

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

17 December 2019

Issue 40, Week 10, Term 4

Kia ora koutou

We are feeling like the term has gone for 1 week longer than perhaps is ideal for tired teachers, weary young ones and frazzled families! However, we will celebrate the season with carols in the hall tomorrow (11.30am) and enjoy a relaxed sing-a-long to inject enough festive cheer to carry us through to 12 noon on Friday and the beginning of summer holidays!

Tonight we have the Year 8 dinner. Our year 8 students did themselves proud on Friday night as they presented speeches to whānau and friends. This very special evening is a long standing tradition at Otari School and one that never fails to capture the essence of Te Kura o Otari as the tamariki recount their time here with eloquence, emotion, humour and appreciation. They are all successful young people and we wish them the very best for their future years at college. We will miss them. We will also miss those parents who are finishing their time as parents of our Otari School community. To them and to all parents of our year 8 students, we thank you for your support throughout the years and the valuable contributions you have made to the important educational partnership we have all been part of over the years. The following curriculum awards were presented:

Theo Dawson – Science	Stephanie Roberts - English
Sam Elton – Mathematics	Vita Lawson - English
Jessica Kohing – Mathematics	Kohurangi Jones – Te Reo Pakeha, Pāngarau
Ella Clements – Visual Arts	Tia Te Awa-Douglas – Te Reo Matatini
JayKwan Te Paiho – Sporting Achievement	James Fullelove - Te Reo Matatini, Pāngarau
Thomas Warburton – Key Competencies	Tera Retimanu - Te Reo Matatini, Overall Proficiency in Te Maraunga o Aotearoa

We also presented three Citizenship awards; the cup went jointly to Tia Te Awa-Douglas and Theo Dawson. James Fullelove was awarded the Citizenship plaque.

Recipients of the Wellington City Council Te Reo Awards are Tera Retimanu and JayKwan Te Paiho.

Reports from the Principal - I have created a folder called "Reports from the Principal" on our school website, under the main heading "Notices, Newsletters, Ngā Pānui". There are two reports in there: A year 7/8 survey on Leadership, Participation and Well-being and an evaluation of the 2019 Annual Plan.

Powhiri to start term 1, 2020 - The school will begin the year with a powhiri for all students starting school in the first term. This will begin at 9:15am. If any Otari whānau can provide food for this please bring it to the staffroom beforehand. All welcome.



Our garden area is getting a makeover! We have had a very generous offer from some of our parents to repair the fence around the garden, replace the wind break and build a new garden shed in the New Year which is very exciting! This project is going to be funded from some of the money raised through the school fair. The parents involved are very keen to support the gardening with easy-to-use and attractive facilities that pupils and tutors will be attracted to.

Children are grounded by connecting to the land. They build key virtues such as commitment, perseverance, cooperation and patience. Vege gardening teaches us where our food comes from and what is needed to grow it. It teaches us to look after the soil and the value of water.

Weather dependent, we are hoping to clear the weeds this week between the garden beds, around the fenceline and in the potting area. If you are able to lend a hand anytime this week, please let us know. We will also be setting a weekend aside in the New Year for this job and we will need as many hands on deck to help with this project. We'll email a date later.



Next year, Deborah is keen to hear from parents who will be willing to help in the school garden and also the kitchen, during term time with her, alongside the children. Please email Deborah at deborah@otari.school.nz to find out how you can help with the school garden in 2020.



Stationery – Stationery requirements for 2020 can be found via the front page of our website (www.otari.school.nz) or direct at <https://www.myschool.co.nz/otari>. You can either purchase the items through OfficeMax or print off the lists and purchase elsewhere. If you opt to purchase items elsewhere please ensure items are of good quality – cheap pencils do not last. Ensure books are exactly what the teacher has requested. If your child is moving classes, please purchase the stationery for the class that they were originally going to be in.

Te Taonga Horomata: Aaro-nui. Virtue: Consideration

We carefully observe their preferences and needs, then do things to give them ease or bring them joy. Consideration shines in small daily acts that add to the happiness of others. It is one of the most meaningful ways to show love. Considerate people give the very best gifts.

'Half the secret of getting along with people is consideration of their values; the other half is tolerance in one's own views.'

A reminder that the terms ends on Friday at 12noon. See you all back here on Monday 3 Feb.



Nga mihi o te kirihimete me te tau hou
Merry Christmas and happy new year!

Clifford and all the staff of Te Kura o Otari

2020 Term Dates

Term 1	Mon 3 Feb	Thurs 9 Apr
Term 2	Tues 28 Apr	Fri 3 Jul
Term 3	Mon 20 Jul	Fri 25 Sept
Term 4	Mon 12 Oct	Tues 15 Dec

Easter is in Term 1 Holidays: Fri 10, Mon 13, Tues 14 Apr

Anzac Day: Mon 27 Apr

Queen's Birthday: Mon 1 June (**Teacher Only day on Friday 29 May**)

Labour Weekend: Mon 26 Oct (**Teacher only day on Friday 23 Oct**)



Creative Workshop - If you still haven't found something to inspire your kids in late January and are interested in encouraging your child to explore & invent physically in 3 dimensions. I will be running a special workshop on Thursday, the 23rd of January, for children from 8 years, at a creative space in Marsden Village. For further information contact Philippa. Cellph: 021 890 248 or Email: creativespace167@xtra.co.nz

Raroa Music Centre 2020 Registration - 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, cello, clarinet, drums, flute, recorder, saxophone, ukulele, and violin. To enrol for 2020 visit our website and enrol online. Enrolments close 8 February 2020. <https://www.raroamusic.org.nz/>