



OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

Newsletter 6th August 2020

“Learners Forever, Leading the Future”

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora Whanau, Caregivers and Community members

Staff and students really valued our visits to Iramoko Marae and the stories shared by Pouroto Ngaropo, some of which they had already heard. Pouroto is such an eloquent storyteller and historian and his retelling of the local legend of Iratumoana and the taniwha Tarakura had the children spellbound. The name Otakiri has links to Iratumoana who, according to legend, thrust his spear into the ground after getting his warriors all fired up in preparation for battle - Otakiri means to strike or thrust. Many students were able to share their knowledge of Matariki, naming the stars and explaining their significance at this important time of the year. The whareniui at Iramoko Marae has the stars depicted on the rafters.

In looking at developing closer ties with the community as part of our localised curriculum, staff were fortunate this week in listening to Helen Dobbin, Environmental Educator for Manawahe Eco Trust, share information and opportunities that students at Otakiri could be a part of. Her goal is to engage with local schools to promote the use of the Manawahe Ecological Community Centre and the Manawahe Ecological Corridor as a satellite classroom/area to develop an ongoing ecological project. Otakiri would commit to a project that is local and ongoing e.g. tree planting, trap box building or investigating bird habitats. There are significant benefits from learning locally:

- Community engagement
- Identity and belonging to the local area
- Authentic teaching and learning, and
- Participating and contributing

Staff are excited with the prospect of engaging with a project to support the Manawahe Eco Trust - Ruru class already have strong links with a number of visits already undertaken over the past two years. All the work the Trust are currently engaged in rely on volunteer support so if you are able, they would love to hear from you.

With the many opportunities our students now have to engage in sporting activities and events, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those coaches, referees and parent helpers who make these happen. Without your support our students wouldn't be able to participate.

Nāku Noa
Sharon Theobald

Ag Day Entry Forms and Trophies

Ag Day entry forms were given out earlier this week and are to be returned to the office by Friday 25th September. If your child has not received an entry form, please ask them to collect one from the office.

Please return all Ag Day trophies to the office as soon as possible.



BoT Meeting Thursday 19th August 2020, 6pm





Kia ora tatou,

The Otakiri school Board of Trustees are holding our monthly meeting Wednesday 19th August at 6pm in the school Staff Room. Please feel free to attend.

Nga mihi nui

Nick Hoete

nick@otakiri.school.nz

Head lice myth buster				
Myth or truth				
	State of hair	Length of hair	Spread of lice	Itchy scalp?
Myth	Prefer clean hair	Prefer long hair	Jump and can spread via clothes/towels	Always means itchy scalp
Truth	Infect both clean and dirty hair	Infect all lengths and types of hair	Walk from head to head	Only itches if allergic to bites/faeces

Late or Absent Children

If your child/ren are late for school, please ask them to enter school through the office to let Michelle know they are here. This will save Michelle txting to ask you where your child is and causing any unnecessary worry for you.

Also if your child is away from school please call the office on 304 8101 and leave a message or txt the school mobile 027 489 5218 with a reason for non-attendance or send through a message on the school app. It is very important that we know where your children are if they are not at school.

Free Guinea Pigs

Three baby guinea pigs looking for a new home. Two boys and one girl, great Ag Day pets! Please contact Leisa on 021 1647 449 if you are able to offer them a good home.



Dates and Reminders

25th August – Junior Tough Guy and Girl Mud Run; 17th August to 18th September – Dental Bus at School;
8th September – Student Led Conferences; 23rd September – School Photos; 24th September – Last Day of Term 3; 25th September – **TEACHER ONLY DAY**; 12th October – First Day of Term 4; 15th October – Ag Day; 19th October – Group Day.

Newsletter by e-mail contact office@otakiri.school.nz. Website: www.otakiri.school.nz

School account number for payments: 12 3253 0069149 00