



OTAUA SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Term 1, Week 4, Thursday 28th February

Dear Parents and Whanau

The last day of February! The term is flying by! This term ends on Friday 12 April and I think that's a week after daylight saving ends.

Carpet

The MP room will be carpeted shortly. After much "toing and froing" we have arranged what we want and it will go ahead in the next couple of weeks.

Data Projector and screen

We are also having a data projector attached to the ceiling (in a cage) and a large pull down screen installed on that black wall. This will be much more satisfactory (and safer!) for school gatherings - both for the kids and evenings.

Renovations

The tender for the renovations of Rooms 5, 6 & 7 close today - fingers crossed we will see some progress after that. We have had three different companies come out and have a look so here's hoping!

Gardens/Enviro

There's all sorts going on in this arena. Mrs Kelsey has it all under control and Chef G had his first session today. This year it will be two Thursdays a month using the MP room kitchen instead of being cramped in the staffroom.

Swimming

The junior team had their "Splish Splash" day today and the Year 4-8's have their day at the Waiuku Pool tomorrow.

I talked with the senior team yesterday pointing out that -

- 1) It is a school day. There won't be an option to remain here at school as all class teachers will be at the pool.
- 2) All children will travel to the pools by bus leaving here at 9am.
- 3) It is **not** compulsory to enter the competitive events but it is the opportunity to "have a go"
- 4) Year 7/8 students swim as year 7 & 8's but year 6 & below swim as the age they were at 1 January 2019. This will mainly affect those who have had a birthday since then. The 7 year olds only do freestyle but we will have width activities after the races are over so there will be plenty of opportunity to get in the water.
- 5) All Otua children will sit together by house flags and View Rd will sit together - not mixed like we have been in the past.
- 6) View Rd is running a BBQ - \$2.00 for items

PTA

Their first meeting for the year was held last Thursday and the AGM date is set for Monday 29 April at 7pm - the first Monday back in term 2. There will be the usual easter raffle this term - details soon! The committee is currently looking at projects to spend some \$\$\$ on to benefit our students/school.

BOT

The next meeting is on Monday March 25. There is a busy time ahead here too. During the holidays you will notice a new post & rail fence being installed in the bit on Factory Rd where the fence is missing and then along the front of the tiger turf court where the camellias are at the moment. This will tidy things up hugely.

BOOK FAIR

Advance notice - we will be having a Book Week 11th to 15th March and a Book Fair in the library at the same time. This will be open during the day and on Thursday March 14th till 7pm as we have Parent/Teacher conferences planned for that evening. There is a separate notice about this early next week.

PAID UNION MEETING

There is a union meeting our staff must attend on Wednesday 20 March at 1.30 in Waiuku. There will be more info closer to the time but we will not be closing the school. The children will be able to finish at lunchtime (12.45) if that's convenient and

supervised here if that doesn't work for families. We will have three staff here that afternoon.

PAT Testing

This will be done in most rooms next week. Year 3's do the Listening test, Year 4 - 8 do Listening, Maths, Comprehension and Vocabulary. Across the country this is carried out in the first week of March and is one of the assessment tools teachers use.

From NZCER website (NZ Council for Educational Research).

"New Zealand teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making, and where they may need extra help. Progressive Achievement Tests, commonly known as PATs, are one of the main sets of tests schools use."

Kind regards
Carol Graham

SCHOOL LUNCHESES:

There are no Lunch Orders tomorrow as all our helpers will be at our Swimming Day.

CALF CLUB AGM:

This will be held Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm in the MP room, new members are welcome
Any enquiries to Willy Muir 027 677 0861