

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Week 4 Newsletter - 23 February 2010

NZEI Paid Union Meeting Monday 8 March afternoon.

Our teachers are required, and legally entitled to attend the above meeting.

All of our staff are NZEI members.

We will not be able to run school as usual on that afternoon.

We request your help please – by picking up your children at 12:30.

If you are unable to pick your child up, please send a note to your child's classroom teacher.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience.

Linda Woon

BOT ELECTIONS MAY 2010

Nomination forms are available from the school office.

Nominations close Noon 23 April 2010.

1. MOE have contracted CORE Education to film in our school this week. They are looking at how we are introducing the revised curriculum and in particular they will be focusing on Key Competencies, Ready Set Go, as well as National Standards.

Once they have edited the various segments we will then approach you for signed consents to have images of your children loaded on the MOE curriculum website.

2. We will have photographers and TV cameras here tomorrow for the launch of **Pancake's Lucky Adventure**. This will be an exciting day for the school. Once again, we will need to get special signed consents from you if the media wish to use a picture with your child's image.
3. Next Wednesday at 10:30am we will have our local MP, Mr Todd McClay at school. He will help us to celebrate the completion of one of the building projects and will open Room 16.
4. We also have a Visiting Artist, Rebekah Lo at school next week. She will be teaching children specific techniques that will make a huge difference to their artistic and creative skills. There is a cost of \$4.00 which is paid for from Activity Fees. If you have not yet paid your fee could this amount please be paid so your child can attend..
5. National Standards: We have a large number of children who are due their National Standards assessment right now as they have just completed their 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of school in NZ. We have been working very hard as a school to decide how best to report to you so that it is easy to understand, indicates what your child needs to do next, and suggests practical ways you can help at home. We are aiming for consistency of colours and approach across reading, written English and maths. We need a little more time as this is all new, and the system of reporting each month to different groups brings new logistical issues for us to solve.

Bullying and resilience : Why we have Kia kaha and Restorative Thinking this term

“The stronger the wind, the stronger the trees” is a notion that applies to developing resilience in our children. As teachers and parents we tread a delicate line **between** bubble-wrapping and over-protecting our children **or** delegating responsibility for follow up to someone else.

We do need to be vigilant about protecting our children from bullying, but we also need to help them grow their own defences. At school both victim and perpetrator need help.

A simple ‘assign blame and punish’ model does not grow **personal responsibility** (our core value this term). It does not help the perpetrator accept personal responsibility for restoring a positive healthy relationship with their victim. It does not help the victim become resilient and confident – the best anecdote against being bullied. It takes a lot of time to work through children’s accounts of events and there is rarely a straightforward chronological account. Adults are not expert witnesses of events, and children colour versions with even more personal interpretation. We know that it takes time to grow children towards resilience and personal responsibility. The bully needs to accept accountability instead of building excuses, and the victim needs to learn assertive responses instead of relying on others to always intervene. Both sets of skills take time.

Reminder, there is a parents’ meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17 March. Constable Viv Sutton will be attending to answer any questions.

This term we are following up on the Power of One show we had at school last year. The class is asked to sign up to the oath “I will not bully others. I will not stand by while others are being bullied. I will report bullying whenever I see itbecause I have the Power of One”.

This term, as part of our focus on the key Competency of Participating and Contributing we are looking at what it means in children’s words to be **Accountable** and to have a **Social Conscience**

School Start Time

Our first bell is at 8:55am

We recommend that children arrive at school between 8:30am - 8:45am

Amazingly, we have children arriving over a 2 hour period from 7:30am – 9:30am.

It is good to for children to arrive early so that they can get into “school mode”, meet their friends and get their things sorted ready for the day.

However, although we have teachers at school from 7:30, the teachers need that time to get ready for their teaching day. We are not able to have teachers on duty before school. From the time children arrive in the class they demand full attention. We need the time before school to ensure the resources are ready for the programme. Teachers need to be going all over the school to collect what is required. For many children, even an hour of unscheduled time is a challenge to fill happily. Please consider how your child can be cared for before school if your work day starts at 8.00am.

On the other hand, 9:30am is too late to arrive for school. The late arrivers miss all the necessary time to get their heads into work mode. They do not have their equipment ready. They have missed all the essential notices about the day’s preparation. The late child is on the back foot, disorientated, and really disadvantaged.

It sets the tone which makes learning more difficult right from the start. It only gets worse as the cold mornings set in. Your child needs to grow the habits of getting ready for school. That may mean having clothes and books ready the night before. It may mean having an alarm clock. They need to get sorted now- before they become teenagers!

If your child arrives late regularly, please expect a call from the school.

