



# 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 whakapupu ngātahi tātau"*



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

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

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Newsletter No: 20

### Term 2 Diary:

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

30 Jun Hui a Kura  
Last Day of Term 2 – School closes at 3pm

### Term Dates 2023:

**Term 2:** Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June

(Matariki – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July)

**Term 3:** Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Term 4:** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> October – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December (TBC)  
(Labour Day – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October)

### New Entrant – Cohort Start Dates 2023:

**TERM 3 Cohort 5:** Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Cohort 6:** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> August

**TERM 4 Cohort 7:** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> October

**Cohort 8:** 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Term 1, 2024 (TBA)

### Term 3 Diary:

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

17 Jul New Entrant Cohort 5 Starts School  
20 Jul Matariki Celebration  
21 Jul Y4 Ako Kererū - Te Puia Trip 9:45am-12:30pm  
24-26 Jul Y1-3 Crossing Education  
27 Jul Y1-3 Marae Visits  
28 Jul Hui a Kura  
2-4 Aug Y5 Ako Kārearea - Marae Noho  
3 Aug CBOP Interschool Amazing Race  
Planting Day – Trees for Survival  
8 Aug R11 Robotics Museum Course 9-10am  
R12 Robotics Museum Course 10:30-11:30am  
9 Aug School Photos with PhotoLife  
10 Aug Y3 Ako Ruru - Rippa Rugby in Schools  
Y4 Ako Kererū - Science Roadshow  
Y5-6 Tennis in Schools – Give Tennis a Go  
R13 Robotics Museum Course 9-10am  
R14 Robotics Museum Course 10:30-11:30am  
Y1 & 4 Tennis in Schools – Give Tennis a Go  
Hui a Kura  
11 Aug Y1 & 3 Tennis in Schools – Give Tennis a Go  
17 Aug Life Education  
17-30 Aug Y2 Tennis in Schools – Give Tennis a Go  
18 Aug New Entrant Cohort 6 Starts School  
21 Aug Rugby 9's  
24 Aug Rotorua Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge  
25 Aug Y5-6 Bike Safety Eke Haumaru Starts  
28 Aug BOT Meeting  
29 Aug Wig Wednesday – Child Cancer Fundraiser  
6 Sep Hui a Kura  
8 Sep Quiz Night  
9 Sep CBOP Winter Sports Field Day  
13 Sep MIGS Gymnastic & Trampoline Competition  
15 Sep Y5-6 Bike Safety Eke Haumaru Ends  
22 Sep Last Day of Term 3 – School closes at 3pm



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – TERM 2 WEEK 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I would like to thank you all for the positive support we have had this term in order to help our children learn, stay healthy, be active and have fun. It is much appreciated.

I hope that you spend some quality time with your family over the holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of Term Three on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Ngā mihi nui  
Mr Gareth Cunliffe



# Community Collaboration Survey Feedback

Thank you for completing the Community Collaboration survey. We had a big response with 146 respondents completing it.

## Here are some of the results that we can celebrate:

- ★ **84% of respondents agree or strongly agree that** Otonga school provides a safe and secure environment for our tamariki. (12% neutral)
- ★ **90% agree or strongly agree that** Our children feel happy at school. (10% neutral)
- ★ **90% agree or strongly agree that** As a parent or caregiver, I feel welcome within the school. (8% neutral)
- ★ **84% agree or strongly agree that** feel their culture and the culture of others is valued and recognised within the diverse school community, (11% neutral)
- ★ **71% agree or strongly agree that** we cater for the learning and other needs of our Māori and Pasifika students. (25% neutral)
- ★ **86% agree or strongly agree that** our school provides effective methods of communication. (8% neutral)
- ★ **75% agree or strongly agree** the school provides effective methods of communication and feedback when reporting to parents about student progress and achievement. (15% neutral)
- ★ **79% agree or strongly agree** our school sets high expectations of behaviour for our students. (20% neutral)
- ★ **73% agree or strongly agree** that our school sets high expectations of learning for our students. (21% neutral)
- ★ **81% agree or strongly agree** I am happy with the learning opportunities, experiences and activities my child is receiving at school. (12% neutral)
- ★ **73% agree or strongly agree** our school meaningfully incorporates Te reo Māori and tikanga Māori. (22% neutral)
- ★ **82% agree or strongly agree** our school provides appropriate curriculum resources to support my child's learning and development. (14% neutral)

