



Te Kura o Otari
Otari School

News

Phone: 475-3018 Email: office@otari.school.nz
Our bank account is: Otari School Board of Trustees 060561-0017355-00

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Kia ora koutou

Welcome to a new child and his family: Makahapo Agi Morizono (Totara).

The children enjoyed another "Science Week" last week, participating in a range of science experiments and activities. Science learning has continued this week as students are treated to more fascinating science learning from Jacqui Horswell and her team from The Institute of Environmental Research.

Current class sizes, future class sizes and managing our roll - Thanks to the school enrolment scheme the school is able to manage the roll and the effects of this will start to be seen next year in the junior school. However, currently the Original and Montessori strands have large classes and it will be quite a few years before our large middle and senior classes become smaller. In fact, over the next few years there will continue to be large classes in Totara, Kereru, Ngaio and Pohutukawa. This is not due to any mis-management of the school roll. We were not able to turn anyone away until the zone came into effect in 2012, and even then the Board kept families together, believing (rightly) it was better to have siblings stay at the school, especially for those families who started children when there was no zone in place. Therefore, it has taken time for the effects of zoning to become visible and it will continue to be some time before the effects are felt in the middle and senior school.

As Principal, I try and allocate staffing and teaching spaces available to ensure children are well catered for. It is important that everyone understands the limitations the Principal and the Board operate within when managing the roll. The Ministry of Education allocate a particular number of teachers to the school based on a formula. This formula does not take into account the fact we have three strands. In most schools you would not have a senior class in one strand with 35 children and a senior class in another strand with 20 children, however, unlike most schools, we are limited in our ability to spread our students around due to our three strand structure.

The Ministry allow us to separately manage a special programme (Māori Immersion), however we are not permitted to only advertise spaces in Montessori or Original, and if one strand is full we must provide a place for any in-zone students who arrive, regardless of their strand preference, and also offer any available place within either strand to out of zone students selected through ballot, regardless of their strand preference.

Therefore, if a space becomes available in the Montessori strand and an out of zone Original strand seeking parent is next on the list, they are offered this place. These are the rules.

The large classes are due to our school roll increasing during a time when we had to enrol every child who wanted to come to our school. Between 2002 and 2012 our roll increased from approximately 150 to 230. This was due to more and more people wanting to come to our school. The latest round of applications for enrolment at Otari School show that there is still a significant amount of families living outside the zone who would like their children to start at Otari School. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in people moving into the zone to come to Otari School.

All of this does present challenges, however they are challenges we are addressing as well as we can. For a while, some teachers will continue to manage large classes and we will continue to provide enough space and teaching support to enable teaching programmes to be effectively implemented. While acknowledging all concerns about large classes, I am thankful we do not have the opposite problem of a drastically falling roll and a loss of staff. Our burgeoning roll indicates we are doing something right!

If we don't get enough enrolments in any strand, the staffing and funding is threatened. This is why, while we are potentially looking at having waiting lists in the Montessori and Original strands, in the Māori Immersion strand we are hoping to maintain the roll and attract more students this year, to ensure numbers stay healthy and maintain the three classes and staffing.

Managing a roll in any school is a challenge. At Otari School there are particular features that can make operating within the Ministry of Education legislation a somewhat stress inducing task! If you have any concerns related to all this information please talk to the appropriate people listed below:

- The school enrolment policy: Clifford or BOT members
- Managing classes and staffing: Clifford
- How any large class is being managed: Class teachers
- Your child's learning: Class teacher

Enrolment July 2015-July 2016 - A reminder that we are currently accepting enrolment applications for out of zone students starting school in terms 3 and 4 of 2015, or during 2016. All application forms must be returned to the school office by **Friday 15 May 2015, 12noon**.

Loud Shirt/Jumper day is this Friday (15th). We'd love the children to participate by wearing something outrageous & bringing a gold coin donation. Children might also want to bring some extra coins to purchase some yummy baking. See flyer.

Rumaki Reo ki Ōtari - An exciting new initiative to be launched soon, offering reo Māori classes at Te Kura o Ōtari, Thursday evenings, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, for all members of the Otari community. The emphasis will likely be conversational reo Māori, karakia, waiata, and anything else whānau are keen to learn. Interested? Contact Ananda Gotty on ananda.gotty@gmail.com or (022) 572 5702.

Entertainment Books – Books are now available. The book offers some great bargains to all sorts of places: LaserForce, PaintBall Corp, Daytona Raceway, Ten Pin Bowling, NZ Symphony Orchestra, NZ Opera, NZ Rugby Museum, Wgtn Phoenix, Staglands, local cinemas, heaps of bakeries, cafes, fine dining, DVD hire and McDonalds etc. Let Jillian know if you would like one or you can order it online at:

<http://www.entbook.co.nz/10455w7>.

