

Thursday 7 February – Term 1 Week 1

Tena koutou katoa nga mihi ki te whanau o te Kura o Otatara - greetings to all families of Otatara School.

Welcome to the 2012 school year, I hope you have had a wonderful break soaking up that fabulous Southland weather and catching up on the things that you and your family enjoy.

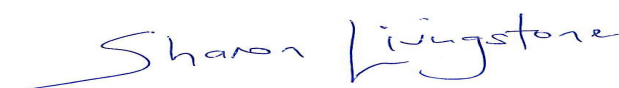
We have some new staff joining our learning community this year, Kiri Hogan is teaching in Room 7 and Linda Dew has joined our team as a teacher aide as sadly we have farewelled Jan McKenzie who has taken up a position at James Hargest College. Emma Scott and Sarah Lovell have had changes of role within the school and are teaching in Room 2 at present awaiting the completion of their new classroom. We are also very fortunate to have 3 University of Otago College of Education final year students joining us - Ruth Fairbairn in Room 9, Taryn Beck in Room 12 and Dayle Herewini in Room 5. I know you will make all our new staff and students very welcome.

It was wonderful having the students join us yesterday; they looked very refreshed and ready for learning and we are looking forward to continuing to learn alongside them this year. As a school our professional learning focus for 2012 is around writing and we had the privilege of working on Friday with Gail Loane, a consultant from Thames and author of the book- 'I've got something to say'.

Our meet the teacher evening is to be held on Thursday 16th February. More details will be provided next week regarding times. We look forward to meeting with you and establishing goals and directions for the year.

On our school website next week there will be a summary of student achievement information from 2011 and some of our highlights for the year. We are looking forward to working with you and your child/ren to create even more highlights in 2012!

Heoi anō t_ku mö n_ianei - That's all for now
N_ku noa n_ - Yours sincerely



Our Teaching Staff

Trudy Brand - This year I am very excited to have the opportunity to continue to pursue my passion, teaching writing. I will be working with groups of students both in and out of classrooms to help them consolidate and extend their writing skills for the first few weeks of Term 1. At the end of this time I have had leave approved, by the Board of Trustees, until the end of the second term and will be travelling to Perth to stay with family on a working holiday.

Alison Rodway - Kia Ora. I am the Assistant Principal and I have the responsibility and the enjoyable role of leading the Junior Team. I live in Otatara and my children attended this school. My goal for all the children in the juniors is to view school as an exciting and enjoyable place, one where they achieve learning success and develop a positive attitude towards caring for one another, their environment. This year I will be taking the Reading Recovery in the school and this is a new and exciting area of learning for me.

Elaine MacPherson - Kia Ora, it is a privilege and a pleasure to teach within all the classrooms as the release teacher at Otatara School. My goal is to provide a stimulating teaching style that empowers your children to enhance their learning foundations, complimenting the learning environment set by your child's homeroom teacher.

Room 1 - Sandra Dolman - Kia Ora. I have the pleasure and privilege of teaching the New Entrant children and working with their families as they begin their learning years at Otatara School. We have had a wonderful start to the year with enthusiasm and wonder showing in the faces of the children as they begin this part of their journey. My aim is for all the children in my class to remain as excited about learning as I am and view school as a place they want to be part of.

Room 2 - Emma Scott - I am team teaching in Room 2 with Sarah Lovell. I teach the morning programme consisting of Numeracy and Literacy. I love reading and hope to foster a love of reading for all children. Room 2 has made a great start to the New Year and are learning classroom routines. Kai pai Room 2.

Sarah Lovell - I am excited to be team teaching with Mrs Scott. I look forward to the afternoons when we will implement the inquiry based approach to learning; this is fantastic as my strengths are in the fields of art, music and science! PS I love gardening and sports too.

Room 3 - Christine Webby - I teach Year 1 children. I am looking forward to working with the new children in Room 3 to help them achieve their goals this year. My goal is to have a happy year - full of learning and fun.

Room 4 - Amy Hutchison - this is my second year teaching. I am looking forward to another exciting year with year 2's in Room 4. I aim to create an environment that fosters positive and exciting learning opportunities. This term we will have a focus on being kind to each other and building positive relationships in the classroom.

Room 5 - Avis Healey - I am pleased to welcome a new group of students into Room 5 for 2012. I hope that the learning in Room 5 will be fun and focused on individual goals in each curriculum area this year. Our motto will be 'reach for the stars' to encourage all children to achieve their learning goals. I am looking forward to a happy and successful year for all.

