



Te Kura o Otari
Otari School

News

Inspiring a love of learning through an education that values the development of the whole child.

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Nau mai haere mai ke te Kura of Otari

Welcome to a new student and her family: Maia Smith (Kakano)

Waharoa Unveiling - The Waharoa unveiling was a most memorable occasion. We are delighted with the beautiful carvings that now bless our waharoa. Carver, Nathan Rei has woven traditional Māori designs and patterns that symbolise learning, knowledge and represent tangata whenua, with designs that reflect our three strands and our values. Nathan will be providing us with some written detail about the carvings that I will share with the community.

Many people helped ensure the Waharoa unveiling was a success. Thank you to all the Immersion strand whānau involved in the organisation of the unveiling ceremony and the morning tea afterwards. Thank you to our eloquent speakers and leaders who represented the kura, and finally thank you to all the strands for their support of this occasion.

When I spoke yesterday I included my reflections about the waharoa. I have been asked if I would also share these with the wider community and have therefore attached this portion of my speech to the newsletter.

Kakano Plays - Kakano are performing their plays on Thursday at 2pm in the hall. Parents welcome.

Netball - Our teams have enjoyed a great season. Congratulations to all the players, especially to the Otari Emeralds who came top of the C grade. A great big 'thank you' to all the parents/whānau who coached, managed and supported the teams so well.

Calendar Orders - Please get your orders to the office asap.

Yummy Stickers - Please send any stickers in asap.

Te Taonga Horomata: Aaro-nui. Our virtue is Consideration

We carefully observe their preference and needs, then do things to give them ease or bring them joy. Consideration shines in small daily acts that add to the happiness of others. It is one of the most meaningful ways to show love. Considerate people give the very best gifts.

Upcoming Events Calendar:

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
St Brigid's Kapa Haka	Immersion strand	Sat 17 Sept,	

Have a great week everyone. Don't forget the term finishes on Friday 23 September at 2.55pm.

Ngā mihi nui
Clifford

'Good manners reflect something from inside – an innate sense of consideration for others and respect for self.'
Emily Post

Community Notices:

Wadestown Presbyterian Church Re-Opening is on Saturday 25 September at 10.00am. 'Open Home' from 2-30-3.30pm if you'd like to drop in and have chat and a look around.

KELLY CLUB Holiday Programmes (26 Sept-7 Oct) and Kelly Clubs Sports – see their website www.kellysports.co.nz.

The Vinnies bi-annual Book Fair is just around the corner! It will be held at St Anne's Church Hall, 22 Emmett Street, Newtown on Saturday 1 October (8am – 6pm) and Sunday 2 October (9am – 3pm).

Wellington Young Voices Children's Choir - Spaces available from term 4, 2016. Wellington Young Voices is in its fourth year of existence, and already has enjoyed amazing performance opportunities with such national and international music groups as NZ Opera, the Orpheus Choir, Wellington Orchestra, the Philippino Loboc Children's Choir, Australian Boys Choir, Australian Girls Choir and the NZSO. We are now accepting registration applications from keen & committed young singers, aged 8-14 years, from throughout the Wellington region for term 4 and beyond. Scholarships covering term tuition fees are available on application. Rehearsal times: Mondays 4-6pm, Central Baptist Church, Boulcott St, Wellington. You are welcome to come along to a rehearsal at any time to meet us & see what we do! For more information & a registration form see our website www.wellingtonyoungvoices.org.nz. Or email our administrator, Suzanne Callam at wyvchoir@gmail.com

Little Dog Barking Theatre presents two delightful stories told in one performance - "Party Pigs & A Sausage Went for a Walk" - 27 September at Epuni Community Hall, Mitchell Street, Lower Hutt - 28 September at St Peter's Hall, cnr Beach Rd & Ames St - 29 September at Kapiti Playhouse, 7 Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu. Suitable for ages 2 - 8 years old. Ticketing info@littledogbarking.co.nz or 021 042 1851. www.littledogbarking.co.nz

To celebrate Chinese Language Week (September 11th to September 18th), Karori Library is hosting a free Chinese lesson for children of all ages on Friday September 16th from 3.30 to 4pm.

