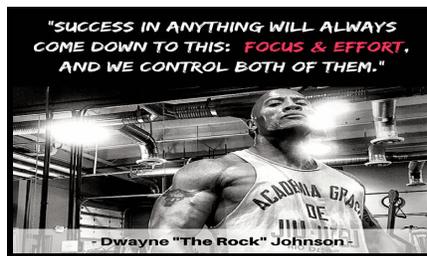


# Ruru Newsletter, Term 1, 2021



Kia ora e te whānau,

A warm welcome back to you all for what is going to be a fantastic year in Ruru! Already I have seen the energy and enthusiasm that this group brings and that makes me very excited to get to know all of the tamariki and their whānau really well so I can support them to channel that energy towards meaningful learning and lots of growth!

As Uncle Dwayne mentions above, **Effort** is something we can control and this is a huge part of my own teaching philosophy. If we control what is in our power to control such as our effort, behaviour, willingness to take risks and the way we treat others we will not just go a very long way toward finding success at kura, we will make huge steps towards doing great things in all areas of our lives! My teaching style is based around what will help every student I have the privilege of working with, find success in their lives, not just on a test or in their school work.

My biggest ask is that every student gives me their best effort, but to also understand that some days we might not have 110% to give, although it is still important to give the best effort they can on those days. Any steps forward will always be positive steps forward in my eyes, no matter how big or small those steps may be!!

## Teaching and Learning

*We are learning to collaborate and be self-directed by...*

- Working in a range of learning contexts; *individually, in small groups and as a whole class. Participating and Contributing*
- Using LEAD and Mana Potential to develop self-managing and interpersonal skills both inside and outside of the classroom. **Managing Self and Relating to Others**
- Push ourselves in our learning as well as making good learning choices that will have a positive impact on ourselves and those around us. **Managing Self**
- Develop our thinking and problem solving skills by working together and helping each other achieve goals. **Thinking**



The main learning concept for Term One is going to be based around Citizenship, who we are and how we can bring who we are, including our experiences, whakapapa, skills and strengths to have a positive impact on Otakiri School and our wider community. Many learning areas such as Literacy, Mathematics, Social Studies and Inquiry will be integrated under these concepts to ensure they are purposeful and meaningful to the students which will help with engagement and enthusiasm towards their learning as we move forward in 2021. Mathletics will be used to support the mathematics learning of the students however many of the learning contexts will be based around real world situations and the students areas of interest.

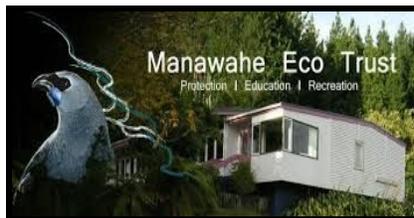
Some of the learning opportunities will include exploring our areas of interest and passions, particularly the Careers that are associated with these and this will be highlighted by the students running a Careers Expo near the end of the term! This will also open up great learning opportunities around Financial Literacy, with Banqer being used again this year to support the students with this learning.



Careers education is not all about finalising where we think we need to get to, but rather opening up many more doors that we may not have known existed so that the students have a great understanding of how they can make the most of the next few years of their education journey. This means utilising the opportunities presented at home and at school, to help them get to where they may want to go! For some, it will change multiple times and for others it may lock in the focus that to get to our 'dream' job or career, we need to work hard for it!

The students will also be provided with opportunities to connect and explore with their local environment and we will be working alongside Helen at Manawahe Eco Trust to continue to develop our understanding of how we can continue to protect our beautiful surroundings and the animal and plant life that call it home! The learning contexts will be taught through both a Science and Te Ao Māori world view to allow the students to form their own ideas and opinions around issues and ideas that are relevant to us here at Otakiri School!

Te Reo Māori and Tikanga are also something that are very important to me and I am an advocate for all of those who are lucky to call Aotearoa home to make the small efforts to learn some of the language and customs as it is one of our three official languages and provides great opportunities to honor and respect the Treaty of Waitangi. I am comfortable for students and whānau to call me either Mr Brown or Matua Matt moving forward.



If there are any queries or concerns, please continue to contact me through SeeSaw, through my email [matt@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:matt@otakiri.school.nz) or come into school. I am always happy to make time for a chat! Open door policy, we are on the same team as we support all of the tamariki to find success in their learning and their lives!

Ngā mihi Koutou,

Matt Brown

### KEY DATES- TERM 1, 2021

- Week 2-** Manawahe Eco Trust Trip #1- *Tuesday 09/02/2021*
- Week 3-** Kapa Haka/Waiata begins with Matua Murray- *Thursday 11/2/21 11-12pm*
- Week 3-** EBOP Triathlon- Opotiki - *Thursday 18/2/2021 Postponement Tuesday 23/2/21*
- Week 4-** EBOP Touch- Whakatanē- *Thursday 25/2/2021 Postponement Tuesday 2/3/21*  
*Top School trial- Week 4- Day TBC*
- Week 7-** Top School- Awakeri School- *Sunday 21st March*
- Week 10-** Manawahe Eco Trust Trip #2- *Thursday 8/4/2021*
- Week 11-** Rangitaiiki Touch- Awakeri School- *Thursday 15/4/2021*

*More dates will be added as they come up throughout the term! :)*