



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

International Department Newsletter Term One 2018

Welcome and Term One Highlights

This is the first newsletter of the year for what has been a whirlwind of a term. This is our first year of vertical whanau classes which replace year level form classes and means there are students from years 9 to 13 in the same whanau classes. There have been many activities going on in and outside of the classes and school which have provided numerous opportunities for the international students to get stuck in to school life at OGHS.

We are very proud to have Pear Sae-Lee as our international prefect. She started here in October 2014 and is our international student who has been here the longest. Pear has excelled in her studies while participating in many sports. You can read more about Pear in the newsletter.



The team in charge of the internationals remains the same this year with: Mrs Katherine Boomer (Dean of International Students, English Language and Spanish teacher), Mrs Nicky Chapman (English Language and English teacher), Miss Thomson (English Language and Japanese teacher), Mrs Alison Stephenson (International Student Director), and Ms Linda Miller (Principal). Many other people are involved and all contribute to create a great group to be a part of.

Our international community has continued to expand and this year we have students from Germany, Austria, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Argentina, Samoa, and India. Many girls have integrated well into our school and uphold our school values of positivity, respect, and integrity. NCEA results have been very impressive with twenty students attaining merit or excellence endorsements in their respective year levels. Their names and achievements follow.

Again this year we started with course confirmation, then had Student Learning Conferences in March where students met with their mentor teachers to discuss their educational goals, and to plan how we can all work together to achieve them.



Our annual sports day at the Caledonian was a very colourful affair and is often one of the highlights for international students as ours is done differently to their home countries.

Along with the regular track and field events, there are fun tabloid events where all students participate and have fun together. Other school-wide activities have been swimming sports and the cross-country run. Some English language learners have written about their experiences in the run.

The welcome BBQ was catered for by Wairua Puhou and we were treated to several waiata (songs). This greatly impressed the host families, students, and the families of the students. The delicious salads brought by the host families were enjoyed and quickly devoured. The BBQ is a great way for the international community to get together and have a chance to chat and meet other families.



In the first term, the year 9 students go on a two-day / one-night camp to Tirohanga. The confidence course can be quite a challenge for students, but some Syrian girls were very adept at completing all the challenges. The year 12 students had a choice of three: Borland

Camp for outdoor pursuits, or careers and work exploration in Dunedin. Borland had very, very wet weather that tested the gear the girls had. Sidey started with some stunning weather then they got the rain. The careers week was organised by houses as there was a higher number of students this year. The girls had to find their own work placement for two days and it was pleasing to see the girls go out and ask employers around town.



Outdoor education is quite popular with our students and they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves learning new skills, accepting challenges, and exploring the area. The year 11 students have done rock climbing, abseiling and a day tramp. The rock climbing and abseiling trip to Long Beach was as popular as ever and the girls managed to climb with smiles on their faces in some beautiful weather. The day tramp had a change of tracks due to the very wet weather we had been experiencing. They had to walk in some snow on Mt



Cargill. It helped them to learn the importance of taking the proper gear. The year 12s and 13s have been mountain biking around the Dunedin tracks, and the year 12s just completed a two-day cycle tour of the Clutha Gold Trail. Judith Thiel, from Germany, joined the Spirit of Adventure sailing boat and has shared her experiences with us.



At our whole school assembly, the Chinese language learners and some Chinese students, joined together to present Chinese New Year to the school. There was an exciting quiz with prizes, greetings in Chinese, along with a New Year song in Chinese. Sherry Wu danced gracefully in her red attire and Betty Pu, our Mandarin assistant, played the Chinese instrument called the erhu.

This newsletter contains articles written by students and photos of the students to let everybody know what they have been doing and achieving at our school.



