



OTAUA SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Term 3 Week 8 2023
Thursday 7 September

Dear Parents/Whaanau,

We had a great turnout at the Dad's /Grandad's/male of significance breakfast last Friday. The weather was kind and it went off well despite the hiccups with the power!!

Thank you all for making the effort to support it and it was great to see so many happy people. Big thanks to the senior team for organising this.

Calf Club Meat Raffle

Books of tickets were allocated to families who are happy to sell them this week. Please return sold ticket butts and money to our school office. If you find you can't sell them please return them ASAP so they can be re-allocated.

School Vision

Please find a vision review sheet attached and on dojo. I encourage you to fill these in and return it to school. There will be a draw at the end of term for a \$50 New World voucher for those who send them back.

Bus Bay

Just a reminder for the umpteenth time - **PLEASE do not park in our bus bay on Factory Rd.** I don't know how else to say it to get the message out there. It's not only the bus that uses it but also delivery trucks.

Room 4

In Term 3, Room 4 have been learning and illustrating the songs of award-winning NZ children's songwriter and performer Claudia Robin Gunn. We have an opportunity for Claudia to visit Room 4 on Friday 15th September, and the class will share their illustrations of her songs with her and their thoughts and feelings about her songs they've been learning. Claudia is looking forward to working with the class and to see how her music has been used. Claudia's songs are mainly about science, nature and the environment - mostly in a New Zealand context - and the world through a child's eyes. Her songs are rich in vocabulary and are very much knowledge-based. We have learned a lot of facts through her songs this term. We look forward to an enriched language and music-based follow up inspired by Claudia's visit.

Room 5 term 4

Ms Wallace starts her maternity leave at the end of this term with her baby due at the end of October. We wish her all the best for her new adventure. At this stage she is planning her return for term 4 2024.

I will be in Room 5 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week and Mrs Kay Vincent will be their teacher Thursdays and Fridays. Room 5 had a separate letter about this a while ago.

Principal position

I will be finishing up here in my role as principal at the end of term 1 2024. I have made it known to the BOT and the staff so they will be actively looking to fill that position over the next little while.

Room 1

This week Room 1 welcomed Ms Gabriella Ontong, a student teacher who will be in there till the end of term, then the first week next term. She is studying to become a teacher at AUT. So far she hasn't run screaming for the hills so it must be going well.

Learning Snapshots



Room 1 has been learning how different it was at Otatau School in the past. They have been comparing it to the present day. They were very intrigued that classrooms had fireplaces.

In the olden days Otatau School was 1 building. Now we have a Tigerturf.
Charlize Julian

In the olden days they didn't have heaters. They had fires. Now we have heaters and a tv in our classroom.
Jake McDonald

In the olden days Otatau School had 20 windows. Now we have heaters and a playground.
Luca King (see photo above)

Now we have a uniform and heaters.
Zoe Goodwright

Now we have lots of classes.
Harris Payne

Now we have 196 kids at school.
Wyatt Smith

Room 3 tamariki have been learning to write similes for comparisons. Here are a couple of examples:

*I'm as flexible as a rubber band,
I'm as strong as a bull,
I'm as smart as a parrot,
I'm as hungry as a tiger.
By Violet*

*I'm as strong as a gymnast,
I am smart like a book,
I am pretty like flowers,
I am funny like my little sister.
By Aleah*

Lockdown Drill

On Wednesday we had a lockdown drill to test our speakers and alarm etc. We have a list of what needs to be looked at. Most classes were really good and calmly did as their teacher directed.

Lost Property (repeat notice)

It's almost the end of term and time to sort through the overflowing lost property bin again. If you know that your child is missing a jumper, or other personal belongings, please encourage them to look through the lost property to see if it is there.



At the end of term the bin will be emptied. Unnamed, random items of lost property will be redirected to a local op shop. Named school uniform items will be returned to the appropriate students. Unnamed school uniform items, that are in good condition, will be washed and added to our second hand uniform stock.

Term Calendar

Monday 11 September	Yr 7/8 tech
Monday 11 September	Year 5/6 Girls and Mixed basketball
Tuesday 12 September	Year 5/6 boys basketball
Thursday 14 September	X-man to work with the Rubbish and Recycling people in preparation for Calf Club as a Zero Waste event.
Monday 18 September	Year 7/8 Girls and Mixed Basketball
Tuesday 19 September	Year 7/8 boys basketball
Wednesday 20 September	Vision surveys due back to school
Friday 22 September	Farm Dress up day (end of term)
Saturday 23 September	Calf Club day
Monday 9 October	Term 4 begins
Saturday 14 October	Election day (polling booth at school in the MP room)

Kind regards
Carol Graham