Aro Valley School Holiday Programme Monday 26 Sept – Friday 7 Oct. Haere mai and come to enjoy the Aro Valley School Holiday Programme at the Aro Valley Community Centre these holidays. We offer a quality, affordable, fun, community-run programme for kids to enjoy. The cost of the programme is \$30 per day or \$35 on a trip day and OSCAR subsidies are available. For enrolment information contact Lexi 04 384 8499 or developer@arovalley.org.nz.

Kids Have FUN at Craft House – School Holiday Craft Classes and Birthday Parties. We are planning a lot of crafty FUN for the spring school holidays at Craft House. Get your name up in lights with our 'light it up' class. Paint a pendant and create a gift box to put it in. Decorate a funky pair of socks. Make a stand for your iPad or Tablet. Learn some painting skills and paint a selfie. Get out in the garden with our bright and cheerful garden bugs. Make some cards, a mini album or even a cake out of paper. So much to choose from and enough to keep you busy for the whole holidays! Prices start at just \$25 for a 2hr class and before/after class care is also offered for a small surcharge. Open to all children 7 years and above. Join us for a two hour session, a whole day, a week ... it's up to you! See all the details at www.CraftHouse.co.nz. For more information or to book, call us on 499 4499 or email info@CraftHouse.co.nz

Kids' holiday craft workshop at the Wadestown Community Centre, Monday 26 September, 9:30-11:30am. Create monogram wall art on canvas and a handy storage jar. \$22 per child, all materials supplied. Please contact Jann on 021 549118 for more info and to book.

Wellington Waterfront Fun Runs For Kids And Adults - Athletics Wellington is partnering with Cigna and Sport Wellington to bring you the Cigna Kids Waterfront Fun Run on the afternoon of Thursday 20 October. Starting and finishing at Waitangi Park there are different distances for all age groups from pre schoolers through to year 8s. The Cigna team will be there running the Cigna Carnival with face painting a sausage sizzle and popcorn to support Achilles International NZ. Immediately following the kids fun run Athletics Wellington and TempoFit are introducing a new event also on the waterfront - The Wellington Open 5km Fun Run. Only \$10 to enter either event. For details go to www.athleticshub.co.nz/kids-fun-run.

Elements Rhythmic Gymnastics - Rhythmic Gymnastics is a mix of dance and gymnastics. It develops hand-eye co-ordination through the use of apparatus – rope, hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon. If your daughter loves to dance and is looking for something a little different to do in Term 4, then come along to a class and give it a try! Email info@rhythmicgym.nz to arrange a FREE trial. We run classes Mon, Tue, Wed, and Sat in Thorndon and Mon in Northland. For more information about Elements and our classes, visit www.rhythmicgym.nz

CodeCamp - September Holiday Programme (September 26th-29th & October 3rd-6th). Code camp allows boys & girls from the ages of 7-17 to develop 21st century skills in a fun and action packed environment. Develop confidence & initiative through design, creativity, solving problems & collaboration. Create games, apps & work with robots and electronic building blocks. Book Now at www.codecamp.co.nz/holiday-codecamp.

Sunshine Drama - Creative Drama classes for preschoolers to Year Eight. Classes enable students to explore creative thinking, build confidence and become effective communicators and performers. For more information, enrolments or to arrange a free trial class, please contact Jenae Ryan: 028 402 6793 or visit: www.sunshinedrama.co.nz.

Heart Health Update with Dr Gerry Devlin, Medical Director - Heart Foundation. Are you affected by heart disease? Are you interested in heart health? Tues 20 Sept, 5.30 - 7.00pm, The Royal Society of NZ, 11 Turnbull St, Thorndon, Wgtn. This is a FREE event for people affected by heart disease and their families. Contact cathl@heartfoundation.org.nz, 04 472 2780.

