

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

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20 September 2016

Issue 28, Week 9, Term 3

Nau mai, haere mai ki te Kura o Otari

Speech Contests: Tomorrow, 11:15am in the school hall. Classes are holding speech contests. There are two contests, Te Reo Māori and English. Tomorrow the finalists will compete. There will be 3 finalists from Totara class, three from Ngaio class and up to 6 finalists from the Māori Immersion strand. Parents are welcome.

PMP Equipment - Is there a parent/caregiver with a big car who would be able to transport the PMP equipment from Cardinal McKeefry school to Otari on Thursday or Friday? Please advise Britta if you can help (britta@otari.school.nz).

Netball Uniforms - Please return cleaned netball skirts and tops to the office before the end of term. Many thanks.

School T-shirts - Please return any yellow school t-shirts to the office.

Calendar Orders - Last chance to order calendars! Please have orders to the office by Friday morning at the latest.

Electronic Equipment - Many of our older students enjoy taking electrical/electronic equipment apart for extension activities. Therefore, we need an ongoing supply of suitable devices - the older the better as they have more working parts. Items such as old cassette players, car stereos, video/dvd players and record players are perfect. Printers and hard drives/laptops and also fine. Please chop off the power cable and drop off at school. Any queries, contact Steve steve@otari.school.nz 027 364 5234.

Term 3 finishes on Friday at 2.55pm. Enjoy the holidays everyone. See you back here on Monday 10 October.

Ngā mihi nui
Clifford

Term 3 Board Update

Hi all

The Board has had a busy term. We met twice this term for formal meetings with a smaller group of trustees meeting on a number of other occasions to discuss the policy framework (more on that below). Here are the key issues we discussed:

- **Financials:** You will have seen Clifford's letter sent last week regarding the Ministry funding for next year. The school has limited sources of funding; it's either the Ministry of Education, charitable donations or the school community. Like most state schools we seek voluntary donations from every family. We keep the level of the contribution relatively low to encourage greater contribution but unfortunately we still appear to have the lowest level of participation in the western zone school area. I am curious why this is. Please email me on caft@kitsbury.com if you have any thoughts on how we can change this and thus enable the Board to more effectively address funding issues. For those families who have not paid, please consider paying your donation. Talk to Jillian about payment arrangements or, if you can't remember whether you have paid or not. In my last update from the Board I asked for volunteers to help the Board with seeking community grants. I didn't get any takers but would love it if someone could put their hand up to help the Board with this (use the same email as above to get in contact).
- **Policies:** The Board has responsibility for setting the policy framework for the school. We have many policies and procedures that have been developed over time but the Board has agreed that it is necessary to update the policies and procedures to more appropriately reflect current best practice. This will be a reasonable sized project for the Board to undertake but it is necessary to prepare us for the future. As part of this we will be making a number of the policies available on the website so the school community have easier access to them.
- **Health & Safety:** You may be aware that the health and safety legislation has changed this year. As trustees we have obligations regarding this so we are improving our reporting so that we know what areas to focus on. We have to balance the fact we are a school full of marvellous unpredictable risk taking children with our duties. This is something we are always thinking about.
- **Property:** This term we reviewed the five year property plan for the school. The Ministry are prescriptive about how funding for property is spent. Once the plan is finalised (we need the Ministry to agree) we will let the school community know about the property refurbishment programme for the next 5 years.
- **Roll:** As mentioned in Clifford's letter about 2017 staffing the Board is committed to growing the Immersion Strand roll. This term the Board met with representatives of the Immersion Strand who are implementing a wide ranging programme to grow numbers. This is a great initiative, which we are supporting.
- **Waharoa:** For as long as I have been on the Board we have been talking about the refurbishment of the Waharoa. It is fantastic that this has finally come to pass and the new Waharoa has been unveiled. Thanks to all the people involved in that project.

I hope everyone has a great holiday. I will be back next term with an update.

Catherine
Chair

Community Notices:

'Top Tips' For Learning - A workshop for parents, teachers and teacher aides of primary school aged children aged 5-8 years. Are you concerned about how your child or student: Plays with others and makes friends? Listens and concentrates? Follows instructions? Communicates what they want to say? Manages their emotions? Participates in groups? Tolerates sensations and focuses attention? Coordinates their body or uses a pencil?

Come along and find out practical tips in this evening session facilitated by an occupational therapist and speech-language therapist. Tuesday 1st November, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, ASB Centre, Kilbirnie, Whataitai meeting room. Cost: \$20 per person. RSVP: 25th October via email below (spaces limited).

Kimberley West, Occupational Therapist, kim@kidsconnect.co.nz. Amanda White, Speech and Language Therapist, amandawhitespeechtherapy@gmail.com

Would you like your child to learn Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language? Want to learn along with your child? (Yes! parents are welcome in our classes too!) Ni Hao Children's community provide classes after school on Tuesdays at Northland Memorial Community Centre, 3.20pm. It is an interactive class and we definitely don't sit at desks! Please visit www.nihaocc.org.nz for more info or to enrol online for Term 4.

After school art class, Term 4 starting 11th October, Tuesdays, Karori Community Centre, 3.30-4.45pm. Class includes a broad range of processes and materials; painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking. Charged per term, \$15 per class. All materials included. Register by 23rd September. Contact Rebecca for a programme: 027 303 7113 or becca.hasselman@gmail.com.

Capital E's Shu Song visits Prefab - Delight your children and yourself with a theatre show at Prefab combined with a drink and food before or after. Shu's Song is Capital E's latest show for young children to spark their imaginations. Visit capitale.org.nz for more information. Tickets \$12.50. Shu's Chews available at Prefab cafe.

Karori Amateur Athletics Club - For more information including details on online registration, visit the website: www.karoriathletics.org.nz.

Fair - Sunday 16 October 11am – 2pm. St. Benedict's School, 50 Nicholson Road, Khandallah. Come along and enjoy an afternoon where there is something for everyone: Toys, Clothing, a variety of food including an ethnic food stall, sweets, cakes, a café, White Elephant, Craft, tombola, silent Auctions, books and a kids zone including a photo booth, chocolate trailer, sumo wrestling, a bouncy castle and so much more.

At the Karori Recreation Centre we offer a wide range of programmes for school-aged children including Gymnastics, Karate, Squash, Parkour, Basketball clinics, Miniball and Basketball leagues and a School Holiday Programme. For more information or to book please check out the Karori Recreation Centre's website, or contact our friendly staff on (04) 476 8090 or karori.rec@wcc.govt.nz.

Calling all budding film buffs! These school holidays Staglands will be running a cool new competition to see who can make the best video at Staglands! The video can be about anything you like – just as long as it is filmed at Staglands! It doesn't matter either if it's shot using a professional camera or your smartphone – it's all about the ideas. The competition runs from Saturday 24 September to Sunday 9 October 2016. To enter you need to upload your video to Facebook, and use the hashtag #StaglandsSprogs. There are fantastic prizes on offer. Winner will be announced on Friday 14 October. Visit website for further details www.staglands.co.nz.

Aro Valley Meet the Candidates - Monday 19 September 7-9pm. You are invited to the best and not to be missed Meet the Candidates event in Wellington at Aro Valley Community Centre - 48 Aro Street, Monday 19 September 7.00pm sharp. Doors will be open from 6.30pm.



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