## Some comments:

- *My children overall like attending Otonga school and feel safe and comfortable whilst there so I'm happy.*
- *Our child's teachers have worked hard to support our child and we appreciate it's not an easy job, great community to be a part of, love the open days and invitations to visit school*
- *My daughter loves school and I feel this is due to the support and encouragement her teachers have provided her through her learning journey.*
- *My child's comment was that "they have too much fun stuff and not enough learning stuff, so children think school is all about having fun and not learning" 😊. I do love to see much of the fun school activities that they do. I think the teachers do a wonderful job and have such a challenge with managing the kids and not letting it encroach on their own time. I love the weekly plans sent out each week - keeps me informed. Not convinced seesaw is the best app, but the intention behind it is good.*
- *I have enjoyed interacting with both Teachers and other staff at the school. They are very approachable. Thank you for your hard mahi*
- *Love my kids' teachers this year, they are way more responsive and supportive to their learning and actually know who they are and have bothered to build a relationship with them.*
- *Teachers and Principal have been welcoming and made our family feel very safe as we ease into our child schooling years. I also think allowing the younger children to leave earlier is a great idea. This allows things to feel less overwhelming. The drop off/pick up lane works well.*
- *Great school, we are so happy to be a part of Otonga*
- *The teachers who I have had the chance to engage with are amazing, supportive and really care about their students well-being.*
- *The grounds are really nice, good teachers, inviting learning environment*
- *It is a lovely school and I hope the recent negative feedback I have heard will be dealt with as it is unnerving for the parents who are happy with the school and the wider and future of the school and its future enrolments.*
- *I feel Otonga provides a great learning and play environment. There's a great collection of ethnicities and culture which provides a great environment.*
- *It has been wonderful to see my children settle and thrive at Otonga school.*
- *My son is really excited to go to school every day*
- *So many teachers smile at me when I am at Otonga, even though many of them do not know me .*
- *We have only been a part of Otonga School for a couple of months but already feel like we are part of a big warm family.*
- *Our experience with Otonga has been fabulous! My daughter loves coming to school and all her teachers have been extremely supportive and encouraging. I have, and will always promote Otonga as a great school to other parents*

As you can imagine, there is a great deal of feedback that we are working through and will use for our strategic planning for 2023 and beyond.

Feedback is essential to know where we are going, how we are going and where to next as a school. It ensures that we are continually looking for better ways to do things at Te Kura o Tihitōtonga.

**The class winners of the pizza lunch for the most responses are: Room 1 ~ Well done!  
Room 6 was second and Room 14 came in third place.**

**Winners of the \$50 gift vouchers are: Fabian Hurihanganui and Tanya Perrett  
Please collect these from the school office.**

Thank you to all who submitted a response. It is much appreciated.

## WALKING, BIKING AND SCOOTERING

### Benefits:

- Light exercise boosts health and emotional well-being
- Tamariki arrive at school ready to learn
- Helps tamariki learn road safety skills
- Increases independence
- Creates healthy transport habits that are kind to the planet
- Is a fun, low cost activity that can be done with friends and family
- No parking hassles



For more information on walking or biking around Rotorua visit:  
[rotorualakescouncil.nz/sharedpathnetwork](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz/sharedpathnetwork)

### Tips:

- Pedestrian crossings are the safest place to cross the road
- Never call children over from the other side of the road
- Getting off your bike and walking across the road is safer
- If you have not walked or biked to school before try a practice run in the weekend

**80% of primary school students say they would like to bike to school**



## DRIVING

- Be prepared to see children walking and biking
- You must stop for people using pedestrian crossings
- Plan your route so you don't have to U-turn or do 3 point turns using driveways on roads with school traffic
- Don't wait for carparks. Park up the road, or arrange to collect your child after 3.10pm when there is less traffic congestion



Reduce your speed to 30km in school zones



## PARKING SAFELY NEAR SCHOOLS

Before and after school are busy times for everyone. Parking rules help to protect our tamariki. Drivers who park illegally put children at risk. Please be considerate of residents and other families when parking.

