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NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Thursday 21st of September 2017 - Term 3, Week 9

Dear Parents & Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa.

2017 Agricultural Day and Flower Show - Friday 27th of October

At a recent assembly I asked for a show of hands of children who are either already caring for a calf, lamb or goat, or intending to bring an animal to show at our 2017 Ag and Flower Day. We had many hands, which is exciting to know that this event is well supported again.

The Ag and Flower Day is an important experience that can define the rural school experience for children. Children gain valuable lessons about life through raising a baby animal. These animals usually have a grassed, fenced paddock to live in and a shelter of some sort, or animal cover for calves. A lamb or goat can use a small shelter such as a dog kennel or an A frame shelter. There is a lot to know about keeping an animal and I'm sure members of our community with experience will be able to offer advice to any families new to raising an animal. All animals must be born after 1st July 2017 to be eligible.

For new families to our school, you would have seen or heard your children talking about the lambs being fed in the old chicken run. Many children have had the opportunity to be involved in feeding these animals at some stage, or visited them during break times. We have not had as many lambs and goats at school this year, which may be due to the weather conditions and daily animal drop offs (muddy creatures in cars!).

For those students who are really keen to do well, there is an information pack available on the rules for the Whangarei Group Calf Club. This helps you to prepare for Central Ag Day at Barge Park (to be held on Thursday 2nd of November). Please ask for a copy from Mr Brock. Our school event is slightly different in regards to the age levels for our pens.

I have sent an animal registration slip home with your children. Please register your animals, so that I can plan and order ribbons for the event.

2017 Otaika Valley School Ag Animal Registration

Name: _____ Year Level _____ Room _____

Animal (circle one): calf lamb goat

Return to Jen or Mr Brock

Of course, animals aren't the sole focus for our Ag and Flower Day. The class teachers have been busy working with the children on creating fantastic inside class exhibits, to help prepare for a very busy start to the term.

On the day, we start at 9:00am with the roll call, followed by all classrooms viewing everyone's exhibits (which the teachers have pre-judged the previous afternoon). All children with a calf, goat or lamb will look after their animals during this time. We normally have 3 animal rings to judge on leading, rearing and calling for lambs/goats. Ribbons are given out during judging while the school watches on. We normally have trailer rides (towed by a quad bike), horse and cart rides, a few Ag themed games on the field and other parent led activities.

During this time the PTG run food tents as a fundraiser and as a treat for the children. Again, I would like to acknowledge our strong group of parents who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to make this day a success. In a previous newsletter I discussed the good work of the PTG and a callout for volunteers with these types of days. We have a number of PTG parents who would be helping out in the food tent and will also want to watch their children with Ag Day Animals. Please help out our PTG parents in the food tent. Don't be shy! All help is appreciated. It would help those who have organized many events on behalf of others this year. Please let Jen or myself know in the office so we can pass on your details.

Father's Day Roast Night

Thank you to Zara Houliker and Alex de Vries who did a wonderful job organising and running this fundraiser. It was a great success and by the sounds a lot of fun!

A message from Zara and Alex...

Sunday 3rd of September was the Father's day fundraiser and overall was a really great night enjoyed by all. We had a fantastic turn out of our school representing families and we are grateful to you all for coming along and supporting the school! It was really awesome to see all the children out and enjoying themselves and behaving well within the RURU culture that our school promotes.

The entertainment that was generously put on by Matua Piripi and crew was enjoyed by all and I know this was a highlight for the kids also! So a massive thanks to all of you who were involved with that.

Although the night was more about community and family we still managed to raise \$730 from Spin the Wheel, meat raffles and the Gardener Family digging deep to win the auction of a brazier. We know you wanted this Ian and hope you are enjoying your well-deserved win! Thank you!

We had over 30 prizes donated to the school to supply gifts for our Spin the Wheel game and I think just about every table booked got a turn if not a prize! Thank you all for joining in in the fun we really hope you had a great night! We also wanted to especially mention that the help provided by each and every one of our school and non-school families/whanau at the end of the night, with packing up and clearing was really appreciated by Alex and me. Many hands make light work and you all got stuck in and it goes to show what an awesome culture of people we have within our school community 😊 Nga Mihi to you all.

So in no particular order a massive thank you to our sponsors!

- Mike Keeley
- Taihoa Oil
- Noodle Canteen
- Orrs Pharmacy
- KiwiYo
- World of Décor
- Otaika Valley Free Range Eggs
- Palmers Garden Centre
- Grind Café
- Means Vietnamese
- Onerahi Tavern
- MOTAT
- Pure Bar
- Refinery NZ
- ASB Whangarei

- Northland Rugby
- 10 Pin bowling Whangarei
- Megan Prime - Anytime Fitness
- Waipu Horse Adventures
- Zoom and Groom
- Croft Poles

Cheers Alex and Zara PTG

Peak Traffic Considerations

I had a member of the public complain about a traffic incident that occurred yesterday afternoon. Firstly, I do not represent the NZ Police Traffic Department, but I will give a gentle reminder about safety on the road around our school at peak times to keep our children safe.

