



Te Kura o Otari
Otari School

News

Phone: 475-3018 Email: office@otari.school.nz
Our bank account is: Otari School Board of Trustees 060561-0017355-00

5 July 2016

Issue 18, Week 10, Term 2

Kia ora koutou

Hīkoi mō Te Reo Maori! - New Zealand's first ever parade to celebrate the Māori language was a wonderful way to begin Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori and to inspire us to increase our reo proficiency, regardless of our ability level. Thank you for the support of whānau for this significant event. Ākina te reo!

School Reports Home Today - Today mid year reports are sent home. These reports are in relation to Reading/Pānui, Writing/Tuhituhi, Mathematics/Pangarau and the Key Competencies (Original and Montessori) or Graduate Profile (Māori Immersion). We are required to report in writing to parents twice a year, in relation to the National Standards. We have deliberately used language in the summary assessment that is focussed on the progress journey each child is making. We avoid using the terms "below" and "well below" in the reports parents share with their children. However, the report will tell you whether your child is working above the standard/whanaketanga, working at the standard/whanaketanga, is not yet at the standard (ie - is below the standard) and is working towards it, or if your child requires more significant support to work toward the standard (ie, is working well below the standard.)

At this stage of the year we are mostly assessing where each child is working in relation to the standard. The end of year report is focussed on their final achievement in relation to the standard.

Matariki Food Donations - Every year we collect food for the City Mission to help "keep the storehouses full" through the winter months. This week we hope to have the food delivered to the City Mission. If you have not already done so then please consider donating a non perishable item before Thursday.

Maths Results - Original and Montessori Strands: Recently I reported to the Board about the recent Progress and Achievement Test in Mathematics and what these tests indicated in relation to The National Standards. Key information from this report is as follows:

There were 96 students tested - 47 girls and 49 boys. A quick Summary of Results:

- Results indicate "above" the standard: 52%
- Results indicate "at" the standard: 30%
- Results indicate "below" the standard: 14%
- Results indicate "well below" the standard: 4%

Girls and Boys - Something to Highlight!

One of the most encouraging results is the raising of girls achievement in this area. In 2014 this was identified as an area for development, when 43% of boys achieved stanine 7, 8 or 9 (likely above) compared to 29% girls. This year 52% of girls achieved at this level compared to 50% of boys. Therefore these results indicate there is no longer a gender discrepancy in relation to mathematics achievement.

Teachers know the children who are in need of learning support in the area of Mathematics. These children's needs are known to their teachers who are endeavouring to meet them through the classroom programme, which incorporate online programmes and targeted group tuition. Overall the results indicate that these programmes are preparing children well for ongoing mathematics learning.

The full Board report is available from Clifford. Mathematics achievement in The Māori Immersion Strand will be reported on next term.

Term 3 Events:

- Taki Rua show: Friday 29 July
- Science Fair: Week 2
- ArtSplash concert: Tuesday 30 August, 5.15pm
- St Brigid's Kapa Haka: Saturday 17 September
- Year 5 - 8 Speech Contests, Te Reo Māori and English: Week 9
- Technology for Year 7 and 8s is on Tuesdays.

End of Term Assembly - There will be an end of term assembly on Friday, starting at 2:15pm. The band will perform as well as children who have participated in drama classes.

Chocolate/Soap - Thank you to everyone for the great selling!! Please pay asap. There are two boxes of chocolate and 1½ boxes of soap left to sell. Please call Jillian if you can help.

Entertainment Books are available from the office (\$60 each). Alternately you can order online: <http://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/10455w7>.

Yummy Stickers - Please continue to collect stickers from Yummy apples (and cut the tokens from Yummy bags) all year long. Sticker sheets can be downloaded from this website http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/pdf/Sticker_Collection_Sheet.pdf.

Have a great week everyone. A reminder that the term finishes on Friday at 2.55pm

Ngā mihi nui
Clifford

Free Sight Exams for children under the age of 16 at Specsavers - Here at Specsavers we understand that overall great health is important for a child's development and learning ability. Having the best vision makes up a part of this, and we would like to help ensure that all children under the age of 16 have access to a free sight exam at their local Specsavers.

We would like to encourage all parents to book their children in for a free sight test with us. In doing so we would also like to extend this offer to parents by offering a half price sight exam which normally valued at \$60.00 will be reduced to \$30.00. This means that if needed the whole family can be taken care of within one visit.

It is also worth mentioning that a subsidy towards glasses is available for any child under the age of 15 if their parent/guardian have a valid community services card or the child is a current high use health card user.

For more information please contact Enable on 0800 362 253 or enable@enable.co.nz. We have two convenient locations within the Wellington CBD and if you would like to contact them to book in, please contact:

Specsavers, on the Corner of Dixon Street and Cuba on 04 801 9793

Specsavers, 168 Lambton Quay on 04 471 1069

Community Notices:

Four-bed family home for sale in Wilton. Sunny and warm; stunning views and great privacy, only 10 minutes from town. Zoned for Otari School and Wellington Colleges.

