

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Week 2 Newsletter 16 February 2010

*Otonga School 50th Jubilee*  
*Saturday 5th June 2010*

**BOT ELECTIONS MAY 2010**

Parents/Guardians pick up a nomination form from the school office.  
Nominations close Noon 23 April 2010.

**Meet the Teacher Evening Report**

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Thank you for your suggestions for improvement on the organisation. For next time we will: have just 1 meeting time, start with the meeting, have the forms set out in the hall, use a microphone, have the charts on trestle tables at the back of the hall, the OSSG will be there in their blue shirts and will answer questions about what some of the tasks need. The OSSG will have a clipboard to record names of helpers who do not mind which stall to help at the gala. We will set up the school BBQ and we will allocate picnic areas for each team – though of course, parents may choose where they prefer to go.

Thank you for those who took the opportunity to see the building programme and ask questions: To answer them – all of the building programmes use state funds and so there is a very transparent process that must be adhered to. Each project is registered on GETS (Govt Electronic tendering System). The tender opening, assessment and appointment process have strict guidelines. We did have some local firms register interest but either our time frames or deadlines were too tight for them. We needed classes ready to start school year. The walkways, porches and decks project will be the next building project on GETS. The security, and I think, infrastructure upgrade and installation are on there now. The sandpit was advertised many times in our newsletter. We got the best price we could. Building programme nearly completed : Rooms 20, 7 & 8  
Quite a bit to do: Rooms 5 & 6 and 16  
Miles to go: Caretaker and Storage Rooms  
Value of work done : \$1.2m

**Projects of a human kind underway:**

MOE will be here to film our school programme Tuesday 23 Feb – we will need individual signatures to allow images of your children to be on the web and in magazines. This will be huge undertaking- and will take time so if you get a consent form, please give it urgent attention. It is a compliment to us that we have been asked. The filming is around how we address the revised curriculum and in particular, the Key Competencies. Launch of 'Lucky Pancake' – 24 Feb- a free copy of the book for each family. Again film cameras will be here and special permission needed for images to be used. You will be contacted if this is needed. Food n Fun Fair - March 11 - project to Resurface 'netball' court with astro and to be multi purpose Board of Trustees Elections in May- and we would love to meet with anyone interested. 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Reunion – Queens Birthday Weekend June.

### **Projects of a learning kind**

We hosted 200 teachers from 12 Rotorua schools to learn about SOLO and you will hear more from your children. It is new for all of us but will deepen the quality of our thinking and learning.

We are just starting to do the work for ICTPD – a 3 year programme of staff learning about how to effectively integrate a whole range of technologies and on-line tools into our teaching and learning programmes.

National standards is another huge workload for us.

We have already been reporting reading, writing and maths against generally accepted norms. Those norms are not different under national standards- and we do really well as a school.

We have already been telling you if your child is at norm, above or below. What will be different is mainly how and the timing of the reporting.

Up to now our benchmarks have been based on the age of your child. The national standards base the benchmarks on the length of time at school. That is adding a most confusing layer of complexity in that we have a number of children who do not start school at age 5.

*Linda Woon*

### **Kia Kaha Police Education Programme:**

The whole school is currently undertaking this programme which focuses on rights and responsibilities, and is taught by the classroom teacher in partnership with the Police. It follows on from “The Power of One” show we had last year and looks at strategies for overcoming bullying. Kia Kaha aims to help schools create environments where all members of the school community feel safe, respected and valued, and where bullying cannot flourish. The underlying principle is “you treat other people as you would like to be treated”. We are also looking at “net-safe procedures as part of this process.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm in the Arts Centre we are holding a parents information evening to look at the Kia Kaha programme and digital citizenship. Come along with your questions and queries.

*Wendy Peterson*

### **World Maths Day**

Our school is participating in World Maths Day March 3. Students play online against other students around the world. Your child can participate at home. They will have their individual password and can sign into [www.worldmathsday.com](http://www.worldmathsday.com) and can start practising from now on.

*Margaret Weir*

### **School Banking**

Due to the senior children being out of the school this week school banking will commence next Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February in the Arts Centre at 8.30pm. Accounts can be opened at the National Bank.

### **Library and Information Technology Centre News**

**Library Volunteers:** Are you interested in helping in the Library on a Monday or Tuesday morning for ¾ of an hour between 9.45am & 10.30am? This is when we hold Junior Library for Year 1 and 2 pupils and small groups of children come to the Library to change their Library books each day. We can't run this programme without parents/caregivers help so if you can assist or would like to know more please call in and see me or telephone 3486443 Ext 712.

Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered.

**Reminder Scholastic Book Club Orders:** Orders from the Scholastic Book Club Offer 1 brochures should be handed in at the Library by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Payment can be made in cash or by cheque and for orders over \$10 by credit card. Please make all Cheques payable to “Otonga Road Primary School”. Thank you for supporting the school by ordering from the Book Club.

**Book Care Tips:** Take care of books - Read with CLEAN hands!

*Mrs Pauline Atkinson, Library Manager*

### **South African Food Stall**

The Schools South African community has once again kindly offered to run a food stall at our upcoming Food and Fun Fair. There are a number of helpers required to make this a success, so if you are able to commit some time please contact Vilna on 07 348 5000 or [vilnat@farmside.co.nz](mailto:vilnat@farmside.co.nz)

Thanks for your support.

*Damian Harris - OSSG*

### **Lunches**

Lunches will not commence next week due to the lack of helpers. If you are able to help so they can commence the week after please contact Linda Keach ph 348 6443.

### **Amnesty on Missing Reading Books**

We have many missing reading books! Please can you search at home and return any books found with an 'Otonga School' stamp inside the front cover. There will be a box in the Library for you to return these books to.

### **Cricket**

All games start this Thursday 3.45pm at Ray Boord Park (Hardball at Smallbone Park). The draws and field layout will be up at the toilet block. Please be there by 3.30pm as the first day is often a bit chaotic. Cancellations will be announced to the children at school on Thursdays. The Incrediball's Rimu cricket team is still without a coach. The cricket co-ordinator is prepared to allocate a helper to assist the team at game time so this week at least they will have a game.

*Gareth Cunliffe*

### **FlippaBall Draw**

Thursday 18 Feb. 4.10pm Otonga 1 Crt 2; 4.25pm Otonga 2 Crt 3

### **Touch Rugby Draw Feb 17**

4.30pm – Otonga girls Yr 3/4 Field 1; Boys Yr 2/3 Field 2; Blue (Boys) Field 4; Red (mixed) Field 8  
Year 6 mixed and Year 3/4 girls meet at the touch rugby field at 4.10pm Field 1

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Brooke Simpkins whose BOP Under 11 Touch Team won the Northern Region Tournament at the weekend.

### **Rotorua Football Academy**

Pre season training to be held Malfroy Primary School Tuesday 23 Feb Ph Ian 346 0114 or 027 650 5032

### **Music Lessons**

Experienced music teacher available for music lessons in Piano and Keyboard. For further information contact Gina Atkinson 349 0817

### **Term Dates 2010**

Term 1	Last day of term Thursday 1 April		
Term 2	Monday 19 April	-	Friday 2 July
Term 3	Monday 19 July	-	Friday 24 September
Term 4	Monday 11 October	-	Thursday 16 December.