to parents about aspects of classroom programmes.



## Reporting and Assessment

Term 1	Meet the Teacher Parent-teacher Interviews Portfolios sent home end of term
Term 2	Mid-year reports, Celebrations of Learning
Term 3	Parent-teacher Interviews Portfolios sent home end of term
Term 4	End of year reports

## Celebrations of learning

Parents are welcome to arrange a meeting at any time with their child's teacher to discuss aspects of their child's learning or social needs.

## Support Programmes

Reading Recovery for 6 year olds  
In class teacher aide support in Literacy for every class each week  
Extra tutoring from a teacher in Writing and Mathematics for specified children  
Extension support for Gifted and Talented children needing to be challenged academically

## Homework

Homework will be given on a regular basis throughout the school to support classroom programmes. Individual classroom expectations will be outlined at the beginning of the year, and parents are requested to maintain regular contact with the class teacher. The school places importance on children being involved in extra curricula activities also. Our policy on homework can be viewed on the school website.

## Assembly, School Sports and School Events

We have child-led celebration assemblies run by each class, once a term. We have mixed age group sports events, cooperative challenges and Electives programmes.

## KRSA

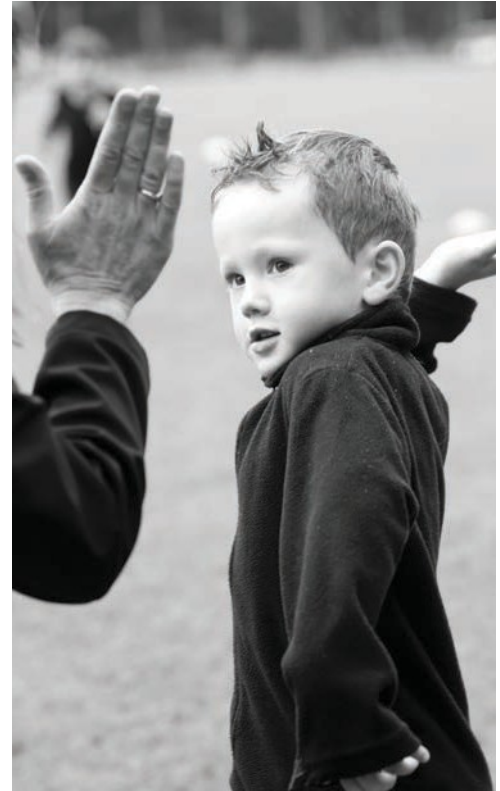
Oropi School belongs to the Kaimai Rural Schools Association along with Kaimai, Tauriko, and Pyes Pa School. The four schools engage in sporting and cultural events which include Swimming, Tabloids, Cross Country, Winter Sports, Athletics, Speeches, Einstein Challenge, and GATE activities.

## Tall Poppies

Our Year 7 and 8 Students belong to the Tall Poppies Cluster which involves 14 schools in the Bay of Plenty Region. The schools engage in academic, cultural, and sporting events which include: Problem Solving, Speeches, Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, GATE programmes and Dance experiences. This enables our Year 7 and 8 students to establish friendships with others before moving on to college.

## After School Care

We have a close link with Coast Kids After School Care providers who are based in Greerton. Employees from Coast Kids pick the children up from Oropi School or the school bus stop on Oropi Road. Please check their website for details [www.coastkids.net.nz](http://www.coastkids.net.nz). Their facilities are excellent and highly recommended. We also have children attend YMCA.





### Swimming Pool

We are fortunate to have a heated swimming pool which provides opportunity for all classes to swim on a daily basis for much of Term One and at the end of Term Four if the weather is suitable. We have professional coaches come and work with class groups and private lessons can be arranged after school once a week during Term 1 using our school pool (details in the newsletter).

### Discovery Learning

Discovery Learning is an opportunity for children to learn, explore and develop through practical hands on experiences. Children are offered a wide range of activities so that they are able to explore their individual interests. Activities each session include: carpentry, box construction, painting, water play, sandpit, cooking, dress ups, physical play, blocks, colouring activities, play dough, hut building and imaginative play in the school's native bush, science experiments, craft activities and more. Through the Discovery Learning approach children are able to revisit and build on their own interests each week. Each week we offer both prescriptive and free-play activities. Some children appreciate the chance to entirely direct their own learning, while others enjoy following more structured learning opportunities.

### E.R.O'S PERCEPTIONS OF OUR SCHOOL

What does ERO say about our school?

Follow the link on our website

[www.oropi.school.nz](http://www.oropi.school.nz) under the 'Our School' tab to see the latest E.R.O. report.

We gained an excellent 4/5 year review at the end of 2014.



