



OTONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Te Kura o Tihiōtonga Pānui

"United by the four winds, we grow stronger together"
"Mā te kōtahitanga e ngā hau e whā, ka kaha whakatupu ngātahi tātau"



<https://www.facebook.com/OtongaRoadSchool>

105 Otonga Road, Springfield, Rotorua 3015 • Phone: (07) 348-6443 • Email: otonga@otonga.school.nz • Website: www.otonga.school.nz • Principal: Gareth Cunliffe

Date: 31st May 2023

Newsletter No: 16

Term 2 Diary:

(Please note dates/events may be added or changed without prior notice)

01 Jun	School Cross Country
02 Jun	Hui a Kura
05 Jun	King's Birthday – SCHOOL CLOSED
06 Jun	Rugby Tackle 5's
13 Jun	Central Schools Cross Country Perform Educational Musicals Performance
16 Jun	Hui a Kura
20 Jun	BOP Cross Country Championships
23 Jun	School Disco
27 Jun	COLOUR FUN RUN BOT Meeting
30 Jun	Hui a Kura Last Day of Term 2 – School closes at 3pm

Term Dates 2023:

Term 2: Mon 24th April – Fri 30th June
(Teacher Only Day – Monday 24th April)
(ANZAC Day – Tuesday 25th April)
(King's Birthday – Monday 5th June)
(Matariki – Friday 14th July)
Term 3: Mon 17th July – Fri 22nd September
Term 4: Mon 9th October – Wed 13th December (TBC)
(Labour Day – Monday 23rd October)

New Entrant – Cohort Start Dates 2023:

TERM 3 Cohort 5: Mon 17th July
Cohort 6: Mon 21st August
TERM 4 Cohort 7: Mon 9th October
Cohort 8: 1st Day of Term 1, 2024 (TBA)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – TERM 2 WEEK 6

Kia Ora Koutou, Dear Parents & Caregivers

Our Learning Through Play Pedagogy Journey at Otonga School

As you may or may not know, we have been on a **Learning Through Play** journey for just over a year now. In order to clarify what this is and what this journey looks like so far, I thought the communication below is necessary and important:

Why? For many years there has been a shift in education perspective from viewing education as a system to produce a future workforce, to supporting students to become lifelong learners. We need to shift from directing students all the time to giving students a compass, so they can adjust and change within a fast-changing world.

The new NZ Curriculum Refresh means that all students are reflected in the curriculum and it is their voice that is important. We are teaching people not subjects. Our curriculum needs to be personalised, inclusive, culturally responsive, broader and deeper.

Learning Through Play responds to this. It is **researched, developmentally appropriate practice, fun and engaging**. Play is natural to all human beings.

It enables children to learn values and habits for learning (dispositions) - Communication, Curiosity, Problem Solving, Creativity and Risk Taking. Play promotes Emotional and Self-Regulation and Oral Language.