Internationals and English Language Learners Term One 2018

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Maram Aboud Agha	Rama Alsaayde	Rahaf Al Hussein	Emelie Herzog	Mili Bartolini
Neemat Al Ashour	Rahaf Al Hassan	Rania Allo	Suzuka Kawamata	Anna Cho
Sulafa Al Khalil	Halima Al Naes	Emma Boonsom	Caroline Kraft	Miko Chu
Naya Ghazzoul	Trini Baldoncini	Annsen Chan	Lisa Li	Drea Gong
Huda Haroura	Lara Bartolotti	Will Chomchoei	Jasmine Liu	Annie He
Iman Suleiman	Well Chomchoei	Vicky Cui	Valerie Lu	Charlotte Hou
Ella Xu	Aya Elyassin	Carlotta Doeblor	Reshma Singh	Echo Hu
	Maryangel Fretton	Akina Fukaya	Crystal Tao	Radi Li
	Naghm Ghazzoul	Michiko Hanyu	Lynn Teng	Rose Li
	Nada Haroura	Chiara Hartmann	Judith Thiel	Louise Lin
	Wafaa Haroura	Chris Huynh	Harlyn Tran	Snow Martpunyachon
	Lindsay Hu	Dain Kim	Hathaway Wang	Teresa Ning
		Leonie Leoffler	Teresa Wang	Muycheng Oeng
		Michelle Li	Vivian Wang	Pear Sae-lee
		Helena Lippa	Sherry Wu	Jessica Song
		Marni Oehler	Starry Xiao	
		Mel Prathep	Jessy Xie	
		Sarah Schuetz	Sherry Ye	
		Akiko Yakabe	Fenny Zhang	
			Monica Zhang	
			Ashley Zhu	

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS 2017

Congratulations to the following international students who achieved their respective NCEA levels endorsed with merit.

Level 3: Namfah Polyiam, Shauna Wang, Crystal Zhang, Coco Zhang

Level 2: Drea Gong, Annie He, Charlotte Hou, Echo Hu, Rose Li

Level 1: Lisa Li, Teresa Wang, Monica Zhang

The following students achieved their respective levels endorsed with excellence.

Level 3: Elle Yin

Level 2: Muycheng Oeng, Anna Cho, Radi Li, Louise Lin, Snow Martpunyachon, Pear Sae-Lee

Level 1: Harlyn Tran

International Prefect: Pear Sae-Lee

Kia ora everyone. I'm Pear (Thitapa) Sae-Lee and I come from Thailand. I am honoured to have the opportunity to become the International Prefect this year. I have been studying at OGHS since October 2014. I'm taking biology, chemistry, physics, calculus and Mandarin this year. I love playing sports; therefore I've been always be a part of many school sports: netball, badminton, basketball, handball and volleyball.

As the International Prefect, I would like to help new international students and current international students enjoy their time here at OG's. I've had held the first international social with our brother school, Otago Boys' High School, and I would love to hold more international socials with either Kiwi students or international students from other schools. Hence, international students would make good friendships and connections between other international students and domestic students.



Pear receiving her prefect badge.



Pear with her host mother.

This year, I'm working with Mrs Boomer, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Stephenson, along with senior leaders as well as other international prefects across Dunedin. I want all the international students to achieve in a high standard in academics as well as the extracurricular activities. I also want all international students make the most of their time in New Zealand by joining lots of school activities so they will be able to improve their English as well as make new friends and challenge themselves by trying new things out of their comfort zones to become more independent young women.

I will definitely try my best to fulfil my responsibility and to make sure all of international students are happy and safe. I am willing to help with anything, including school stuff, life problems and if you need any help don't be scared to ask. I'm looking forward to having the best year with everyone.

Spirit of Adventure by Judith Thiel

From the 5th to the 15th March I went on the Spirit of New Zealand. The Spirit is a huge sailing ship, where 40 teenagers (20 boys and 20 girls) live together for 10 days and learn to sail the ship, but it is not only about sailing. We learned to take responsibility and to be in leadership positions, to interact with people, but also to sometimes step back and trust others to do it right. The Spirit is also about friendship. When you live with these people in such a small space for 10 days you automatically get really close and find friends for life. Of course they didn't just give a bunch of unexperienced teens a huge sailing ship, though. On board was also a crew of adults, who knew what they were doing, including a cook, a navigator, an engineer, etc.

We started the trip at Auckland harbour and then sailed from island to island, from bay to bay to get to Great Barrier Island and back with a few detours.

