

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

2 September 2025

Week 8, Term 3

What's Going On? - Events and Activities at Ōtari School

- Today: Floorball Tournament.
- Wed: Goodtime Music lessons.
- Fri: Day of Play. Sausage Sizzle. Splat!



Kia ora koutou

Ngā mihi mō ngā mahi whakahirahira! Thank you for all your important work!

Last night was the final board meeting for four board members who are resigning. We are most grateful for their hard work and the significant contribution each has made to the governance of our kura.

Antony Dixon and Catherine Wilson have been very engaged and supportive board members. Their expertise, interest and thoughtful contributions to many issues have been of real benefit to our school community. They have represented their strands very well while remaining committed to the aspirations and needs of the entire school. Antony's work in property and Cat's in finances, have been most appreciated! We have all thoroughly enjoyed working with them both and wish them all the best for the future.

We also acknowledge Britta Martini for stepping up and fulfilling the role of staff representative so well. We have appreciated her commitment to this role. The staff can be assured they have been well represented throughout the term of her time on the board.

Finally our heartfelt thanks go to Natasha Kuka. She has steered the board with a steady hand through times of calm as well as through some pretty turbulent waters! I have been most fortunate to work with such a dedicated, professional and experienced leader. The school community as well as my own school management have benefitted from her wisdom and authentic care and interest. We thank her for all her sterling work as board chair and for her wonderful support and guidance, especially through the covid era and on a personal as well as professional level, during the very challenging time our whānau and the school went through in 2023. During Natasha's time on the board she was able to keep the interests of the Māori Immersion Strand well represented whilst also ensuring the needs of the whole school were appropriately prioritised. Natasha has been an outstanding board chair and will be very missed. Again we wish her all the very best for the future.



Looking Ahead To 2026 – Understandably, whānau are interested in what classes will look like next year. The school receives confirmation of staffing next term. Staffing is dependent on roll size and is calculated on the predicted roll. Once this staffing is confirmed I can make definite plans and also confirm classes for 2026. While it is wise to wait until next term before making these definite plans I think it will be helpful to let people know now what we are hoping to achieve in relation to staffing and classes for 2026.

Initially we thought the Original Strand roll was going to be significantly less than it was at the start of this year. It now appears this is not going to be the case. Both the Māori Immersion roll and the Original Strand roll will likely be around 80. We do not want the year 7 and 8 Immersion strand class in the hall and we also no longer see three classes in the Original strand as a viable option. Despite our efforts with the MOE over the last two years we are not going to get a new classroom any time soon. We have therefore decided to create a Māori Immersion New Entrant class in the current library space. This has operated successfully as a New Entrant class space in the past and can accommodate up to 15 students. The library will be dismantled and moved to the hall and the hall will be both a community meeting space and a library. This will take careful planning and use of furniture so that it can still be used for hui space and for After School Care. However, as long as the majority of floor space is available (or can be made easily available with mobile shelving) we can create a very welcoming library space in the hall. We can also effectively create a whenu Māori reception class focussed on the needs of our youngest tamariki. The current library area was originally built as a classroom space and operated as such for a number of years. It was called “Pounamu” at the time.

This idea was suggested by senior staff in both strands. It has been favourably supported by the rest of the teaching staff. It means the Māori Immersion Strand stay together in one building, both strands retain 4 classes and we do not have classes up around 30 or more. I am hopeful we will retain the same staffing levels, however will await our entitlement notice before finalising all staffing levels within each strand.

The Montessori Strand will retain their two classrooms. It also has a very healthy roll in both rooms.

Please contact me or your strand leader should you have any concerns or questions. I have shared this information so that our parent community know what we are intending to achieve for 2026. I will confirm definite plans next term.

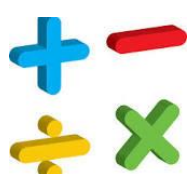
2026 Term Dates – The Board have approved the term dates for 2026. 2 Teacher Only days will be added once the dates have been confirmed.



