



# OTAKIRI SCHOOL

## Newsletter 27th August 2020

*"Learners Forever, Leading the Future"*

Newsletters come home weekly on Thursdays

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*Following our trip to Iramoko Marae, Kārearea Class worked through the Writing Process to publish a Recount about their recent visit.*

### Iramoko Marae

On Week One of Term 3, Otakiri School visited Iramoko Marae in Manawahe. The Kaumātua's name was Pouroto Ngaropo. He taught us about Māori Culture, Legends, Ancestors, History and our land.



First Pouroto Ngaropo told us about the marae and the land around us. After he walked back to the marae, he blew his big conch shell, which meant we could start walking respectfully onto the marae. We all sat down and he started his speech. When he finished Whaea Mereana and Nanny sang a waiata. Then it was our turn. We sang,

"Ehara e te mea" which one of our seniors, Holly Mees led.

After we had a choice to hongi and handshake or not.

Next we went into the wharenuī and listened to stories about his ancestors. Then Whaea Rae taught us how to weave a putiputi flax flower. It was fun and a little bit tricky but it looked pretty cool once we had finished. Then we went back to the wharenuī and played "Simon Says."

Pouroto Ngaropo said it in Te Reo, then in English so we could all understand.



Eventually we went on a walk up the hill, but as we got higher we saw a dead Ruru on the ground surrounded by feathers. It was one of the protectors of the marae. We felt its soft, brown, speckled feathers as Cerys picked its body up.

We kept walking until we reached a lookout point where we could see everything down below us. Then Pouroto Ngaropo told us to sprint to the water tank and back.

After everyone had finished we all walked politely in silence, into the Urupā/graveyard where Pouroto Ngaropo's family members, like his younger brother and

his father were buried. He then told us that one of our ancestors Iratumoana was buried there as well. Iratumoana was a brave warrior and leader. He was chief of Ngati Awa, who slayed Tarakura, a vicious terrifying taniwha. As Pouroto Ngaropo said a karakia to his ancestors we all patiently waited in silence. When we had all walked back down the hill and were in the marae again. We had a Tangi/ funeral for the Ruru then washed our hands.

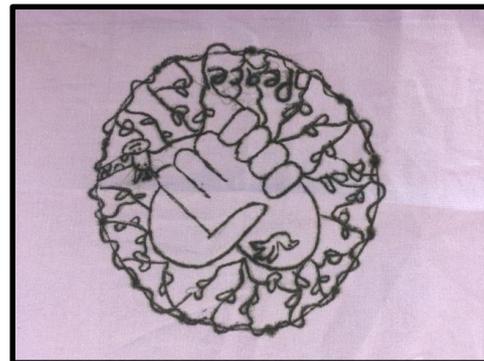
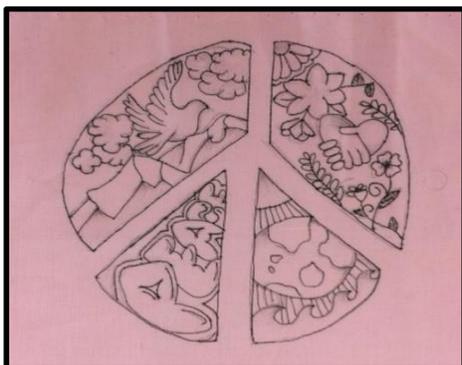


Pouroto Ngaropo thanked us for coming and said an afternoon Karakia. After we all went to get our bags from the wharekai then thanked Pouroto Ngaropo. We jumped on the bus and went back to school. I felt happy that I got to learn about Maori Culture, the history and legends of Iramoko Marae  
**Ruby Ruiter**



## REMEMBERING SADAKO AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WORLD PEACE

Gold Team learnt about the story of Sadako a 12 Year old Japanese girl who developed Leukemia, the "atomic bomb disease" and her brave and moving struggle against the illness. A Japanese Legend holds that if a person who is ill makes 1,000 paper cranes, the Gods will grant that wish to be well again. Sadly for Sadako, her wish to get well and go home to her family was not granted. We joined other local schools to remember Sadako and the **importance of world peace** by designing Peace Flags which will be displayed at the Whakatane Library.



### 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Dates and Reminders

17<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> September – Dental Bus at School;  
8<sup>th</sup> September – Student Led Conferences; 23<sup>rd</sup> September – School Photos; 24<sup>th</sup> September – Last Day of Term 3; 25<sup>th</sup> September – **TEACHER ONLY DAY**; 12<sup>th</sup> October – First Day of Term 4; 15<sup>th</sup> October – Ag Day; 19<sup>th</sup> October – Group Day; 27<sup>th</sup> October – **TEACHER ONLY DAY**; 28<sup>th</sup> October (NEW DATE) – Junior Tough Guy and Girl Mud Run; 31<sup>st</sup> October – Kawerau King of the Mountain