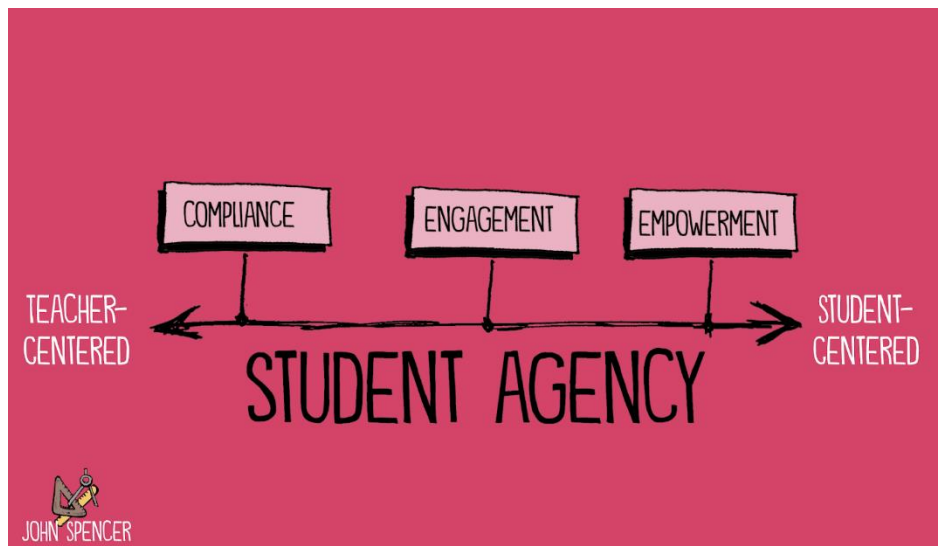


How?

Learning Through Play is Student-Directed. The play is free but it is not a 'free for all'. Teachers have the opportunity to teach explicitly with intention while Teaching Through Play so is also Teacher-Directed. They are the educational leaders and respond to the learning needs of their students.

Otonga **Teachers are teaching the New Zealand Curriculum**. They are noticing, recognising and responding to what children bring to their learning. Along with **Structured Literacy** and Maths teaching, this is a recipe for learning success.

Learning Through Play will look different at different ages and stages of development across the school. The Year 1 and 2 Ako have been on this journey a little longer than the rest of us as you may have noticed. The Year 3-6 students have been encouraged to explore, get outdoors and include some elements of Learning Through Play in their day. We do not expect our teachers to be experts already. Play is complex pedagogy and this new learning is a marathon and not a sprint.



Our teachers have a kete of strategies and pedagogies they use, to bring learning to life and Learning Through Play is another very useful one to know! (See: [The Common Practise Model - Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy](#) of the NZ Curriculum Refresh)

What?

We have just introduced our teachers to **The Play-Based Learning Observation Tool** (P-BLOT; Aiono & McLaughlin, 2018).

The Play-Based Learning Observation Tool

In combination with practice-based teaching, this tool enables teachers to clearly identify their strengths and areas of need regarding play pedagogy and will be able to provide a clear outline as to the progress our teachers make in embedding evidence-based pedagogy in their daily practice.

Our Teachers will engage in evidence-based play pedagogies reflecting what works best when teaching and learning through play for students in an inclusive setting.

Teachers will be inspired to recognise that their learners can take control of their own learning and to have confidence in the creative abilities of all children. Teachers are encouraged to promote and advocate for developmentally appropriate teaching practices and learning opportunities for all children in our school environment.



What you will notice so far at Otonga School...

You may have noticed that some of our classrooms/outdoor spaces have been transformed into Learning Environments necessary for Learning Through Play and many more will be too in the near future as Teachers learn about the first 'Part A' (there are four parts A-D) of the tool which is 'The Learning Environment'. This is all about creating a **learning space** where students can choose to **work/play inside and outside** the classroom. It is also about resourcing the play with **small and large loose parts** and **communicating the learning** to the students and community.



Katrina Weller

Our awesome Secretary will be leaving us at the end of the term due to her family relocating. We are going to miss her as she has been a ray of sunshine and a breath of fresh air for Otonga School during her time here.

Enjoy the rest of the week and the long weekend ahead.

**Kind regards
Mr G Cunliffe**



School Office Administrator/Principal PA - Otonga School, Rotorua

Make their Day!

Do you have the ability to interact well with children, parents and staff?

Do you have great communication skills and want to work in a busy school environment to make everyone's day?

We may have the right position for you!



About the Role

Working closely with the Principal, you will enjoy a wide variety of work in a dynamic environment where no two days are the same! An integral role within the school, this position involves a high level of interaction with our students, staff and members of the public. It requires someone who can easily establish a rapport with a wide range of people and work collaboratively with others to produce positive outcomes. The role provides responsive, high level PA and administrative support to the Principal, and undertakes general front office administration tasks for the school.

About You

This role would suit someone with general administration experience and who has a proven ability to effectively manage their time, juggling a busy and diverse workload with ease, to ensure deadlines are met.