### International Students at our school;

- receive an Orientation programme on arrival and during the first few weeks of school
- will be given a buddy for their first few weeks of school
- will be part of an ESOL (English language) support programme
- will have opportunities to go on trips out and about in our local community
- will receive ongoing support during their time at our school
- will be encouraged to share their culture with their friends and classmates

# Core Curricular & Extra-Curricular

## Te Reo Maori, Mandarin & Spanish

All children in the school from Year 1-8 are involved in learning level 1 te reo in their classrooms at various stages of the year. This instruction is often integrated into other learning areas. A curriculum for level 1 & 2 is established in the school and every child receives Mandarin lessons from a trained languages teacher. Spanish is offered occasionally at stages throughout the year.

## Music

Piano/Guitar A qualified music teacher provides Piano and Guitar Lessons in school on a Tuesday. The timetable rotates so that students are not missing the same component of the classroom programme each week.

Choir When the school is not involved in producing its own musical during the year, children in the middle and upper school

have the opportunity to be in the choir for the Tauranga Primary Schools Music Festival at Baycourt.

Instrumental Groups Tuition in keyboard, guitar, singing, recorder, and ukulele is offered as group sessions. Please ask for details.

ICT (Information Communication Technology) We are an extremely well resourced school with a 1:3 ratio of computers. The children are involved in design work and often create projects on the computers as well as completing educational activities online. We have high speed internet access and our children are very digitally literate in a safe and secure online environment.

GATE We offer an extension programme for students and our GATE teacher works alongside class teachers to extend children in Literacy and Numeracy.

Camps All children from Year 3 - 8 will be involved in annual camps utilizing a variety of venues within the Western Bay of Plenty and beyond. These provide rich learning experiences for our students. The Year 1 & 2 children are involved in a day trip experience during the same term.

Ski Trip We offer this experience to Year 4-8 children for three days in July/August of each year at Mount Ruapehu.

Inquiry Learning This is the method of teaching used to Integrate our Science, Social Sciences, The Arts and Technology

curriculums across the school to ensure children are involved in meaningful learning experiences.

Health & PE programmes We have a strong Health & PE programme up and running in the school where children are involved in a great variety of experiences to foster this aspect of the curriculum, often involving experiences outside of school.

Life Education The 'Life Education Mobile Classroom' visits our school annually enhancing the learning opportunities for our students within the Health Curriculum.

Other programmes of learning specifically for Year 7 & 8 children

- Second languages: Introductory Mandarin (Modern Chinese)
- Careers education opportunities
- Technology (see below)
- Leadership opportunities and expectations (eg: attending Conference and roles in the school such as being a house captain and head librarians)
- Surf Safety & Water Safety education programmes and participation in the annual Y7&8 triathlon

## Technology

Year 7/8 students attend Technology at the purpose built facility at Tauranga Primary School. All students have an opportunity to be involved in Food Technology, Hard Materials (Workshop) and Soft Materials (Textiles)





# Year 7 & 8 at Oropi School

## Our Learning Environment

- Our school prides itself on its 'family atmosphere' where children know each other, and staff are in a position to build a positive relationship and interact with students at all levels.
- We provide a stable environment within which to address the learning and emotional needs of the emerging adolescent.
- Students are not subject to negative peer pressure, and are able to maintain their individualism
- Our number of Y7&8 students within the Senior School enables us to successfully meet the individual learning needs for this age group.
- We provide extension opportunities for our High Achievers.
- Our in depth knowledge of our students as individuals, enables us to support them effectively in any areas of the curriculum where they experience difficulty.
- As we have a smaller number of Y7&8s every child has a vital part to play in the operation of the school. The seniors help the school operate while developing a culture of independence, identity and a safe environment.
- Oropi School's rich environment promotes out of the class learning where the children are immersed in regular interactions with people of all ages, helping them develop their self confidence and communication skills.

## Our Learning Programme

### What are the foundations of our Senior School Programme?

- Our programme continues to have a strong Literacy and Numeracy Base.
- Students are provided with the opportunity to accept increasing responsibility for the direction of their own learning through an Inquiry Learning Approach, while encouraged to reflect upon their achievements and establish 'next steps' in their learning.
- Our students have access to a wide range of technologies and resources to support them in their endeavours as they acquire the skills appropriate for the 21st Century Learner.
- Computer/Laptop access currently stands at 1 unit per 2 students within the Senior School.
- We utilize Tauranga Primary School Technology Centre – a purpose built facility, in providing a range of additional learning experiences in the field of Technology.
- Our link with the 'Tall Poppies Cluster' enables our students to interact with and compete against others in a wide range of sporting codes and cultural pursuits including Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Problem Solving, Speech Making, and Social Dancing
- We foster qualities of independence and initiative, and encourage our Senior Students to accept additional leadership responsibility through taking on the roles of House Captain, Bus Monitor, Librarian, Sports Captain and a range of other duties around our school.
- Our senior students are involved in leadership opportunities beyond the school – including the Dynamos Leadership Programme and the National Young Leaders Day
- We continually seek to broaden our Learning Programme, and this year involved our students in the 'Swim Safe' and 'Learn to Surf' Programmes, and took advantage of programmes offered at both the City Library and Art Gallery.

# Oropi School



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#### Contact Us

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