



OTONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Otonga Road • Rotorua 3015 • Phone (07) 348-6443 • Fax (07) 346-0437 • Principal: Linda Woon
Email otonga@otonga.school.nz • Website www.otonga.school.nz

Te Kura o Tihīōtonga

"To build sound foundations for our children's future"

07 February 2018

Newsletter 01

Term 1 Diary

7 Feb	Powhiri 10am
12 Feb	Mandarin Language Assistant, Miss Zhu arrives
20-22 Feb	Senior school Education Outside the Classroom
22 Feb	Junior football
1 March	Junior football
6 March	RATS duathlon
8 March	Top School
13 March	House day
22 March	Joe Chambers TV Presenter Poetry Year 1-4
29 March	Year 1 Grandparents day
30 March	Good Friday – SCHOOL CLOSED
2 & 3 April	Easter break – SCHOOL CLOSED
13 April	Friday LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Term Dates 2018

Term 1: Wed 7th February – Fri 13th April

Term 2: Mon 30th April – Fri 6th July

Term 3: Mon 23rd July – Fri 28th September

Term 4: Mon 15th October – TBA

Tena koutou katoa - Greetings to our families and welcome to the new 2018 school year.

We have some really exciting things planned for you this term. Some people may be a bit confused with all changes that have been going on so let me list a few.

First of all - welcome to our New Entrant and other new students. We also have some new staff: Whaea Dawn in Room 9, Mrs O'Leary in Room 10, Mrs Bowen in Room 11 and Mrs Romero in Room 4. Our new MLA, Lingfei Zhu will start next week. Mrs Cherie May is welcomed back to our reception office.

There will be a powhiri as an official welcome by our kaumatua, Dr Ken Kennedy, at 10am Wednesday 7th in the hall.

The middle school are now on the top level of the school and the seniors are down by the astro-turf and fields.

Our middle school buddies will now be much closer to their New Entrant buddies.

There is a new wheelchair-friendly pathway being built to join the two levels of the school and that will involve new gardens.

The whole school has been painted and we have replaced all of the old gutters, so we are fresh and clean to start the year.

We have had a significant electrical upgrade and when all the computers are fired up, the proof of a good pudding will be tested. Fingers crossed.

The tree that fell onto Room 12 has been removed, along with another tree that split in half in the same storm.

The Cyway walk is being installed from the Springfield roundabout and we have new drop off plans to ease the traffic congestion. You will have already received notice via email, but the links and map is included below.

Linda Woon, Principal

MEET THE TEACHER

Because of the Otonga Road congestion we have decided to cancel 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon this year. However, you will receive an introductory letter from your teacher and you will be given an invitation and link to your Class Dojo, which you will need to accept. Class Dojo is an 'instant messenger' app and allows two way sharing for parents and teachers.

CRICKET

Thursday cricket will begin for Term 1 on the 15th February and will run through to (and including) the 29th March 2018. Games will be held every Thursday, 3:30pm till 5pm (approx) at Smallbone Park, Devon Street, Rotorua. Hardball Cricket for Harrow grade (Yrs 5-6) will begin on Saturday 17th February. Each team requires a coach and someone to score/umpire the game. Unfortunately if there are no coaches for teams, you will be refunded your money.

Again this year we are requiring parents to purchase sports uniforms for most of the after school sports including cricket. All Otonga cricketers (apart from those in Have-a-Go and Hardball) will be required to wear an Otonga sports shirt and blue shorts. A local company, **Embroidme** have designed a lovely shirt for us. You need to order directly from them. Your child can play in 'mufti' while you are waiting for your shirt. There are samples available for viewing and sizing at the school office. The Otonga sports shirt will cost \$35. Their contact details are: Embroidme at 1198 Arawa Street or on Ph 3491000. Blue soccer shorts are acceptable and we also have some at school that can be used if needed. **All junior cricketers are asked to submit an up to date registration form in order to play. These will be given to children who have paid and returned their slip. Please pay and return the slip by Friday 9th February.** There are more slips at the school office if you child did not get one. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Craig Walden, Otonga Sport

FLIPPA BALL

This is for year 4s and above, with games being played on Tuesday afternoons at the Rotorua Aquatics Centre from 3:45 -5:30pm on designated nights. Games are of 15min duration and are played in all weather except hail or lightning. Parents/caregivers need to be with their children for the duration as it is a very short game. The season starts on Tuesday 13th February and runs to Tuesday 10th April.

For safety reasons we ask that your child be a competent swimmer of freestyle and be taller than 1.2m in height. Each team will consist of no more than 7 players as to give everyone good game time. As Otonga School does not have a pool, there are no set practices however team coaches may decide to organise a team practice. **Registration is \$25 payable to the school office with the returned notice by Friday 9th February.** Teams will only be entered if there are coaches for teams. There are more registration forms at the school office if you child did not get one.

Craig Walden, Otonga Sport

TOUCH RUGBY

The games will take place on Wednesday evenings, starting **14th February** from 3:45pm onwards at Kuirau Park, you will need to be able to take and pick up your child. There will be a payment of \$20. **Please return your slip with payment to our school office no later than this Friday morning 9th February, teams have to be registered by this day.** There are more slips at the school office if your child did not get one. We will also need coaches to take teams or parents will just have to take the teams on the days.

Neil Carrington, Otonga Sport

ACTIVITY FEE = \$25 PER TERM

Activity Fees are set for the extra-curricular activities that we provide at each level of the school. They pay for school visits and for performances coming into school, as well as costly extra programmes that we can run, such as water safety at the Aquatic centre.

