



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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7 November 2017

Issue 34, Week 4, Term 4

Nau mai, haere mai ki te Kura o Otari

Please ensure you are aware of the events and activities coming up in the following weeks. This newsletter also contains important information about next year.

Nau mai, haere mai to a new child and her family: Freida Geiringer (Pounamu)

National Standards/Ngā Whanaketanga - Many in the education sector have enthusiastically greeted news that the National Standards and Ngā Whanaketanga are being "scrapped." The Education Acts related to National Standards/Ngā Whanaketanga are still current however, and schools are advised to report to parents and Boards as per normal until the changes are officially made. We will be reporting in relation to National Standards in the end of year reports and looking forward to the forthcoming changes. These are likely to come into effect early next year.

At Otari School we will always report in relation to the four levels of the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa that children are expected to progress through during their time at primary school. The standards/whanaketanga were based on these levels, therefore we will also continue to utilise some of the resources and helpful tools that were developed, while welcoming the move away from the rigidity, prescriptive nature and over emphasis on potentially harmful, mandated achievement labels.

ERO - We were expecting to be visited by the Education Review Office this year. It is very unlikely this is going to happen now; therefore we will await notification of when they are going to visit in 2018.

Children Leaving - We appreciate parents letting us know if children are leaving the school at the end of the year. This is helpful information as we plan for 2018.

Disco - The disco was a great success. Many thanks to our student councillors and a group of helpers. Special thanks to Jo Fullelove for her outstanding organisational skills.

Helpers' Morning Tea - It's that time of year again for the staff to thank all the wonderful helpers we have. If you have helped out with coaching, transporting, reading to children, mentoring, mending resources, sorting and helping in the classroom or numerous other ways, we would love to see you on Thursday 16 November at 10.30am, in the hall.

Wellington City Mission 'Pack The Bus' will be visiting the school on Thurs 23 November, 10.30am. It would be great if every family could donate something - they are collecting non-perishable items including Christmas items.

2018 Information

I have been putting my mind to the task of establishing classes for next year. As I explain in more detail below, there have been some extra challenges to work through. I have consulted with teachers and the Board before making final decisions that are in the best interests of the entire school.

Roll Growth - The main priority when establishing classes is ensuring there is enough space provided for all students. Due to very large cohorts in the Original strand (for example, 18 year 6 students) strong in-zone roll growth and a surge in Māori Immersion enrolments this has proved challenging. It is a positive sign that we are maintaining solid rolls in the Montessori and Original Strands and very welcome news that an increase in New Entrant enrolments means the Immersion Strand is starting the year in a strong position from which to continue to grow.

High Year 6 - 8 Original Strand numbers - In the Original Strand the year 6 - 8 bulge and the amount of new enrolments means 4 classes are still warranted. This has posed a problem, because since the Māori Immersion Strand has grown this year the smaller Pounamu classroom currently occupied by the Māori Immersion Strand will not be adequate for either the Original or Māori Immersion Strand.

A Temporary Solution - As a consequence the library is going to be relocated to Pounamu, including the surrounding space (foyer and teacher's room). The current library space, Te Whare Maire will be used as a classroom for a year, for the Original Strand. The Māori Immersion Strand will return to the three full sized classrooms in their block.

Moving the library space has been a last resort. It is not something anyone wanted to happen. It will involve considerable preparation and functional changes as a result.

Roll predictions indicate that Pounamu will be able to be used by the Original Strand again in 2019 and the library will return to its current space. For a year Te Whare Maire will be given a temporary name chosen by the teacher and children within the class.

Tōtara and Kererū Renovations - Tōtara and Kererū classrooms are having significant renovations. The two classes, comprising years 5 to 8, will be taught in the school hall for the first term. They might also be using the hall in the second term if the project takes longer than planned.

