



Te Kura o Otari
Otari School

News

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

Phone: 475-3018

Email: office@otari.school.nz

Our bank account is: Otari School BOT 060561 -0017355-00

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Nau mai, haere mai ki te Kura o Otari

This has been a very full term. There have been many extra events and activities complementing our learning programmes. We have appreciated the many ways whānau have supported these throughout the term. This afternoon teachers will be meeting to further plan their programmes for term 4. This is always an extra busy term with reports, annual planning and the enjoyable end of year activities and events. We look forward to all of this. In the meantime, I wish all the teachers and children a restful and happy holiday.

Otari School Attendance - Recently the school received data from the Ministry of Education about student attendance at Otari School. This comprehensive information compared the attendance of students at Otari School with other decile 10 schools, co-ed schools, Wellington schools and all schools in the country. Compared to all of these groups Otari School had higher attendance in most year levels, a higher percentage of students attending regularly in all ethnic groups, (Asian, Māori, NZ European etc) and a higher percentage of females attending. Males were attending slightly lower than other decile 10 schools but higher than all other comparison groups. Overall attendance is higher than all other groups.

Debates - Tomorrow, selected senior students are taking part in debates. The debates are part of our English and Te Reo Pakeha programmes. The debate teams are made up of a student from each strand. They have worked together to present their arguments around a particular topic. There are two debates. The debates will begin at 11am. Parents are welcome to attend. Debate teams and motions are:

- Motion: School should be for four days a week

Affirmative: Theo Dawson, James Fullelove, Sky Gobbi. Negative: Lauren Luatua, Kohurangi Jones and Abigail Tuckey.

- Motion: Voting age should be lowered to 12 years of age

Affirmative: Alice Thompson, Skye Morgan-Conroy, Molly Elton. Negative: Joy Fleming, Regina Fernandes and Ngataierua Apanui-Barr.

Calendars - Please ensure you have your orders to the office by this Thursday at the very latest. Payment can be made direct into the school account (060561-0017355-00), EFT-POS or cash. Remember to use a separate order form for each child.

EPro8 Challenge - Otari has entered 6 teams (3 for Yrs 5/6 and 3 for Yrs 7/8). The event is in week 1 of next term with the Yr 7/8 team competing on Tuesday (17 Oct) evening and the Yr 5/6 team competing on Wednesday (18 Oct) morning. It would be great if parents come along as well. The EPro8 Challenge challenge has been specifically designed to be spectator friendly. Please take photos and videos, but, in terms of the challenges it is all up to the students so no helping. A separate notice has been sent home with more details.

PMP - All Year 1 and 2 students will be participating in PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme) next term. The programme runs as a series of activity circuits to help children practice and develop their skills in locomotion, balance, fitness, hand-eye coordination, memory and language. Parent help is required. Please go to the following doodle link to indicate your availability: <https://doodle.com/poll/gi5vahgikiaesc4f>

Upcoming Events Calendar:

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Debates	Selected Students	Wed 27 Sept, 11.00am	
Vision/Hearing Testing	Selected Students	Tues 17 Oct	
Kapa Haka Festival	Yr 6-8 Students	Thurs 26 Oct	
School Disco	Everyone	Fri 3 Nov	TBC
Trip to Wgtn Museum	Ker/Kai/Kow/Pou	Wed 8 Nov	TBC
Immunisations	Yr 8s	Tues 14 Nov	
Helpers Morning Tea	Helpers	Thurs 16 Nov	
NZ Playhouse 'Puss in Boots'	All students	Wed 22 Nov	\$4.50
School Fair	Everyone	Sat 25 Nov	
Yr 8 Outing & Dinner	Yr 8s	Thurs 7 Dec	TBC
Yr 8 Farewell	Yr 7/8s & Parents	Thurs 14 Dec	
Carol Singing	Everyone	Fri 15 Dec, 11am	

Have a good week everyone. A reminder that the term finishes on Friday at 2.55pm. We start back on Monday 16 October, 8.55am.

