

Inspiring a love of learning through an education that values the development of the whole child

30 August 2022

Week 6, Term 3

Kia ora koutou

Nau mai, haere mai ki te ākongā hou me tōna whānau; We welcome a new student and her whānau: Jacqueline Lewis (Kākano)



Learning and Teaching over the past two years - Last night I presented to the Board of Trustees, the mid year Overall Teacher Judgements (OTJ's) for Reading/Pānui, Writing/Tuhituhi and Maths/Pāngarau and for Kōrero. They showed continued high achievement overall in Reading/Pānui in both Māori and English medium. They also showed that while the majority of students are achieving at or above for mathematics and writing, achievement has dipped below 70% in all the strands, with writing a particular area for raising achievement. A study that the Education Review Office conducted in 2021 identified writing as the area that has been most affected by the lockdowns. This confirmed our own reflections on the achievement in writing as teachers found it the most challenging subject to get consistent progress on over the past two years. Writing/Tuhituhi will have a strategic, planned, in depth schoolwide focus next year. We know that achievement has been hampered by forces beyond our control, however we also know that a schoolwide, in depth focus on our own teaching and delivery can result in changes to achievement, despite external factors. A systematic approach across the school, supported by the board and by whānau can make a real difference.

Other areas have also been affected by the consequences of Covid-19. A recent attendance survey (also reported on last night) showed that over a quarter of the school student population has missed five or more weeks of learning since the start of the 2022 year, with 10% of the school (22 children) missing more than 7 weeks.

Teachers have also been absent more than usual, finding relievers has been a real problem and we have had to re-engage children a number of times over the past two years. Throughout the country there has been an increase in the times that academic achievement needed to come second to well-being. I have been in discussions with other principals and they, their teachers, boards and communities have all faced the same challenges, (to greater and lesser extents) of keeping children engaged and achieving throughout a time of considerable disruption and inconsistency. Priority learners, children who require extra support in one or more areas, have been the most affected by this.

It is not a surprise to educators that achievement throughout the country has taken a hit over the past two years. The Ministry is currently working with principals to find ways of re-engaging students as this has become quite a serious issue in New Zealand. This is particularly so at secondary schools, however many primary schools are still trying to re-engage students too. Thankfully at Otari School, the engagement of most students has been maintained and that while we have also had our challenges, the large majority of students continue to enjoy school. Engagement has not been a serious problem. We have endeavoured to continue to provide rich and varied programmes of learning. Our teachers/kaiako are involved in professional development in Te Reo Māori, Science, Pāngarau and Literacy/Te Reo Matatini.

Despite the staff illnesses and absences, unlike some schools, we have not had to resort to classes being split and shared, or resorted to asking parents to keep children home, due to lack of relievers.

Our teaching staff have done well to maintain learning programmes and enable progress to continue for our tamariki throughout the past two years. There is always more we can do and we are always reflecting on our practice, individually and collectively. We seek and utilise new resources and participate actively in professional learning opportunities.

Over the past turbulent two years it has been necessary to re-prioritise, re-schedule and re-design for the purposes of keeping tamariki safe, keeping them enjoying school and keeping them engaged. We have all worked hard to do this and will continue to do so. As the season of renewal begins, however, we are hopeful that there will be more consistency of teaching, learning, attendance and regular, uninterrupted schooling to enable us to more effectively achieve positive outcomes for all learners.

The mid year overall teacher judgements will be published on the school website by the end of the week.

Holding Off Announcing Term Dates 2023 - Schools in the area are awaiting information about whether or not the Ministry of Education will provide Teacher Only Days again before announcing term dates. This will depend on the results of negotiations with NZEI (Teachers Union) in relation to the renewed Teachers Collective Contract. If these are not provided then schools can choose to include TOD's but must add them to, (rather than include them within) the school year.



Birthdays this week: Happy birthday Charlie, Dylan P, Emmeline and Te Rauhina. Rā whānau ki a koe!

Covid-19 Update - The school currently has 2 known cases of Covid-19; 1 child and 1 staff member.



Project Jonah - An educator from Project Jonah will be visiting the school on Thursday to speak with some of the classes. Project Jonah is a marine mammal welfare charity, best known for attending whale and dolphin strandings throughout New Zealand. They will be speaking to the children about some of the amazing marine species we have in New Zealand. If you would like to send a gold coin koha to school on Thursday for Project Jonah, that would be appreciated. <https://www.projectjonah.org.nz/>

Montessori Trust Meeting - All Montessori parents are welcome at the next Montessori Trust meeting on Monday 5 September, 7.30pm in the school staffroom. Any question please contact Krissy on 021 345 102.



School Photos – Children should have brought home an order envelope for school photos. Orders and payment are all done online. If you have not received the envelope (which has the code to use for each individual) let Jillian know as she has a master list (office@otari.school.nz). Orders need to be completed by 18 September.

NZ Youth Orchestra ‘Tamaraki Time’ – Children from Kākāriki, Tuī, Pōhutukawa Yr 3 & 4s and Kererū Yr 4s will be attending a performance by the NZ Youth Orchestra on Friday 9 September. The cost is \$5 per child. A separate notice will be sent home.



Taonga Horomata/Virtue: Fortitude and Perseverance (ūtonutanga)

Fortitude and perseverance have certainly been virtues to call upon this year! The previous few weeks of rain have certainly tested us too. They are also helpful ones to talk about at mid-term!