Contact david.vaughan@tommys.co.nz or see <http://www.tommys.co.nz/wellington/property/T15332>

PORSE – Considering working from home? Working with PORSE allows you to: Create an environment for play and learning; Set your own hours and income; Be a working parent at home; Contribute in community events; Explore learning with nature and in the community; Build lifelong relationships; Gain ongoing professional development, training and business support for FREE! For more details on how to become a Home Educator, call Andrea or Paula @ PORSE – phone 04 801 6814 Ex 3 visit www.PORSE.co.nz

Zealandia Holiday Programme and Kid's Night walks. ZEALANDIA will be running their popular holiday programme for primary and intermediate children aged 5-12 from Monday 18th-Friday 22nd July. With a different nature/conservation theme each day, your children will have the chance to explore the world of pests, learn about flax weaving, find out how birds are adapted to their habitats, go on a treasure trail and be creative with our photography and art workshops. Cost \$55 per child per day. Drop off from 8am and pick-up by 4.30pm. Booking online at www.visitzealandia.com/schoolholidays. Kid's Night Walks for families with children between 5 and 12 years of age during the holidays can also be booked online at www.visitzealandia.com/kidsnightwalks Cost: \$19 per child and \$39 per adult

Is your child shy? Do they feel intimidated by the idea of public speaking and performance? Do they sometimes find it difficult to make eye contact? Do they just need dedicated time per week to just be CRAZY?! Come and join the revolutionary self-confidence programme - **Marrzipan!** We run awesome drama classes at school, which focus on key life skills and public speaking ability. We play fun engaging games and perform at the end of term once to parents and once to the school. All scripts are original, engaging, educational and HILARIOUS. All children receive an end of term progress report too, along with a certificate to remind them they are awesome! Give me a call to come along for a no-obligation trial class, or just a chat to discuss how our classes can benefit your child's development. Contact Jex on 027 217 0693 or email jex@marrzipandrama.co.nz

Khandallah Ballet Academy & Carolyn McKeefry Dance Academy (Island Bay): Openings are now available for Term III. With the very successful completion of exams in June, all students are working on new things plus our end of year dance recital. Special classes for pre-school and late starters. Enquiries: Carolyn (04)-389-4944 or cajon@paradise.net.nz

Next Kids Cross Country Series Event is in Tawa on Sunday 24 July - If you haven't already taken part in our Kids Cross Country Series come along on Sunday 24 July. These events are open to everyone. You don't have to be a member of a club to take part. We have races for pre schoolers through to year 8s. Enter at least a week before the event and receive a personalised race bib on the day. Or you can enter anytime on the day from 9.30am. For more info go to <https://www.athleticshub.co.nz/our-programmes#kidsxcountry> or contact Jo at Athletics Wellington on 021 976116.

Kelburn Brownies have places available for girls aged 7 to 9 ½ years. Join us in Term Three to earn the Keeping Safe, Sporty Fun and Family Fun badges! We meet Tuesday 4.30pm - 6pm in Kelburn. Please contact Katrina at kelburnbrownies@gmail.com for more information.

Sunshine Drama School Holiday Classes - Thursday 14th July, Karori Community Centre. Sunshine Drama enable students to explore creative thinking, build confidence and become effective communicators and performers. Our school holiday sessions give children an opportunity to put their imaginations into gear and see what our classes are all about. Bookings are essential and cost is only a koha donation. To secure a spot visit: <http://www.sunshinedrama.co.nz/2016/06/school-holidays-childrens-creative.html> Alternatively contact Jenae Ryan on: 028 402 6793 or via email: sunshinedrama.nz@gmail.com.



GPs with travel and allergy medicine expertise.

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS

www.wadestownmedicalpractice.co.nz

Message from the Board of Trustees

Hi

As you are no doubt aware the recent school trustee elections passed quietly at Otari School as there were only six parents who were nominated for the six available positions. We thought it important to introduce ourselves to you so that you can learn a bit more about your school trustees. To that end I have asked all the trustees to give a brief bio of themselves and we have included a photo taken at our board meeting last week.

The Board has the overall responsibility for the school. The relevant legislation states that the Board's most important responsibility is student achievement. To achieve this, the Board is also legally responsible for the curriculum (what is taught), property, personnel, finance and health and safety.

I thought it would be useful for the Board to provide a short update following our meetings. This way you can see what we are doing to discharge our responsibilities. At the first meeting of the new board we invited Alison Dyer our accounts provider to outline our funding and budgeting requirements, we received and discussed Clifford's Principal's Report which included a report on maths achievement for the Years 4 through to Year 8 students. We also heard from a group of parents from the Immersion Strand who are looking at strategies to increase enrolment in that strand. One thing we would really like help with is grant applications. As you know from the information provided by Clifford we rely on parent donations to assist with funding at our school. This still leaves us wanting so we would love it if a parent or group of parents would work with the Board to access grant funding. If you think that would be something you could help with please let Jillian know (office@otari.school.nz).

