

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

Phone: 475-3018

Email: [office@otari.school.nz](mailto: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

**Christchurch Mosque Attacks** - Most parents will have read the comments and information I posted /emailed concerning the horrific attacks on Linwood Mosque and Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch on Friday. It is worth reiterating these sentiments and information in our newsletter.

**To Our Muslim Community** - Our first thoughts are with all those directly affected by this act of terror and with our own Muslim community at Otari School. We cherish our Muslim children and their families. Please know you are in our thoughts and in our prayers, as are your brothers and sisters in Christchurch and throughout NZ. We send our heartfelt aroha to you all. Whanaungatanga is our defining value at Te Kura o Otari. We hope you feel that sense of connection, community and relationship as the days and weeks progress.

**Our Approach** - There may be parents wondering what approach we take in relation to any discussion about the in terror attack in Christchurch.

We will not be talking about this as a whole school except in relation to the minute's silence happening nationwide on Friday. (However this will follow the approach I expand upon below). There are young children and we don't want to inadvertently feed anxiety. Any anxiety they already feel will best be reduced through normal routines. Having the athletic sports yesterday was a great way to enjoy being together as a school.

Good advice is if the subject comes up, to acknowledge that a very bad thing happened, to talk about the work nurses and doctors do saving lives and the great work police do, and to avoid discussing details about the incident or the person responsible. Teachers are taking this approach, especially with the young children. It is in line with the Ministry of Education advice.

The following advice in Stuff for parents is also in line with our approach:

"Parents wrestling with how to explain the Christchurch mosque massacre to their children should tell them they're safe, but be honest that something bad has happened. Clinical psychologist Dr Sarb Johal said that when it came to dealing with tragedy, children took cues from their parents. "Kids need to be told 'you're safe, we're safe, something bad has happened and there are people out there helping'," Johal said. "Adults need to give them a sense of calm and safety and as much information as they ask for."

Our focus at Otari School is to foster a sense of calm and safety. This will be prioritised over giving information.

**Colour Your Day** – We received the email below from 24-7 Youthwork. Otari School will be supporting this initiative. Any donations parents wish to give can be sent to the office.

*Please let me start this email acknowledging all our Christchurch teachers and staff for all they did on Friday for our children and their students. Thank you also to everyone around the country for the support you have shown to our Muslim communities and to the people of Christchurch. One of the questions so many of us have asked ourselves is: **what can we do?***

*In collaboration with the Christchurch City Council, 24-7YW has planned a response - a way of demonstrating our love and support for all that have been impacted by Friday's events. On Friday 22 March we are encouraging every school throughout the country, as well as community groups and businesses, to come together for a campaign called **Colour Your Day**. We will wear bright, happy colours, have a minute of silence at 1:40pm and donate towards the Mayoral Fund called, 'Our People, Our City'.*

*Please note - the Canterbury Primary Principal's Association has been in contact with Muslim advisors through the MOE. They have advised that the wearing of red is the least culturally appropriate colour from the perspective of the Muslim community. By wearing bright, happy colours, we will be showing our support for our Muslim communities and the people of Christchurch.*

**Western Zone Football** – This morning we found out that a mistake had been made with regards to the WZ Football date. We thought this was happening next week however due to a change in date, that we were unaware of, the event was on today. We made the decision to quickly organise the players and walk them down to the park. This decision was made because to not participate would have left the other schools without opponents. We apologise for this mistake.

**Athletic Sports** - The children had a great time at the athletic sports yesterday. We had to start late due to safety concerns about the very wet grass. Thank you to our parents who helped out on the day (especially at the sprints!) and also to the Year 8 sports leaders/monitors who did a great job managing their teams. We didn't quite finish high jump and the year 7 and 8 students didn't get to do the discus event, therefore these will be completed this week and results of the sports will be published in next week's newsletter.

**Lateness to School** - There are some children who arrive at school too late, too often. It is concerning if a child is regularly late for school. They miss the start of the day when teachers greet the children, call the roll and communicate important messages. Most children do not like arriving late and it can increase anxiety and affect learning outcomes. Please have children at school by 8:55am.

**Māori Immersion Strand - Whānau Hui** - Wednesday 20 March. Shared Kai from 5.30pm, hui to start 6pm in Kaikōmako.

**Swimming Lessons** – There will be an extra lesson for Yr 1 & 2s on the last day of term, 12 April to make up for the missed one last week.