These activities are not compulsory and alternative provision is made for families that choose to not pay the term activity fee. **We are asking if you could possibly pay this term's activity fee of \$25 before the end of February.** Our preferred payment method is via Kindo – please refer to the note below regarding Kindo registration. If you would prefer to pay via internet banking the school bank account number is 06-0413-0155342-00, please use your child's name as reference. Parents of students in years 5 & 6, we have adjusted your annual fees to just \$75 because you will have EOTC this term which is \$110.

The EOTC fee will need to be paid in FULL by Monday 19th February at the very latest.

Linda Woon, Principal

PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE – ANYTIME 24/7

2018 Activity Fees & EOTC

Fees are now ready for payment through our online shop hosted at myKindo.co.nz.



* To pay now, please visit our school website or mykindo.co.nz, or click here https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/user_home.shtml?session=alse&shop=Otonga%20Road%20Primary%20School.

* NEW USERS... If you do NOT have a kindo account already (at this or another school), visit this link to get started. <https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/handshake.shtml?hop=Otonga%20Road%20Primary%20School>

Kindo now offers payment by **American Express, Mastercard, Visa or China UnionPay**, by **internet banking** or by **Account2Account** (managed internet banking). **POLi** is coming soon! Card payments cost 50c+2.5% (a slight increase on last year) but other methods remain free of charge. You are welcome to add funds to your account regularly or in advance, or just pay as you go.

Questions? Go to support.mykindo.co.nz or email hello@mykindo.co.nz

ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL

Children need to be at school by 8:45am at the LATEST.

Please advise daily absences to the office 3486443 by 9am each day. There is an answer phone available or email otonga@otonga.school.nz, or send a notice via our school app. All children who arrive late to school **MUST** report to the school office prior to going to their classroom.

STATIONERY 2018

Stationery for this year can be purchased in-store at OfficeMax on Fenton Street. Every purchase from OfficeMax earns School Rewards, so if you purchase in-store or via phone, please remember to mention that your child attends Otonga Road Primary School.

FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES via LUNCHONLINE & PITA PIT COMMENCE FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY

Welcome Back to School!

The teams at Pita Pit Rotorua and Lunchonline would like to welcome you all back to school.



We are up and running at Otonga from the first day they are open so you can order your child's Pita Pit lunch straight away via www.lunchonline.co.nz with delivery being on the first Friday of the term being the 9th February.

Thank you all for your support in 2017. We are very proud to announce that Pita Pit Rotorua made over 12,500 school lunches in 2017. We have now opened our 2nd Store at the new Trade Central complex close to Mitre 10, and the K Mart will open next door to us in the next couple of months. Please drop by either our Redwoods Store or the Trade Central store and say hi.

There have been some minor changes to the Primary School Menu starting from the beginning of this term. There are now Allergy Indicators, so if your child has an Allergy please let us know about it by selecting the appropriate Allergy Button. We want to make sure we get it right. You will also note that we have changed our offering from Lettuce and Cheese plus 3 Salads. We have tried to simplify it to 5 Fillings. Lettuce and Cheese are now offered as a Filling so if your child wants Lettuce and Cheese they will need to select it, rather than getting it automatically. The best news is that we have managed to keep our prices to \$4.70 for a lunch (without optional extras).

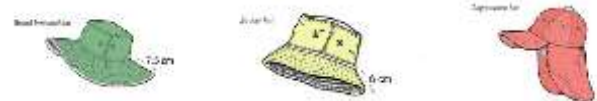
Please do everything you can to help out the school staff by **UPDATING YOUR CHILD'S NEW CLASSROOM NUMBER** on their account.

We will continue to support your school's sports teams Player of the Day Certificates in 2018. If your child does win one, you can redeem it at either one of our stores. Once again thank you for your support, and we look forward to making as many school lunches as we can in 2018.

Phil Haines – Pita Pit Rotorua

SUN SAFE

Term 1 is summer, so we ask all children to wear a broad-brimmed hat. Please name it, or children who lose their hat will just "borrow" any un-named hat they find, in order to avoid having to play under the soccer field trees.



SCHOOL APP

Our handy, user friendly school app is available to download for FREE to your android or iPhone at <http://onelink.to/gg92jk>. You can send absentee notes via the app, receive alerts, view our newsletters, check term dates & events, contact our staff, and view our favourite links.



URGENT update from Rotorua Lakes Council and Otonga Road School

This term to ease congestion with the road works we will deliver children to one of 3 pick-up points after school (not before school):

1. McDowell St - pick up and then drive through Simmonds to exit
2. Nikau St - come from Devon St, turn left into Nikau St & exit through Jackson St onto Otonga Rd
3. Moncur Dr

Refer to the map below.

Work on the Springfield/Otonga Road intersection upgrade is progressing on schedule despite the wet weather at the beginning of the year. The shared path outside the school front has been completed and work will now continue on the remaining arms of the roundabout. The expected completion date for the full project is mid-April (weather permitting).

To help with congestion issues and delays school staff and the Safe and Sustainable Journeys team have worked together on three **Walking School Bus (WSB)** routes which will be provided so parents can drop their children at an alternative location and teachers and Council staff will walk them from school. **We are seeking interested parents to assist us with leading the WSB's.**

While work is taking place we want to encourage you to consider using an alternative route to get to school or try walking or biking while the weather is fine.

We want to thank you for your patience and apologise for the disruptions caused. We look forward to seeing a safer environment for all users once the project is completed.

For more information about the project or to give feedback visit www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/springfieldupgrade or phone Rotorua Lakes Council on 07 348 4199.

Parents- please let your child know which of the 3 pick-up points you will meet them at after school. Probably drop your child there in the morning. You may need to walk them the first day.

The teachers will walk them after school but your child must be collected from the drop off by 3:15pm or children will be walked back to school.

Safe and Sustainable Journeys Team (RLC) & Otonga Road School

