



OTAUA SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Term 1, Week 8, Wednesday 27th March

Dear Parents and Whanau

I spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at a conference in Melbourne for Australian and New Zealand Principals/teachers. This was held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre - there were six at the same time in all branches of education and approximately 3,000 people in attendance. I applaud the organisers for the smooth operation and the variety of speakers they had organised and it was really valuable talking to other school leaders over the course of the days we were there.

Two keynote speakers that really stood out for me were Dr Jordan Nguyen (34) who has been responsible for the development of a wheelchair controlled by the mind - amazing - and Dr Vanessa Pirotti who collects whale snot for DNA testing. She walked us through the development of the drone they have for collecting it.

There was a lot of technological advances on display in the exhibitors' hall alongside good, old traditional ones.

Two of the quotes that I would like to share, follows :

- **“Anything that is in the world when you’re born is normal and and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works.**
- **Anythings that is invented between when you are 15 and 35 is new and exciting and you can probably get a career in it.**
- **Anything that is invented after you’ve turned 35 is against the natural order of things.”**

And

“.....with the speed of change, unlike my parents who had jobs for life, today’s graduates will have a life of jobs.”

One of the speakers we had, talked about this rate of change - that some vocations children today aspire to may not even exist when they are old enough.

ASSEMBLY

There will be a whole school assembly this Friday 29th March. We will meet at 1.30pm as we have Sam Muir speaking to the school about his most recent achievement of swimming Cook Strait. We will see how long this takes as to what form the assembly will take.

RENOVATIONS

This should be all go come the April school holidays. Rooms 5 & 6 will be worked on first and then Room 7.

There will be lots of discussion over the next few days about organisation for next term with Rooms 5, 6 & 7. I may be asking for help in the last week of this term to move furniture etc. Watch this space.

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our journey has started with an MOE facilitator here yesterday collecting baseline data from which we can move forward. It was fascinating to note that we have less than half of our school population, adults and children, who know what our school values are! Obviously we are not doing as good a job with these as we thought. We have a starting point :-)

SCHOOL BUS

I realise there was a hiccup with pick up this morning and thank you for your patience and help in sorting this out.

Just a reminder - **if your school bus fees have not been paid to us by the end of term, the bus service will no longer be available to your children.** We pay your fees on to the bus network on your behalf and so are out of pocket if we aren't reimbursed by you.

This also applies to Technology fees that we pay to View Rd- these are also overdue.

PTA RAFFLE

I believe raffle books are being issued on Thursday - short turn around but we appreciate your help in advance. Donations of Easter treats can be brought into the school office and House points will be awarded.

SENIOR TRIP

This is scheduled for Wednesday 3 April - the date was inadvertently missed off the letter that came home with R 4,5,6 & 7 yesterday. The return is due back by Tuesday. Please note, we will not be covering any students who do not pay, or make arrangements to do so. They will remain here at school working on an alternative programme.

DOC

Representatives from the Department of Conservation are coming next Tuesday to work with Mrs Kelsey, Mr Saunders and the Predator control group.

Kind regards
Carol Graham



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs Maria Kelsey has been appointed Returning Officer for the upcoming Board of Trustees elections.

Nomination forms will be sent out to every eligible voter by 10th May. As these legally have to be posted please contact the school if you have changed address but have not updated your contact

details.

All current Board Members are required to stand for re-election and our required number of members is 5 elected members along with the Principal and a Staff Elected member. Our current Board Members will be holding another Meet and Greet for interested people early next term. If you are even mildly considering putting your name forward please come along - it may not be as difficult a job as you might be thinking!

PTA Cocktail Party Fundraiser

Mark this date - **11th May** the PTA are holding a Cocktail Party Fundraiser. Come along and meet other families and support your school at the same time. Invite friends and family, the more the merrier! Contact Chonny Yorke 021 952 864 for more information or for tickets.



