

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

14 December 2021

Week 9, Term 4

**Reminder: Terms ends tomorrow at 12noon**

## ***Kia ora koutou***

Happy Birthday - Ra whanau ki a koe .... Paige Brooker (Kākāriki), Alyssa Guarino (Kererū), Ataaria Peita (Tuī) and Tamatoa Bulkeley (Kaikōmako))



We hope you had, are having or will have - a wonderful day!

A very happy birthday to all children who have birthdays over the Christmas break. We hope you all enjoy your special day.



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**Year 8** - Last night we held our Year 8 farewell. Thank you to all those who supported this special event. Our Year 8 students shone as they presented speeches about their time at Otari School and expressed their gratitude to their parents and teachers.

**Farewell to a dedicated colleague** - It is with sadness that I received news from Kathy Heath that she would not be returning to her position of Reading Recovery Teacher at Otari School. Kathy was mentioned in speeches by a couple of our year 8 students last night and one particularly literate student expressed his deep gratitude for her teaching and the Reading Recovery intervention that transformed his learning at school. Kathy is a strong advocate for Reading Recovery and a skilled teacher of the strategies that have enabled millions of children around the world to read. Kathy has had a long affiliation with Otari School, having taught here as a beginning teacher many years ago. She returned to Otari School in 2005 and has been responsible for altering the learning trajectory of scores of students. The gratitude of parents and classroom teachers for the work Kathy has done cannot be overstated. Kathy experienced joy in her work. She is an expert and her knowledge of literacy intervention strategies, including "Storymaker" has benefitted children and teachers. Kathy will be missed for all of this, but most of all for the enthusiasm she expressed for her work and the delight she took in each child's progress.



We look forward to a time in the future when we can properly farewell Kathy. In the meantime we wish Kathy a most deservedly happy retirement in which she can enjoy more time with her husband John, her children, her grandchildren and her friends.



**Library** - It has been great to see students taking up the offer of Summer Borrowing. Their books will need to be returned on 2 February. Merry Christmas from Johanne and Hilary!

Thank you to everyone who collected Yummy Fruit stickers during the year. We have earned \$511 worth of free sporting goods.



**Time for a break!** The school year is nearly over. Tomorrow the children will go home to enjoy their holidays. I am also looking forward to some time away - and some time out! No doubt many of you are feeling the same way and hopefully will be looking forward to rest and relaxation at some stage during the summer break. For me it will be time at home, long walks, good books, local beaches, entertaining movies and the odd jaunt to a café or two!

Eventually (in January) I will start thinking about 2022, the plans we have for teaching and learning, for property and for staff development. We are looking forward to a settled and well planned year. Science and maths are strong foci next year. Our integrated learning is planned around two themes: Water and Urban Environment. We hope to do more EOTC next year, however we are still learning about the traffic light system and what this will entail for us. That is something we know we are going to have to navigate going forward.

For now though, it is enough to just focus on getting to midday tomorrow - and the preparations leading up to Christmas! To those families and students who are leaving our school, we wish you all the very best for your new schools and school communities. To all those returning we look forward to seeing you on February 1. Until then, I wish you a joyful Christmas with whānau and friends and the blessing of a restful summer break.

Mere Kirihimemte, ngā mihi o te wa - kia pai ngā harerei

Ngā mihi Clifford



## 2022 Term Dates

**Teacher Only Days: 14 Apr, Fri 3 June, Fri 19 August**

Term Start	Term End	Public Holidays
Tues 1 Feb	Wed 13 Apr Thurs 14 Apr - TOD	Waitangi Day: Mon 7 Feb
Mon 2 May	Fri 8 Jul	Queen's Birthday: Mon 6 June Matariki: Fri 24 June
Mon 25 Jul	Fri 30 Sept	
Mon 17 Oct	Wed 14 Dec	Labour Weekend: Mon 24 Oct

Upcoming

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Need some ideas for the Christmas holidays? We have our Marrzipan Drama Holiday Workshop: **When?** Monday 17 Jan-Friday 21 Jan. **Where?** Wgtn Cadet Centre. **Time?** 9.30am-4pm (Teachers will be there from 8.30am-5pm at no additional cost). **Cost?** \$65 per session. 5 days of games, making characters, creating a play, filming trailers and a whole bunch more. With 3 Marrzipan teachers, there is plenty of weirdness to go around! Can't make all 5 days? That's cool! You can mix and match any days you like. Sign up at: <https://enrolmy.com/marrzipan-wellington/book-now/321-Marrzipan-Holiday-Workshop---Wellington---January>. Feel free to get in contact with Josh if you have any other questions on: 022 436 5608 OR [wellington@marrzipandrama.co.nz](mailto:wellington@marrzipandrama.co.nz)



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