

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

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13 December 2016

Issue 38, Week 10, Term 4

**Year 8 Farewell - Tonight, 6pm.** Please ensure the students are at school by 5:50pm. This event is for Yr 7 and 8 families.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te Kura o Otari

This week we will be saying goodbye to 5 of our support staff, all of whom have enriched our learning community through their dedication and care.

Kate Shaw has worked in Kakano this year. We have valued Kate's commitment, and the skill she has brought to her role, which have benefitted the class and students.

Claudette Wicks has enjoyed her year in Pohutukawa. She has brought warmth and humour to her role and has effectively supported the Montessori programme throughout the year. The teachers and students will miss her sense of fun and kindness.

Alison Emery has been at Otari School for 4 years. She has worked in Ngaio class fostering a special relationship with the student in her care, and providing unwavering support. Her contribution to Ngaio class and the wider school has been appreciated, as has her friendly, cheerful approach throughout her time at Otari School.

Another very positive and dedicated teacher aide leaving us is Ashleigh Mako, who has provided support for a student in the Māori Immersion strand over the past 2 years. It has been lovely having a former student return to bless us with her warmth and, as well as her skill in te reo, for the benefit of the strand.

We will also miss Kathy Hutchison, who has been on the staff since 2009. Kathy has enjoyed a variety of roles, working with special needs students, supporting classroom programmes and helping in the office with the accounts. She has also been a dedicated co-ordinator of social occasions, often motivating us to participate in special events ranging from staff bets on the Melbourne Cup to bridal showers and mid term get-togethers. We will miss Kathy's enthusiasm, experience and expertise at Otari School.





We wish Kate, Alison, Kathy, Ashleigh and Claudette all the very best for their future endeavours and thank them for all the important work they have done with individuals and groups of children, the challenges they have met, the achievements they have contributed to.

It is also important to acknowledge Sue Corkill who is finishing in her role as a Learning Support Teacher. Learning Support Teachers work with classroom teachers and teacher aides to support programmes of learning for particular students. Sue's expertise in this area has been highly valued, making a real difference to the achievement of student learning milestones and social development. Thank you Sue, for all your excellent work. Fortunately Sue will still be affiliated to the school through her editing and publishing role and work on curriculum review.

Farewell to our student teachers, Larina and Will. We congratulate Larina and Will on achieving teaching positions next year. Both of their new schools are most fortunate to have two such capable, enthusiastic and caring educators. We will miss them very much and wish them much success for the future.

**Carols in the Hall - Thursday 15 December, 11am.** This is another event that helps us reach the end of the year in good spirits. It is an opportunity to dress up in Christmas or celebration theme and come together to sing some seasonal songs. We will be singing a variety of carols accompanied by the piano, band and recorded music. Everyone is welcome!

**After School Care** is taking enrolments for 2017. Please phone Katrina on 021-330-099 for an enrolment form or any questions. Afterschool Care will be starting at 12.30pm on Friday and finishing at 5.30pm.

**Stationery** requirements for 2017 can be found on the opening page of our website ([www.otari.school.nz](http://www.otari.school.nz)). You can either purchase the items through OfficeMax or print off the lists and purchase elsewhere. If that is the option you choose please do not buy cheap pencils and books - they just don't last.

**Powhiri** - There will be a Powhiri on the first day of school (1 Feb) to welcome all new families. This will begin at 9.15am

On behalf of all of us, I wish our Otari Whānau a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ngā mihi nui  
Clifford

**Term finishes on Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) at 12noon.**

**Term Dates 2017**

Term 1: Wed 1 Feb – Wed 12 Apr (school closed: TOD Thurs 13 April)

Term 2: Mon 1 May – Fri 7 July (school closed: Fri 2 June TOD & 5 June Queens Birthday)

Term 3: Mon 24 July – Fri 29 Sept

Term 4: Mon 16 Oct – Tues 19 Dec (school closed: Labour weekend: 23 Oct)