Matariki 2015

Matariki is a time to acknowledge, commemorate and celebrate the year that has gone and the New Year to come. Matariki is a time to learn about your whānau and a time to remember those who have passed on from this world to the next. Matariki is a time for new beginnings, our Pacific New Year and a time for harvesting kai.....so to celebrate!

We invite you all to an evening concert celebration with kai, entertainment and whakawhanaungatanga on:

Thursday 25 June 2015, 5.30-7.30pm, Ōtari School Hall

Sausage Sizzle (gold coin donation)

Please bring a plate to share - kia kaitahi tātau!

Te Taonga Horomata: Mauri Tau. Our virtue is Contentment. Contentment allows us to experience satisfaction with what is. We are fully present in this moment. Being contented does not obstruct our dreams or thwart our purpose. It is a place to stand and view the future with a peaceful heart and gratitude for all that is all that is to come.

Upcoming Events Calendar:

Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Island Bay Marine Centre visit	Ngaio & Pohutukawa	Tues 19 May, 9.00am	\$5.00
Yr 3 Sports Festival	Yr 3s	Fri 29 May, 9.00am	
School Cross Country	Everyone	Wed 27 May, 1.00pm	
WZ Cross Country	Selected children	Tues 9 June	
School Photos		Wed 24 June	TBA

Have a great week everyone.

Ngā mihi nui
Clifford

"Whatever we are waiting for - peace of mind, contentment, grace, the inner awareness of simple abundance 0 it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it with an open and grateful heart.
Sarah Ban Breathnach

Separate Notice sent home recently: Junior Sports Festival - Yr 3s

College Enrolments -

Please make sure you go online to College websites for details for the Enrolment process. The Colleges no longer send home prospectus as they are all found on line:

Wellington Girls College - 14th May Wellington Girls 2016 Year 9 Information Meeting 3-4pm. The Prospectus is available online from www.wellington-girls.school.nz.

Onslow College - Otari Yr 8s will meet the Onslow college staff on Thursday 4 June at 1:30pm in the school hall. The Prospectus is available online from www.onslow.school.nz.

Opening Evening - Thursday 18 June. Classroom visits from 5pm, Welcome and Principal's presentation at 6.30pm.

Wellington College - The prospectus and enrolment information is available <http://www.wellington-college.school.nz/enrolment-information>. Open Morning Saturday 20th June at 10:15am in the College Hall.

Wellington High School - Open Evening for 2016 Enrolment. Monday 15 June at 6pm Riley Centre. www.whs.school.nz

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

Wā Ora Montessori High School and teachers of Kawakawa and Tāwari extend a warm invitation to all families to come to our High School Information Nights. These Information Nights are for everyone considering Wā Ora Montessori High School for their children. The first night will introduce the adolescent programme and how it works, the second will focus on how the programme works for the 15-18 year olds as they work with NCEA and prepare for university.

Adolescent Information Evening – Years 8-10, Wednesday 20th May 2015, 7.30pm, Kawakawa Classroom, 175 Rata Street, Naenae,

High School Information Evening – Years 11-13 - Wednesday 27th May 2015, 7.30pm, Tāwari Classroom, 175 Rata Street, Naenae

RSVP: Alison Spurgeon alisonrspurgeon@gmail.com Ph 9710722 or 0211586799 by Friday 15th May.

A message for customers of Karori Library – temporary Library closure. Karori Library is 10 years old this year and needs internal painting and maintenance. While this work is done, the Library will be temporarily closed between 9 – 25 May (inclusive) and our customers will not be able to issue or return books. We encourage you to visit and stock up on library items before we close and take advantage of our extended loan period offer, or visit any of our other branch libraries. A library staff member will be available at Karori Recreation Centre for enquiries and assistance 9.30am - 6pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am - 4pm Saturday. Reserves can also be collected from Karori Recreation Centre and will be held longer than usual. <http://wcl.govt.nz/about/branches/karori/whatson.html>

Step Family Success Workshop

Do you or your partner have children from a previous relationship? Discover how to help children adjust to blended family life and overcome common obstacles. You'll be inspired and equipped with practical strategies that really work. Don't miss out, numbers limited. Register now! Saturday 13th June, 9am to 4pm, Sapphire Consultants, 41C Bay St, Petone. Go to: www.blendedfamilyfocus.com/workshop email: adele@BlendedFamilyFocus.com Or phone/txt Adele: 021 404 742.

moveMprove (Pohutukawa, Kakano, Kaikomako) **Child's Name:** _____

\$ 5.00 cash enclosed

Deduct \$5.00 from my activity account

DONT FREEZE THIS FRIDAY (15th May)!!!
Here's your excuse to drag out your favourite
brightly coloured knitted jumper!

**It's loud
jumper/ loud
shirt day, wear
loud and proud
and keep warm.**

Gold coin donation please

The Montessori Strand and Preschool will have lots of
baking for sale in the school hall from 12.45pm. Bring
lots of change and come and support a great cause.

Raising money for the earthquake in NEPAL.

Please support this very worthy cause.