

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

8 December 2020

Week 9, Term 4

Kia ora koutou



One week to go and it is certainly a busy one, with a board meeting, auditor's visit, Year 8 dinner, outing and farewell, various class end of year activities and reports being printed, signed and sent out by Friday! Just to make things more interesting, I found out on Monday I would need to shift out of my office while some roof repair is carried out.

Therefore, I am working in the community room. Jillian and I are currently attending to our various end of year tasks to the soothing sound of drilling and sawing! I asked the children at hui on Monday what virtues they thought we'd need for the last week – patience, flexibility and kindness were suggested among others – very apt!



Year 8 Farewell - Wednesday 9 December at 6pm. Tomorrow we farewell our year 8 students. All year 7 and 8 students are expected to attend this and whānau of year 7 and 8 students are invited. This is a special occasion as we recognise the contribution of our year 8 students and they acknowledge those who have been a part of their primary school journey. Please ensure students are at school by **5.45pm**. All children are expected to wait until the end of the evening. A lot of time and rehearsal has gone into this occasion and it would be a shame for them to leave before the final performance.



Our Kids Online - Parents and staff who attended the presentation by Rob and Zareen Cope found the evening informative, confronting and highly valuable. The school will be receiving a copy of the documentary, *Our Kids Online*, and will provide a viewing of this next year for interested parents. There is more information and some very helpful resources on the *Our Kids Online* website.

Documentary & Resources for Parents, Caregivers, Teachers & Professionals to help educate and keep kids safer online can be found at <https://www.ourkidsonline.info/>

Teacher Only Days 2021 - The school is having three teacher only days next year. These are days that the teachers and most other staff, come to school and work on planning, reporting or undertake professional learning. We have placed each of our days before a long weekend as this might provide an opportunity for a longer break for some families. Our three teacher only days are:

- Thursday 1 April (Before Easter)
- Friday 4 June (Before Queen's Birthday Weekend)
- Friday 22 October (Before Labour Weekend)





Two Board Members Resigning - Early next year two of our current board members will be resigning, John Capper and Ngahuia Foremen. Both have been very involved and engaged board members, actively participating in school projects, finance and personnel responsibilities. Their expertise and commitment has been most appreciated and of benefit and we take this opportunity to thank them and wish them both all the best for future endeavours. John's children will now both be at secondary school and Ngahuia and her whānau are moving home to Taupo. We wish them both all the best for future endeavours and thank them for all their valuable contribution to the governance of Otari School.

Carols in the Hall - On Friday between 11am and 12noon we will be singing carols. This will involve Clifford, the piano, the children, parents, grandparents and community members who wish to join us singing a variety of familiar carols. Everyone is welcome to adorn themselves with whatever celebratory finery they wish.



Interested in being a board member? The forthcoming resignations will be filled through a by-election. The positions will be open to anyone who wishes to stand, however we will be particularly keen to see representation from the Original strand. Please think about this opportunity to be involved in school governance. Further information will be provided in the future.

CodeClub - This week was the last CodeClub for this year so there will be none next week. A big thank you to our parent volunteers Morgan Jones and Tim Rastall without whom we would not be able to run CodeClub.



Garden Watering – Is there anyone who would be keen to water our garden over the holidays? Please email Jillian if you can help. (office@otari.school.nz)

Using the Field – We need to keep our wonderful new field clear of leaves and rubbish to ensure it stays in good condition. If you are here over the holidays, it would be great if the kids could run around and clear the leaves/rubbish away.



School T- Shirts – Please ensure all school t-shirts are returned by the end of the term.



One week to go.... This is the final newsletter of the year. It has been a long and somewhat challenging year but also one that fostered resilience, flexibility perseverance and creativity, bringing some unexpected benefits. We were concerned about increased anxiety this year, however our children showed us that they are adaptable, positive and capable within changing circumstances. They showed us how to be and their optimistic energy was a much needed antidote to the stress and pressure that we adults felt at times.

We end the year in a positive position. We are fully staffed, are enjoying our new field, have a revamped and operational garden area and future projects planned. We have sustained good overall academic achievement and most of all, we see happy and engaged children, many of whom have had outstanding successes this year. We have much to be thankful for and look forward to 2021 and all that it may bring. Until then, on behalf of the staff, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a sunny summer, a relaxing restful break and a happy and prosperous new year!

Kia tau te rangimārie ki runga i a koutou katoa. (Let the peace settle upon you all)

Ngā mihi nui

Clifford



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



**What's
Happening**

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Yr 8 Dinner	Yr 8s	Tues 8 Dec)
Yr 8 Celebration	Yr 7/8s and whānau of Yr 8 students	Wed 9 Dec)\$30
Yr 8 Outing	Yr 8s	Thurs 10 Dec)

Reminder that school finishes next **Tuesday at 12 noon.**

Ngā mihi

Clifford

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

The Marrzipan Drama Holiday Workshop is back by popular demand and is running from Monday 18 January 2021 to Friday 22 January 2021 at the awesome Aro Valley Community Centre. Students will devise their own play from scratch, create characters, direct each other, design the

set, bring in costumes and get to perform to family and friends at the end of the final day! As well as having fun, the children develop confidence and public speaking ability, in a fun, relaxed environment. Past workshops have been a great hit, see last year's video for yourself:

[Marrzipan Holiday Workshop Video](#)

Spaces are limited to 14 per group so get in quick! Book now or give us a call if you have any questions. See you there!

Wellington- https://marrzipandrama.co.nz/holiday-workshops/?utm_source=dec-2020&utm_medium=school-newsletter&utm_campaign=wellington

Community Carols - Saturday 5pm - Northland Community Centre. You are warmly invited to the Northland-Wilton Community Carols at 5.00-5.45pm on Saturday 12 December at the Northland Community Centre (5 Woburn Road) followed by a sausage sizzle, mulled wine and Christmas treats. Christmas costume welcome! Questions to catherine.r.mcintosh@gmail.com

Codecamp Holiday Programme - Is your 7-12 year old into gaming, coding or robotics? CodeCamp are offering our popular Summer Programme over 3 weeks of the January holidays. Come and join our fun & engaging coding + STEM lessons!

11 - 15th Jan // 18th - 22nd Jan // 26th - 28th Jan 202. 9am to 3pm, late pickup available. Hobson Room, Queen Margaret College. Discount codes: SIB for 6% off Siblings

Enrol or see more here: <https://codecamp.co.nz/thorndon-holiday/>

For any questions, you can reach out to admin@codecamp.co.nz

Fergs Adventure Club: Summer Holiday Programme 2021 - Here at Fergs' Kayaks our Adventure Club Summer Holiday Programme offers a number of different experiences in one fun package, from Rock Climbing to Kayaking and Stand up Paddleboarding! The Adventure Club Summer Holiday Programme runs weekly from Monday- Friday, January 11th- 29th. The programme is for ages 8-17 and is designed to be multifaceted in Rock Climbing, Kayaking and Stand-up Paddleboarding. The programme will be inclusive for all activities, or you may choose the activity that suits your child best. Prices start at \$200. For more information or to register interest, please email Hope at Saleswn@fergskayaks.co.nz.

St Ninian's Karori invites you to

Lighten Up!



Hey kids! Find joy, hope and fun this Christmas

Take part in our special children's event:
nativity play, Christmas party,
lighting the tree, gifts and more!

Sunday 13 Dec
10am - 1pm

Call 476 7137 or email
stnup@xtra.co.nz to reserve your
spot at the party

Please note that the children are
expected to attend two rehearsals

