



Te Kura o Otari
Otari School

News

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

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7 February 2019

Issue 1, Week 1, Term 1

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the 2019 school year. We are all very pleased to be back. I hope you all managed to have some quality holiday time over the break. Johanne and I had a wonderful time in the UK and Ireland. Although we experienced a relatively mild UK Winter we are certainly appreciating the NZ summer sun!

Building Projects: Tōtara and Kererū whānau - I had expected to come back to a construction site, however yet again factors beyond our control have delayed the two building projects we are undertaking this year. I am hopeful all the necessary components for both projects (roofing and classroom) will be finalised very soon. In the meantime Johanne and Sacha have been very busy collaborating on their learning programmes and turning the hall into a very welcoming and attractive learning environment for the 49 children under their care. The hall will be a classroom for longer than originally planned. As the projects have not started yet, we will use Kereru and Totara as extra spaces for art, music, assemblies, After School Care and meeting spaces for the first term.

We all share the disappointment Original Strand parents feel about the lack of progress with the classroom refurbishment and understand there may be concerns related to this. I want to encourage all parents to visit the temporary year 5 to 8 classroom. It is set up and operating as an innovative learning environment, providing Sacha and Johanne with an opportunity to collaborate effectively before moving into classrooms later in the year that will also have flexible spaces and promote a collaborative approach. They have done a fabulous job over the past couple of weeks – in fact the space they have created has elicited some envy from their colleagues! (They'd all like a large deck and a kitchen attached to their rooms!) Regardless of this, parents may still have concerns. This is understandable, so please feel free to come and talk to me or Johanne and Sacha about any matter you want clarification on, or you may like to visit the room or chat with us at the meet and greet evening.

This year we have three spaces in the school catering for year 5 to 8 students, which makes some of our syndicate wide activities a lot easier to manage.

Meet and Greet Evenings - I encourage all parents to attend the meet and greet afternoons each strand will be hosting over the next couple of weeks.

We have a number of new students and whānau to welcome to Otari School. Nau mai haere mai ki:

Paige Brooker
Baileigh Sidney Waru Latu
Te Rangihouhiri Foreman
Ezra White
Evan Charles
Amber Vere-Jones

Kākano
Kākano
Kōwhai
Kōwhai
Pōhutukawa
Pōhutukawa

Eleanor Fouhy
Azarlah Sidney-Waru
Hamish Hurley
Frank Dixon
Teo Vere-Jones

Kākano
Kākāriki
Kōwhai
Pōhutukawa
Pōhutukawa

We welcome back all other staff. Welcome also to our new student teacher, Anya Macdonald, working in Kākano.

Staffing for 2019 Below is a list of all the staff and their roles:

Clifford Wicks , Principal	Susan West , Teacher (Kākāriki), SENCO, Original Strand leader
Api Nathan , Teacher (Kaikōmako) Deputy Principal, Immersion Strand Leader	Johanne Wicks , Teacher (Tōtara) and Library Management
Britta Martini , Teacher (Kākano),	Deborah Sorensen , Teacher (Pōhutukawa) Montessori Strand leader,
Lynette Franklin , Teacher (Kōwhai)	Sacha Fell , Teacher (Kererū)
Glenise Ward , Teacher (Tūi)	Sally Barraud , Teacher (Ngaio)
Shani Leda , Support Teacher (Kākano)	Cilla Noblett , CRT (Immersion)
Christine Dowell , Teacher (Kākāriki)	Kathy Heath , Reading Recovery Teacher
Jenny Price , Specialist Teacher	Paula Crisp , Support Teacher (Montessori)
Hanna Randall , Specialist Teacher	Nichole Craig , Support Teacher (Orig/Imm)
Jillian Wilson , Office Manager	Alan Ward , Caretaker
Parekohai Wells , Kaiarahi-i te-Reo	Katrina Murray , Teaching Assistant
Sandi McKenzie-Edwards , Teacher Aide	Emile Guy , Teacher Aide
Catherine Rees , Teaching Assistant	Jo Fullelove , Teacher Aide
Rebecca MacKenzie-Pollock , Teacher Aide	Deanne Grigsby , IT Support
Hilary Eats , Librarian	Alison Dyer , Accounts Service Provider
Mike Heath , Volunteer	

School Picnic We are starting our EOTC week with a picnic at Aotea Lagoon on **Monday 25 February**. This is an opportunity for strands to get together and enjoy a relaxing day with the children celebrating our whanaungatanga and the start of the new school year. Parent help with some supervision is appreciated (please see the slip at the end of the newsletter.) We will leave school at 9.30am and return by 2.30pm. All whānau are encouraged to come and enjoy the day. All children are to travel by bus with parents making their own way there. **The cost for the day is \$5.00 per child.**

