

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF

Otaika Valley School

TERM 3

Thursday 26th of July 2018
Week 1 of 10



EARLY CLOSE:

MONDAY 30TH JULY AT 1:30PM

Dear Parents & Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa.

Welcome back to the second half of the year, and to our new students Noah Shepherd in Room 1 and Eden Raynel in Room 3.

I hope you all had valuable time with your families and stayed fit & healthy, or recovered for the return to school routine.

Student Reports/Interviews

Reports went home on Monday and you should have received a 3-way-conference "how to" online booking notice. Bookings are well underway with many interviews scheduled already. Please note: those who would like to meet with Maggie or Sandi (or both teachers together), or require assistance with making a booking, contact Jen in the office. Online bookings close on Friday (tomorrow) at 3pm.

These conferences are on Monday and Tuesday of next week (week 2).

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE will be on **Monday 30th of July at 1:30pm** which means early pick up for your children. After School Care is available for our regular families from 1:30pm to 5:20pm (unless your account is overdue - please check with Robyn our After School Care Supervisor). Only the South Bus will be available for student pick-up at 1:30pm.

PTA

Last term I discussed the fantastic school disco organised by our very active group of parents in the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The children really enjoyed this evening and we had a number of parents stay and chat with other families. The total profit made was \$847.77, raised through gold coin donations, food and glow-in-the-dark novelty sales. This is an outstanding result with the funds going back towards the children of the school. Thanks again team! We also have our Parent Class Reps continuing to run a number of successful lunch fundraisers. If you wish to meet new parents and get involved within the school please come along to the meetings held each month.

Teachers Waikato University Winter School

On the first Sunday of the school holidays, I drove Mrs Nieddu, Ms Downey and Ms Dickens down to Waikato University to attend two full days of professional development based on Mantle of the Expert/Drama for Learning. This is the approach to curriculum integration and inquiry that the school has been exploring for a number of years. We had the privilege to spend these two days with teachers from a number of North Island schools with experience in this approach, and Tim Taylor who is an absolute expert from England. We really added to our knowledge on how to draw children into authentic learning inquiries more effectively. I must say we all came away enthusiastic about the learning opportunities for the students of Otaika Valley School. I would like to thank the teachers who participated during the school holidays around their family time.

Lambs and possibly goats at school

We have had 4 lambs successfully housed at school during the day since the start of Term 3. Liam Oakden has shown his experience with his lamb and is supporting his sister Kayla with her lamb as well. Israel Sofala has two lambs at school for now and will start focusing on one of them for Ag Day. The lessons in life and responsibility children gain by

taking on the role of mum and dad for these animals is a really important factor in why we have Ag & Flower Show. If you missed last term's update on Ag Day, there will be **no calves** at this year's event.

For those families choosing to bring their lamb or goat to school, we have decided to ask for a form to be signed indicating that the animals have been drenched and vaccinated (at appropriate times as outlined on the manufacturer's instructions). The form is available at the office.

The exposure to disease and the transference of internal parasites is increased when multiple animals are housed together. It is therefore important that all lambs brought to school are vaccinated and adequately drenched to ensure the safety of all the animals. This year a drenching and vaccination programme for lambs and goats will be offered for those who would like it. Kristy Macdonald has volunteered to coordinate this programme and has sourced the vaccine and drench. This will possibly save families purchasing their own and then not using it all. For those families who want to manage the vaccinating and drenching themselves and house animals at school, you will be required to complete the form so that we know all animals are safe. A form will need to be filled in by all families with animals at school (more details to explain within these forms)

To confirm : any lambs or goats to be housed at school must be drenched and vaccinated.

Waiotira Cross Country

The children have started the term off with their cross country training programme coordinated by Room 7 students. Last year the senior students successfully supported the training and enthusiasm to build fitness within the school. We felt last year's results showed positive outcomes and we hope to have high numbers of Otaika Valley students making the cut for the Whangarei Inter School event at Barge Park.

For those new to the school, we travel by bus to Waiotira School to compete against them, Portland and Maungakarama Schools. This is a real rural school event that starts by running around the equestrian park and then through a farmer's paddock full of cow manure, mud with small drains to jump over. Students will get muddy, sometimes totally drenched in downpours, eat lovely food prepared by Waiotira PTA, change into warm clothes and return tired and happy. The top place getters at this event have the opportunity to attend the competition event at Barge Park and possibly the Northland Cross Country event at a later date. We have traditionally had great support from our parents travelling out to spectate.

