



OTAUA SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Term 3, Week 4, Wednesday, 14 August

Dear Parents and Whanau

All sorts of busy things are being planned and organised here at school. We are hoping that the wind will drop a little for tomorrow's cross country.

CROSS COUNTRY

It was a good call to postpone this yesterday. While the sky actually fined up for a bit yesterday afternoon, the wind was chilly and the showers that swooped through now and again would have added to the slippery slope! Ms Smith has a picture (Google Map!) on the board by the office door of the routes the year groups will follow. We will go ahead with this tomorrow - group day is Tuesday 20th with the savings day being Thursday 22nd. Thanks Ms Smith for your superb organisation again!

MUD

We are battling with the mud puddles around the place at the moment and the number of students covered in it by the end of breaks is ever growing. Some of the 'damage' is deliberate. We have closed the grass areas as from today to give it a chance to dry out. Students have been bringing spare clothes for cross country training yet we have a queue every day wanting a change of clothes after play/lunch as they are wet and muddy. We don't have spare clothes for that reason - while the weather is "iffy" it would pay to have spare pants in schoolbags if there is a chance that the games played may involve getting grubby. We don't allow really muddy legs on classroom carpets for obvious reasons - kids are spending way too long after the bells washing legs at the drinking fountains.

PANTOMIME

The four junior classes are off to the Pantomime tomorrow at the Waiuku Town Hall, leaving here at 9.30 by bus.

STARDOME

The four senior classes are off to the Auckland Stardome on Friday by bus. The juniors go on Thursday 29th August.

NETBALL

For the next four weeks (on Wednesdays) we have Northern Netball personnel here working with our classes on skills and next Tuesday there will be a practical session for staff and interested parents who coach netball from 3 - 4.30. Please join us if you are able to.

JUNIOR POETRY DAY

This is planned for Tuesday 20 August and involves the children learning a poem to recite to their class. The children have the information about this and it involves Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 7.

BUILDING

They are on track to be finished Rooms 5 & 6 by the end of the first week in September and then to start on Room 7 on Monday September 9th. At the end of the week prior, Room 7 will move (probably) into the shared space for the remainder of the term. The interior and toilets in R7 will be done first with the decking along the front of it, during the holidays. This area will be fenced off on Calf Club day.

VET

Mrs Morriss from the Calf Club committee has arranged for a vet to come in and speak to our kids who have goats and lambs entered for Calf Club day on Thursday 22nd at 1.30pm. This talk will need to be held in the shared space. A note went home for you to RSVP so that the vet can bring vaccine for those who are bringing down their lambs / goats.

ENVIRO UPDATE

Our various Enviro School projects are all ticking along nicely.

- We are keeping an eye on our gardens and will let you know when we are able to hold another Farmers Market - thank you for your support with this. Any money raised goes back into the project. Jeanette and Pam from Scarborough Fair continue to support us.
- Our compost bins are proving successful and in the future we hope to make enough compost to be able to sell bags back to the community. Please

encourage children to take home their rubbish except fruit peels etc which we can compost.

- The Rat Rangers are gaining a very positive reputation in the wider community and have been invited to do a presentation at the DOC meeting in November. We continue to catch the odd rat and will be doing our bird counts in the hope that the trapping work has increased native bird life in the area.
- Ms Brodie and her Enviro Schools silver reflection team are making headway toward our classification upgrade. The work being done for this will also enable us to apply for some funding so that we can create a new garden / play area behind room 8.
- We are still recycling our paper and have earned several native trees through the Paper 4 Trees initiative.
- We will be planting some new trees toward the end of the month through our Trees for Survival Project.

Most of all our children are supportive and enthusiastic which is exactly what we are aiming for!

Kind regards
Carol Graham

CALF CLUB ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms for animals and projects are due in by next Friday. As the cut off date for ages for lambs and goats is after this date can you please still send an entry in but note that animal is still to be chosen. We need these numbers for ordering ribbons.

DRIVING SPEED AROUND SCHOOL

We have had a request from a local resident to ask that people slow down around the school. There are children who walk to school and many drivers are not respecting the maximum safe speed limit of 40km in a school zone.

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Jack McDonald from Room 6 who recently represented New Zealand in the Junior International Snooker Championships in Sioux City Nebraska. There were competitors from around the world and Jack placed 33rd equal in his singles event, first place in the Sportsman Tournament and second place in the U13 division of the team event. This is definitely a name to keep an eye on in the future!

OTAUA COMBINED CHURCH

Our next services is this Sunday 18th August at 11.15am. This month's service is Anglican Holy Communion, taken by Rev Sally Matheson. All welcome. Enquiries to Jo ph 235 2715.

Kids Can Crazy Mufti Day

We will be holding a Crazy Mufti Day to support Kids Can on Friday 23rd August. To shake things up and make it a little more interesting we have the following **Idea**

Generator

Take the first letter from your first and last name - e.g. Mrs Kelsey will wear Marvellous Knitwear

A - Amazing	A - Apron
B - Bizarre	B - Bow Tie
C - Crazy	C - Cardigans
D - Dotty	D - Dress
E - Edgy	E - Earmuffs
F - Fantastic	F - Flip Flops
G - Glittery	G - Glasses
H - Hilarious	H - Hat
I - Intriguing	I - Instrument
J - Jolly	J - Jacket
K - Kooky	K - Knitwear
L - Loud	L - Leggings
M - Marvellous	M - Mittens
N - Neon	N - Necklace
O - Odd	O - Onesie
P - Purple	P - Pyjamas
Q - Quirky	Q - Quilt
R - Radical	R - Raincoat
S - Stripey	S - Socks
T - Tremendous	T - T-Shirt
U - Unique	U - Umbrella

V - Vintage	V - Vest
W - Wacky	W - Wig
X - Exciting	X - Xray
Y - Yellow	Y - Yachtie