



Te Kura o Otari  
Otari School

News

*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

Welcome to a new staff member, Rebecca McKenzie-Pollock. Rebecca will be working in Kākāriki.

**Picnic at Scorching Bay Cancelled** - With the endless summer we have been enjoying it is hard to believe we picked one of the rainiest weeks for a picnic! Scorching it will not be if we went tomorrow! We have decided to actually cancel the Scorching Bay picnic due to the many other activities on our school radar. However, all is not lost - we will have a school picnic later in the term at Aotea Lagoon. We have picked Thursday 29 March for this (the day before Good Friday).

**ERO Review** - ERO visited the school last week. They reviewed the governance, management, teaching and learning. A particular focus was on how well the school is catering for 'priority learners' - those students who need extra support to reach the expected curriculum levels. The Board received positive feedback about many of the areas reviewed and also areas for further development. A draft report will be provided in about four weeks, then the Board has an opportunity to respond. After this the report is made public.

The Board was happy for ERO to meet with parents, however this was not part of their review process this time. They met with the Board to begin the review. ERO also met with all the teachers for a session on assessment, appraisal and well being. They spent considerable time talking to me. A lot of time was also spent on analysing and reviewing documentation. ERO did spend a short time in classrooms and spoke to some children.

**Complaints Process** - The Board have revised the complaints process. This will be on our school website and visible in the office reception area by the end of this week.

**Children After School** - Children are welcome to stay after school and play if **their parents are at the school too**. Otherwise they must go home or be in after school care. We have had to talk to a few children who have been in the school grounds unsupervised, after school. There are two options at Otari School, our own Otari After School Care and Pridelands After School Care.



## **Festivals and Celebrations: Chinese New Year -**

At this time of year we often have students learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year. The start of the lunar year begins in February, and millions of people across the world have been gathering with family, getting out the firecrackers and celebrating the Chinese New Year.

February 16 denoted the beginning of the Year of the Dog, defined by the Chinese zodiac cycle. The day is traditionally marked with the giving of gifts and celebrations with family, as well as looking to what the sign of the Dog will mean for the year ahead. Celebrations will last until March 2nd - about 15 days in total - making this the longest holiday in the Chinese calendar, with one sixth of the world celebrating it. It is also the largest annual use of fireworks on the planet! Guo Nian Hao! - Pass the New Year well!

**Travel Assistance from Kelburn** - We are very fortunate to have a Mandarin Language Assistant, Liu Fei, at Otari School this year who will be working with children in Tōtara, Kererū, Kākāriki and Pōhutakawa classrooms. Fei is staying in Kelburn and will be at Otari School on Wednesday's. She needs a ride to and from the school each week. If anyone is able to assist with transport for Fei please contact Sacha ([sacha@otari.school.nz](mailto:sacha@otari.school.nz)).

**Emergency Form** - Please ensure an updated Emergency form is returned to the office as soon as possible.

### ***Te Taonga Horomata: Puaki-tika. Virtue: Assertiveness***

*Assertiveness is speaking one's truth with peaceful confidence. It is discerning the song we were given to sing and using our talents as a gift to the world. We have the courage to speak up for what we believe is right. We tell the truth about what is just. Assertiveness comes from knowing our own worth, and honouring the dignity of who we are.*

*'Being assertive does not mean attacking or ignoring others feelings. It means that you are willing to hold up for yourself fairly - without attacking others'. Albert Ellis*

### **Upcoming Events Calendar:**

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Swimming	Yr 1/2 students	Fridays 16/3 - 13/4	\$70
Technology	Yr 7/8 students	22, 23 Mar, 5,6,12,13 Apr	\$50
Vision Testing		Thurs 22 Feb	
Board Meeting		Mon 26 Feb	
WZ Cricket	Selected students	Tues 27 Feb pp 1/4	
School Athletics	Everyone	Wed 7 Mar	
Yr 3 Sports Festival	Yr 3s	Tues 13 Mar	
WZ Football	Selected students	Tues 20 Mar	
Picnic at Aotea Lagoon	Everyone	Thurs 29 Mar	\$5

Have a good week everyone.

Ngā mihi nui  
Clifford

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

**Onslow Junior Football Club** -. Registrations in First Kicks remain open until Sunday March 11th. To register please go to our website: <http://onslow.org.nz/registration>. Remember to include the name of any friends you would like to play alongside and your school on your registration.

**Massey University – Important Child Asthma Study** 8-18 year olds **with** or **without** asthma. For further info about your child being part of the research please contact Jean Feary McKenzie **0800 080 078** or [asthma@massey.ac.nz](mailto:asthma@massey.ac.nz).

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### **School Picnic**

- ☐ Enclosed is \$5 for \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the picnic.
- ☐ Deduct \$5 from my activity account for \_\_\_\_\_ to attend.
- ☐ Yes, I can parent help: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_