Catherine Thompson, Chair

I am mum to William and Alice in Ngaio and Edward in Pohutukawa and have been coming to Otari since William started at the preschool 10 years ago. Our family love Otari School. We used to live in Wilton so when we were deciding where William would go to school we looked at all the usual suspects but in addition to offering Montessori education Otari has a special something. The combination of the physical setting, the school's philosophy, the leadership, the teachers, the families and the three strands creates a wonderful environment. Having been on the BoT for the last 3 years I have realised that it requires a lot of hard work to keep the school moving forward whilst retaining the special character. We have two new trustees on the BoT (Mike and Richard) and in addition to me we have three returning trustees (Natasha, Adrian and Aroha) to join Shani as the staff representative. I think that is a great mix for stable leadership to support Clifford and his team. PS: You might not see me around school very often as I work full time as a lawyer. However in my day job I am responsible for the good governance of one of NZ's largest listed companies and I am a director on a number of boards which I believe gives me a good head start in being a good governor for Otari School.

Rich Ford

I am a scientist by training, have a daughter (Hazel) in the Montessori strand and my wife (Claire) is on the Montessori Trust. My day job is as a marine scientist, where I mainly overview research into the impacts of fishing for the Ministry of Primary Industries. This involves a lot of giving technical advice, reviewing documents, chairing meetings and managing people and projects. I used to be an academic for Auckland University, and still guest lecture, so have experience of education for older pupils. To relax I sing in a choir, run and watch rugby. I like the fact that Otari is a relatively small and diverse school in a beautiful setting. Being on the Board gives me a chance to be more involved in the school community and know more about, and help maintain that balance between, the three approaches to education.

Aroha Wahanui

Kia Ora koutou,

I'm Aroha. I have a 6 year old daughter and 8 year old son who are in the Montessori strand. I am a teacher and journalist. You can sometimes spot me doing a bit of relief teaching at school.

Adrian Wagner

Nō ngā iwi o Te Whānau A Apanui, Taranaki Whānui, te awa o Whanganui, Ngāti Apa me Ngāti Hauiti ahau. Nō rāwāhi anō hoki, arā, i pakeke ahau i Ingarangi mō tētahi wā, i kuraina ahau i reira i te takiwā o Boldon Colliery. Ko ngā kāenga o ōku tīpuna ki rāwahi, ko Uropi me Amerika ki te Tonga. Kei te mahi ahau i roto o te Ao pāpāho Māori ki Te reo Irirangi O Te Upoko O Te Ika. E kuraina ana aku tamariki ki te kura o Ōtari i tēnei wā nā reira he tika hoki kia mihia te tumuaki a Clifford me ngā kaiako e tieki ana i aku tamariki.

Natasha Kuka

Kia ora everyone, my name is Natasha Kuka and I have been on the Board of Otari School since August 2014. My daughter Tuia is in the Māori Immersion strand in year 3. I re-stood for the Board because I felt I could continue to contribute to the good health of our school. The expectations of a school board are significant. You are an employer, a governor, and ultimately responsible for the school. You need to understand the government and Ministry of Education expectations as well as the needs of your school community. Our school is unique and complex – it has three important strands and decisions need to ensure that each strand can flourish as well as contribute to each other. The sum of our school is significantly greater than its parts. I look forward to an exciting new Board term with our new and returning Trustees!

Mike Mayne

My name is Mike Mayne. Jane (my wonderful wife) and I have lived in Wilton for the last 8 years with our 3 kids.

Both our boys have benefited from the tolerant and inclusive culture that exists at Otari School.

Thomas is a social character whose imagination has been allowed to flourish. Oliver, an autistic child, has benefitted hugely from being embraced, despite his differences, by the school community and has developed more that would have been possible at any other school in the area. Marie, at 2, already loves visiting the school so we will be involved in the school community for a number of years yet and I relish the opportunity to “give back” what I can.

Having worked as manager in the energy industry for a number of years I possess a broad range of skills relevant to school trusteeship, in particular making decisions based on information collected from a wide variety of sources, financial awareness and strategic development.

I believe the Otari school culture is very special and must be preserved to ensure that every child gets the best education they can.

Shani Leda

I am Shani Leda and I teach in Totara class. I think teaching is the best job on the planet and during my career have taught from kindergarten to secondary school. I have two adult children and my son has Autism. I had a challenging 2015 when I lost my husband to cancer. The students and staff at Otari were the best healers for me and I am forever grateful to them. I am excited about being the staff rep on the Otari Board and look forward to working in this capacity.

