

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā mihi ki te whānau o te Kura o Otatara  
- greetings to all families of Otatara School.

### WELCOME

Welcome to Term 3, it has been a busy start for our senior team starting with swimming.

Tim Gutsell has joined our senior team teaching alongside Gillian Donnelly in Tī Kōuka now that Jena Young is on parental leave. We are delighted to have Tim join our team and to have Gillian taking on the role of senior team leader.

### MATARIKI OPEN NIGHT

This evening we are sharing our Matariki learning with classrooms being open from 5.30pm-6.30pm, we hope you can join us to engage in some Matariki related games and activities with your child/ren and also take a moment to contribute to our health and wider curriculum consultation being supported by facilitators from Active Southland.

	Classroom activities
Kahikatea- Room 11/12	Maze, wishing stars, a student film, shadow puppets and lights
Kowhai- Room 1	Art display, wishing stars, and star-craft
Miro- Room 2	Weaving, paper faces art and a film of drama
Matai- Room 3	Lanterns, weaving and wishing stars
Totara- Room 4	Story-telling, aspirations for students, videos of The 7 Kites of Matariki, flax flower and star tessellation display
Ponga- Room 5	Story-telling, aspirations for students, videos of The 7 Kites of Matariki
Manuka/Akapuka- Room 6/7	Making lanterns and a display of gratitude stars
Ti Kouka - Room 8/9	Woven stars and tessellated stars plus games - Mu Torere, knucklebones, string games as well as flax weaving
Pokaka/Tarata- Room 13/14	Lantern making, harakeke flowers, and games

### TERM 2 REFLECTIONS ON LEARNING FROM OUR STUDENTS

At the end of last term students reflected on our first two terms of learning in relation to our school vision and graduate learner profile, providing us with rich feedback around what has been powerful for them as learners. I hope you enjoy the insights into classroom programmes that this student voice provides.

### What has been powerful learning?

- Listening carefully
- Sharing our ideas with the class
- Learning mathematics
- 'Revisit n retrain', 'move n prove', 'discuss n defend' and symmetry learning in mathematics
- Learning how to do our own portraits
- Literacy contracts
- Heggerty sound learning and our spelling
- Sharing ideas for writing
- Learning about how Otatara has changed over time and names of places in Otatara
- Mitey - thoughts, feelings, behaviours – and how this is connected to Read Aloud
- Learning about protesting and Bastion Point in Conrad Cooper's Last Stand
- Read Aloud - new vocabulary, language features
- Researching - thick and thin questions, summarising, note taking
- Whanaungatanga time - learning from each other, stories with loose parts, we have to be supportive and gentle
- Heart Kids - planning, designing and creating an obstacle course - it felt special creating something for a good cause
- Learning how to simplify art with Mrs Mac
- Learning the grid method for multiplication 2 digit x 2 digit
- Learning new games with the Sharks and then teaching our classmates the games
- Fitness with Billy from Active Southland - We get to teach younger children the games we have learnt
- Learning what an article is and how to set out a newspaper and write our own newspaper articles on the 28th Māori Battalion
- Learning the Canva programme and having the confidence to use this independently - you can see evidence of this around our walls
- Learning about our local area through different texts - e.g. Kā Roimata and Te Ara a Kiwa
- Learning outside the classroom - in the Otatara Scenic Reserve and for Outdoor Education Day
- Learning through the lens of drama - using freeze frames to unpack stories

### What is helping with developing your self management skills?

- Solving problems by making them small problems
- Writing - using the word card by ourselves, finishing our writing on time, using finger spaces and practising and writing our letters correctly
- Reading - matching the words with our finger and reading with our eyes
- Literacy contracts
- That our teacher trusts us
- Letting us sit with some friends allows us to manage ourselves
- Focusing on our work
- Concentrating
- Time management
- Silent reading – doing this helps practice being quiet for other tasks
- Fitness - fresh air and having a break helps

- Sitting with the right people
- Making lists to break big jobs down into chunks
- Having goals
- Listening first and gathering all of the information
- Breathing and Alert Programme exercises
- Ignoring distractions
- No eye contact with other people - when trying to concentrate on independent tasks
- TPSR with Mrs Werder is helping me to feel empathy for teachers when children don't self manage
- We have spots in Room 14 to help us stay focused during maths and writing. There is a strong agreement that this helps. We are hoping by the end of the year these will not be necessary which will show growth in our self management
- Understanding the difference between red zone/ green zone
- Thinking carefully about our choices

***Being connected is about knowing ourselves as learners, knowing about and caring for others and our environment and using our learning to help others - what is working for your class with being connected?***