	2026 Term Dates		Public Holidays
Term 1	Tues 3 Feb	Thurs 2 Apr	Waitangi Day: Fri 6 Feb
Term 2	Mon 20 Apr	Fri 3 July	ANZAC Day: Mon 27 Apr King's Birthday: Mon 1 Jun
Term 3	Mon 20 Jul	Fri 25 Sept	
Term 4	Mon 12 Oct	Tues 15 Dec	Labour Weekend: Mon 26 Oct

Sausage Sizzle - This Friday, Tōtara Class will be running a school sausage sizzle on behalf of the student committee. We are raising funds for the school library and to purchase new P.E. equipment, including a new Kī o Rahi set. The sausage sizzle will take place on Friday lunchtime, under the shade sail. Sausages will be \$3 each or \$5 with a drink. Vegetarian option will be available. Your support and contributions are greatly appreciated—thank you!



 **Mathswell** - Congratulations to the two teams from Ōtari School who competed in the Mathswell competition on Tuesday 19 August. Mathswell is an annual event run by the Wellington Maths Association, involving teams from schools across the Wellington region. Our Year 5–6 team placed 4th in the plate section and our Year 7–8 team placed 7th in the plate section.

Year 5-6 Team: Ella Hiscoke, Joshua Hiscoke, Robin Maher, Fergus Shaw, Grace Cottier, Scott McWilliam.
Year 7-8 Team: Milo Biddington, Sam Hemopo, Harper Shaw, Mahalia Milner, Allysa Santos, Taran Jones.

School Photos – A reminder that ordering closes on 7 September.
<https://www.schoolmemories.co.nz/order/>



Board Election – Voting closes on 10 September at 4.00pm; get your votes in before then.

Hāngī – The Māori Immersion Strand is running a hāngī fundraiser alongside the St Brigid’s Kapa Haka Festival. Pre-order your hāngī pack for \$20 (vegetarian option also available). Pick-up is from 12pm, Saturday 13 September at Newlands College. The hāngī will be cooked in-ground that morning at a local marae by a volunteer team. Pre-order here before Friday 5 September: <https://forms.gle/Vm8nxCLbyjxVLk6F6>

Hangi



Birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Taika and Arihia. Rā whānau ki a kōrua! We hope you all have a great day.

Taonga Horomata / Virtues: Honour / Honore

Honour is living with a sense of respect for what you believe is right.
 It is living by the virtues showing great respect for yourself,
 other people and the rules you live by.



“Honour is purchased by the deeds we do”. *Christopher Marlowe*



Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Sausage Sizzle	All Students	Fri 5 Sept	\$3 / \$5
Day of Play	All Students	Fri 5 Sept	
WZ Swimming	Selected Students	Trip 16 Sept	\$4.00
St Brigid’s Kapa Haka Festival	Immersion Strand	Sat 13 Sept	
Trip to Wgtn Museum / Te Papa	Tūi / Kaikōmako	Tues 16 Sept	\$6.00
Trip to Wgtn Museum / Te Papa	Huia / Kowhai	Wed 17 Sept	\$6.00

Have a good week everyone.

Ngā mihi
 Clifford



Update: Breakthrough Parent Event Rescheduled. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Breakthrough Parent Event, originally planned for September 14th, 2025, has been rescheduled to 2026. This event, designed to empower and equip parents with high-performance strategies to support their children’s success, will return stronger and more impactful. Further details will be shared in the lead-up to the new date. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to welcoming parents in 2026. We appreciate your ongoing partnership and will provide updated materials and assets in advance of the new schedule. Should you have any questions or wish to explore deeper involvement with the 2026 event, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Maria van Zoomeren, Chief Operations Officer, 027 387 7562.



KARORI KINDERGARTEN

PRE-LOVED KIDS CLOTHING SALE

SATURDAY 6TH,
SEPTEMBER 2025
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM



CLOTHING
BOOKS
FURNITURE
TOYS
SHOES

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
EFTPOS
AVAILABLE



Try CIRCUS This School Holiday

Sept 22 - Oct 3

THE CIRCUS HUB

- ✓ Aerials
- ✓ Tumbling
- ✓ Balancing
- ✓ Juggling
- ✓ and more ...

ages 5 - 15
no experience necessary

Book online now at circus.org.nz



Skylight Trust

Matika

Register now!