Our ideal candidate will also:

- Display excellent organisational skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Have exceptional communication skills (verbal and written)
- Proficiency across the Google Docs suite and in word processing is required.
- Be confident and able to have difficult conversations where necessary
- Display a high level of initiative and the ability to anticipate the needs of others and respond proactively
- Demonstrate sound judgement and discretion in dealing with sensitive matters
- Be enthusiastic about supporting our students and encouraging their success
- Ability to maintain confidentiality is essential in this position.
- Agree to Police vetting prior to commencing work.
- Personify our school values: Manaakitanga – Whanaungatanga – Manawanui – Kaitiakitanga

This is a full-time 35 hrs per week, permanent position working 8am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday. While predominantly during term time, there will be some work required at the start and end of the year outside of term. Pay \$25 per hour neg. depending on qualifications and experience. Previous experience in a school environment would be advantageous but not essential

If you would like to join us, working in a challenging but rewarding role and making a positive contribution to our school community, we would love to hear from you!

If this sounds like you, please send your CV detailing previous employment and 2 referees to the Principal, Gareth Cunliffe - gcunliffe@otonga.school.nz by Wednesday 14th June 2023

Full job description available at the school reception or email: kweller@otonga.school.nz

MUD KITCHEN DONATIONS NEEDED

Help Us Cook Up Fun! Donate Your Old Hardy Kitchen Equipment for Year 2 Ako Kiwi's Mud Kitchen! We kindly ask for your support in donating any old, hardy kitchen equipment you may have laying around. We're specifically looking for pots, pans, containers, utensils, and other items that can withstand the joys of outdoor cooking. Your generous donations will enable our students to explore the wonders of food preparation while fostering their imagination and teamwork skills. Please drop off your contributions at the school office. Let's join together and make Year 2 Ako Kiwi's Mud Kitchen a place where memories are created, skills are honed, and friendships are forged. Thank you for your support!



ARRIVAL TIMES AT SCHOOL & BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Students may only come to school at 8:15am please as any time before that creates a health and safety issue as there are no teachers available before this time unless in exceptional circumstances. Children will not be allowed into the classrooms until **after 8:15am**. Students arriving early need to be enrolled in before school care. If you need care before school, this service is provided in the hall. To enrol your child or for more information please contact **Leandri** on **027 348 7707** or email otongasp@gmail.com



**OTONGA
BEFORE SCHOOL CARE**

Otonga Primary School Hall

For further details, contact us:
Leandri - 027 348 7707

CALLING ALL YOUNG PERFORMERS! JOIN KAPAHAKA FUN AT OTONGA SCHOOL!

Are you ready to experience the vibrant rhythms, exhilarating moves, and captivating Māori culture? Look no further! We're thrilled to announce the start of our Kapahaka program, specifically designed for our awesome students in Years 1 to 3!

When: Every Wednesday during lunchtime

Time: 12:30 – 1:00 pm

Location: Otonga School Hall

Our incredible instructors, Whaea Sheena and Whaea Adelle, will be leading the way as they introduce your children to the beauty and excitement of Kapahaka. This unique opportunity is open to all Year 1-3 students who are eager to explore the rich traditions of our Māori heritage through song, dance, and storytelling. Whether your child is a seasoned performer or simply curious about Kapahaka, this is the perfect chance for them to learn, grow, and have an absolute blast! The benefits of Kapahaka extend beyond cultural appreciation; it also promotes teamwork, self-expression, and confidence-building.



Calling for Whānau Support

We firmly believe that the success of our Kapahaka program relies on the wonderful support and involvement of our Whānau. If you're passionate about preserving our cultural traditions and would like to contribute in any way, we invite you to get in touch with our dedicated Kapahaka coordinator, Whaea Sheena. **Email:** ssearle@otonda.school.nz

By reaching out to Whaea Sheena, you can offer assistance, share your expertise, or even express your interest in attending performances and cheering on our talented young performers. Your involvement will help make this Kapahaka journey truly unforgettable for our students.

