



OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

Newsletter 5th March 2020

"Learners Forever, Leading the Future"

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Otakiri School Pepeha

Our classes are focusing on our school pepeha during this first term.

Ko Putauaki te maunga - Putauaki is my mountain
Ko Tarawera te awa - Tarawera is my river
Ko Ohine te wai te whenua - Ohine te wai is my land
Ko Iratumoana te tipuna - Iratumoana is my ancestor
Ko Mataatua te waka - Mataatua is my canoe
Ko Ngati Awa te iwi - Ngāti Awa is my tribe
Ko Otakiri te kura - Otakiri is my school

Students will also be asked to share their personal pepeha if they have one.

BIKES

WOW! The bikes have arrived and we had nearly sixty cyclists on the track at lunch times this week - and not one casualty.

We appreciate all the trouble parents and whanau are going to, to bring bikes to school but unfortunately, now the bike shed is full of school bikes, we are unable to store children's personal bikes any longer. **Personal bikes will need to be collected every day.**

If your child is bringing their bike from home, please ensure their helmet is fitted correctly.

Sunday Tennis

If your child is interested in learning or playing tennis Melanee MacMillan (the Kawerau Junior Tennis Coach) is looking at possibly coaching at Otakiri School on a Sunday afternoon if there is enough interest. Please contact Melanee on 027 210 2351.

Bike Track Timetable

As we have only forty-five bikes and to allow equitable access for all students we have timetabled classes during the lunch break. Please check your child's day for using the track;

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kiwi	Takahē	Korimako	Kōkako	Scoters
Tui	Ruru	Kakapo	Kārearea	

Iramoko Marae Trip

As part of our localised curriculum all classes will be visiting Iramoko Marae, travelling by bus. Blue Team junior classes (Kiwi, Kōkako, Takahē and Korimako) are visiting on Wednesday 18th March and Gold Team senior classes (Kārearea, Tui, Kakapo and Ruru) are visiting on Thursday 19th March, both from 9.45am-1.00pm. All students will need footwear, a packed lunch, a drink bottle of water and their sunhat. Permission slips will be sent home early next week.

Teacher-only Days

As part of the Primary Teachers Collective Agreement schools are entitled to have eight Teacher-Only Days over the next two years. While school is closed for instruction staff will be involved in professional learning and forward planning. We have endeavoured to cause as little disruption as possible and have tagged them on to holiday breaks. These 2020 Teacher Only Days are as follows;

Term 1 - Thursday 9th April (last day of Term 1)

Term 2 - Friday 3rd July (last day of Term 2)

Term 3 - Friday 25th September (last day of Term 3)

Term 4 - Tuesday 27th October (added to Labour Weekend)

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

School Car Park

Our school car park is getting busier by the day - especially with bikes being delivered to school. PLEASE SLOW DOWN! We've noticed some vehicles with excessive speed of late. Cones are also being placed across the driveway onto the field to prevent cars entering the space where children are playing.

Sporting Events:

Netball:

Thank you so much to Ella and Madi Fenwick, Amanda Van Rysewyk, Karla Webster and Katrina Durbin for offering to coach our Netball Teams this year. It is wonderful to have teams in the Saturday Competition again this year! We really appreciate you sharing your time, expertise and giving support to our students. Year 5-8 Teams start this Saturday 7th of March 8.30am. Year 1 and 2 begin on Monday 9th at 4:00pm. Year 3 and 4 begin on Tuesday 10th March at 4:00pm. 6 x 6 games for the Year 5 and 6 team start on the 14th March along with the Umpire Development Programme for the Year 7 and 8 players. All games are played at the Nita Shannon Netball Courts in Whakatane. Girls will be given their uniforms this week. Please make sure your child arrives at least 30 minutes before the start of their games.

Top School:

Our two competition teams will be selected this Friday and will continue their training sessions 3x a week with Mr Brown and Whaea Verbena. We have an enthusiastic group of cheerleaders. Thank you Amber Hyndman for offering to help train the Top School Cheerleaders on Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime. Top School is on Sunday 22nd of March at Awakeri school.

EBOP Swimming Champs:

We have a committed group of swimmers who have been training once a week for the last five weeks. Nine students have qualified to compete at the EBOP Swimming Champs to be held at the Whakatane Aquatic Centre on 18th March (PP 19th March). Congratulations to Holly Mees, Kohitu Biddle, Hunter Comins, Molly Fenwick, Cerys Hoete, Lani Brown, Ellie Mees, Molly Wratt and Callum Hughes. It has been pleasing to watch the improvement in their swimming technique, fitness, speed and determination to try and meet qualifying times for their events. Well done to all those students who have been training every Tuesday.



Picnic Evening

Next Thursday, we plan to officially open and bless the bike track by hosting a picnic evening from 5.30-7.30pm at school. So bring along your picnic hamper and blanket!

Meet Board of Trustees members, staff, and new members of our school community. Ride a bike and have some fun.

We do need family numbers attending for a Board of Trustees surprise so please RSVP on the accompanying slip **asap**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Family Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Dates and Reminders

16th March – School swimming starts; **22nd March – Top School**; 31st March Learning Partnership Conversations and 1st April - Learning Partnership Conversations, **school finishes at 12pm**; **8th April – Interschool touch rugby**; 8th April – Last day of school for term 1; **9th April – Teacher only day**; 28th April – First day of term 2.