



OTAUa SCHOOL

55 Maioro Road RD 2 Waiuku Ph 09 235 2741

admin@otaua.school.nz www.otaua.school.nz

Our Values

Citizenship Fairness Trustworthiness Responsibility

Dear Parents/Whanau & Students,

Officially half way through term 4 on Friday.

ATHLETICS

Group Day Athletics was held at Waiuku Primary. Thanks again to Mrs Harris for her organisation. We had a team of 30 participate.

JUNIOR ATHLETICS/TABLOIDS

This is scheduled for **Friday 4 December**. The starting time is 8.45 and is for blocks 1 & 2 so finishing around 11.15. Parents are more than welcome.

STAFFING

Ms Poa will be away till the end of the month and Mrs Vincent is in there (every day instead of just Fridays). We are fortunate to have Kay available to fill this space - getting relief teachers these days is a real challenge so thank you, Kay. Room 6 students received a notice specific to this on Monday.

BUILDING UPDATE

It was really good to go for a walk through the new building last Friday to get a "sense" of what it will be like. Now that it is a bit enclosed, it is easier to imagine. We are looking forward to the BIG window in the front foyer bit to see what that will look like. They are still aiming at an end of January completion date.

We also had a different property meeting about the three new classrooms being installed here in term 4 next year, R8 will be demolished/taken away and a long 3 room modular block will be put in there. We will have additional toilets for children's use also.

With all these new buildings, we won't know ourselves!!! Really exciting! Mrs Kelsey will be looking forward to a new chair - her gas lift one hasd "run out of gas" and she slowly sinks during the day LOL.

STAFFING 2021

We will be starting with seven classrooms next year. We have a large group of year 8's going this year so look to start next year on about 170.

Please note these are only tentative but it looks as though we will have :

Mrs Shea Malloy Year 1; Mrs Cherry Matheson Year 2; Mrs Carrie Whyte Year 3; Mrs Anna Parsonson Year 4/5; Ms Bridget Poa/Mrs Kay Vincent Year 5; Mrs Alison O'Regan Year 6/7 and Mrs Pavletich year 7/8.

Please note this may change but it may not. As always where year levels are split between two rooms, students are split by age. Some teachers will have students they have already taught before and that can't be avoided. It is actually an advantage as that "getting to know you" time at the beginning is done and dusted.

Please get in touch with me if you have any queries. This will be confirmed, along with class lists, later in the year.

TROPHIES (Second notice)

If you still have a trophy from last year's prizegiving (not a miniature - you keep that) please return it so that we can get it cleaned and engraved for this year.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We have been given 100 hours by the MOE for professional development throughout the 2021 year on Digital Technology which Karen Pavletich will lead with a facilitator . This is a real win for us and very timely with the expectations of the NZ curriculum.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Room 5 students continue to work on this.

HATS

Just a reminder that hats are to be worn in the playground in **terms 1 & 4** - otherwise students must stay on the deck areas. Many students are having to be reminded- please help us with this.

PHOTOS

These were taken last Friday and the proofs will be named in the next few days. We will notify you when payment is due and then when photos are ready for collection.

PTA raffle

This is ready to have books issued to families. This raffle is for a Xmas Hamper - 3 three draws to be done at Prizegiving in December. Please see the Otatau School Friends Facebook page for details about donations of goods for the raffle.

ST JOHN'S

Sue Lowry, the St John's Education Officer, will be in school working with each class next Thursday and Friday. We have her every two years and she has a really good programme she shares with our kids. Can I ask that your child/ren brings \$2.00 as a donation and hands this in at the school office - either to Mrs Kelsey, Ms Brodie or me.

Finally, today was Mr Morse's last day at Otatau School. We wish him all the very best for his retirement . We had an assembly and morning tea for him today. Mr Nick Pavletich will be working in this position and we welcome Nick to our school.

Kind regards

Carol

Otaua Combined Church

This month's service is this Sunday, 15th November, at 11:15am taken by Rev Richard Gray from St Andrews in Waiuku. All welcome. Any enquiries to Jo, ph 2352715. Please note that our family Christmas service will be on Sunday 20th December at 7:30 pm followed by light refreshments at the Otatau Bowling Club.

What I can see

I can see the short green grass growing taller every week, and in the distance I can see the tough bulls fighting head to head. Further away I see a flock of sheep standing side to side, sticking together like a team. Next to the flock, I see big tall trees waving their branches at each other saying "Hello" because they are friends. I also see a truck with hay bales strapped to the back passing by the long wood fence defending the school. Above the fence, I see the powerlines powering Otava School, the school that I love. Everything is damp and muddy from the rain and we may get wet, but who cares?

By Cyrus Thomson

