

School times

It is great to have everyone back at school. The place is buzzing again. The children are re-establishing old friendships and making new ones. These skills are important life skills. We know that time before school for social contact and getting ready for class is really important. It helps learning by having the child ready for class. Learning is more than just an academic venture.

However, there are extremes that are causing our teachers concern. Some children are arriving as early as 7:30am. Please can parents understand that we do not have before – school child care. We cannot have the children in class before 8:30am. Teachers need to be in and out of their rooms getting lesson materials ready. We cannot ask teachers to do more than road patrol duty before school.

The school is not fenced with gates that open at 8:30 – but can you please consider alternative care before 8:30am?

After school care is available at the school and run as a private business. We ask that all other children go home by 3:15pm and check in with their parents.

We are concerned for our children's safety, but we need to make it manageable.

Meet the Teacher is Wednesday 15 February in each class

NO PICNIC THIS YEAR.

Juniors will be 3-4pm and then again at 5-6pm – in your child's own room.

Middle and senior classes at 5pm and 5:30pm – in your child's own room.

If you have a special concern it is advisable to make a separate 1:1 appointment. Please avoid Mondays and Wednesdays though as they are meeting days.

Attached to this newsletter is a short questionnaire on your child. If you could make the time to complete it for your teacher, we believe it will help to establish the close personal relationship that promotes understanding and easier learning. We look forward to seeing you.

SCHOOL DATES 2012

Term 1 : Jan 30 – April 5

Feb 15: Meet the teacher

Mar 8: Food n Fun Fair

Mar 13: Athletics

Term 2: April 23 – June 29

May 2 & 3: Mid year 3-way interviews

May 10: Photos

June 1: Teacher Only Day

June 4: Queens Birthday Holiday

Term 3: July 16 – Sept 28

Term 4: Oct 15 – Dec 17

Nov 13: Student Led Conference (no classes)

A reminder that our newsletters are available on the website.

We welcome your feedback ,

Email: woon@otonga.school.nz

Linda Woon, Principal

Food 'n' Fun Fair – 8 March 2012

Food 'n' Fun Fair is just five weeks away. We need your help and support. We need sponsorship and donations. If you have, or know of a business that may be able to help the school by sponsoring a children's ride eg the Bouncy Castle, please let us know. Our Food n Fun Fair is true to its name – Food and FUN. However, the 'fun' rides do cost a lot and we make little on each ride. If a firm would like to sponsor with naming rights and advertising – we would be grateful.

Also, each week we will be sending out green flyers asking for your assistance in various ways. To give you prior warning of what we will be asking for, here is an outline. Mystery jars, quick fire raffle items – grocery items, books/games, then we will be selling keys for the bike raffle and in the final week we will send out a paper plate to each family in the hope that you can do some baking for us, and most importantly we need your help on the day running stalls, etc. You don't have to participate in all these donations, but the more donations we receive the more money we can raise.

We thank you for your support and look forward to another successful gala.

Sponsorship Committee, OSSG

Car Rides – Food 'n' Fun Fair

Does anyone have a "novelty" or 4WD vehicle they can drive at our upcoming Food 'n' Fun Fair?

If you are able help then please contact me on: 021 271 9245 or karen.matt@xnet.co.nz

Thanks for your support.

Karen Archer – OSSG

Mystery Bags

We have attached a ziplock bag for you to fill with goodies. The general idea is to put something in the bag that YOU would want to receive....just use your imagination.

We do request that all food, sweets and lollies be wrapped for hygiene/safety reasons.

Thank you very much.

Ice Cream Containers

If you have any spare ice cream containers and lids could you please drop them into the office, The Support Group would like to use them at the Gala. Thanks

Lost Property

Lost property will be displayed every Friday.

Please ask your children to check if they have something missing. Every attempt will be made to return property that is clearly named. Please make an effort to name all your child's things.

Many thanks

Jill Fowler

Year 5/6 EOTC Fee

The fee of \$65 is due by 16 February (apologies for the incorrect date last week). If you wish to make arrangements to pay this fee off please contact the school office.

Road Patrol

If you are able to help supervise at the Otonga crossing either in the morning or afternoon please contact the school office or email wpeterson@otonga.school.nz. Thanks.

Walking School Bus 2012

Please leave your name and contact details at the office if you would like to get involved with this very exciting project. Please could our current drivers confirm availability for this year. We are always in need of drivers who walk our buses to school in the mornings. Passengers, remember to get your card clicked when you walk, as we have key ring prizes for 50, 100 and 150 walks. You will also help your class with 10 bonus points on the Feet First chart and teachers who walk will receive 20. The Golden Boot will be awarded to the class with the most walks at the end of the term.

Mr Cunliffe

Otonga School Support Group

Our first meeting for the year is tonight **Tuesday 7th Feb at 7.00pm in the STAFFROOM**. Come along and join us and find out what we do-we are a friendly bunch!! If you would like to find out more before the meeting please call me on 3572687 or email karen.matt@xnet.co.nz.
Karen Archer Chairperson OSSG

Student Absences

Please advise daily absences to the office by 9.00am each day. There is an answer phone available or email jparker@otonga.school.nz. Please consider if you have a new cell phone for Christmas – do we have your phone numbers?

Lunch News

We are still desperately seeking volunteers, we can't go ahead without you! If you are available to help either Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings 8.30 to 9.30 am collating orders or help to hand them out at lunch time 12-12.40pm please contact the school office on 348 6443 or email jparker@otonga.school.nz. Thank you. *Jill Parker*

Touch Rugby

Touch Rugby will take place on Wednesday evenings from 3:45 pm onwards at Kuirau Park, starting on the 15th Feb. Otonga School will enter girls, boys and mixed teams. There will be a variety of grades:

Mixed	Year 0/1,2,3
Girls	Year 4,5,6
Boys	Year 4,5,6

We anticipate many children being keen to play therefore we will need **plenty of parents to put their hands up and offer to coach**. If there are not enough coaches, some children will miss out. All rules, balls, cones and new shirts will be supplied and Touch Rotorua will be having coaching and development courses. We often have two or more parents sharing the coaching/managerial duties with training once/twice a week. Please enquire at the school office for a registration form. Reply slip and money to be returned to the school office before 8th Feb 2012 please. (No entries accepted after that!)

Mr Cunliffe

Cricket

There are some places left for yr 3-6 cricket teams. Please pick up a form from the office ASAP. It will be on a first come first served basis. We are also in desperate need of coaches. If we do not have enough coaches for the teams children will not be able to play.

Mr Liley

Babysitting

15 year old John Paul College student looking for babysitting work. Reliable and friendly with experience with children of all ages. Feel free to call or text Louise Woolhouse: Home 073489887, Cell: 0277224731.

Mobile Ear Clinic

A timetable is available from the office for Term 1. Please note that no appointment is necessary and any child can attend any clinic.

Indoor Bowls

Starts again for 2012 season on Tuesday 14th February in the Otonga School Hall at 7.15pm.

Enquiries welcome to:

Brenda ph 348 9882 or

Barrie ph 346 1565 a/hrs