- Helping people when they are hurt, knowing we are caring for and including others
- Helping to tidy up the classroom
- Sharing and taking turns
- We don't litter and if we see litter we pick it up and put it in the rubbish bin
- Writing goals in our books
- Contributing during class discussions - sharing our ideas, thoughts and wonderings
- Buddy class connection - in and out of class, knowing each other
- Knowing our goals
- Easier to connect when we all get along as a team
- Our bush visits are improving our learning about our natural world
- Maths buddies - helping without telling them the answer - passing on knowledge in a safe and caring way
- Litter intelligence - This taught us about the amount of litter that ends up in the same spot over a period of time. We had to sort rubbish into categories, weigh each piece, map out an area, measure and work together to get the area clear
- Hui time
- Being a peer mediator
- Senior singing
- Using our kaitiaki time to keep our school clean - this makes us feel proud

***How is your class striving for excellence?***

- Helping others, listening, practising being kind
- Playing with people who have no one to play with
- Making new friends
- Being quiet in assembly
- Using Manaakitanga
- Getting certificates is motivating
- Being an Ariki or striving to become one
- Striving for the golden glove
- Pen licences
- Working with people that help you achieve your best
- Revising and editing

- Having another attempt - keep trying until it's right
- Making sure our books are tidy
- Leadership letters - There has been an increase in letters to Mrs Livingstone applying for Leadership Level 1
- Pride Challenges - There has been a big push for everyone to at least try and present 1 Pride Challenge
- Passing on knowledge - teaching games, buddies (drumming, weaving & Matariki games)
- Within our writing programme we are taking on the feedback given by Mrs Green and Miss Tisdall and reworking our writing to improve it for the reader
- Majority of our class are in the Kapa Haka group and enjoy the responsibility of being a tuakana for the juniors
- We are striving to become confident in reading our pepeha in large group situations (assembly)
- Using our goals to help us in our learning
- Making good choices

***Anything else that you would like to share about your learning so far or any ideas to make learning powerful for the rest of the year?***

- Writing discussion time could be shorter
- Pets and Passions Day once a year
- Work on listening
- A new Read Aloud book
- Salmon study
- More visits to the bush, learning about plants
- Keen for a BIG research - Something like the estuary inquiry, maybe NZ history
- We would like the opportunity to browse the 'Something happened here' website which is New Zealand based
- Focus on self management early in the term to set us up for a successful second half of the year
- Whanaungatanga time - projects

Heoi anō tāku mō ināianei - That's all for now  
Nāku noa nā. - Yours sincerely

*Sharon Livingstone*

## WELCOME



Welcome to our new entrant Taika Thompson and also to transferring students Edward and Bryce Hewton. We hope you enjoy being part of our learning community.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB – ISSUE 5

The latest booklet from the Scholastic Book Club was sent home with your child this week. Please have orders in by Friday 04 August. Thank you for your support as each order earns free books and resources for our school.

### TERM 3 PARENT GROUP MEETING

The Term 3 Otatara Parent Group Meeting is on Tuesday 25 July at 7.00pm in the school staff room.

We will be discussing our upcoming fundraising events for our beautiful school.

These will include:

- \* Term 3 Sausage Sizzles
- \* Term 4 Disco Planning
- \* Term 4 Home & Garden Event

These events can't go ahead without help from our parents. If you have any questions or would like more information flick us an email - [opg@otatara.school.nz](mailto:opg@otatara.school.nz).

### AGM

Join us for our Otatara School Parent Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday August 29 at 7.00pm in the school staffroom.

Be a part of shaping the future of our school community as we discuss exciting initiatives from the past year. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow parents, contribute your insights, and make a difference.

Mark your calendars and join us for our annual meeting.

### SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

21 July 2:00 Whole School Assembly

28 July 2:10pm Junior School Assembly

*We hope you can join us to  
celebrate our learning.*

### ROAD PATROL

**Monday 24 July to Friday 28 July 2023**

Day	Morning	Afternoon
<b>Monday</b>	Rebecca Tagicakibau	Rebecca Tagicakibau
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tracey Yardley	Tracey Yardley
<b>Wednesday</b>	Zippy Kumar	Zippy Kumar
<b>Thursday</b>	Josh Aurik	Josh Aurik
<b>Friday</b>	Quintin/Kylie Thompson	Quintin/Kylie Thompson

Parent helpers please be at school by 8:20am for the morning patrol and 2:40pm for the afternoon patrol. If for some reason you are unavailable on your rostered day please swap with another parent.

*Thank you for helping keep everyone safe*

### OTATARA CALENDAR

17 Jul – 1 Aug	Senior Swimming
20 July	<b>Matariki Community Celebration 5:00 pm-6:30pm</b>
25 July	Otatara Parent Group 7:00pm Staffroom
31 July	BOT Meeting 7:00pm Learning Centre
10 Aug	John Parson's Cyber Safety – Parent Session 7:00pm Community Hall Meeting Room
21 Aug	Otatara Polyfest Performance 12:00pm
29 Aug	Otatara Parent Group AGM 7:00pm Staffroom

## Year 6 Corner

Children were given a challenge to design an advertisement using the Canva programme to promote Matariki and encourage people to take part in the celebration. These are fictional!



By Holly



By Isaiah