Technology for Year 7 and 8s begins week 3. For technology, Year 7 and 8s are taken by bus, leaving school at **8.40am**, to the Technology Centre at Karori West School. Clifford will be the teacher accompanying them. Children take their morning tea with them, as they don't return to Otari until lunchtime. If your child misses the bus, please take them to Karori West yourself. **The cost for each student for Technology for the year is \$50.00 payable to Otari School.**

Swimming Lessons – Swimming for our Year 1 & 2 students begins on Friday 16 February. Information has been sent home regarding this. **Cost is \$45 payable to Otari School.** We need lots of parent help to assist with changing clothes so if you are able to help please email Britta at britta@otari.school.nz. We will require help every week for 8 weeks but even if you can only help one or two weeks, that would be great.

Flowers And Leaves will be needed for the junior syndicate to make sand saucers for the Wadestown/Wilton Horticultural Summer show on Saturday 16 February. Please deliver to junior classes next Friday (15 Feb) morning. Please raid your gardens for anything you can spare. Many thanks.

Lost Property - Please make sure you name your child's clothing! This is very helpful if items are left around the school.

Parent Donation – A voluntary donation of \$250 per family is asked of families. This can be paid as a one off lump sum payment or during the year.

Classroom Consumables – As shown on the stationery list students are required to pay \$10 to cover classroom consumables for the year. A donation of \$10 for photocopying/printing/photography would also be appreciated.

Code Club – The Otari School Code Club will be starting back up on Monday 4 March. New members are very welcome and we look forward to seeing members from last year attend again. If your child is interested in doing Code Club, please email Sacha at sacha@otari.school.nz.

Here are a few reminders, especially for our new parents:

Issues and Concerns – We appreciate parents coming and talking to us when they have a concern. It is best to go to the teacher first if your concern is related to the classroom. For other concerns it may be appropriate to talk to a strand leader (Deborah, Api or Susan) or the Principal. We want to address an issue as quickly as possible rather than have you dwelling on a matter.

Emails can also be an appropriate means of communicating and sometimes can be quickly addressed. However, nothing beats a conversation if you are really worried about something.

School begins at 8.55am. We finish at 2.55pm.

Hats are compulsory in terms one and four. If children do not have a hat they must stay in the shade. The hats must have a brim that covers ears and neck. Caps are not suitable.

Absent Children - If your child is going to be absent from school please either send a text to 022-561-3368, ring (475-3018) or send an email (office@otari.school.nz) before 8.55am stating why your child is away.

Lunches – We have three choices:

- Sushi is available on Tuesdays, ordered online at <http://www.ezlunch.co.nz>
- Pita Pit is available on Thursdays, ordered online at www.lunchonline.co.nz
- Hell Pizza is available on Fridays. Order slips can be found at the office (\$5 each).

Driveway - Parents are asked to refrain from parking at the bottom of the driveway between 8.15 – 9.30am and 2.45 – 3.30pm. Parents are to 'drop and go' only. Please do not park up or down the drive and leave your car. The Otari Bush Reserve (around the corner) is available for temporary parking, or park on Wilton Road. Please be considerate of the residents who live in Shropshire Avenue and not park over their driveways.

Cookies are sold from the office at morning tea for \$1.30.

School Closure - Should the school need to be closed due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. bad weather) the following will occur:

- A closure notice will go on The Breeze and Newstalk ZB radio stations.
- A closure notice will go on our facebook page.
- A closure notice will go on the school web page. (Make sure you use the refresh button to get up-to-date information.)

Maths Buddy – Otari Yr 3-8 students have been using the Maths Buddy programme, an online teaching and learning programme that supports their maths learning. We have been pleased to see the benefits that Maths Buddy has provided for students, teachers and parents. The benefits to students are:

- Rewinding, fast forwarding and repeating the lesson, as needed
- Stopping, reflecting, asking questions and absorbing the content in their own time
- Being able to revise and catch up on missed work easily, with the whole of the NZ Mathematics curriculum (years 1-13) available to them
- Having access to help anytime, anywhere and on any device ie computer, iPad and other tablets and electronic devices.

For parents, the benefits include being able to:

- Have immediate access to the same information about your child's progress as the teacher
- Receive weekly reports on your child's progress
- Be fully involved in the Mathematics education and progress of your child

In order to receive the benefits of the programme the cost will be \$25 per student for the entire year.

We are asking parents to support the programme by contributing \$14.00. This will give access to the programme from anywhere, at any time and on any device. We have signed up all Year 3-8 students.