“Hope is durable, even when I’m not.” — **Craig D. Lounsbrough**

Ka mahi te tawa uho ki te riri – Well done, your courage is like the heart of a tawa tree.



Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
WZ Hockey	Selected Students	Tues 6 Sept	
Lit Quiz	Selected Students	Tues 6 Sept	
Science Roadshow	Tot/Nga/Kai/Ker	Thurs 8 Sept	\$5.00
NZSO Tamariki Time	Kākāriki/Tui/Kererū Yr 4s/Poh Yr 3 & 4	Fri 9 Sept	\$5.00
Junior Sports – ASB Centre	Yrs 1-4	Mon 12 Sept	\$5.00
Futsal – ASB Centre	Selected Yr 5-8 students	Thurs 15 Sept	TBC
Senior Sports – ASB Centre	Yr -5-8 Students	Mon 19 Sept	\$9.00
St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival	Immersion Strand	Sat 24 Sept	
Taki Rua performance	All Students	Mon 26 Sept	\$4.00

Have a great week everyone.

Ngā mihi
Clifford

2022 Term Dates

Term 3: Mon 25 Jul – Fri 30 Sept
 Term 4: Mon 17 Oct – Wed 14 Dec
Teacher Only Day: Tues 25 Oct



Montessori at Otari Preschool is having an Open Day on Saturday 3rd September 10am–12 noon. The Preschool offers quality early childhood education for children between the ages of 2½ and 6 years, based on the Montessori Philosophy. Invite family and friends to come along and find out more about Montessori, see a class in action and meet the teachers. For more information phone 475 9688 or wcmp@xtra.co.nz.

Marrzipan Drama - “I can’t work like this! Where is the dinosaur?” Marrzipan Drama is halfway through the term. But it isn’t too late to come give it a go! Does your little human get a bit shy from time to time? Then Marrzipan is for them. Does your little human love to show off and get up on a stage? Then Marrzipan is for them! As well as playing a bunch of drama-based games, we also work on a performance each term. This term we are doing a play called: ‘The Play Where Everything Goes Wrong’. It’s a play about a play that goes wrong...right? For a **free trial** please contact Joshuwawa on **022 436 5608** or check out our website: www.Marrzipandrama.co.nz

EVERYONE OUT HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES - Everyone Out Holiday Programmes offer tamariki the opportunity to play and follow their own interests in an amazing natural environment. Whether they want to build huts in the bush, test out our slackline, learn how to start a campfire or just hang out in the hammock - there is something for everyone. Book in for the Spring Holidays, 3 - 14 October, at enrolmy.com/everyone-out or for more information check out our website www.everyoneout.co.nz

Waterside Karori October School Holiday Programme - Waterside Karori AFC is dedicated to delivering fun filled football programmes! If you love football and are stuck for things to do during the school holidays, our football holiday programme is for you! **Dates:** Week 1: Tue 4 Oct - Thu 6 Oct; Week 2: Tue 11 Oct - Thu 13 Oct. **Cost:** \$60 per day. **Location:** Terawhiti Artificial Turf (beside Karori Park). **Register:** <https://www.karorifootball.co.nz/holiday-programme>



MAKEROOM
Wellington



STEM CLUB

Weekly Classes For Young Makers Aged 8-13

Now In Miramar, Kelburn, Mt Victoria, Island Bay, Vogelmorn, Newtown, Karori and Khandallah

Small Group Sizes With An Ongoing Programme That Builds Knowledge And Skills

Laser Cutting, Electronics, Computer Coding, Woodwork, CAD, Robotics, Arduino, And More...

Book Your Place:
www.makeroomwellington.nz



Onslow
College

ANNUAL ROWING BOOK FAIR

Saturday 17th September - 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 18th September - 9 am - 12 pm

Onslow College - Follow the signs.



SAUSAGE SIZZLE
AND BAKE SALE



EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Spring
Fun Holiday Adventures
(Open: 7am and Close 6pm)

STANDARD FEES
\$324.16 per cub/wk or \$551.07 for two siblings/wk
\$81.04 per cub/day or \$137.77 for two siblings/day

WHEN
3rd - 14th Oct 2022
Enrol by 19th Sep 2022

WHERE
Western Suburbs
Wilton/Rugby Club
Southern Suburbs
South Wellington
Intermediate School - SWIS

EARLY BIRD ENROLMENT DISCOUNT
Only \$275.54 per cub/wk or \$468.41 for two siblings/wk
Only \$68.88 per cub/day or \$117.10 for two siblings/day if enrolled and paid by 15th Aug 2022

WHAT TO BRING
Jacket, spare clothes, sun hat and water bottle

Payment Deadline: 26th Sep 2022

Limited spaces, enrol now at www.pridelands.co.nz
T's & C's applies

Additional siblings will incur further charges, please see website for further pricing.

Looking for a place to be yourself?
Always wanted to share your super-silly-nut-bar-flavour energy with the world?

M You can at **Marrzipan**

Classes in social skills, positive thinking and self belief for the super-shy to the super-high!

SIGN UP FOR A TRIAL CLASS TODAY
www.marrzipandrama.co.nz

9 Classes including two showcases per term.
Maximum 10 students per 45 minute class.