**Well done** to all the children who participated in last Thursdays Weetbix Tryathlon on behalf of Otari School. Thanks also to Lou Hannagan for coordinating our involvement.

**Sports Monitors** – We missed a name of the list last week. Sam Elton will also be supporting Sacha with sporting activities.

**World Down Syndrome Day** is on Thursday. To participate, please wear colourful socks!

**Marae Visits** – Next week, junior classes are going to Ngā Hau e Whā o Paparāangi marae in Newlands. The Immersion classes will be going on Tuesday and the Original/Montessori classes will go on Thursday. More details will be sent home.

***Te Taonga Horomata: Aaro-nui. Virtue: Consideration***

*Consideration is giving careful thought to the needs of others. It is also holding a decision in a contemplative and thoughtful way. We mindfully consider what will result from our choices before we act. We speak with gentleness and tact. We care about others and their feelings.*

*"Let them at all times concern themselves with doing a kindly thing for one of their fellows; offering to someone love, consideration, thoughtful help." Abdu'l-Baha*

**Upcoming Events Calendar:**

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Visit to Marae	Kaikōmako/Kōwahi	Tues 26 Mar	
Visit to Marae	Kākāriki/Kākano/Pōhutukawa	Thurs 28 Mar	
Vision Testing	Yr 7s & New Entrants	Mon 1 Apr	
Futsal Tournament	Selected Yr 5-8 Students	Tues 2 Apr	\$5
Futsal Tournament	Yr 4 Students	Thurs 4 Apr	\$5
Yr 3 Sports Festival	Yr 3s	Tues 9 Apr, pp 11 Apr	\$3

Have a good week everyone.

Ngā mihi nui Clifford

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

**Northland Kidz Club Holiday Programme** – Every day, we're out-and-about exploring the Wellington area. We'll be ice-skating, swimming, go-karting and playing mini-golf, going to kids theatre productions & playing laser tag, not to mention seeing original cartoons and films at "Time Cinema". In between, we'll be playing at parks and beaches. \$45 per child per day (third child onwards :\$20), 8.30am to 6pm each day. For details, check out our website ([www.nkc.org.nz](http://www.nkc.org.nz)) or contact Jan on cell (022-140-2612), e-mail ([nkc.jan@gmail.com](mailto:nkc.jan@gmail.com)).

**Kelly Club April Holiday Programme** – Wests Rugby Clubrooms, Ian Galloway Park, Wilton. Kelly Club Holiday Programmes focus on giving children aged between 5 and 13 the opportunity to do things they enjoy in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment. The programmes are packed with activities to entertain and inspire children. We have some exciting days planned: Flip Out!, Wellington Zoo, Nigel Kennedy the Magician, Laser Force and lots more! **LOTS MORE EVENTS** – For full details/enrol into our programmes: visit [www.kellysports.co.nz](http://www.kellysports.co.nz) email [adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz) or call 04 972 7201.

**Karori West Normal School Fair**, Saturday 6th April 11.00am – 2.00pm. Activities for the kids (big and small) - rides, games, pet show. Great raffles & auctions, including a kids themed raffle, and a New Zealand made raffle. Keep an eye on our FB page for the awesome pre fair Trade Me auctions we have lined up.

**BubbleBall Football** - Come play Bumper Ball Football at the Karori West Normal School Fair on the 6 April. We'll be kicking it all off at 11.00am and will have a demonstration game at 11.30am, with KWNS teachers facing off against some likely politicians! (Grant "Crusher" Robertson, "Nimble" Nicola Willis, Justin "Laser Strike" Lester and Andy "Faster" Foster). Once you've witnessed this titanic struggle for ball supremacy on the pitch, line up to put on a giant bubble and have a go at playing Bumper Ball football - and all the crazy bumping, rolling and flipping over this entails! \$5 per player for 5 mins, 3 players per team. SEE YOU THERE! For more information: [www.facebook.com/KaroriWestNormalSchoolFair](http://www.facebook.com/KaroriWestNormalSchoolFair). Bubble Ball: [www.facebook.com/BumperBallWellington/](http://www.facebook.com/BumperBallWellington/)