Below is a table of some key events and dates:

TERM 1

Technology for Yr 7 & 8s (**22, 23 Mar, 5, 6, 12, 13 Apr**)

Swimming for Yr 1 & 2s (**15, 22 Feb, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Mar, 5 Apr**)

Wed 14 Feb: Yr 7/8 Immunisation Talk

Tues 19 Feb: Camp Meeting, 6pm

Mon 25 Feb: School picnic at Aotea Lagoon, Porirua

Tues 26/2 – 1/3: School Camp for Yr 7/8

TBC: School Athletics

Fri 12 Apr: End of term

TERM 4

Wed 11 Dec: Yr 8 Dinner

Fri 13 Dec: Yr 8 Farewell

Tues 17 Dec: Yr 8 Outing

Te Taonga Horomata: Our focus virtue is Respect/whakaute

Respect is an attitude of honouring ourselves and others as people of value. We care for each person's dignity. Everyone has the right to expect respect. We show respect in the courtesy of our words, and in our tone of voice.

Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.

The weekly newsletter will go back to coming home on Tuesdays, from next week. Have a great weekend everyone.

Ngā mihi
Clifford

Extra-curricular lessons at Otari:

- **KELLY SPORTS TERM 1** - Kelly Sports will be back in Term 1 with their fun and exciting classes. Kelly Sports encourages children to have fun, build confidence and to give sport a go. We believe that sport and physical activity has so much to offer young people; it improves fitness, develops communication skills, team work and gives them a place to channel their energy. **Back to School Sports! (Yrs 1-4)** – Wednesday Lunchtimes - Come and try **Circus Skills, Cricket, Football and Dodgeball**. It's a great way to try new sports, learn new skills and improve ability. We use games & drills to teach game sense and team play. Learn the fundamental skills for all sports – throwing, running, jumping, striking, balance and many more – all while having a great time! For full details and to enrol into our programmes visit www.kellysports.co.nz, email adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz or call 04 972 7201.
- **Keyboard Lessons** – Your child can learn how to play the keyboard at this school. The lessons are run during school hours and all ages are welcome! The Wellington Music Academy has been providing music lessons in the Wellington region for over 25 years. Our experienced and enthusiastic teachers will ensure all lessons are fun and appropriate for your child's level of musical development. Please contact the Music Academy at any time for more information and to book a place. 0272115077, email: admin@musicacademy.co.nz, online: www.musicacademy.co.nz.
- **Guitar Lessons** – Held during school hours. Contact Finn on 022-675-4490

Community Notices: (Please note these notices are passed on to us and are not necessarily an endorsement)

After School Yoga For Children With Bibi is continuing every Thursday from 3:20pm to 4:10pm. Suitable for ages 6 to 12. Term \$112 for 8 classes. Trial classes are an option \$10. "Teaching yoga to the youngest generation gives children an opportunity to grow a deeper connection to their body and mind. Yoga aids concentration and learning, increased strength and mobility and gives children tools to cope during challenging moments. For interest please email us at: BibiBibiWorld@gmail.com (please include your child's age and name) www.monkeyyoga-with-bibi.com

Your Parenting ACT - Parenting can be both a joy and very hard work! Your Parenting ACT is a 6 week course for parents of school aged children, that helps you parent in line with your own values. It uses principles from ACT — Acceptance and Commitment Therapy — to help you make room for all your thoughts and feelings, so you can respond flexibly as a parent. ACT uses acceptance, mindfulness and behavioural strategies to help people pursue what matters most to them, including being the parent they want to be. For more information and registrations:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/your-parenting-act-evening-february-2019-registration-51382406160>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/your-parenting-act-daytime-march-2019-registration-51382488406>

Sunshine Drama provides a creative and fun learning space for students aged 4 - 15 years of age. Sessions engage imaginative minds, grow confidence & build communication, performance and social skills. For 2019 class information or to arrange a free trial class, contact: Jenae 0274380533 or visit www.sunshinedrama.co.nz.

Raroa Music Centre Enrolments For 2019 - Raroa Music Centre offers Saturday morning group music lessons for primary school children at low cost. We still have availability for students in music basics, choir, recorder, ukulele, cello, clarinet, flute, drums, and orchestra. To enrol for 2019 visit our website at www.raroamusic.org.nz and enrol online. Enrolments close 9 February 2019.

Drama Club - After school Speech & Drama classes for children. I have small classes of approximately 5-7 students and all classes are grouped by similar age. Solo/group drama examinations are available for children of all ages. Please check the online class times for more details. Enrol your child at www.dramaclub.co.nz, or email Bridie at bridie@dramaclub.co.nz. 021 054 2593.

Term Dates 2018

Term 1: Thurs 7 Feb – Fri 12 April

Term 2: Mon 29 Apr – Fri 5 July (school closed Queens Birthday: Mon 3 June)

Term 3: Mon 22 July – Fri 27 Sept

Term 4: Mon 14 Oct – Fri 20 Dec (school closed: Labour weekend: 28 Oct)