So, let the rhythmic beats and vibrant chants bring joy and unity to our Otonga School community! We can't wait to see our little stars shine as they immerse themselves in the magic of Kapahaka. Noho ora mai.

OPPs (OTONGA PROGRESS PLANS) and 3WAY GOAL SETTING MEETINGS

We will be holding Otonga Progress Plans and 3Way Goal Setting Meetings with you and your child on:

Wednesday 7th June 3:30-6:45pm - last booking at 6:30pm

Thursday 8th June 3:30-5:30pm - last booking at 5:15pm

Tuesday 13th June 3:30-6:45pm - last booking at 6:30pm

Please log in at <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/y2qea> to book your interview or scan the QR code.

Please note Room 20 will book directly with Mr Doyle on different days.

 School Interviews



SCHOOL FUN RUN

Keep up the great work sharing your child's School Fun Run for 2023 profile! Every little bit helps towards fundraising for shade sails and astroturf for our school.

Mr Neil Carrington, Assistant Principal



COLOUR FUN RUN
Tuesday 27th JUNE

AUTHORSHIP

I am from poems

"If you know where you are from, you will know where you are going."

This week children were given the following invitation: To write a poem to describe ourselves, the people, places, activities, habits and foods that together make our identity. Enjoy a selection of poems from Room 19.

Mrs Charity Bollard

I am from

I am from walking Bella in the dog park
From the calmness of reading books at the library
To blueberry picking in the summer
And nanas puffy pavlovas

I am from the scar on my knee from the scooter
From nightmares repeating
To watching Barkley Manor over and over
And my bunny pj's with holes at the heels

I am from my zig-zag pillow
From my squeaky seat at the bench
To always climbing the stairs like a dog
And carpet burns when I slip

I am from the delicious smell of dad's pasta
From eating mixture when mums not looking
To getting to lick the baking whisks clean
And making sure there's no ice-cream left

I am from pungent smelling petrol on misty mornings
From cradling warm eggs in my hands
To cobwebs draping down from the roof of the shed
And holding in my scream as I trample on lego

I am from mum's mouthwatering banana cake
From charging out of the musty old sheep barn
To my poppa singing and begging me to join along
And bella occasionally fighting with her tug rope

By Gabby



I am from...

I am from loud motors from stock cars

From changing gears slamming the clutch in

To jumping out of the racecar with beads of sweat running down my neck.

And flinging dirt into the crowd

I am from reading amazing chapter books for McLeods bookshop

From questionable maths equations

To Verity Short coming into our class and teaching us exquisite learning

And extraordinary Otonga teaching me new things


By Paige Coxhead

I am from poem

I am from soccer boots on my feet to a cricket bat in my hand
From lollie machines at Motion Entertainment
To picking apples from trees in my garden
And sliding across the wooden floor in my socks.

I am from climbing high, rocky mountains
From spicy vegetarian Indian dal and steamed rice
To drinking my mum's famous homemade lemonade
And collecting countdown lego bricks for months and months

By Ranvir



I am From...

I am from slashing & thrashing through black berry & gorse,
From the smell of freshly cut lawn lying in front of me,
To coming home to a dead worm lying on the floor,
And staying tucked up in a hut while the storm rages on outside.

I am from the cold, damp chair at end of the table
From my cute little kitten sneaking food out of our cupboard
To my mum's mouthwatering pasta salad,
And the ever growing pile of the Harry Potter books,

I am from wading through luscious green-land marshes,
From slipping down banks, and crossing rivers,
To stepping in revolting cow poo,
And smacking hockey balls that go flying across the turf,

Carissa Billing.

I AM FROM...

