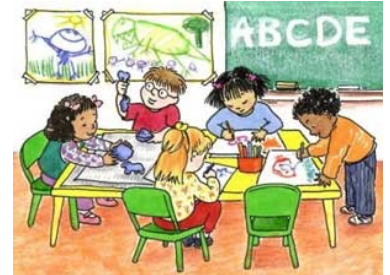


Inspiring a love of learning through an education that values the development of the whole child

1 November 2022

Week 3, Term 4

Allocating classes – A challenging task - All over New Zealand, principals and senior management staff are making decisions about classes for the following year. Managing classes at Otari School is uniquely challenging. Unlike other schools with a roll of 200 plus we cannot spread our students evenly across all 9 rooms. We are confined by the strand structure, which creates the need for multi-level classes. However, these levels (cohorts) do not grow in unison. For example, next year we have 30 year 6 students across the school. There are 5 in the Montessori strand, 10 in the Māori Immersion strand and 15 in the Original strand. In a regular school we would either have a straight class of 30 year 6 students (or two year 5/6 classes or 6/7 classes.) Regardless of the eventual class structure, creating classes would be more straightforward. (Although occasionally there are times when uneven cohorts even create issues in regular schools and less than ideal solutions have to be applied.)



Along with the senior staff and teachers I put a lot of thought into establishing classes for the following year. I have the global view of the school and must apply my knowledge and experience to this important task. There are 2 key factors that need to be considered when doing this:

- Avoid over-crowding
- Try to ensure the classes with the youngest tamariki have the lowest teacher – student ratios

There are other factors, like gender balance, number of students with learning difficulties and keeping cohorts together that are also important, however ensuring all these things are addressed as well as we would like, for every strand, every year, is not always possible. We cannot have this wonderful three strand structure and consistently achieve balance in every aspect. This year one strand has a cohort that is split between two rooms and another strand has a class that starts the year with only one cohort in it. Neither of these scenarios are ones we consider ideal, but alternative scenarios were even less ideal.

I believe our environment is effective at mitigating any effects a lack of balance in an area may have. We involve children in cross strand activities, children within strands play and learn together in other contexts outside of the classroom and we sometimes cross group. At Otari School our tamariki do not confine their friendships to one age or year level. Our children play across ages. They make friends in different strands and class levels. At this time of year our year 8 students are thinking about high school. Their year 6 and 7 friends often feel sad they are leaving. This is a growing experience and a valuable one, not something to avoid.

Overall, the deep knowledge our Kaiako have about each child, the way confidence is fostered through many rich and varied learning experiences and the special features of each of our strands outweigh any challenges our uneven cohorts and unique structure present.

Our overall picture for 2023 is below. Please talk to your child's teacher or to me if you have any concerns or questions about next year.

ORIGINAL STRAND:

Class, Levels and Roll	Class Teacher(s)
Kākano: Years 1 and 2 Predicted 16 to 20 (by July) but more may arrive in term 1	Britta Martini (am) Rebecca McKenzie-Pollock (pm) Britta will be doing Reading Recovery in the afternoon.
Kākāriki: Year 3, 15 to begin with, however if Kākano roll grows quickly then some Y2 children might move through in term 3	Susan West Catherine Hope (Thursday, when Susan has DP release)
Kererū: Years 4 and 5 - 24 students	Sacha Fell (4 Days) Tom Wild (Fridays)
Tōtara: Years 6,7,8 - 29 students	Johanne Wicks Rebecca McKenzie-Pollock (2 mornings per week support)
Strand roll by end of year likely to be between 90 and 100 (depends on in zone enrolments Term 1 to Term 4)	Support teacher: Shani Leda, supporting priority learners in maths and literacy 2 days per week, Tom Wild, providing classroom release 2 days per teacher each term.