The 40 students got separated into four groups of ten, in which we were working for the time on the Spirit. There were also four sail-stations, one for every team, which we switched from day to day. Everyday we decided a team leader for the morning and one for the afternoon, who was in charge of their team and told everybody else what to do. On two sail-stations you also had other "chores" to do, on one you had Specials, which is pretty much just helping in the kitchen and washing dishes and so on; the other one is night watch. That meant you had shifts of 1 ½ hours, where you and someone else of the team stay awake and make sure that the ship still swims when everyone wakes up. Everyone hated Specials and Night-watch so much that there is even a poem existing about that:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Night-watch sucks,
And specials does, too.

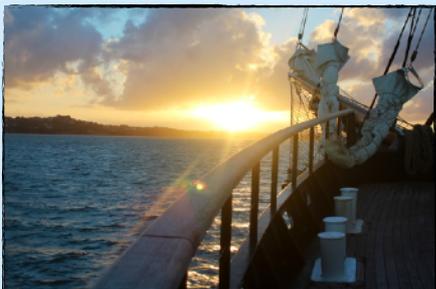
Another thing people had mixed opinions about, was the morning swim every day (I personally loved it). We started our day in our togs doing a bit of morning exercise to get warm and then jumping into the water and swimming alongside the ship to wake up.



Nearly every day we sailed around 20 sea miles, played little team building and leadership games and after sailing we often had a "pool party", which is just time to jump in the water or even swing from a trapeze that they hung from one of the masts. Sometimes we would also take out the rafts and paddle to one of the islands around to do a beach cleanup, play games or go for a hike.

All of this was preparing us for trainee day (day 9), where the crew handed the whole boat over to us, so the night before we elected a captain, first and second mate, a navigator, an engineer, a cook and a watch assistant (leader) for every sail-station (I was watch-assistant for the foredeck). Everything went well, we didn't sink or burn the ship and managed to get to Auckland in one piece, which is really impressive, considering that on day one nobody knew anything about how to sail this boat.

I think the greatest part of being on the spirit was that everyone could be real and truly themselves. Nobody knew anyone else on the ship beforehand so we had nothing to prove, and because we weren't allowed to take our phones, we were completely separated from the world outside the boat. All of this meant that nobody had to fit in or to change themselves to do so. Everyone could be who they are and wanted to be and I don't think that I'll ever feel that free again.



Cross Country by Vicky Cui

Last Friday we had cross country. I felt so excited at the start. Everyone felt so excited too. The teacher told us the cross country was about 2.7km.

It is a little difficult for me.

When we started it was raining and it was so cold.

There was lots of sand. My friends and I were running fast and we felt so thirsty at that time.

Everyone was working very hard and I felt tired when I finished the cross country. I felt a little hot when I got on the bus. In the bus there were lots of people standing.

I talked to my friend. All the students looked so hot and tired. But we all felt so happy! We had finished the cross country although it was raining that day.

I felt so happy after I finished that!



Cross Country by Will Chomchoei

It was better than I thought ! Cross country happened on 6 of April 2018, last Friday. Now that I am in year 11 (senior), I have to run for 2.7 km. It was OK, wasn't it?

I ran with my new friends, Lynn, Starry and Jasmine. They are really nice. They are 17 years old, same as me. Actually I will be 17 in two months. Anyhow we are the same age. They have stayed here around one year already. We were running and talking the whole run. Actually, sometimes we walked and sometimes we ran. We talked a lot about the languages because Lynn is very good at languages; she can speak 4 languages!!! That's awesome.

On the way back to school, we were very tired and really wanted to go to sleep. I was very thirsty and hungry too. After we arrived at the school, we changed to the school uniform and went to the library to read some books then went outside to have lunch with Thai friends.

Cross Country by Suzuka Kawamata

On the 6th of April I did the cross country. Everyone must run or walk. It was fun so far. My friends ran but I walked. I felt it was very good because I like the sea and there was sea!

I could walk with sea sounds. It was very cool! But, it was very cold. After 15 minutes it started raining.

I walked with my Korean friends and my kiwi friends! We talked about K-pop songs and sang all the time. It was a very good time.

In Japan we don't have anything like a cross country in high school so it was a very good memory. When I go back to Japan, I want to do a cross country in my high school.

Cross country has a relationship with whanau groups. Everyone wore house colours. It was very nice! I want to do a cross country again!