I AM FROM SULPHUR SLAPPING ME IN MY FACE
FROM JET SKIS, BOATS AND BISCUITS ON LAKE TIKITAPU
TO PILLOW FIGHTS ON THE TRAMP WITH MY BROTHERS
FROM RUGBY BOOTS ON MY FEET TO A GOLF CLUB IN MY HAND

I AM FROM RUGBY TACKLING AND SLIDING ON THE WET GRASS
FROM JUMPS AND TRICKS ON MY MTB AND DOING A WHEELIE EVERYWHERE
TO WEARING MY LUCKY SANTA CRUZ SOCKS EVERY DAY
AND BROTHERS DOUBLE BOUNCING ME TOO HARD ON THE TRAMP AND
SPRAINING MY ANKLE.

BY FLOYD SANFORD





THANK YOU

New Zealand Red Cross recognises with gratitude:

Otonga Road Primary School

Thank you for your generous support to the New Zealand Disaster Fund. You have helped New Zealand Red Cross be there to support people affected by the upper North Island flooding event and Cyclone Gabrielle and to prepare Aotearoa New Zealand for future emergencies.

Date: 28 March 2023

Signature:


Sarah Stuart-Black
Secretary General

Signature:


Kerry Nickels
National President

 **NEW ZEALAND
RED CROSS**
RĪPEKA WHERO AOTEAROA

LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE NEWS:

Scholastic Book Club:

Issue 4 brochures have been circulated to classrooms and orders close on **Tuesday 6th June**.

Online Ordering: All information for Parents/Caregivers is on the Scholastic website www.scholastic.co.nz.

Payment: Parents can also order and pay at school (cash and EFTPOS accepted).

Order Form: Please complete the paper order form on the back page - remember to write in your Child's Name, Room Number and the Item No.

Items purchased through Scholastic Book Club earn the school reward points that are used to purchase further resources for our school. Thank you for your participation and support.

Coming Event: Perform Education Music Show!

Celebrating Aotearoa Book Week in Schools 2023, the educational and interactive musical adventure **STORY QUEST** is coming to our school **on Tuesday 13th June!** Featuring a selection of the best **New Zealand children's books**, students will be immersed into the storytelling and an engaging, original narrative filled with music, adventure and intrigue!

Mrs Pauline Atkinson, Library Manager

Book Club



 **SCHOLASTIC**

Book Club **LOOP** for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:

mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz



OTONGA SPORTS & COMPETITIONS – Registrations Now Open:

Golf Fun Day

Available to **year 1-6** boys and girls. Held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at Lake View Golf Club. This is a fun day out to learn new skills and enjoy a day out with your friends!

If your child is interested in participating in this event, please [click here](#) to read the registration notice which contains important information, including **how to register and pay using Kindo**.

Registration Fee = \$5 per player

Registrations need to be completed via KINDO by 3pm Wednesday 14th June.

(No late entries will be accepted)



SCHOOL LUNCHES THROUGH LUNCHONLINE

Otonga School Lunches

St Andrews Bakery
Available **Mondays** only



St Pierres Sushi
Available **EVERY** day

Pita Pit Available
Tuesdays to Fridays



www.lunchonline.co.nz

Register at: www.lunchonline.co.nz
and follow 4 easy steps to get started

- 1) Register an account
- 2) Add member/s including your name and delivery location
- 3) Make a payment to have funds in your account before you order
- 4) Select your lunch and place an order

Enquiries & Help – Phone: 0800 565 565 or Email: info@lunchonline.co.nz

SCHOOLDOCS

We invite you to view/review our school policies at <https://otonga.schooldocs.co.nz> (Note that there is no "www.")
Our **username** is: **otonga** and **password** is: **fourwinds**

SchoolDocs Policies and Procedures **Instructions for Reviewers**

1. Follow the link to each policy.
2. Read the policy.
3. Click the red Policy Review icon at the right-hand top corner of the page. A new screen will appear.
4. Select your role (board member, staff member, or parent/caregiver) from the drop-down list.
5. Enter your name (optional).
6. Submit your ratings and comments.
If you don't have internet access, school office staff can easily provide you with printed copies of the policy and the [review form](#).