Lots of Moving! - All of the changes I have informed you of will involve classes moving this term. Kererū and Tōtara need to move their furniture and equipment to the hall and to the big blue container. The library has to move to Pounamu, Pounamu to Kaikōmako, Kaikōmako to Kākano and Kākano to the library. We have a busy last couple of weeks of term to look forward to! Your understanding and support would be appreciated during this

time. At various times classes will not be able to operate as they usually do. They might have more play times, participate in a variety of different activities, or be involved in helping with some shifting. If there are any parents who could also help then please let the class teacher know. We are still in the process of organising the classroom shifts; therefore more information will be forthcoming.

2018 Classes

Original Strand	Teacher	Year Levels
Kākano	Britta Martini	1 and 2
Temporary Classroom	Susan West	3 and 4
Kererū	Sacha Fell	5 and 6
Tōtara	Johanne Wicks	7 and 8
Māori Immersion Strand		
Kaikōmako	Lynette Franklin	1 and 2
Kōwhai	Glenise Ward (Whaea Kui)	3, 4, 5
Tūī	Api Nathan	6, 7, 8
Montessori Strand		
Pōhutukawa	Deborah Sorensen	1, 2, 3, 4, 5*
Ngaio	Sally Barraud	4*, 5, 6, 7, 8

* Some year 5 and 4 students who turn 9 during the year will move through to Ngaio from Pohutukawa

Te Taonga Horomata: Whakaata-pono. Virtue: Truthfulness

We do not allow others to have undue influence on our perceptions. We investigate the truth with our own eyes. Truth tells us that we are not here to live another's dream or to be all things to all people. We live by our own true nature.

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything" - Mark Twain

Upcoming Events Calendar:

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Trip to Wgtn Museum	Ker/Kai/Kow/Pou	Wed 8 Nov	\$5
Immunisations	Yr 8s	Tues 14 Nov	
Helpers Morning Tea	Helpers	Thurs 16 Nov, 10.30am	
NZ Playhouse 'Puss in Boots'	All students	Wed 22 Nov	\$4.50
Wgtn City Mission	Pack the Bus	Thurs 23 Nov, 10.30am	
School Fair	Everyone	Sat 25 Nov, 3-7pm	
Yr 8 Outing	Yr 8s	Tues 5 Dec	TBC
Yr 8 Dinner	Yr 8s	Thurs 7 Dec	TBC
Yr 8 Farewell	Yr 7 & 8 & Parents	Thurs 14 Dec, 6pm	
Carol Singing	Everyone	Fri 15 Dec, 11am	
End of term		Tues 19 Dec, 12noon	

Have a good week everyone. A reminder that the term finishes on Tuesday 19 December at 12noon.

Ngā mihi nui Clifford



Countdown to the Fair

Only 3 weeks to go!

Find us on facebook 'Te Kura o Ōtari Twilight Fair' - Please Like and Share.

Flyers: A flyer will be coming home this week with the newsletter for you to put in your car window or on a local noticeboard or at your workplace.

Stall Helpers: Please go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz, and enter the event code [3q9mq](#) to choose the time slots that best suit you. If you have graduates of Ōtari in the family who would like to help, then please sign them up through this system too.

Donations can be dropped off every morning from Monday to Friday between 8.30 and 9am. **Also Mon 13th Nov @7pm**

Donations of **good quality, clean and preferably pre-sorted** for the following stalls: **Toys-Clothes-Books-White Elephant**

Cake Stall: The week before the fair one child per family will come home with a cake box. Every family is requested to return this to school filled with cake stall goodies – cakes, muffins, biscuits etc. Please list all ingredients too. If you prefer you can swap the box for cellophane bags at the office. Any queries please contact Sally at sallyeyre@outlook.com. I'm happy to share recipes or make suggestions.

It's time to go potty! All and any seedlings and plants needed for the fair. Lots of garden and salad favourites wanted. Plant stall coordinator Kyla is happy to collect your growings on Fri 24th Nov or morning of 25th, just email kylaorr1@gmail.com or text 021 049 763.

Can you help with any of the following: Do you have a waffle maker, slow cooker or rice maker that you are happy to loan on the day? Contact: jofullelove@gmail.com

Lemons Wanted: Ngaio class is setting up a lemonade stand at the fair. If you have any lemons to donate, we'd be happy to have them in week 6. Drop at the office or Ngaio class.