- Wednesday 22nd August Waiotira Cross Country. Postponement 23rd of August.
- Wednesday 29th August Whangarei Inter School Event Barge Park.

Thank you & parent helpers needed

A big thank you to Marc & Jeanne Stroud (our neighbours who own Carlton Hire - across from our school on Loop Road) for kindly lending and putting up the disco lights last term. They are wonderful neighbours and supporters of our school. Ms Dickens has been coordinating visits to their property to maintain the plantings and track rodents in the whitebait hatchery. The Strouds have fenced their stock out of this area to support the regeneration of whitebait. This has been a great learning curve for the children involved. A notice has been issued today about a stream visit where we really need lots of parent helpers for our child-to-adult ratios near the stream.

Staff Changes

A big thank you to Kirstin Pitiroi, one of our teacher aides who has now moved on to other things. We appreciated her work in the senior classroom and wish her all the best. Kirstin is a fluent speaker of Te Reo and has boosted Room 7's knowledge of Maori language.

Also thank you to Whaea Karla who was our Beginning Teacher Release teacher for Room 4 and general reliever in other classrooms. We appreciated and valued her time with us. The staff will miss her involvement in the school.

Conference

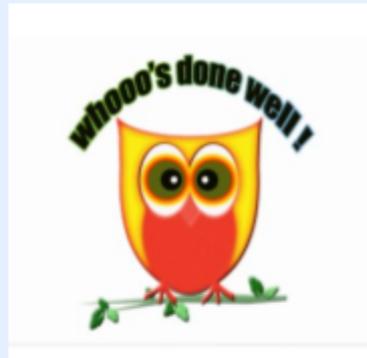
I will be attending the Tai Tokerau Principals Conference in Waitangi from Wednesday to Friday of next week. As one of the organising committee members, I'm really looking forward to the Professional Development, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities with colleagues and our school suppliers. Heidi Nieddu is the Deputy Principal and will be available outside of class time if you have urgent issues.

Kind Regards,
Terry Brock

THIS WEEK'S RURU AWARDS RECIPIENTS...

JUNIOR

No Jnr Ruru
This week



SENIOR



Kawana Te Iringa - Rm 7

CLASS AWARDS

Rm 1: Joss Morgan, Noah Shepherd

Rm 2: Megan Martin, Tyler Millar, Kysharn Munroe-Toka, Makani Selwyn-Laurence, Zoe Taipari-Herewini-McGregor

Rm 3: Scarlett Colmer, Grace Joll, Kade Palmer, Breez Smith

Rm 4: Brodie Dinsdale, Naomi Grew, Ashton Herewini

Rm 5: Piripi Murray, Layton Naidu, Aydin Tenamu, Leara McQueen

Rm 6: Saraha Byrne, Eva Gardener, Mason Heta, Phoebe Ly, Will Roberts

Rm 7: Eathan Bodle, Ella Neilson, Cody Noble, Zoe Roberts

Term 3- Miniball

If anyone is interested in playing miniball this term, please contact Tara on 021 022 96325 by Friday 27 July (tomorrow).

First game is on Wednesday 8th of August.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

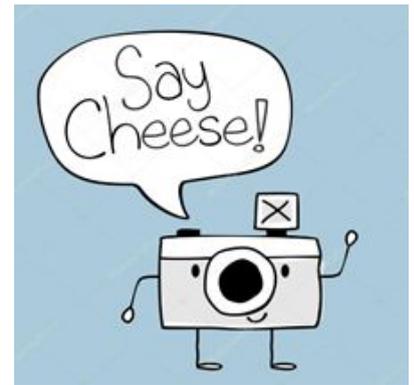
Liz Davies will be taking individual, family, and class photos on Tuesday 21st of August in the Otaika Hall.

Orders can be placed online:

<https://www.lizdaviesphotography.co.nz/>

or complete the order form (which your children are bringing home today) and return to Jen in the office.

All orders and payments are due by Monday 20th of August



Strep Throat and Chicken Pox

The school has had a few children away towards the end of last term and the beginning of this term with either strep throat or chicken pox or both.

Please remember that both of these viruses are very contagious, and to be aware of the early symptoms. Most pharmacies are happy to offer free throat swabs for your child if you suspect strep throat.

2018 Character Hunt at the Whangarei Central Library

Sunday 12th of August - 10:15am

Come and hunt for characters old and new in the library.

Children dressed up will be in to win fabulous spot prizes. Fun for the whole family!