

# Kakapo's Term 1 Newsletter 2021

Nga mihi o te tau (Happy New Year), and welcome to the fabulous whanau of Kākāpō class and a busy term ahead.

Last year I was Acting Principal here at Otakiri while Mike Mokai was away and prior to that I worked in Ruru class in 2019. Before coming to Otakiri I worked at Allandale School in Whakatane leading the Year 2 team for six years.

I am very excited with the opportunity to continue work at Otakiri and be teaching in Kākāpō class.

I have recently moved from Whakatane to Edgecumbe with my husband Dennis and our two cats. Together we have five children and twelve grandchildren which keep us both very busy.

I have a passion for Maths, Literacy and Visual Art and Craft, and hope to bring some of that into the classroom. Nature, the environment, and sport are also personal interests.

I look forward to meeting my new Kākāpō whanau, so if you are visiting school please come and introduce yourselves if you haven't already done so. It's going to be a great year!



All our classes at Otakiri are named after NZ native birds and we are lucky enough to have KĀKĀPŌ.

Kākāpō are birds that are friendly and unique. The Kākāpō fledglings in this class will be encouraged to

build positive relationships with others and celebrate and build on their unique capabilities.

We focus on being **LEAD** kids at Otakiri - we give **OUR BEST ALWAYS** and we;

- **L**earn with Purpose
- **E**ngage with Kindness
- **A**ct with Respect and,
- **D**are to Dream

## CLASS SEESAW

The students and I invite you to join our class Seesaw - an online learning platform. It's designed to give you an insight into our secret school life, so that you can share and chat about our learning when we get home. Codes will come home shortly.

## DAILY DEDICATIONS

This year we are trialling something new, a daily dedication. Each morning the day will be dedicated to someone who has been a great learning role model. Initially I'll provide a model of what's expected e.g. I could dedicate the Kākāpō learning day to my grandfather who was a role model for me with his commitment to gardening - a passion I still have (and share his photo). This will be entirely voluntary but I encourage you to support your child in being able to share someone in their life who has had a positive influence on their learning.

## HAPPYGRAMS

Although **LEAD** tokens are a focus students may occasionally bring home a happygram. These are a quick acknowledgement of them being "Caught being an Otakiri Kind of Kid" during the school day. We make a fuss of them in class when they are awarded so please make a fuss when they get home.

## LIBRARY

Our library time is on **THURSDAY** afternoon so please support us in remembering to bring our library books back to school so we can issue new books. We are allowed to have two books at a time, one for home and one to be kept at school.

## HOME LEARNING

Home-school partnerships are so important. Together, school and home can support Kākāpō kids to be successful learners. We need to read every night.

If your child is reluctant to read at home please let me know.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

## HELPERS IN OUR CLASS

We are appreciative of any help you can provide in our class for the Kākāpō learners - listening to a child read, helping with art, cooking, or helping at our swimming sessions for example. Or if you have an interest or passion that you would like to share, then we would love to hear from you. Please let us know if you are able to help.

## TERM 1 FOCUS

Our inquiry focus this term is

"Ko Au, Taku Turangawaewae" (Me and my Place).

Our big ideas are around understanding that our identity is a combination of many things and it can change over time, and that knowing who we are helps us show self-awareness in what we do.

Students will need to know:

What are the things that contribute to our identity?

How can our identity change over time?

How does knowing who we are help us show self-awareness in what we do?

## OTAKIRI SCHOOL PEPEHA



**Ko Putauaki te maunga**  
(Putauaki is the mountain)

**Ko Tarawera te awa**  
(Tarawera is the river)

**Ko Mataatua te waka**  
(Mataatua is the waka)

**Ko Ngati Awa te iwi**  
(Ngati Awa is the tribe)

**Ko Otakiri te whenua**  
(Otakiri is the land)

**Ko Iratumoana te tipuna**  
(Iratumoana is the ancestor)

**Ko Tarakura te taniwha**  
(Tarakura is the taniwha)

**Ko Otakiri te kura**  
(Otakiri is the school)

While this is the pepeha we use at school, I would appreciate parents/caregivers of those students who have a different iwi affiliation, providing us with a copy of their pepeha so that we may incorporate this into our learning about identity.

## A HEADS UP . . .

Dates to remember:

- ⇒ Thursday 18th February - EBOP Triathlon
- ⇒ Thursday 25th February - EBOP Touch
- ⇒ Saturday 21st March - Top School at Awakeri
- ⇒ Thursday 1st April - EBOP Softball
- ⇒ Thursday 8th April - Manawahe Eco Trust trip

**Stationery - covering books:** Thanks to all those who have already purchased stationery. Books that are covered have a much longer life, therefore I am asking that all books are covered. Reusable covers can be accessed from K-Mart or from the website <https://www.ezcovers.com/nz/>

**Named water bottle:** I am encouraging students to have their own drink bottle available in class each day, especially during this hot first term. We need to stay hydrated!

**Hats:** A reminder that children must wear a hat during breaks and sports activities at school. By Week 2 (this week) children need to be wearing a school hat (available from the school office) or any plain blue hat.

## CONTACTING ME

- ◇ You are welcome to contact me before and after school in person
- ◇ You can phone the school office **3048101** and leave a message.
- ◇ Contact me by email
- ◇ [sharon@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:sharon@otakiri.school.nz)
- ◇ Contact me through our class Seesaw

I am very excited to be sharing in your child's learning with them this year.

Nga Mihi

Whaea Sharon (Sharon Theobald)