### You can be fined for illegal parking if you:

- Park across or within 1 metre of a driveway
- Park on a pedestrian crossing
- Park on the footpath or verge
- Park on yellow lines
- Double park

## 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 or after 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 [info.otonga@osprograms.co.nz](mailto:info.otonga@osprograms.co.nz)

**OTONGA**  
**Before & Aftercare**

OASCP changes to OSP from 26 June 23

**Aftercare**  
First child \$9 per hour  
Second child \$8.50 per hour  
Third child \$7.50 per hour

**Before care**  
\$8 per hour

**3 pm to 5:30pm**  
AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDED

**7:15am to 8:15am**  
BREAKFAST INCLUDED

Leandri - 027 348 7707  
[info.otonga@osprograms.co.nz](mailto:info.otonga@osprograms.co.nz)

## AKO TUI MOSAIC

A big **thank you** goes to **Ruth Hughes** who created our Ako Tui mosaic for our area. It is a stunning piece of artwork that we love looking at and learning more important facts about our local bird. We appreciate your time put into this master piece.

*Bernadette Cunliffe, Ako Tui Leader*



## FAREWELL OTONGA



As I leave Rotorua to start afresh in a new town I'd sincerely like to leave a parting message and thank all the wonderful students and caregivers who have made my days this year a joy and a pleasure. It has been an honour to support our families as they navigate school life here at Otonga and I will miss all the smiling faces that regularly come into reception.

I would particularly like to thank Mr Cunliffe for creating such a fun, collaborative and fulfilling work environment to be in. You are honestly one in a million Mr Cunliffe, and one of the best Principals I have ever worked with.

Finally, to the leadership team, teachers and staff - wow! What an awesome bunch of people. The staffroom is always a hive of positivity, and laughter. 'Team work makes the dream work' at Otonga and it's so easy to see how much you all care about your colleagues, students and families. I will miss Otonga and wish I wasn't leaving but sometimes life throws you curve balls, so stay awesome everyone and I will make sure I pop in for a coffee from time to time.

Arohanui

***Katrina Weller (Whaea Katrina)***

## AUTHORSHIP – Room 2

In Room 2 this week we have been looking at our favourite food and describing why it is our favourite. Please enjoy these awesome pieces!

Rebecca Scott, Y4-6 Literacy Co-ordinator

### **Delicious, Delectable Pavlova with Oozing Raspberry Coulis**

My favourite food is pavlova! I really like the spongy interior with the crispy rich armoury on the outside. The blueberries and strawberries on top complement perfectly with the strong flavoured raspberry coulis.

On the side is Rocky Road ice cream, mixed with strawberry combined with vanilla, chocolate and crackling nuts everywhere – scattered like stars in the night sky.

The coulis snakes down the side of the pavlova, like blood creeping across a frozen lake. It's my favourite because my Grandma made it with love and care!

Tommy Flinn

### **Meaty Pizza**

My mouth trembled as the lid of the pizza box creaked open. The wafting smell of the Meatlovers pizza made my tongue drip with oozing saliva. I bit down on the stretchy cheese covered with barbeque sauce and a whole variety of meat.

It stretched straight into the black hole of my mouth. The cheese dragged from the pizza dough oozing into my mouth. The flavour of the soft textured meat slipped onto my tongue. The bumpy terrain of the pizza scraped my tongue! I didn't mind because soon it would be soft in my stomach.

Why I like it, because..... ITS YUM!

Edward Saathof

## CHESS SUCCESS

A great result from Zach Lovell (pictured middle) last weekend when he attended the Sarapu Cup Chess event. He won the Knights Division which is the second level of players in the Sarapu Cup and now escalates to the Rooks division (where his older brother Kian regularly competes also). He even received a trophy! Congratulations Zach!

But wait there's more...

Below are some photos from the Regional Chess Tournament held at St Mary's school on 30th May. Congratulations to all those who participated. Well done!