Dayle Herewini - Tena Koutou, I am a third year bilingual students at the University of Otago Southland Campus. This is my second posting here and I am very fortunate to be placed with Avis Healey for my final year. I am looking forward to extending my learning at Otatara and challenging and helping meet the needs of the

children of Room 5. My goal for this year is to graduate but equally important to me is the forming of positive relationships with the staff, parents and with wonderful children of Otatara.

Room 6 Gillian Donnelly - I teach a Year 5 and 6 class in Room 6. I am enjoying working full time, having job shared in the past with Kate Webster, who returns in Term Two. I will be debuting some new Jump Jam routines this year as well as some exciting new outfits!

Room 7- Kiri Hogan - Kia ora I am super excited to be starting the year at Otatara School. I have previously taught in Hamilton and Invercargill. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Room 8 Matt Williams - It is wonderful to be back for the new year with such a positive and happy class full of students ready for learning. This year I am looking forward to creating a classroom community where the children feel safe and happy to learn. In doing so they will also be learning to develop connections with the wider community outside of the school to further their own learning paths.

Room 9 Raylene Burgess-Heald - I am lucky to be teaching 24 awesome year 4 students in Room 9. It was great to see the children arrive at school with such excitement and enthusiasm. We have had a great couple of days getting to know each other. I would like to welcome Ruth Fairbairn into our classroom. Ruth is in her 3rd year of teacher training and will be a fantastic addition to our classroom. This year my focus for development in teaching will be writing. We have just completed a professional development day with Gail Loane who is totally inspiring and has given me some great ideas to motivate and inspire the children I teach, so keep an eye on their writing. I look forward to meeting you all at "Meet the Teacher Evening" Ka kite ano.

Ruth Fairbairn - I am currently in my final year of Teachers College at the Otago University Southland Campus. I am very excited about my up and coming year with Raylene and Room 9. I am looking forward to learning an array of new skills by being involved in the classroom, school and community.

Room 10- Alice Casey - Kia Ora, I am excited to be back and looking forward to our action packed year! The children have come back energetic and bursting with creativity. I am looking forward to where the children will take our learning and the challenges the year will bring.

Room 11 - Ashlee Nieborg - I am very excited to be back in Room 11 this year with a wonderful class who are so switched on for learning! You may have noticed our open learning space/cloak room after all our renovations. My goal this year is to use this wonderful space for as many learning experiences as possible!

Room 12 - Kay Hood - Tena kotou, I am teaching Year 3 children in Room 12. My goal is to ensure that all children in Room 12 are happy, switched on learners, who are keen to take risks and be extended in their learning. I aim to create a classroom environment where thoughts and ideas are valued and acknowledged and learning is FUN!

Kiora! My name is Miss Beck and I am a third year student in Room 12. I thoroughly enjoy working with the students and being able to assist them in the classroom. I love all areas of the curriculum but have a real soft spot for the arts!

Welcome



We welcome Molly Flynn, James Watson, Kieran O'Connell, Joseph Flutey, Tayla Woodcock, Jordan Oudhoff, Sean Cross, Josh Toone, Lara Leitch and Finn Anderson who started school in Room 1, Kyla Brown and Callum Brown who started in Room 2, Archie Hill, Sam Oosterbroek, Billea-Nova Chin-Nyika, Amali Chin-Nyika, Tayla Roderick-Turnbull, Jack McPhee, Danni McPhee, Briahna Bogue-Carlaw and Brayden Bogue-Carlaw who have transferred to the Otatara area. We hope you enjoy being part of our learning community.

Hats and Layers

Please make sure your child has their school sunhat for this term. Also given the temperature fluctuations please remind your child to wear their school rugby jersey/polar fleece/cardigan.

Sports

Touch Rugby / Flippaball

Permission slips are available from the office for children who wish to play in either of the above sports this term. Please be aware that Kiwi Cricket and Summer Football will also be offered this term but registration forms have not arrived as yet. If your child wishes to play in either of these sports permission slips must be returned to school by Wednesday February 8th to allow for team entry.

Road Patrol Roster Monday 6 February to Friday 10 February

Monday	Waitangi Day
Tuesday	Lynette Boniface
Wednesday	Carolyn Flynn
Thursday	Leanne Durry
Friday	Amelia Morrison



If for some reason you are unavailable on your rostered day please swap with another parent.

Coming Events

13 February	BOT Meeting - 7.00pm
16 February	Meet The Teacher Evening
4 April	End of term for students
5 April	Teacher Only Day

Confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners striving for excellence