

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF

Otaika Valley School



TERM 2

Thursday 5th of July 2018
Week 10 of 10



Dear Parents & Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa.

Board Policy Work

The Board of Trustees has recently reviewed two policies which related to Health and Safety. The first one was the Food Act. This mostly applies to the PTA in relation to fundraising and class teachers when using food within the school curriculum. Those who need to know will already have the information so I won't provide updates to the school community. However, for those of you who have any queries or would like to know more, please contact the school.

The second policy under Health and Safety is Care & Supervision and School Hours. We have reviewed this policy to ensure children remain safe and cared for whilst at school. In this country the State requires children between the ages of six and sixteen to be educated. For this to happen the State provides the places (schools) and the money for Boards of Trustees to employ suitably trained people (teachers) to teach the curriculum set out by the State. Therefore, parents are required to have their children in school in the care of the people employed to teach them. During school breaks (morning tea/lunch) supervision is part of the responsibility of the school. Teachers actively supervise the playground and care for children who require medical assistance. In terms of our teachers' responsibilities for the care and supervision of school children before and after school, the Board has reviewed that school staff (particularly teachers) have other school and teaching related matters to attend to, and therefore endorses that teachers are not responsible for school children out of school hours.

Many parents/caregivers are unaware that teachers at this school arrive from 7:00am to 7:30am to prepare for the day and utilise after school time to carry out their responsibilities. Many teachers will be working at home preparing for lessons after dinner. It has been noted that parents/caregivers have been dropping their children off earlier and earlier at school in the mornings and numbers are growing. A large number of students are found playing on the playground and on the school grounds whilst unsupervised out of school hours. In the afternoons it is not uncommon for teachers/staff to try to contact parents at 3:50pm to track down where they are as their child is unsupervised and still at school. Therefore the Board had to update the Care & Supervision policy to keep our school safe. After School Care is a supervised service that requires children to be booked into, and After School Care staff only supervise those children.

Please read the following policy...

Policy

School hours and Care and Supervision (reviewed 2018)

"The Board shall ensure that the requirements of the legislation in respect of the school hours and the school year are met. The Principal shall, as appropriate, report to the Board with respect to details of compliance."

The Board of Trustees takes responsibility for the care of students during the normal school hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm, as well as the reasonable hours of 30 minutes before 9am and 15 minutes after 3pm. Therefore, the responsibility of the child lies with the parents/caregivers/guardians before 8:20am and after 3:15pm. This excludes After School Care or Education Outside the Classroom activities (EOTC), such as camps, overnight stays or day trips with more than minimal level of risk. (Guidelines taken from New Zealand School Trustees Association document 'Who Cares?').

Procedures - School Hours (These are the procedures to implement the policy)

- *The school policy and procedures will be communicated with the school community to ensure parents understand their responsibility and those of the school in regards to school hours of care.*
- *Children who are dropped off early at school before 8:20am are the responsibility of their parents.*
- *For the safety of students, they will be seated outside Rooms 3 & 4 until the 8:20am bell.*
- *Teachers are not employed by the Board of Trustees as child carers and need to be able to focus on preparing for learning, meetings or collaborating with other teachers.*
- *The school reserves the right to make allowance for exceptional circumstances.*
- *Unsupervised children can be at risk. It is in the child's best interest not to be dropped at school early.*
- *In the afternoon, at 3:15pm a bell will ring to signal all children who have not been picked up, to leave the playground and sit outside Rooms 3 & 4. At 3:20pm children's names will be recorded in the day book if their parent is late. In the event of repeated patterns of late pick-ups, a letter will be sent to the parents that includes the school policy and procedures.*
- *After School Care students are under the care of After School Care staff."*

I have communicated the above policy and procedures with our community to be able to start implementing for the beginning of Term 3. We will work on training up the children in the morning in particular around these bell times and expectations.

Disco

We really enjoyed the disco run by the PTA last Thursday evening. Thank you to all of the volunteers for running a very successful, enjoyable evening for the children. The children were totally engaged in entertaining each other as only children can! It was great to have a few parents' breakout some moves on the dance floor too! At this stage we haven't been informed of the funds raised but will update you next term. We had 121 student attendees, which was fabulous.

Student Reports

Student reports will go out on Monday the 23rd of July (Term 3). We send the reports out so that parents can reflect on their child's learning and come to the three-way-conferences during Week Two. This mid-year report helps give a summary focus to a child's learning. I have really enjoyed reading the reports and hearing a more detailed summary of individual children's learning, progress and achievement. As a side note, parents should always approach their child's teacher at any time throughout the year if they have concerns about their child's learning.

We will be sending out information on Monday 23rd of July on how to book your three-way conference online.

After School Care

A reminder to all parents/caregivers that pay for After School Care service. Please ensure your account is clear by the start of Term 3. If your account remains unpaid as at the start of Term 3, your child will **not be able to attend** After School Care as per contract. Please contact Robyn at school if you have any queries.

Toys at school

We see that the children are enjoying bringing their toys (especially Bey Blades) to school to share and play with their friends. Unfortunately some toys get lost during the day. I recommend that if your child has a favourite toy, please leave it at home - it's safer there than at school.

RURU DAY!!

As you can see, today we celebrated a wonderful term. Great to see everyone having a go with lots of laughs and entertainment had by all!





Wishing everyone a fantastic and safe school holiday break and looking forward to an exciting Term 3.

Kind Regards,

Terry Brock

THIS WEEK'S RURU AWARDS RECIPIENTS...

JUNIOR



Sadie Stevens - Rm 4



SENIOR

No Senior RURU

CLASS AWARDS

Rm 1: Joss Morgan

Rm 3: Scarlett Colmer, K'Cee Gardener, Daniel Herman-Le Roux, Grace Joll, Kade Palmer

Rm 4: Alicia Cochrane, Dinique du Toit, Mattika Legg, Gabriel Timewell

Rm 5: Aydin Tenamu, Leara McQueen

Rm 6: Sam Johns, Nathan Muth, Jackson Potts, Pearl Pullen

Rm 7: Finius Ashby, Ava Cohen, Maleah Heta

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ISSUE 4

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