The incident involved a south bound car that was on the bridge that had to stop for a parents'/community car that pulled out onto the bridge, and caused the south bound car to reverse off the bridge and wait on the side of the road. Naturally this caused tension between the two drivers. The complainant pointed out that south bound traffic has right of way because the north bound markings on Loop Road require traffic to give way for traffic on the bridge.

The implications for our community are that:

1. we sit between these two points on a side road which, I interpret from my road rule understanding, vehicles from Valley View Road need to give way; and
2. I also know that the visibility from that intersection is challenging with a large Totara tree blocking visibility to the north on Loop Road. I have pulled out and vehicles arrive at the bridge quickly.

To sum it up...please remain patient for the short window of peak traffic at drop off times. We are challenged, but it isn't Auckland, and I am sure we can all endeavor to make it work.

This is a timely reminder leading into the Board's work around parking and congestion.

Parking / Road Safety

"Hi Parents, Guardians, Grandparents and Children of Otaika Valley School, As you may be aware, the Board and Management of the school believe that the parking shortage at the school during peak times has now become a serious safety issue for you and your children. This has been mentioned for some time and I believe can be partially directly related to the success and exponential growth in our school over the past 3 to 5 years. The budget has been approved by the Board.

A subcommittee has been engaging with WDC to see what can be done to create extra car parks at school, increase visibility on the blind corners and reducing the speed past the school to name a few. We are now in the final stages of firming up quotes to create an internal staff carpark behind the pool towards Loop Road. This will free up 6-8 parks for pick up and drop off of children outside the hall. Please see below the plan for this staff carpark. If you have any questions, comments or feedback please direct them to Terry in the first instance and if he cannot provide an answer, he can point you in the right direction. The area proposed for a staff carpark is currently difficult to supervise as it is hidden from the office and close to the road. Therefore, we have made this out of bounds during break times. Fencing this area and making it off limits for children will also increase their safety in the future. Parent help is welcome

when clearing the site and re-fencing. So, if you have those skills sets please let Terry know, so he can pass it on the subcommittee.

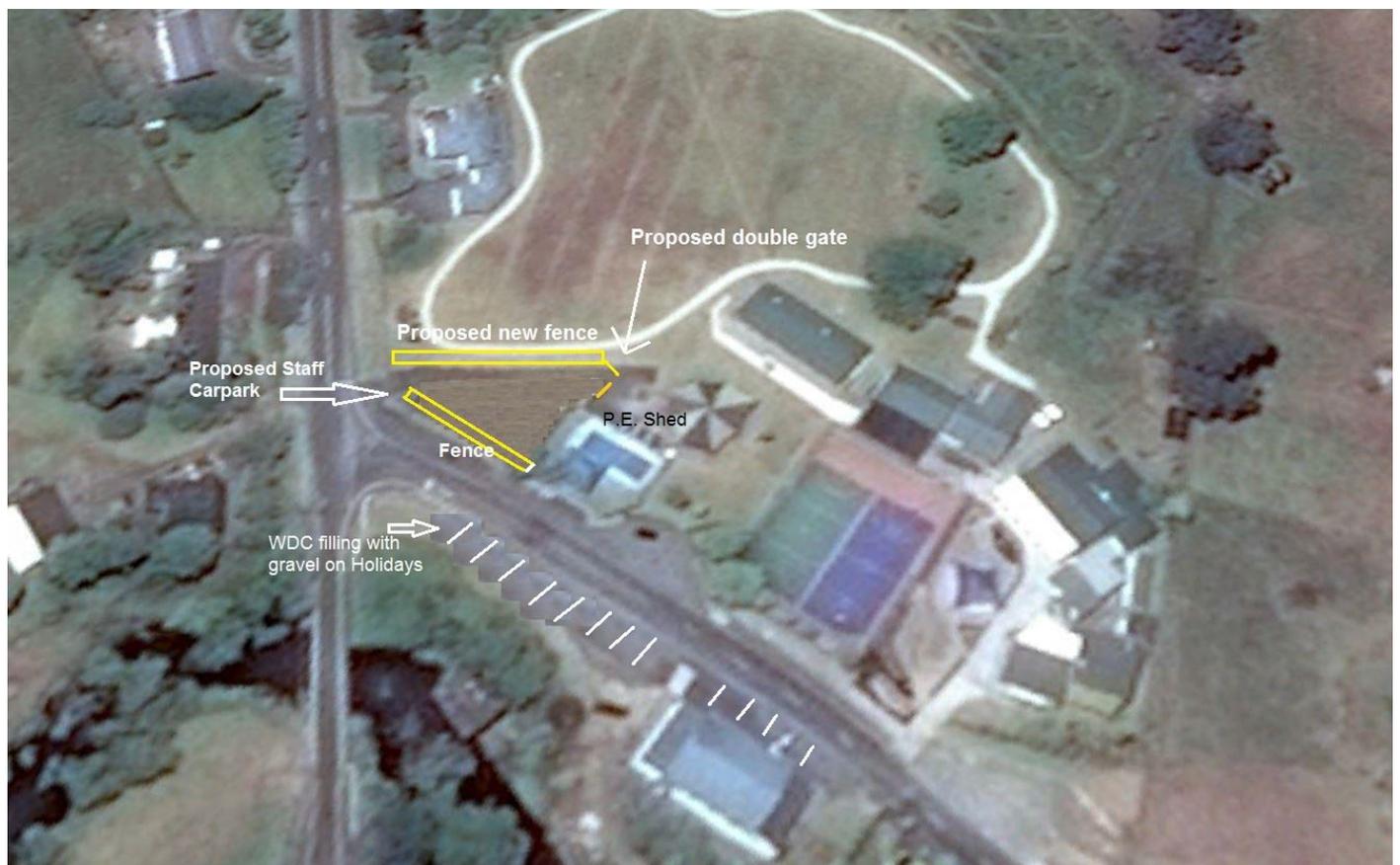
Secondly as Terry mentioned last week in the newsletter, WDC will be extending the hall carpark in the school holidays to create approximately 10 car parks which should mean we can all park safely to collect our children.