Cross Country by Rania Allo

On Friday I went to the Dinosaur Park for my school's cross country. I ran very fast. It was hard because I have not done this in a long time. But I enjoyed it. I felt excited. The weather was cold and it rained. It was not very fun.

Ran and rained together. When we finished that I felt tired. After we finished we came back by bus.

Congratulations to International Student Handball Team by Snow Martpunyachon

To challenge a new start of the year, we, international students, made an international handball team as OGHS Team 2 to challenge ourselves to a new sport. Handball, in my opinion, is a sport combined of basketball and football but hands are used instead. Our International Student Handball team consists of Radi Li, Jiji Chokvareeporn, Pear Sae-lee, Louise Lin, Carlotta Doebler, Mel Prathep and Snow Martpunyachon. Handball gives us experiences including teamwork, handball skills and more opportunity to communicate with others. Also, last week, our team has played in final and we luckily came third for the season.



Borland Camp by Reshma Singh



I went to Borland camp on 19th of March in term 1. It is in Fiordland, New Zealand. Year 12 Biology and Geography students went there. We went to learn about plants, land, weather, etc.

We went to Borland forest to know about plant canopy. I went there on Monday. We went there to complete the Biology assignment. On Tuesday I went to caving. It is near the Borland lodge. We went there to learn about small places and know about other types of stones. On Wednesday we did geography. We went to Borland forest and we saw the beautiful lake. On Thursday we did kayaking. We went to a lake. It is near the Borland camp. We did kayaking to learn more.

It was great fun. I completed all tasks. I like kayaking because it was fun and it was quite difficult.

Climbing Camp by Akina Fukaya

We had climbing camp two weeks ago. We went to Long Beach. We stayed for two days. It takes about one and a half hours to reach there. As soon as we arrived there, we started climbing up the rock face and began abseiling. It was very hard for me, because I was scared. The rock face was very hard and slippery, so there was no space which I could step and push up from. I knew how to abseil, because I've already learnt in class, but I actually became very confused. I tried three times that day. I couldn't abseil the first two times, but I could at last. My friends and teachers helped and advised me during this. When I climbed up to the top, I was very happy! And, I made many friends during my camping experiment. One of my friends also couldn't climb up of top, but she could, too. At dinner time, each of groups made food by ourselves. My group made soup. We helped each other. It was very nice!!



Life in New Zealand by Mili Bartolini



My name is Mili Bartolini and I've been in Dunedin since September 2017. I came to New Zealand with my whole family and we are really happy about this experience. Our experience as a family was amazing, we are spending a lot of time together getting to know this country. We have travelled to many places around this island that were fantastic. Also, this trip made our family come together a lot and we can spend more time together.

My experience in Otago Girls' High School was amazing as well. During the time I have spent in this school, I got to know wonderful people that I hope we will keep in touch. One of the things I like the most of the school is having the opportunity to get to know people from different parts of the world with different cultures. Otago Girls' High School is really different to my school back in Argentina so when I arrived I thought it was going to be impossible to fit in it, but thanks to my friends, that was possible sooner than I expected.



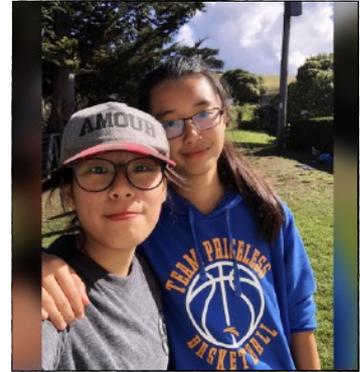
International girls are environmental leaders! By Mrs Nicky Chapman

Our international girls have shown great leadership, especially in the field of environmental awareness and action in the past two years. Late last year Louise Lin and Ariane Arman were selected for a week-long Waterwise environmental programme. They will be speaking at our school-wide 'Ideas to Inspire' lunchtime seminars next term. Also last year, Muychheng Oeng successfully applied for \$500 to help build our school vegetable gardens. She has written an update of about the gardens to the funders, which is attached.

This term Louise Lin, Ariane Arman, and Leonie Loeffler, along with Yi Lou, have helped clean up our local beach for Seaweed and Louise and Radi Li have done some 'weed busting' on Quarantine Island (see linked stories.) Many other internationals turn up for the EnviroSchools meetings to support our ideas and activities there. It is wonderful to see such commitment to our shared future on this planet.