Free Eight-Session Bereavement
Programme for Tamariki aged
6-12 years old

Term 4 2025 Wellington
Term 1 2026 Lower Hutt
Term 2 2026 Wellington
Term 3 2026 Porirua
Term 4 2026 Kapiti

All enquiries welcome!

Register your interest: programmes@skylight.org.nz

Session Overview

Matika offers an opportunity for children who have lost someone close to them to connect with peers in a supportive environment. Together, they explore the emotions of grief, learn coping strategies, and discover ways to maintain a connection with the departed loved one. Throughout the eight sessions, tamariki learn to name emotions they may have encountered during their grief. At the beginning of every session the tamariki are asked to identify two different feelings they currently feel reinforcing the practice of naming their emotional state. They also learn to acknowledge that big and overwhelming feelings are okay and there are things that they can do to help put themselves back in control of how they feel. The tamariki educate each other about 'what helps me' to practically work through these big feelings and express them in a healthy way; e.g., breathing, talking to someone you trust, thinking happy thoughts, having a treat etc., reinforcing the practice of tapping into their internal or external resources.

Session #	Topic	Activity
Session 1	My group	Memory heart/stone
Session 2	My feelings	Feeling biscuits Feelings friend
Session 3	My feelings	Exploding coke bottle
Session 4	My super power	T-3-1 bagring/bracelet
Session 5	My story	Storyboard
Session 6	My wonders & worries	3 W's game (worry, wonder & wacky activity) Worry pet
Session 7	My memories	Sharing of special items Memory box
Session 8	My future hopes	Future pillowcase Message of hope
Matika Celebration		



Overnight Respite Care

*A break for parents and caregivers for some well needed rest and relaxation

*For established Pride Lands families already using other Pride Lands services

*In home and off site overnight care so your cubs are safe, happy and content

4 – 17 y.o.

We cater for both
Neurotypical and
Neurodivergent
young people



04 9072225

info@PRIDELANDS.co.nz

www.PRIDELANDS.co.nz

SPLAT

Movie Star Holiday Programme

★ 22.09.25 - 26.09.25

★ Houghton Valley
Community Hall

★ Create your own
movie and play a
whole bunch of games!

For more info visit splatnz.com





2025/26 SEASON REGISTRATIONS OPEN

U7 T-ball
U9 Mini Pitch
U11 Rookie Sox
U13 - U17 Softball



About Us

Johnsonville Junior Softball is a lively, community-oriented programme offering a path from fun introductory play at U7 right through to competitive junior grades up to U17. The club emphasises enjoyment, skill-building, fairness, and inclusion in every grade. Whether you're new to the sport or hoping to find a welcoming and fun environment for your child, it's all about nurturing a lifelong love of softball.

Why play softball?

Softball is fun, fast, inclusive and packed with transferable skills! It helps kids stay active, build confidence, learn teamwork, and make friends — all while being part of a supportive family and community club.

Junior Pre Season Training for New and Existing Players - All Welcome



When:

Saturday 27th September
Saturday 4th October
Saturday 11 October



Where:

Newlands Intermediate School
Bracken Road Newlands



Time:

U7, U9 and U11 10am - 11am
U13, U15 and U17 11am - 12pm



Why:

Sitting on the fence? come have some fun, learn some new skills and meet new people

Email : Johnsonvillejuniorsoftball@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/jvillescjuniors/



[johnsonville.softball](https://www.instagram.com/johnsonville.softball)

Kidz Stuff

Theatre for Children Inc
Presents:

“BOX OF BIRDS”

'A puppet show for ages 4 to 9 years with live music and the magical wonder of puppetry, about our precious native birds and the importance of our connection to nature'

Hailed as "the cutest little show in Aotearoa" (Hamilton Arts Festival 2024), award-winning theatre company Birdlife Productions have created this gorgeous theatre show designed especially for ages 4 to 9 years, including exquisite puppetry, live interactive songs, projection and the teaching of a waiata, this work reflects our transformative connection to nature. Peter is reluctant to stay with nanna in the school holidays because she lives in the country and doesn't have a TV but Nanna finds ways to engage Peter in her love of the forest, especially the precious manu, when they build a nesting box for Ruru together. Peter is excited to see if Ruru will make her home in the box, waiting patiently while many other birds arrive to check out the box first! And after all that waiting, Nanna takes Peter on an exciting night time forest walk to find Ruru - in the dark! The bird characters are all familiar New Zealand locals, such as piwakawaka, kereru, tui and ruru, and the story highlights the importance of supporting them and the different needs they may have. Teachers and Parents have been ecstatic about this show and hundreds of New Zealand children have been transfixed by it.