There will be ongoing discussions with the Council around other options, but at present these are not viable for various reasons.

I would like to thank you all again for making our school a success.

Regards,

The Otaika Valley Board of Trustees Parking Subcommittee"



Concert Reminder...

Preparations are in full swing now with the children making their costumes and practicing their concert items every day this week.

Just a reminder that there will be two concerts, one for parents and another for grandparents. The concert for the parents will be held in the Otaika Valley Hall on **Thursday the 28th of September** - starting at 6:00pm sharp. Please provide a gold coin donation.

The concert for grandparents will be the next day **Friday the 29th of September** - starting at 10:00am.

Like yourselves, I am looking forward to some great entertainment!

Kind Regards,

Terry Brock
Principal

CLASS AWARDS

- Rm 1 Emmalee Connell, Daniel Herman-Le Roux, Marcus Houlker-Te Tai, Vienna McDonald, Braxton Rielly
- Rm 3 Kendal Byrne, Alicia Cochrane, Caleb Coutts, Brodie Dinsdale, Theodore Hurley, Kayden Russell, Kaedyn Stevens
- Rm 4 Keira Macdonald, Piripi Murray, Leara Wells-McQueen
- Rm 5 Eva Gardener, Owen King, Phoebe Ly, Liam Oakden
- Rm 6 Finius Ashby, Ava Cohen
- Rm 7 James Barry, Niwa Brass, Shaianne Moriarty

RURU photos will be in next week's newsletter!

SAUSAGE SIZZLE – HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE!!

Saturday 23rd of September between 9am and 2pm outside the Warehouse. This is a good chance to raise more money for the playground.

PTG meeting will be on Friday 22nd of September at 2:45pm in the staffroom. All welcome to attend!



The Speedy Family are selling free range eggs tomorrow after school and plan on selling eggs each week.

\$6 per dozen

For more details, please contact Shane on 027 431 5810.

(Outside Room 2)

Maungakaramea Cricket will be having a rally day soon.

Please register your interest with Emma Johns 021456907 or Liz Child on 021399393 and we will let you know when the rally day is.

For the newbies here is some general team information....D grade = Year 1-2...C grade = Year 3-4....B Grade = Year 5-6 also subject to the children's ability/experience. A grade = Year 7-8.

D, C & B grades play from about 9 - 11.30am.

D & C grade is all at Kensington Park and A & B grades can be played at various locations.

Let your kids get into it! We get awesome professional Northland Cricket coaches (practices are once a week) and it is heart stopping thrilling Saturday fun.

See you soon!

Boot Camp classes are held every Tuesday at Otaika Valley Hall with Haylze from 6-7pm, just \$5 entry. Will run over the school holidays. (Exception being this Tuesday class to be swapped to Thursday 28/9).

Phone 027 510 700 for more info 🍷