

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF

Otaika Valley School

TERM 1

Thursday 8th of February 2018
Week 2 of 11



Start of year newsletter contains important information and dates.

Please read!

Dear Parents & Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa.

Welcome to our new students in Room 1 - Arlo Hurley, Megan Martin, Jaxson Maxwell, Jacob Theodore and Ellajane Tutahi.

Powhiri - Monday 12th of February (to welcome our new students)

These students will be welcomed to our school with a student focused powhiri on Monday 12th of February. All children will come into school for the morning classroom roll call. Then at 9:15am the students and teachers will assemble on the steps outside Room 5. A group of our senior girls will karanga (call on) our new students into school as well as respond on their behalf. A group of senior boys will say a karakia to open the powhiri. I will speak on behalf of the school and welcome our new students. Then a group of girls (this time) will kai karakia (bless the food), which will be a few biscuits and pieces of fruit. We want this to be a learning and leadership building opportunity for our children, therefore we have asked for volunteers for these roles. Over time we hope to build on the knowledge and experience of the powhiri protocol. We invite parents who wish to take part to please join us. Existing parents can stand with our school, while new parents are invited to be received with their child onto the school grounds. The new students will be supported by a teacher and welcomed on from the front gate.

First Assembly

On Wednesday we went over the basics with the children about being back at school. We discussed the school policy that wide brimmed hats must be worn at break times, and a number of other things.

My main message was asking the children..."Who makes our school a great place to be?" The children knew the answers. It is the students and teachers attitudes that make the difference on a daily basis. We talked about how our actions, words and attitudes make the day special for each other, and that we need to look after and treat each other with respect. The Y6 students are our new senior role models who lead by example, for the rest to follow. 2018 is a new year and we will be the group of people to make Otaika Valley School a special place to be.

Well done to the students who received class certificates for starting the year in this way.

The Beginning of the Year

We have new classes of students. This means changes for students and their friendships. It may mean modified friendships with students maintaining existing friendships as well as starting new ones. Students may have a new teacher, or the same one as last year. Change often challenges students. I strongly believe schools mirror many of the challenges teens and adults can face throughout their lives.

School camps are set for the whole school in some form or another. These events are purposefully timed for the beginning of the year to help support building friendships between students, students and teachers, teachers and parents, parents and parents. We have the class camp dates available on the school website calendar.

We rely heavily on parental support, supervision, transport and overnight stay helpers. Your child's class teacher will be sending out forms for you to complete so that the planned camps can be organised.

Principal's Request – Form Completions

I really believe in the multiple benefits of school camps for students, teachers and our school community. School camps require an extensive amount of forms from teachers and parents for camps to happen legally and safely. Teachers can

spend a huge amount of time chasing up parents for the multiple forms required. When these forms come home please prioritise filling them in and getting them back promptly.

As a school, we have to plan for every situation, for example: children falling ill, medical and medication requirements, permission to participate, swimming, transportation, contact information etc. The list goes on.

School invoices

Last year I wrote in the newsletter about our school accountant sadly passing away. This has resulted in our school having to change accountancy firms to run our school finances. This change over started late last year and progressed over the holiday break. However this changeover process is not complete, therefore we are holding back on sending out invoices to families. We request and appreciate your patience.

After school care invoicing is a “user pays” service and will continue as per normal. This service will be unavailable to those with money owing from late last year. Please ensure the 2018 After School Care Contract forms have been completed and your account is up to date. Bookings and cancellations are to be made through the office or ASC staff only.

Meet the Teacher Picnic/BBQ - Tuesday 20th of February 2018

Please set aside this evening to come to school to meet the teacher, children, and parents of your child/ren’s class. This is an informal picnic gathering that we hope to have on the grass area at school. The school BBQ will be available to cook on if required, otherwise bring something for your family’s dinner.

Welcome to new staff

- Whaea Gemma is teaching in Room 4 this year.
- Rachel Dickens is teaching in Room 5 this year.
- Cherry Galley is teacher aiding as well as After School Care.
- Yvonne Lewis is teacher aiding.

We look forward to working with you all this year and believe you will add something special to our staff team.

New School Carpark, fence and rolling-down-hill

We now have a fully operational staff carpark. It successfully houses 10 staff cars, which is more than what we originally anticipated. On Wednesday the fencing was completed to keep children and cars safe. Once the container is shifted, this area will become a safer playground to monitor. The top carpark has been tidied up so that you don’t need a 4WD to park in some areas. This investment has been well worth it for the children’s safety. The children have been told they are not to enter or exit school through the staff carpark unless accompanied by an adult. There is a small latched gate for staff use. As adult drivers, we still need to remain vigilant with safety during pick up at 3pm.

