



# OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

## Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

*“Learners Forever, Leading the Future”*

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

It has been a fantastic start to the year and the feel of positivity from students, whanau and staff has been awesome. I hope you all enjoyed Waitangi Day and the nice weather that it brought. (Wow, wouldn't 4 days every week be nice!!!)

In the last two weeks I have been around classes and I am impressed with how quickly learning routines and expectations are being established, the positive hardworking approach to learning and how respectful the students are. The students are settling well and it is evident that they are ready to embrace another year of learning. The school calendar is full of engaging, purposeful learning that will ensure our students thrive and strive to meet their potential.

This year we are continuing to develop 'The Otakiri Way' and LEAD Expectations. Over the last two weeks students have been developing a shared understanding of what LEAD looks like in their classes and our school.

**Learn with Purpose**

**Engage with Kindness**

**Act with Respect**

**Dare to Dream**

This week I want to share a bit about our reward and reinforcement systems for students displaying positive behaviour:

If a student is displaying one of these Otakiri values, they could be rewarded with a coloured token. Each classroom has four containers, one for each House, and the student places the token they have earned into their House container. (They are awarded House points for this). Before each fortnightly assembly tokens are transferred from the classes to the 'Big' LEAD Token box in the office foyer. At assembly one name is drawn out from each House and that student will join me for Morning Tea in the following week or two. At the End of Term Assembly, all tokens collected during the term go into the draw as we have a game of Chocolate Fish or the Envelope (Based on the old, 'The Money or the Bag TV show.')

Each student also has an individual reward card in class. When they receive a token they also have their LEAD card clipped to acknowledge their positive behaviour. When they receive 24 'clips' for a given expectation they will earn a special LEAD reward (last year it was the wristbands and this year we are working on LEAD badges). Once a student has earned all four badges they will receive a special LEAD Certificate.

Last year, students have responded very positively to this system and it has been great for them to be acknowledged for positive and appropriate behaviour.

Next newsletter I will share information about 'Golden Time', which I'm sure you have heard about.

Nga mihi koutou

Mike Mokai

### **School Day**

A reminder that the school day starts with the 8:55am bell. It is essential that children are at school before this time to be settled into class ready to learn. Being late for school has a negative impact on your child's learning. Being even just 10 minutes late every day adds up to an hour a week of lost learning. Over a year this adds up to one week of school missed in a year!

Being late for class may mean important instructions are missed and the class may be interrupted. It is very useful if children arrive at least 5 minutes before the first bell, this allows your child to interact with their peers and teacher and get themselves ready for their learning.

For safety reasons it is expected that students will not arrive at school before 8am and that the school grounds are vacated by 3:30pm unless children are supervised by a responsible adult. The school can accept no liability for children playing here outside of these hours.

Students arriving before 8:15am, wait quietly in the deck area in front of the library.

### **Water Play Roster**

Whilst the weather has not been as hot this week, we have decided to continue with the lunchtime water play roster, as the students are really enjoying it.

A reminder that if students would like to take part in the water play (on their allocated day) they will need togs or clothes to get wet in. All students will be required to wear a rash shirt or t-shirt that covers their shoulders. We will have sunblock available and students will be required to apply before playing.

### **Carpool to and from Kawerau**

If you live in Kawerau are you interested in carpooling. Kristen has 3 children and is looking for help to get them to Kawerau after school, she is able to help in the mornings in return. Please contact Kristen on 027 519 0810.

### **ATTENTION YOUNG ARTISTS!!!!**

Creative Ideas after school art classes are taking bookings and enquiries for term 1 2019.

Held in our Whakatane studio each term includes a range of styles, mediums, and techniques.

Artists learn a bit about art history whilst they create, problem solve, and find their own style.

Open to kids aged 6yrs + with primary, intermediate and high school classes.

Each year since 2009 we have exhibited all students work with a free exhibition in September to celebrate the artists individual and inspiring creations.