### Junior:

3rd place - Calvin Chen



### Rookie:

1st place - Aiden Zhang  
2nd place - Austin Zhang



### Certificate of Credit:

Zach Lovell, Sunesh Bala, Kian Lovell and Calvin Chen



## SPEECH & DRAMA SUCCESS

Congratulations to **Neal Pardal** (right) who received the following awards at the 76th Annual Speech and Drama Competition held in Rotorua on the weekend: first price in character in costume, first place in own selection poem and second price in light verse. Neal also won the very prestigious RCS plaque award and Pascoe cup for nursery rhyme ease. Well done, Neal!



**Markus Fairbrother** (left) had an awesome time and came away with a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd place. Fantastic effort Markus!



Congratulations also to **Gabby** (left), who was also very successful. She won both her single competitions for character performance and verse, first place in the group drama and second in the paired impromptu improvisation. She also won best character performance overall! Best of all she loved being part of the competition and performing with her friends. An amazing achievement Gabby! Ka rawe!

# COLOUR FUN RUN



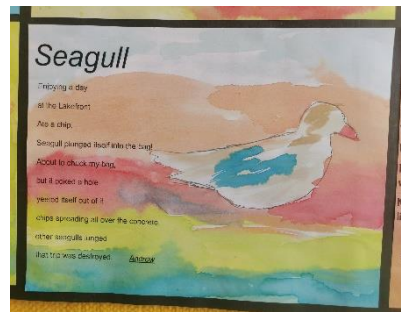
## LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTRE NEWS

This week in the library we have a display of the most beautiful poetry and artwork created by Room 22. Their subject was New Zealand Birds. Such a lot of effort has gone into these, so well done Room 22 and Mr Wood!!

It would be great to get all overdue book back, so your child can issue a new book for the holiday. I will send out overdue reminders today 😊

Thank you to all those who placed an order with Scholastic. The books have arrived and will be distributed today. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Have a lovely holiday,  
*Miss Gisby, Library Assistant*



## LOST PROPERTY

Please check out the lost property in the Lost Property shed, beside the school library. All items will be out on display for parents and students to view each day next week (weather permitting). Any clothing still here at the end of the term will be donated to families in need, in Rotorua.

## OTONGA SPORTS & COMPETITIONS – Registrations Now Open:

### 2023 Rotorua Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge

This extreme off road running event takes place on **Friday 25th August** at Lakes Ranch. Year 3-6 boys and girls are invited to compete in this exciting and fun event.

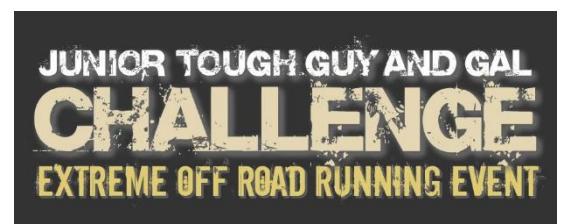
**Cost:** \$35 per student (includes bus & event entry)

**Course:** 1.5km for school years 3 & 4 and  
3km for school years 5 & 6

**Entries Close:** Friday 11th August at 9am

Please read the registration notice for this event, which includes important information on what to wear and bring, when to arrive at school in order to catch the event bus on time, how to register & pay via Kindo and the 'Waiver & Release Statement' which needs to be agreed to in order for your child to compete. This is available under 'Notices' on the SchoolApp or on SeeSaw.

**Registrations need to be completed via KINDO by 9am Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August.**  
(No late entries will be accepted).





# Matariki Celebration

Kia Ora Otonga Primary School Whānau,  
We are hosting a  
Matariki Morning Celebration and would like you to attend

This is a School House event, so Tamariki will need to wear their  
house colours please.

Enjoy engaging in Matariki Art, Games, Waiata,  
Enviro School and a Sausage Sizzle

The PTA will be doing a Sausage Sizzle fundraiser on this day, \$2 per Sausage. Please  
pre order with your child's classroom teacher. Money and order form to them before  
Tuesday 18th July. If you are joining us on this day you are also welcome to order a  
sausage... or two. Please complete the order form attached and return with the money.

