

OSCAR House Junior Programme Parent Caregiver Newsletter 2025 Term 3

Tēnā kōwhiri & Greetings,

We warmly welcome Zack, Thomas, Charlie, Micayla, Gabbie, Rose and their families to OSCAR House. We trust you will enjoy your time with us.

It's been an interesting first half of term 3 2025. With our house being renovated due to flooding, we were recently based in the Middle Senior House. The children adapted well to this change even when the weather was bad and we felt a bit tight. The Middle Seniors were very gracious in giving us a space to call our own, which we very much appreciated it. In Week 6, once the renovations were completed, we were able to move back to the Junior House. The children were so very excited to be back at their OSCAR home. With brand new carpets, and some new walls and ceilings, the house looks absolutely lovely.

For our Reward this term we are doing Star of the Week. We are focusing on several things – cleaning up after ourselves, mat manners, listening and following instructions, being a kind friend and using manners. The children who are named Star of the Week receive a small Lolly bag and a standing ovation from their peers. Big congratulations to the following children who have received the award thus far in Term 3:
Libby, Beauden, Kahurangi Finn & Maisey.

It's been a wonderful term, and the children have enjoyed a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, baking, group games and active play. Below are just a few that we thought you might enjoy reading about.

As always, if you have any questions or queries about your Tamariki's time at OSCAR House, please do feel free to come see me.

Happy reading
Nga Mihi
Erin



Activities

ORIGAMI FISH with Marli

Recently we made origami fish at the Junior Programme. The children loved folding their fish and decorating them. This activity really tested the children's listening, following instructions and resilience.

All the finished fish looked amazing, each child chose to decorate them in different ways.

We had some angel fish and even some spooky vampire fish.

The tamariki really enjoyed this activity and we extended the activity for a few days, making different animals.

RELAY RACES with Tony

I had the pleasure of organising some relay races with the junior children recently. Man, o man, it was a bunch of fun! We played a special version where the kids acted out animals as they ran between the cones set up. Kids came up with all sorts of animals: tigers, monkeys, chickens and many more; their creativity was quite awesome!

BUTTERFLY CRAFT with Cindy

Today we had a go at making a cute ladybug craft, The children did a fantastic job colouring their ladybug wings beautifully. It was a little trickier to assemble than we thought but with a little help from staff they were able to make them work. The tamariki enjoyed making their butterflies flutter.

Libby decided to make a Beetle and was excited to show her dad what she created.

DREAM CATCHES with Miya

The dream catcher activity was such a fun project for the tamariki. We started off with a walk to collect sticks, and they were all super into finding lots, even grabbing extras for their peers. Back inside, they got stuck into wrapping yarn, picking out beads, and choosing the fluffiest feathers they could find. It was nice seeing them so focused, helping each other with the tricky bits, and showing their finished creations to their friends. Every dream catcher was different, and they were all super proud of what they made. I loved how they all turned out so unique!



BACKYARD GAMES with Erin

A new favourite activity once we return from the playground is backyard games – gutter ball, Swingball, volleyball and quoits to name a few.

The children who want extra outdoor time/active play enjoy this choice.

It is great to see the children enjoying some old-fashioned activities.

They enjoyed also having some of the Middles children join them.

Euan especially enjoyed playing Swingball and getting a chance to compete against his friends.

FAIRY BREAD with Erin

We recently had a make your own Fairy bread afternoon tea.

The children loved buttering the bread, making shapes and adding lots of sprinkles.

It was lovely seeing the excitement a simple activity created.

Avan expressed it was the best day EVER!

As it was so successful we will look to including a “make your own snack” in our term Programme plan.

Best wishes you OHJ Team
Erin, Miya, Cindy, Marli & Abby



Nuts and Bolts Messages from Kelsey & Dalena

Sign In / Sign Out - Please remember to sign, and be acknowledged by, the staff member with the register. They sign your child in or out on the register, along with who has dropped off/collected them, and the time. We also regularly talk to tamariki to remind them to let the staff member with the register know they are departing and ask them to remind their parents as well.

Personal Changes - We appreciate it if you would please keep us updated with any changes to your child's life eg address changes, parent separation, custody changes, medical diagnoses and medications – so we can best help your child at OSCAR House. This requirement is also in your Parent Contract.

Absences - We have had an increase in the occurrence of non-notifications i.e. when parents/caregivers don't let OSCAR know **before 2:30pm** that their child will not be at OSCAR House. If your child is unwell, **PLEASE, please** advise OSCAR when you let school know that your child won't be attending school – then both the school and OSCAR get to know about it at the same time. The school don't advise us as they don't know who attends when. We need to hear from parents directly by TEXT to the programme phone number that has previously been sent to parents when you commenced 022 175 9534. Asking the child's sibling to inform is not acceptable and we need to know prior to the programme commencing each afternoon. I was at a programme recently and we were chasing 3 tamariki, in one afternoon, whose absences we had not been advised of – it takes staff a long time to action, and that is time they are away from the programme and the tamariki they need and want to be caring for. Thanks for your assistance with this procedure.

Nga Mihi, Dalena & Kelsey.