Term 2 review topics

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

- **Education Outside the Classroom** Board review
- **EOTC Planning and Review**
- **EOTC Risk Management**
- **EOTC Coordinator**
- **EOTC External Providers**
- **EOTC Staff Competence**
- **EOTC Event Categories**
- **EOTC Communicating with Parents**

VISTAB SIGN-IN SPONSOR NEEDED

We are in search of a business to sponsor our [VisTab - People Management System](#). All visitors sign in and out using Vis Tab on arrival/departure at reception in the school office. Are you looking for a unique way to boost your business profile? We will add your company logo at the bottom of the default screen. It is seen by many even through the window when the school office is closed. The cost is \$63.25 per month. Please contact the school office if you would like to take up this exclusive sponsorship opportunity.



COMMUNITY EVENTS, NOTICES & SERVICES

DONATE CLEAN, EXCELLENT
CONDITION OR NEW PYJAMAS
OR
MAKE A DONATION SO WE
CAN PURCHASE NEW
PYJAMAS

MAY / JUNE 2023

PYJAMA DRIVE

IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S REFUGE



Soroptimist International Rotorua

RGHS Childcare Trust

Spaces available now for
over two years olds
Hours 7:45 to 5:00
Ph: 07 347 7488
Email:
rghschildcare@extra.co.nz
15 Miro Street, Westend

- * Quality childcare at an affordable price
- * All kaiako fully qualified
- * Community based not for profit centre
- * Play based learning



Edventure Young Explorers Camp Mon 10th - Thu 13th July (2nd week of the holidays)

We have an amazing week lined up with bush walks, archery, air rifle, rock climbing, fire building and cooking, hut building, tenting (optional), orienteering, team building and confidence activities, & night activities. Based at Aongatete Lodge- near Katikati. Check out the **NEW**: [Edventure Tauranga Facebook Page](#); or e-mail: todd@edventure.co.nz for more information.



Working for FAMILIES

Even kids can't imagine the real difference financial support could make for their family.

Kids have big imaginations. So when asked how they'd spend an extra \$300 a week we got some very ambitious answers...



pheasant farms, diamond ring slides, a pumpkin-headed robot that will save the world, and plenty more.



While magical, we realised sometimes the most amazing dreams are actually the dreams children's families have for them.



That's why financial support for their future goes to you.



Working for Families payments help families busy raising the next generation.

Payments are based on your income, family circumstances and are available to qualifying families with dependent children 18 years or under.



Central Kids

We all grow together

Kā tūpu kotahi tātou

Jackson Park Kindergarten

HOURS AND FEES

Monday - Friday 8.45am - 2.45pm

ALL TAMARIKI WELCOME
2 years - school age

\$5 per hour (after
government entitlements)
+ extra support available

ENROL NOW!

We have spaces available for your
tamariki to start right away.

CONTACT US



07 348 1979
021 195 4586



66 Springfield Road
Rotorua 3015



jacksonpark@centralkids.org.nz
www.centralkids.org.nz

Nau mai, haere mai
Call in and see us today!



LOVE GOLF.
futures



Whānau Golf Fun Day

LAKE VIEW GC | SUNDAY 4TH JUNE | 9:30AM
\$20 PER WHĀNAU

Join us for the Futures Whānau Golf Day, where teams can be made up of a mix of mum, dad, siblings, or grandparents!

Team Golf is an excellent opportunity for young beginner golfers to get out on the course and play with friends. Play shortened holes as a team and enjoy a fun Whānau day out!

The It's OK relaxed rules ensure it's all about everyone having fun!

For more information or to register please contact:
Sam Kendall, sam.kendall@golfnz.org



futures
GEYSERLAND



GOLF NZ
ROTORUA ASSOCIATION

MADISON BLUES MARCHING

LEARN TO MARCH



Whether you're aged 7, 27 or 57, marching could be the sport for you. Come along and take part in our free Learn to March Programme.

No experience needed and no obligation to join.

Register your interest today for more details.



FACEBOOK: @MADISONBLUESMARCHING
EMAIL: MADISONBLUESMARCHING@GMAIL.COM