IMMERSION STRAND

Class, Levels and Roll	Class Teacher (s)
Kōwhai Years 1 and 2 Predicted 18 (by July)	Lynette Franklin Katrina Murray, Kaiāwhina, based in Kōwhai (4 days)
Tuī: Years 3,4,5 - 27	Wairere Ropata Nichole Craig (Wairere has AP release 1 day per week)
Kaikōmako: Years 5,6,7,8 - 28 students	Erana Bouzaid Parekohai Wells, Kaiarahi i Te Reo (based in this room – may also work with other children in the strand. Tom Wild Y6 – 8 Te Reo Pākeha (Thursday)
Strand roll by the end of the year likely to be between 70 and 80 (depends on Term 3/4 enrolments.)	Other strand Kaiako/staff: Tom Wilde is also providing classroom release time 2 days per term for each kaiako.

MONTESORI STRAND

Class, Levels and Roll	Class Teacher (s)
Pohutukawa Years 1,2,3 and 4 Starting roll of 20 – will fluctuate (up and down) as year progresses, new entrants arrive and 9 year olds move to Ngaio	Paula Crisp (4 days) Catherine Hope (Wednesday) Jamie Flude, Teaching Assistant
Ngaio Years 4,5,6,7,8 – 22 students, will grow as 9 year olds progress through.	Deborah Sorensen

Strand roll by the end of the year likely to be around 50 students	Other staff: Shani Leda will also provide support for learners in the Montessori strand.
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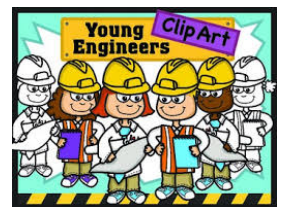
Birthdays: Happy birthday, this week to Ataiir, Telesia, Eve, Freida. Rā whānau ki a koe! We hope you all have a great day.

School Athletics is on Thursday at Ian Galloway Park, weather permitting. Parents are welcome to join us from 10.00am. If postponed, the event will be on Wednesday 9 November. Children will need to wear appropriate clothing (wear team colours, if possible) and shoes and bring plenty of food and water. Don't forget a potae!



Junior Swimming - Khandallah School pool is still closed for renovations so our first Year 0-4 swimming session this Friday will be at Ngaio School pool.

EPro8 Challenge - Over two gruelling days, 39 senior students immersed themselves in science, engineering, physics and maths to solve problems in Otari School's EPro8 Challenge. This is the first year we have used this format and all involved learned lots and loved it!



On the first day, students new to EPro8 joined those wanting extra practice in an introduction to the EPro8 equipment, before taking part in a practice challenge. On the second day, seven teams competed in our Otari EPro8 Problem Challenge. Over 2 intense hours, each team of four students worked together to solve three challenges for points.

Congratulations to all who participated and especially our winning teams who will be representing the school at the interschool competition in Week 4:

Year 5-6: Dylan Paloma, Frankie Elliott, Kieran Sorensen, Rufus Coggins

Year 7-8: Anna Dixon, Max Biddington, Isaac Cromarty, Owen Jones



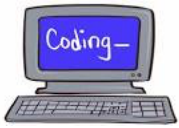
TERM DATES

2023 Term Dates – Below are the term dates for 2023. We are still waiting confirmation from the Ministry with regards to Teacher Only Days so some of the long weekends may be extended to 4 days.

	Start	Finish	Holidays
Term 1	Wed 1 Feb	Thurs 6 Apr	Waitangi Day: Mon 6 Feb. Easter is during the holidays
Term 2	Mon 24 Apr	Fri 30 June	Anzac Day: Tues 25 Apr. King's Birthday: Mon 5 June
Term 3	Mon 17 Jul	Fri 22 Sept	
Term 4	Mon 9 Oct	Fri 15 Dec	Labour Weekend: Mon 24 Oct

Yummy Stickers – A huge thank you to everyone who has been collecting Yummy stickers. We earned \$552 of free sports equipment! Woohoo! Please continue to collect them, all year.





CodeClub has started again for Term 4 in Kererū classroom, Monday afternoons 3.10-4.10pm. Tamariki Year 4 and above from across the school are welcome. If you would like your child to participate or have any questions please email sacha@otari.school.nz.

Pōtae/Hats - Please ensure your child has a pōtae with a brim. A new supply of bucket hats has been ordered and we expect delivery shortly. Prices have increased slightly to \$15. Available from the school office.