A huge thank you needs to go to Brendan Oakden (Board of Trustees) who has driven this project from inception to completion. This has been a substantial process involving a lot of personal time and commitment. Brendan has used annual leave to be on site supporting, driving, digging and raking to make this happen. His children Liam and Kayla helped him dump load after load of soil to form our new rolling-down-hill, with the fill from the project.

A big thank you goes to another parent of our school Scott Daisley, who has completed the digger work through his personal company, HPL Distribution. As a community you may consider supporting Scott’s company if you require any digger hire contracting in the future. You can contact him on 021 375 485. Or we can put you in contact with him.

Again, we thank you both for the time and energy supporting our school to make it a safer place.

The fencing was completed by Deadline by Tim and his team. We thank them for their fine job.



Before



After



Rolling-down-hill

Dates on the school website calendar

<https://otaika.school.nz/> Scroll down to the bottom and click on 'Read newsletters and view calendar'

February

- 12th Monday – Powhiri to welcome new students
- 20th Tuesday - Meet the teacher BBQ/picnic 5pm to 6:30

March

- 8th Thursday & 9th Friday - Junior Camp Rms 1, 2, 3 – Beach trip and overnight at school
- 15th Thursday & 16th Friday - Middle School Camp – Parua Bay Rms 4 & 5
- 21st Wednesday to 23rd Friday - Senior Camp – Manaia Camp Taurikura Rms 6 & 7
- 30th Good Friday

April

- 2nd Easter Monday
- 3rd Easter Tuesday
- 13th Friday - Term 1 Ends
- 25th Wednesday - Anzac Day (in school holidays)
- 30th Monday - Term 2 Begins

*Term 2 ends Friday 6th of July

*Term 3 starts Monday 23rd of July and ends Friday 28th of September

*Term 4 starts Monday 15th of October and ends Monday 20th of December

Proud Sporting Achievement

While you're clicking on links you may be interested in an article in the NZ Herald about one of our senior boys Kawana Te Iringa. Kawana and his Te Tai Tokerau Under 10 Mixed Elite Touch Team won the Northern Inter Provincial Series Touch competition in Rotorua. This is a fine example of commitment, hard work and dedication to team sports. As an ex Northland Rugby representative, I am always proud of any Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) teams beating our larger Auckland provincial teams. They actually won very convincingly. Well done to Kawana, his team, coaches and their families. It is worth a read.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/rugby/news/article.cfm?c_id=80&objectid=11986122

Kind Regards,

Terry Brock
Principal

School Office Hours:

Jen's hours are from 8:45am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

The best time to come in to see me in the office is approximately between 2:30pm and 3:00pm every afternoon.

It gets very hectic in the mornings and I may not always be available.

Please send me an email or leave a message on the school phone if it is urgent.

REMINDER: If your child is absent from school please let me know in the morning by either phoning, texting or emailing the school. Please state the reason for your child's absence.

Thankyou :)

CLASS AWARDS

Rm 2: Kysharn Munro-Toka, Tyler Millar, Marcus Houlker-TeTai, Noah Macdonald

Rm 3: Kayla Oakden, Ephraim Locke

Rm 4: Alicia Cochrane, Brodie Dinsdale, Isla Roberts

Rm 5: Owen King, Aydin Tenamu, Jordyn Bourke

Rm 6: Liam Oakden, Sahara Byrne, Jesse Locke

Rm 7: Zoe Roberts, Anika Clyde, Eathan Bodle

MINIBALL

So far we only have 1 team for miniball this term.

If anyone is interested in playing miniball, the first game is on:

Wednesday 14th February.

For more information, please contact Tara on 021 0229 6325

Netball

If anyone is interested in playing netball for Otaika Valley School, please leave your name and contact details with Jen in the office.

Team Registrations are due on **Thursday 29th of March**. We won't be accepting any late registrations.

Maungakaramea JMC Hockey 2018 Rally dates

Sunday 18th February:

- Years 5 & 6 @ 10am
- Years 7 & 8 @ 11.30am

Sunday 8th April:

- Years 1-4 @ 10am

Come along to sign up for a hockey team or just to see what we are all about, the more the merrier and bring your gear ready for a run around, all abilities and ages welcome. Can't wait to see you there.

If you require any information please contact Jena 021 473 380