As quoted by Theatreview: "This is truly a New Zealand show for New Zealand children and all those young-at-heart".

Welcome to the world of Birdlife Productions, where the power of puppetry, music and a great story bring wonderment to children's lives. In this high-tech fast-paced digital world, children need a counter to 'screen time' that allows space in 'real-time' to watch, listen and reflect. Birdlife Productions are a small New Zealand-based partnership with a passion for taking high quality work to New Zealand children to enrich their lives and inspire the Creatives of the future! Their speciality is making live puppet theatre that uses a 'handmade' aesthetic, both sophisticated yet accessible, where the (apparent) simplicity of their craft creates space for magic to happen! Come and enjoy!

When: 22nd – 26th September 2025

Monday – Saturday 10am

Tickets \$15.00 pp, Children under 2 Free

\$7 Special Preview, Saturday 20th September 2025

Bookings: www.kidzstufftheatre.co.nz

Contact: Amalia Calder

027 271 7351 / kidzstuffnz@gmail.com

Media Release: For Immediate Release



SEPTEMBER

Holiday Heroes

WEEK 1: IT'S BEATLES WEEK

OVER 3 FUN-FILLED DAYS, PICK YOUR INSTRUMENT (DRUMS, GUITAR/UKULELE, OR KEYBOARD) AND LEARN MAGICAL BEATLES HITS! WRAP IT UP WITH A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR PARENTS ON THE LAST DAY! NO MUSIC EXPERIENCE NEEDED

3 DAY WORKSHOP: \$199.00
9.00AM - 4.00PM

EARLY START: \$10
8.30AM - 9.00AM

FOR 6 YEARS
& OVER

TUES 23 SEP

Welcome & introduction games
Choose your instrument for the next 3 days
Start rocking out to Beatles hits!

WED 24 SEP

Keep learning and perfecting your Beatles song
Enjoy plenty of breaks with our fun games

THU 25 SEP

Final practice and polish
Perform your song at a special show for parents at 3:15 pm

PLUS COOL GAMES TO BURN OFF SOME STEAM;
BASKETBALL!
AIR HOCKEY!
ARCADES!
FOOSBALL!

• Goodtime Music Academy, Lower Hutt

WWW.GOODTIMEMUSICACADEMY.CO.NZ/HOLIDAY-PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

Holiday Heroes

WEEK 2: IT'S NZ MUSIC WEEK

OVER 3 FUN-FILLED DAYS, PICK YOUR INSTRUMENT (DRUMS, GUITAR/UKULELE, OR KEYBOARD) AND LEARN COOL KIWI HITS! WRAP IT UP WITH A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR PARENTS ON THE LAST DAY! NO MUSIC EXPERIENCE NEEDED

3 DAY WORKSHOP: \$199.00
9.00AM - 4.00PM

EARLY START: \$10
8.30AM - 9.00AM

FOR 6 YEARS
& OVER

TUES 30 SEP

Welcome & introduction games
Choose your instrument for the next 3 days
Start rocking out to NZ hits!

WED 1 OCT

Keep learning and perfecting your NZ music songs
Enjoy plenty of breaks with our fun games

THU 2 OCT

Final practice and polish
Perform your song at a special show for parents at 3:15 pm

PLUS COOL GAMES TO BURN OFF SOME STEAM;
BASKETBALL!
AIR HOCKEY!
ARCADES!
FOOSBALL!

• Goodtime Music Academy, Lower Hutt

WWW.GOODTIMEMUSICACADEMY.CO.NZ/HOLIDAY-PROGRAMME