



# OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

## Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*“Learners Forever, Leading the Future”*

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As the Term draws to a close I would like to once again take the opportunity to thank you all for supporting your child's/rens schooling in Term 2. Special thanks to those who have helped out in the classrooms, providing transporting to school events or in any other way throughout the term. Your help certainly makes our student's education more exciting.

Thank you for your understanding around the recent early closures and teacher only days. We know that these days can at times cause an inconvenience but you can be assured that the staff really appreciate your support. The recent teacher only day is the only ToD we have planned for this year and we have three half days planned for Learning Conversations. (One each in Terms 1,2 and 4). When we planned our school year we were not aware of any Teacher Union meetings but they do generally happen when the Teachers Collective Contract is up for negotiation, which is once every 2-3 years. The teaching profession is generally unhappy with the offer made by the Ministry of Education as it doesn't address the increasing crisis in education. You may be aware of the nationwide issues with recruiting and retaining teachers. While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Sadly, there is very little interest from potential new recruits leaving our High Schools too (40% drop in teacher graduates over the past 5 years). There are also lots of excellent primary school teachers walking away from the job because the pay is poor and many others are changing careers. Some are retraining in an effort to find a better paying job. As an experienced Principal this is a genuine concern. Experienced primary school teachers reaching retirement age are also being urged to stay on in the role, because there are too few applicants for their job. There are some areas around the country where they are having to re-advertise a number of times just to find one suitable applicant. This highlights the very serious concerns the sector has right now. A bold solution is needed to address this crisis to ensure we have enough teachers and urgent and significant changes are needed so the teaching profession can attract the people it needs to ensure class sizes do not start to increase. We must also make the job appealing so we can secure and train quality people in our Teacher's Colleges, who will then graduate and will be enticed to stay in the role to teach our children going forward. Over the past 5+ years schools have had their Government funding frozen and constant teacher bashing has seen 20% more full-time teachers leave the job than in the 5 years prior. Over the past 10 years, jobs that earned less than a primary school teacher now earn more, so it is not surprising that our experienced primary school teachers are actively seeking and securing jobs that now pay better. They are on the move!! I encourage you to support our Otakiri School teachers as they collectively strive to achieve the changes needed within the "primary education" sector to safeguard quality education for all children and also ensure we make teaching an attractive profession again. We need the support of our Otakiri School community to help us. We need people in 'high places' to listen and to make a genuine commitment to teacher recruitment and retention. Principals and Teachers will be voting over the next couple of weeks on whether to accept the new contracts. There is a possibility of strikes in Term 3. We will keep you informed of any developments.

I hope you all have a really great break with your children over the 2-week holiday period. Hopefully the weather is kind to us and everyone can get out and enjoy our beautiful country, if not I'm sure a good dose of movies and DVDs in front of the fire will provide a great opportunity to recharge the batteries. For those of you heading overseas to warmer weather, I'm very jealous but wish you a great time and for those heading on ski trips, look after those bones as we want everyone back in one piece for the start of Term 3.

Nga mihi koutou

Mike Mokai

### **Ag Day**

Otakiri Agricultural Day is just around the corner and will be here before we know it.

Just letting you all know that there will be a big change this year which will affect the children who usually rear calves.

The Ministry of Primary Industries and B.O.P Federated Farmers have requested schools to ban calves from Calf Club this year due to the threat of Mycoplasma Bovis.

After consideration of the matter the Otakiri School Calf Club Committee have decided to happily comply with this request.

We are one of the many schools that will not be having calves at their Ag Day.

This might be an opportunity for your child to 'Dare to Dream' and try their hand at rearing a lamb or a goat.

Dates for lambs born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August and goats born on or after 15<sup>th</sup> July.

### **School Newsletters are Important**

It has come to the school's attention that some parents/caregivers are not receiving/reading the school newsletter. We understand people have busy lives but the school newsletter is the best way to relay what is happening at the school and we would like to encourage parents to take the time to read about what is going on at school.

The newsletter comes out every Thursday and can be seen in many different ways; hardcopy, In the office, on the notice board outside the office, on the school app, via email, on the school Facebook page and on the school website. Please see Michelle if you wish to be added to the email tree or school app or if you would like a hard copy.

### **After School Care**

We have a family (2 children) looking for after school care in the Otakiri/Edgecumbe area. If you know of anyone who is able to help please contact the office.

### **School books**

We would appreciate it if families would spend some time in the holidays looking for school library books and class readers. We have quite a number of books missing and this means children miss out on reading them. Please return any you may find to Michelle in the office.

### **Newspapers**

If you have any newspapers lying around at home the school would welcome them for Art projects. Please bring them to the office or Miss G in Tui class.

### **Plastic Bags**

Do you have extra plastic bags floating around at home? Helen would gladly take them off your hands, please drop them in to Michelle in the office.

### **Holiday office hours**

The school office will be open for the second week of the holidays from 9am to 3pm if you need to pop in for anything.

### **NCEA Meeting**

The government's review of NCEA is now underway, and people all over the country have started talking about, and sharing their ideas and experiences of NCEA - the challenges, the successes and what we can do better in the future.

If you would like the opportunity to get involved, find out more about the 6 Big Opportunities, and have your say, come along to one of the public workshops.

**3<sup>rd</sup> July, 6.00- 7.30pm, Tarawera High School Theatre, KAWERAU**

More information about the NCEA review, the Big Opportunities and ways to participate can be found at [conversation.education.govt.nz/ncea](http://conversation.education.govt.nz/ncea).

### **DATES & REMINDERS:**

*3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July – Learning Conversations; 6<sup>th</sup> July – Ruru Special Lunch; 6<sup>th</sup> July – last day of Term two; 23<sup>rd</sup> July – first day of Term Three.*

*Newsletter by e-mail [office@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:office@otakiri.school.nz). School account number for donations and payments: 12 3253 0069149 00*

*Website: [www.otakiri.school.nz](http://www.otakiri.school.nz)*