When: Week 1 Term 3, Thursday 20th July.

Time: 9.15am - 12.15 pm

Where: Otonga Primary School Hall

**Matariki  
and our  
tamariki**



## THANK YOU MESSAGE

Thanks so much for putting my art class notice in your lovely, vibrant, well designed newsletter. It really is a work of art, a pleasure to read and it is so clever to integrate it with face book. The children at that school are taking part in such an array of arty activities and it is indeed very inspiring. It's so good to see such a healthy attitude towards the creativity. It gives me high hopes for the future. I have several students from Otonga attending my classes and they are always telling me about the neat activities they do there and how much they love their teachers. Once again thanks so much. Kind regards, Janet Keen.

## 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**

## 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



 **Sorooptimist International Rotorua**

TWO WEEKS OF ARTIST-TAUGHT HOLIDAY  
ACTIVITIES FOR CREATIVE 8-12 YEAR OLDS

## HOLIDAY ARTS ACADEMY

**Week One: 4 - 7 July**

- **Tuesday 4th July:** Bring and Bling
- **Wednesday 5th July:** DIY Dye
- **Thursday 6th July:** Potatoes Potatoes
- **Friday 7th July:** Take a walk on the Wild side

**Week Two: 11- 13 July**

- **Tuesday 11th July:** Bug Inn
- **Wednesday 12th July:** Try- Dye
- **Thursday 13th July:** Maskariki

No programme on Friday 14th July for Matariki

Let's get creative!

There will be outdoor games during lunch, lots of extra activities, and freestyle art making every day!

**JULY 2023**  
Taught by local artist Jane Rotherham

Runs Tuesday to Friday  
9am - 3pm each day  
12:1 Supervision Ratio  
Cost: \$30 per child, per day  
Materials provided

Sign up online:  
[www.artsvillage.org.nz/HAA](http://www.artsvillage.org.nz/HAA)  
or visit us at the village!

 **The ARTS VILLAGE**

## After School Painting, Illustrating and Mosaic Classes With Janet Keen

Thursdays: 3.30pm to 4.30pm or 4.35pm to 5.35pm. Enrolling new people now. Ages 7 and upwards welcome. Adults at kids prices. 374 Clayton Road, Rotorua. Text Janet on 027 3513887 for more details.

Email: [janet@jkeen.net](mailto:janet@jkeen.net)



## The Great Te Aka Mauri Winter Reading Challenge



### The Great Te Aka Mauri Winter Reading Challenge

FOR CHILDREN UP TO 18 YEARS

As you read, track your progress on the map of Lake Rotorua and cross your time off as you go (each marker equals 15 minutes of reading). Read for a minimum of six hours to receive a certificate and to go into the draw to win great prizes. We're encouraging grown-ups to get involved too, so ask them to read to you. It's great fun and counts towards your reading hours. PLUS: if you read more than 12 hours you will automatically be entered into a bonus prize draw!

Please complete [this sheet](#) and return it to Rotorua Library, Te Aka Mauri.

All entries must be returned to Rotorua Library by 5.30pm, Monday 31st July 2023



# TE PŌ KITAKITA

A MATARIKI CELEBRATION



Thursday 13th July,  
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Art Activities, Music, Stories, and Kai.  
Celebrate Matariki with us!



1240 Hinemaru Street,  
Rotorua, Aotearoa NZ

[www.artsvillage.org.nz](http://www.artsvillage.org.nz) - 07 348 9008  
f RotoruaArtsVillage - theartsvillage



**Central Kids**

We all grow together

Ka 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](mailto:jacksonpark@centralkids.org.nz)  
[www.centralkids.org.nz](http://www.centralkids.org.nz)

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



IN THE BAY TRUST  
PRESENTS

# PASIFIKA FESTIVAL IN THE BAY 2023

🎵 PASIFIKABOP 📺 FACEBOOK.COM/PASIFIKABOP 📷 @PASIFIKA\_BOP

SUPPORTED BY



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND - TŪKATARA

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER  
FROM 10 AM  
MOUNT MAUNGANUI COLLEGE

PERFORMANCES  
ACTIVITIES  
FOOD