Linda Woon

Traffic News

Wednesday morning just before 9.00am a blue car DFB332 and a silver BMW WC9921 were left driverless in the middle of the drop off zone, blocking up the whole of the flow of traffic for the rest of the parents on a wet morning. The drop off zone is for drop off/pick up only. Please do not leave your cars unattended in this area. Also parents are parking in the staff car parks and walking their children to class, these areas are for staff parking only please do not use them as they can be busy areas morning and afternoon and it would be very easy for a child to be hit by a car. Thanks.

Lunch News

Lunches will recommence next week Monday 1 March. Lunches will be available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only. Menu will be in next week's newsletter.

Food N Fun Fair

One of our sponsors The National Bank will be at the Gala this year. They are offering a \$50.00 cash deposit prize for a lucky student who opens a new bank account on the night. To open an account you will need ID a Birth Certificate or Passport.

Lucky Dip

We are also seeking "Lucky Dip" prizes, any small preferably new toys or knick knacks would be greatly appreciated. Thanks

Indian Henna Painting Stall

There will be an Indian henna hand painting stall at the Food n Fun Fair (March 11th 4-7pm) and we need some more people to help with the painting. If you can spare some time we would really appreciate your help. Please phone Mitch Fox 343-6992 or contact the office. It is easy to learn.

Car Rides

Does anyone have a "novelty" or 4WD vehicle they can drive at our upcoming Food n Fun Fair? At the moment we have a police car arranged for rides but need another vehicle. If you are able help then please contact me on: 021 961 823 or damian.harris@se-anz.com
Thanks for your support.
Damian Harris - OSSG

Term 1 Diary

Tuesday 23 February	Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 24 February	'Lucky Pancake' Book Launch and Assembly
Tuesday 2 March	Visiting Artist Rebekah Lo
Wednesday 3 March	World Maths Day
Tuesday 9 March	School Athletics
Thursday 11 March	Food N Fun Fair
Monday 15 March	Digital Citizen Week
Tuesday 23 March	Interschool Athletics
Thursday 1 April	End of Term 1

School Fees

Thanks to everyone who have paid their school fees. Invoices for outstanding fees are being sent out this week. Please note the \$10.00 discount only applies until Wednesday 31 March. If you would like to make arrangements to pay off your fees please contact the school office.

Lucky Pancake Launch

Parents attending the Lucky Pancake launch tomorrow (Wednesday) are asked to sit in the seats provided at the back of the Hall. Thanks.

Wendy Peterson

Walking School Bus

We still need some more WSB drivers in the mornings to walk our buses to school. Please contact Mr Cunliffe in Room 17. Thanks

Eveready Power to Learn Promotion

The Eveready Power to Learn promotion is back providing computers to schools, and with \$40,000 worth of computers to give away! Collect and post barcodes from Eveready battery and torch products along with a nomination for Otonga School.

Achieving Potential Seminars

Wednesday 7-9th April Selwyn College Kohimarama 8-15 years. www.holidayseminars.co.nz
Brochures are available from the Otonga School Office

Flippaball Draw Thursday 25 February

4.10pm Crt 2 Sharks; **4.25pm** Crt 2 Orcas

Touch Rugby Results

Green	v	St Michaels	3-10	
Blue	v	Te Koutu	8-0	P.O.D Whole Team

Touch Draw Wednesday 24 February

4.20pm : Red (F1); Black and Green (F4); Blue (F6); Orange (F8)
Yr 6 mixed and yr 3/4/5 girls please be there 15 minutes early. Thanks

Marist St Mikes JAB Rugby Registrations

Registration for U6's - U13's to be held Sunday 28th Feb 1-3pm, Wednesday 3rd March 6-7.30pm, Wednesday 10th March 6-7.30pm at St Mikes Club rooms. All new players welcome. Enquiries phone Annette Sargison 3455610.

Ngongotaha Rugby League

Registrations Saturday 27 February Puketawhero Park, Vaughans Rd, Rotorua 10am – 2pm Queries to: Rachael 021 1168 452

Otonga Road Soccer Club

Registration for all players will be; Friday 5th March 6.00-8.00pm and Saturday 6th March 9.00-12.00am, at Otonga Primary School hall. **Kit amnesty**-any players or coaches that still have shirts or other kit, please return on above registration days. Please check out the new soccer website that is under construction which will have more information added to it over the next few weeks (including our new logo):
www.sportsground.co.nz/otongafootball Save it to your favourites so that you can easily access it for the coming season! Any feedback is welcome to Karl on 3494155.

Kaharoa Killer Duathlon

Run or walk/Bike/Run or walk. This Sunday 28 February. For more information www.kaharoakillerduathlon.co.nz or pick up an entry form from the Convention Centre, Kiwi Bikes or Kaharoa School office.

Otonga School 50th Jubilee
Saturday 5th June 2010

www.otonga.myevent.com