Ngā mihi nui
Clifford

2018 Term Dates		
Term 1	Thurs 1 Feb	Fri 13 Apr
Term 2	Mon 30 Apr	Fri 6 Jul
Term 3	Mon 23 Jul	Fri 28 Sept
Term 4	Mon 15 Oct	Tues 18 Dec

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Last night we had our final Board of Trustee's meeting of the term. We had planned to hold the meeting last week but as a number of us, including Shani (the teacher representative on the Board) and Clifford were involved in ArtSplash so we moved the meeting to last night. It was a pretty full agenda but the highlights are:

Strategy and Plan: Next term we will dedicate BoT time to the Annual Plan. We spent time last night considering what areas we might consider so we can be focused when we do meet. As a reminder, in 2015 the BoT consulted with the community ahead of finalising the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan. Every year in term 4 the BoT discuss and agree on Annual Goals, which are incorporated into the Charter submitted to the Ministry of Education at the end of February (this is on the school website if you do want to take a look). We are planning a full community consultation in 2018 to prepare our next strategic plan so expect to hear from us.

Update on various trainings attended by the BoT: Over the last few months some of your BoT members and Clifford have attended information sessions on ERO review, Health and Safety requirements and the new technology curriculum, which is currently being consulted on by the Ministry. The BoT were able to discuss the various bits of pieces relevant to Otari School. NB we are expecting ERO this year but don't yet have a date confirmed for term 4.

Finance: The staff and board are working really hard to keep the school's books balanced. This year has been particularly tough so we are grateful for the continued donations and fund raising efforts of the school community. The Fair in term 4 will be an important source of additional funding and will be a fantastic school and community event so please do get behind it. That one day will make a difference to what we can offer the children in 2018.

Property: The first stages of the 5YA property plan will be implemented over the school holidays with the Montessori classrooms receiving much needed upgrades to their carpet and heating. The upgrades of the Original Strand classrooms are in the planning stage with the teachers working with the property consultants and architects on design.

Health & Safety: A number of teachers and students have slipped on the ramp that goes onto the court. We are looking into ways to reduce this hazard but in the meantime could you please be careful if you are using the ramp and urge your children to be careful. There will be some work going on in the Preschool garden over the school holidays so please be mindful of the increased hazards if you, or your children are in the school grounds over the holidays.

Curriculum: Clifford has kept us up to date on the progress of students in relation to National Standards and Ngā Whanaketanga, providing the Board with information that enables us to see how various groups are achieving in relation to gender, ethnicity and class levels and how the priority learners (those students identified as *below* or *well below*) are being catered for. The Board has also been updated on the number of Learning Support students we have, the kind of funding they are being provided with and how their needs are being currently met.

See you all next term.

Catherine

Chair: On behalf of the Board

Community Notices: *(Please note: Notices are sent to us. They are not an endorsement)*

Karori Amateur Athletics Club, Ben Burn Park, Wednesdays 6pm. Season starts 25th October & runs for 2 terms. Do you know a child who loves to run, jump, throw? Or do you know a child who would benefit from having an evening off screens each week? Would you like your family to spend more active time together? The Karori Athletics Club provides a fun environment with a mixture of games for ages 6 & under and track & field athletics for children from 7-15 years old. Keen athletes can represent Karori & compete in Inter-club events & other competitions during the season. Parents measure & time, supervise & guide, encourage & cheer the kids on. It's a lot of fun & there's even a sausage sizzle! The Club meets weekly at Ben Burn Park in Karori on Wednesday nights (6.00pm-7.30pm) over the summer from October to March. For more information including details on online registration, visit the website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.karoriathletics.org.nz/"](http://www.karoriathletics.org.nz/) \t "_blank" www.karoriathletics.org.nz

Yoga For Kids, Aro Valley Community Centre, 48 Aro Street. Every Monday 3.30 - 4.15am. Starts 16 October. Experienced Yoga Teacher: Bibi. To Register Email: bibibibiworld@gmail.com. \$5.00 per class.

Drama Club is running a drama holiday programme in the upcoming school break – Monday 2nd - Friday 6th October based in Karori. The classes are held each morning from 9.00am (drop off from 8.30am) till 12.30pm. We have a different topic each day so students can pick and choose which days they would like to attend. Enrol on the Drama Club website - www.dramaclub.co.nz or contact Bridie on bridie@dramaclub.co.nz.