Quarantine Island by Louise Lin

On 25 March, Radi and I went to Quarantine Island to join the 'War on Weeds' volunteer activities organised by DOC. In the morning, we did some weed trimming around the native trees that were planted by other volunteers, and in the afternoon, we used a poisonous chemical to clear out the English ivies-- tough and troublesome weeds-- under the supervision of experienced volunteers. We had a good time on the island enjoying the view of the harbour, and made a small contribution to the ongoing battle against weeds to protect the native species.



Dunedin Coastal Clean-up for Seaweek By Yi Lou

On Saturday the 3rd of March Ariane, Louise, Leonie and I went to St.Kilda beach for the coastal clean up organised by Our Seas Our Future Charitable Trust in favour of Sea Week. Bags and gloves were distributed to volunteers to help pick up the rubbish left behind or washed up around the coastal areas. The clean up began at 12pm and went until 2pm, and in the short time span we were able to fill our bags with various interesting pieces of rubbish. From Mcdonald's food wraps to bottles and wires. We were surprised by the amount of rubbish we collected and found. A total of 2500 litres of rubbish was collected by all the volunteers on the day. After our bags were full, we sorted it into two groups of recyclable and non recyclable material, from the 2500 litres of rubbish 800 litres was diverted to recycling.



Group with the camera girl Ariane, and Mochi.



Single-use plastic and glass bottles were frequently found during the clean-up process.



Less expected items, like socks, were also found.



Plastic bags and food packaging were found along with cans and cigarette filters.



Bottles and cans along the coastline where people hangout.



A portion of litter picked up by the volunteers being sorted out at the end.

Update Letter on our School Gardens by Muychheng Oeng

Thanks to the fund we got from Sustainable Dunedin with the remaining fees provided by PTSA, the wood for our four raised gardens were purchased at the end of last year. We had decided to put them near the car park as it was the most likely place to get a lot of sunshine. These inspirational gardens were built by seven lovely year 9s from last year as a part of their project-based learning program with some assistance from Mrs Chapman, who is in charge of Enviroschools, and our caretaker, Simon Dixon, who got the wood for us.

Though the students involved in the actual building process were from two of the houses, we did manage to get some students from other houses to take part in decorating their gardens. After we finished, we did some planting using the plants which were donated to us by Bunnings. We have had tomatoes, beans, courgettes, chives, parsley, sprouting broccoli and radishes (and some added bonus peas from the pea straw!)

Having come back from the long summer break, we could see the plants had grown really well. Thanks to these gardens, we can already see an improvement of positivity behaviour towards to the environment by our students as there is a lot of increase of the number of students who interact in Enviroschools this year. It is amazing to see students hanging around the gardens during breaks and the products from these plants being used by staff and students in the school community. On behalf of Otago Girls' High School, I cannot express enough gratitude for providing us the stepping stone to start this project.

For this year, we are going to use these gardens as a part of our House Garden Competition which we hopefully will be able to get going in Term 2. Students from each house will be encouraged to take part in planting and taking care of their plants as the winning house will be awarded house points. I cannot wait to write to you again to inform about the progress and achievements of the competition.



Term 2 Upcoming Events

These are some of the main events at school.

There are more subject specific events that the students where will be notified.

Week 1

May 2 Class Photos, Black Ferns Visit

Week 2

May 7 Dunedin Tertiary Open Day: Years 11 and 13

May 7 - 11 Year 11 Geography Mt Cook Camp

May 9 - 13 OGHs/OBHS Senior Production of Strictly Ballroom

May 11 Senior Interim Reports

Week 4

May 21 - 24 Year 10 Marae Trips

Week 5

May 31 Parent-Teacher Interviews (A-L)

June 1 Year 12 Loves Me Not Programme

Week 6

June 4 Queen's Birthday - School Closed

June 6 Parent-Teacher Interviews (M-Z)

Week 7

June 12 Library Day

June 14 Year 12 Formal

Week 10

July 2 Junior Option Changeover

July 4 Junior Reports

July 6 Last Day of Term 2

Holidays Emergency Contact

In case of an emergency only,
please contact:

Katherine Boomer 027 446 3539.