# Term 4 Board Update

This term has been another busy one for the Board. As we get ready to farewell our Year 8s it is timely to think about all the work that goes on at the school to ensure we can achieve our vision of “Inspiring a love of learning through education that values the development of the whole child”. This term the Board has focused on:

**Connecting with and thanking the staff:** In October the Board invited staff to a social event in the staff room. It was a great opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that goes on every day in order for the school to be the school we cherish. On behalf of the Board I will formally acknowledge Clifford and the staff at the Year 8 farewell tonight but for those who aren't going to be there please know that we appreciate all the work and good humour that goes into teaching our children.

**Annual Plan:** We have a 3 year strategic planning cycle so this Board has inherited the strategic plan finalised last year. Every year we use the strategic plan to frame the annual planning cycle. At our meeting last week we decided our priorities for 2017 are to focus on the sustainability of the school (including improving our financial position, increasing parent engagement, future proofing the school and lifting the enrolments in the Immersion Strand) and doing further work on health and safety given the new legislative environment.

**Budgeting:** The Board reviewed the draft 2017 budget at our meeting last week. We are likely to have to approve a budget which is forecasting a major deficit. Why? Because just like other schools we have a shortfall in financial provisions from the Ministry but unlike other decile 10 schools the contribution rate for our donations is poor and getting worse. This year we tracked at 51% of families paying their donation. This is well below the average level of contribution of 81% achieved by the other decile 10 primary schools in the area. Given our rate per family is the lowest in the area the Board are frustrated. Next year we are going to have to address this deficit with additional fundraising. We will look to revive the parent committee as part of this drive.

**Looking forward to 2017:** The much needed upgrade of the Original Strand classrooms will start next year. Whilst there will be short term disruption, it will be worth it! We have the Year 7 and 8 school camp in early March. This is the highlight of our kids primary school years because our fabulous senior teachers create a wonderful environment for the kids to flourish.

That's all from the Board for 2016. Enjoy the holidays everyone, see you in 2017.

Catherine  
(On behalf of the BoT)

### **Community Notices:**

**Local Drum Lesson's** for children 2017! Mark Lockett B.Mus Perf Jazz, Dip Mus. Recently returned from performing & teaching in NYC. Individual & group lessons. [www.drumlab.co.nz](http://www.drumlab.co.nz) 021-0433-663.

**Learn Piano & Keyboard 2017:** Local teacher taking students for 2017 fun! Fun! Fun!. Local Studio & Mobile Teaching, flexible times, competitive rates - Discounts on first lesson & block of 10! email: [pjbosman@hotmail.com](mailto:pjbosman@hotmail.com) Ph. 0212056473 SEE: [www.pieterbosmusic.co.nz](http://www.pieterbosmusic.co.nz).

**Drama Club** - After school Drama & Musical Theatre classes for children. Solo/group drama examinations are available for children of all ages. We have small classes of approximately 6-8 pupils and all classes are grouped by age. Enrol your child at [www.dramaclub.co.nz](http://www.dramaclub.co.nz), or email us at [admin@dramaclub.co.nz](mailto:admin@dramaclub.co.nz). Alternatively you can contact Bridie on 021 054 2593

**The Pantaloons** present *Sleeping Bertie* - the hilarious, magical musical pantomime at the Gryphon Theatre, 22 Ghuznee St, Te Aro. Jan 17 - 20. Tickets only \$10. To book ring or text – 027328299.

**Sunshine Drama** – Saturday morning and after school 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 about our classes and Christmas holiday workshops, please contact Jenae Ryan: 028 402 6793 or visit: [www.sunshinedrama.co.nz](http://www.sunshinedrama.co.nz).

**"Kids' Christmas craft** workshop at Wadestown Community Centre, Monday 19 December, 10am-12pm. Create sand art and wet-felted decorations for your Christmas tree. \$22 per child, all materials supplied. Please contact Jann on 021 549118 for more info and to book."



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