Taonga Horomata/Virtue - Humility – Ngākau pāpku or Mahaki

“Humility is being modest, humble and unpretentious. We consider others’ views and needs as important as our own.” (From the virtues card)

Kaore te kūmara e kōrero mō tōna ake reka
The sweet potato does not talk of its sweetness.



Otari School Disco - Help needed! The Otari School Disco is happening on **Friday 2 December, 5pm - 8pm**. For a disco like this to work well, we need participation from the school community.

We’ll require volunteers in the lead-up and on the night itself – this might involve cooking curries, setting up, frying sausages on the BBQ, serving food and tidying up after the disco is finished.

We only need two hours of your time. Please put your details into this link and select a volunteering option (<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/z6v25>). By Friday 11 November would be great.

Once you sign up we’ll be in touch closer to the time with clear instructions of what you need to do, where you need to be, and when etc. And more details about the disco itself will be sent out shortly! Our contact person is Lara Charles (Zoe, Evan, Hudson and Lily’s mum) on larameredith@gmail.com if you have any questions or can offer support in another way.



Activity	Who's Involved	Date & Time	Cost
Yr 8 Immunisations	Yr 8s	Wed 2 Nov	
School Athletics	All Students	Thurs 3 Nov	
Junior Swimming	Juniors	Fri 4 Nov – 9 Dec	\$30
Marine Education	Seniors	4/11 14/15 Nov 24/25 Nov	\$30
EPro8 Interschool Challenge	Yr 7/8 Selected Students	Thurs 10 Nov	
EPro8 Interschool Challenge	Yr 5/6 Selected Students	Fri 11 Nov	
WZ Athletics	Selected students	Fri 18 Nov	

City Mission 'Pack the Bus'	Everyone	Tues 29 Nov	
Yr 8 Dinner	Yr 8s	Wed 30 Nov	TBC
Disco	Everyone	Fri 2 Dec	\$5 / \$10
Bush Day	Montessori Strand	Tues 6 Dec	
Yr 8 Farewell	Yr 7/8s & Whānau	Thurs 8 Dec	
Yr 8 Outing	Yrs 8s	Fri 9 Dec	TBC

Ngā mihi
Clifford

2022 Term Dates

Term 4: Mon 17 Oct – Wed 14 Dec, 12 noon



House sitting - Home in Northland with 6 chickens plus cat, while we are in Europe (13.12.22 - 7.2.23). Our 4 bedroom home in Bedford St is available to someone or a family. It is very sunny with great views. Comes with a lovely cat and 6 laying chickens - 6 fresh eggs daily. If you are interested please email (kerstin.kramar@gmail.com) or text 0211392834.

Marrzipan Drama - It's raining milkshakes in Madagascar. There's tornados in Thailand. It's snowing candy floss in Canada! Marrzipan is at your school and we have limited spaces left. Come and be part of our play: 'The Nutty News.' Oh, did I mention we also be really silly and play a bunch of games? Come and join the revolutionary self-confidence programme - **Marrzipan!** We run awesome classes at schools, which focus on key life skills and public speaking ability for both shy and outgoing children alike.

For a **trial lesson** check out our website: www.Marrzipandrama.co.nz or contact joshuwawa: Wellington@marrzipandrama.co.nz

Teepee Birthday Parties

Delivering teepee slumber party sets within Wellington.

Cost*

Party for 4	Party for 6
4 Teepee's	6 Teepee's
4 Mattresses	6 Mattresses
Handmade Bunting, between each teepee	Handmade Bunting, between each teepee
6 Fitted Sheets (Variety to choose from)	8 Fitted Sheets (Variety to choose from)
1 Airpump	1 Airpump
Bunting	Bunting
\$80	\$120

Delivery & Set up

We will deliver the Teepee Slumber Party Set right to your doorstep, on the morning of your party with pick up the day after. You then have full creative control after that (there is no setup included).

For more information and bookings you can contact me at:

sophie.c.jones08@gmail.com

*You will need to supply your own sleeping bag and pillow. Teepees are for indoor use only.