Sharing the Journey - The Sharing the Journey Group supports children aged 6-12 years who have a parent or family member with mental health issues and/or addiction. Dates: Wed 5th October, 9.30am-12.30pm, Thurs 6th October, 9.30am- 12.30pm, Fri 7th October, 9.30am- 12.30pm. The aims of the group are to help normalise the experience of living day to day with a parent or family member with a mental health issue and/or addiction, to help the children to externalise and process their feelings related to their experience in a safe way, help the children identify and cope with strong feelings and to build resilience and self esteem. The group involves a mixture of art making, watching DVD clips, talking and group activities. A parent/caregiver pre- group interview is held prior to the group running to assess the suitability of the programme for the child/children. Please note that 6 children are needed for the Group to go ahead. Cost and Registration: The course is free, morning tea will be provided and there is a Pizza Graduation Lunch on the last day. To register email sarah@skylight.org.nz or call 0800 299 100 for further information.



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Clifford's Speech for the Unveiling of the Waharoa on 12 September 2016

I have been reflecting on the Waharoa and all that it means to us and I want to share those reflections with you all.

The waharoa has been a bare structure for the past 7 years. We needed to dismantle the waharoa when we were carrying out major building work and big trucks had to get across the playground. When it was time to put the waharoa back up much of the cladding and decoration had rotted or was damaged, so I asked builders to just rebuild the basic structure. The school had received money from a land sale and I suggested a significant portion of this be put aside for the waharoa. It has taken some time for this project to come to fruition, however, often the most worthwhile things take time, and some things happen in their own time as they were meant to – when everything is in place that needs to be in place. It certainly feels as though today is exactly the right time to celebrate the new life that has been breathed into our waharoa.

Thank you Nathan for your incredible skill and beautiful work which has captured the essence of our kura and given us back a living entranceway for future generations who attend and visit our school. I appreciated the way you liaised closely with us and sought to find out as much as you could about us.

The waharoa has significance to all of us. It has special significance to our Māori Whānau as things that are an inherent part of our own culture always do. It is right that the waharoa face our Māori Immersion strand, our central buildings and the heart of tikanga Māori at our kura. The waharoa also embraces our Original strand, so named since it represents the original school which opened 1956 - what a great why to celebrate a 60th anniversary! The waharoa embraces our Montessori strand, a strand that heralded a new beginning for the kura and helped preserve its very existence. The waharoa is connected to us all and reminds us how much we needed each other in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

It is very nice to have the Montessori Preschool here today, who are also tangatawhenua of Te Kura o Otari and therefore also embraced by our waharoa.

The waharoa may also have a particular personal significance for many who have been welcomed to Te Kura o Otari. It certainly has that significance for me and our whānau. Fourteen years ago, on a very wet morning we arrived at Otari School for our powhiri. We had come from Gisborne and were grieving the recent loss of our daughter, Evangeline. It was exactly a month after that sad event that we were standing under umbrellas waiting to go through the waharoa. This was the first time my family and I had ever been personally welcomed with a powhiri. Because of the weather, for this occasion, we had to wait on the preschool steps and be welcomed through the waharoa a different way from the usual way - (a metaphor for the future - to expect the unexpected and that things at Otari would not always happen in a regular way!). As we walked through I could hear the waiata of the tamariki strong and clear and it was a very powerful and moving moment for us all. As we proceeded into the hall and listened to the speakers I felt such a reassurance that, despite what we were dealing with as a family, we were in the right place. It was more than a welcome, more than just an occasion, it was real and it was deeply felt. It was the beginning of a new journey in our lives – A new journey and yet paradoxically we felt like we had arrived where we were meant to be – and that feeling began as we walked through the waharoa. All that is symbolised by this structure was felt in reality.

We are truly blessed today to have this waharoa. I look forward with all of you to the manuhiri who will be welcomed through it, and to all the future tamariki, whānau, and kaiako who will walk beneath it as they arrive and as they begin new journeys at Te kura o Otari.