Call/text Marie on 0221910894



### **Vegies and Flowers for sale**

Children from last year's Kiwi Class will be at the front of the school at 3pm most days selling tomatoes, corn or flowers from their class garden.



### **Otakiri School Community BBQ**

All students and their families are warmly welcome to a beginning of the school year BBQ to be held next Friday the 15th February. Bring your family anytime from 5:30pm. This is an opportunity to come along, have some fun, connect with other families, meet your child/ren's teacher, have a look around the classes and ask any questions you may have. Put this date in your diaries.

Programme (All times are approximate)

5:30-6:30pm Arrive and join in the games

6:30-7:30pm Sausage sizzle and burgers (provided by the school)

7:30ish Visit classrooms for an informal chat

For catering purposes please indicate your likely attendance on the cut off section below and return to the office by 3pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, or leave a message with Michelle.

***Yes, we will be attending the Otakiri School Community BBQ***

Number of Adults:

Number of Children:

Family Name:

***For catering purposes please return by 3pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February.***

### **Old Horse Shoes**

Do you have any old horse shoes you no longer need? We would greatly appreciate them, please drop them in to the office.

### **Small Jars**

Do you have small jam type jars floating around at home that you don't need? If so, could you please drop them in to the office or to Jenni.

### Water play class roster for Week 3.

Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Kārearea	Tūi	Takahē	Ruru	Kārearea
Korimako		Kōkako		Korimako



#### **Special Lunches for Term 1**

This term we will have a special lunch order on Friday in Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. Order forms will go out early in those weeks and need to be returned by the Thursday afternoon. Funds raised will go towards Junior camp and Ruru camp.

#### ***Seasons for Growth Program***

##### ***Learning to live with change and loss***

Change and loss are issues that affect us all at some stage of our lives. At Otakiri School we recognise that when changes occur in our families through death, separation, divorce, illness, imprisonment and other circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called *Seasons for Growth* which will commence in March 2019. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem solving, decision making, effective communication and support networks.

If you would think your child or children would benefit from *Seasons for Growth*, we would encourage you to talk to them about attending the program. Otakiri school is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who take part.

Enrolment forms and further information are available from Mike Mokai (Principal) or Shona van der Vegte (Growing Through Grief) 021 767 538

#### **Dates and Reminders**

15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Community BBQ; 9<sup>th</sup> Mar – Country Fair; 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Ruru Camp; 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Kōkako and Takahē camp.

Newsletter by e-mail contact [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)



## COUNTRY FAIR NEWS

We held the first meeting to plan the fair on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. The next Meeting is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.15pm in the staffroom. All welcome.

**Helpers:** Shortly there will be an online form that you can fill in to indicate when you are able to help at the fair. We have lots of new stalls happening this year and we can't run the fair without your help. If you are not able to access the online form (there will be a link in the newsletter when this is up and running) please ring the office or complete a paper copy that will be in an upcoming newsletter and return to school.

**Grocery items** We will run our very popular grocery raffle again. House points will be awarded to each child bringing in items for the grocery raffle starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. (Cans, Bottles, Jars, Packets). Please check expiry dates and place in trolley in the foyer. Non-perishables only at this stage please.

**Garage Sale:** We will not be running a garage sale this year.

**Hangi:** Is anyone able to donate wild pork? Please ring the Office and let Michelle know.

**Pig:** Wanted – donate or to purchase please phone the Office if you can help.

**Stalls:** If you would like to hold a stall please ring and enquire at the office, \$20 per stall or car boot \$10. If you have any contacts of other people who are regular stallholders at markets invite them to come to our fair. (No food vendors though)

**Wanted:**

- Gazebos
- Large Chilly Bins

This year we are fundraising for a bike track for the school. So let's all pitch in and help raise funds for our kids.

Thank you for your help

Vera Pawson

Country Fair Chairperson



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**Return to Mrs Pawson - Kokako Room / or Office**

- I can lend a gazebo \_\_\_\_\_
- I can lend a chilly Bin \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_