

Dear parents, caregivers, students and friends of the school. Tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

We welcome all new students and their families to Otumoetai Intermediate School. We hope you have a happy association with our school and make the most of the many educational activities and opportunities provided.

It is also my pleasure to welcome back our Year 8 students with the expectation that each will continue to participate to the best of their ability while demonstrating independence, good work habits and responsibility for their own behaviour.

This is the first of regular newsletters you will receive about key events and happenings in our school. In addition to the school newsletters, you can expect to receive regular class or team newsletters throughout the year.

Please encourage your son or daughter to bring all notices home so you can stay informed about your child's education at our school.

Last year was an amazing one for the school with excellent academic results in the key areas of literacy and numeracy and many outstanding achievements at national and local level in sport, culture and the arts.

For more information about how we did, parents and community members are invited to view our school wide achievements on the school website at www.otuinter.school.nz.

We are extremely proud of our school and invite all our families and friends to join us in any capacity you can to assist us in our commitment to making our school, a school of excellence in all aspects. Your support will help consolidate our position as one of New Zealand's top Year 7 and 8 schools.

2010 STAFF

Principal Mr H Popping
Deputy Principal (Curriculum) Mrs L Hutchinson
Deputy Principal (Administration) Mr J Stanley
Teaching Teams (known by house colour and year level):

GOLD 7

Team Leader Mrs K Scoones (Rm 26)
 Ms L Ovenden (Rm 25)
 Teacher Mr M Finnigan (Rm 23)
 Teacher Ms E Short (Rm 24)
 Teacher Mr N Schultz/Ms L Ovenden (Rm 25)

GOLD 8

Team Leader Mr J Tunnell (Rm 21)
 Teacher Ms K Turner (Rm 19)
 Teacher Ms F Hockly (Rm 20)
 Teacher Mrs A Worthington (Rm 22)

GREEN 7

Team Leader Mrs N Hanna (Rm 7)
 Teacher Mr S Curtis (Rm 5)
 Teacher Mr M Hughes (Rm 6)
 Teacher Miss B Kelly (Rm 8)

GREEN 8

Team Leader Ms S Crook (Rm 1)
 Teacher Ms T Walters/Mrs D Ballinger (Rm 2)
 Teacher Mr A Firth (Rm 3)
 Teacher Ms P Quinn (Rm 4)

BLUE 7

Team Leader Mrs S Te Mete (Rm 17)
 Teacher Ms K Taylor (Rm 13)
 Teacher Mr K Page (Rm 14)
 Teacher Ms K Harawira (Rm 16)
 Teacher Ms A Southon (Rm 18)

BLUE 8

Team Leader Ms J Johnstone (Term 1) (Rm 12)
 Mrs L Chappell (rest of year) (Rm 10)
 Teacher Mr B Goodchild (Rm 9)
 Teacher Mrs P Miedema/Mrs L Chappell (Rm 10)
 Teacher Ms L Murray (Rm 11)
 Teacher Mr G Parker (Rm 15)

Specialist Teachers

Visual Art Mrs K Patten
 Performing Arts Miss A Robinson
 Music Mr M Lewis
 Hard Technology Mr M Thompson
 Soft Technology Mrs K Mountfort
 Food Technology Mrs H Hamm
 I.C.T. Mr M Stoodley

Mr J Stewart
Part Time Mrs L Oldham
 Mrs P Miedema
 Mrs K Rae

Teacher Aides:

Mrs R Taylor
 Mrs A Sandoy
 Mrs D Henson
 Miss G Jones
 Miss R Fa'ase'e

Administration Team

Executive Officer Mrs B Schollum
 Office Secretary Miss L Anderson
 Office Assistant Mrs M Head
 Office Assistant Mrs C Minkhorst
 School Librarian Mrs G Haddon
 Resource Room Mrs M Dadson/Mrs J Hellner
 Caretaker Mr D Bateman
 Assistant Caretaker Mr K Oliver
 Canteen Manager Mrs D Cruickshank
 Canteen Assistant Mrs J Braunias
 Canteen Assistant Mrs K Wallace
 Director Leadership Centre
 and Student Support Mr B Sheedy
 International Students
 Teacher Mrs T Liddle
 International Homestays Mrs M Dadson
 Maori Prog & Iwi Liaison Mr A Mikaere
 Sports Coordinator Mr M Hughes

For all Real Estate needs contact:



Proud sponsor of Otumoetai Intermediate School.

TE WERO NUI NEW PLAYGROUND

Over the holidays "Te Wero Nui", our new playground was installed at the far end of the top field. Once the timber surround and cushion fall has been installed, it will be ready for use. The playground has been especially designed as a challenge course for young adolescents and was the focus of our fundraising last year. Our thanks to the 2009 outgoing Year 8 students and our 2010 Year 8's for making the addition of this equipment to our school a reality. Our thanks also to the Community Trust for their grant of \$18,000.00 towards the playground.

2010 STUDENT LEADERS

The 2010 student leaders are as follows:

Dylan Ngatai	Kahla Tyson
Jack May	Jessica Gadsby
Bailey Thomson	Anahita Mukherjee
Nina Bly-Pieterston	Connor Steens
Iona Gordon	Stevie Grondin
Blake Fairweather	Roebi Bidois
Johnathon Hill	Kelcy Ballantyne
Laura Holdich	Kirsty Burrows
Cole Sharland	Jake Chegwidan
Scott Wilson	Isaiah Duncanson
Jessica Mason	Andrew Bowker

KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED

As a school we endeavour to keep you as parents fully informed about your child's progress and events coming up in the term.

Newsletters will be provided on a fortnightly basis and periodically will include a fridge calendar of upcoming events and activities. The February and March calendar is included in this newsletter. Further information is available on the school website www.otuinterschool.nz including events planned for the whole year.

The website will be updated regularly and is designed to provide parents with up to date and ongoing information about the school.

The site will contain photos of students participating in a number of activities. If your son or daughter's image is shown and you wish to have this removed please contact the school and we will arrange for the photograph to be changed. At no time will a student's identity be released or referred to on the web site.

If you do not wish your son or daughter's image to be used in any way please advise the school in writing.

We thank you all for your support of our school and would not wish to offend anyone.

For all Real Estate needs contact:



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OTUMOETAI INTERMEDIATE BUS ROUTES FOR 2010

- Route 45 = Wairoa Rd/Crawford Road/Minden Rd
- Route 41 = Pahoia/Omokoroa Point/Munro Rd
- Route 38 = Whakamarama
- Route 36 = Mayfield, Bethlehem
- Route 34 = Sterling Gate, Bethlehem
- Route 31 = SH29/Omanawa Rd/McLaren's Rd
- Route 30 = SH9/Old Kaimai Rd/Soldiers Rd/Poripori Rd
- Route 29 = The Lakes/Cambridge Rd
- Route 6 = Welcome Bay via SH29 and Cameron Rd

For more details please view

www.schooltransport.org.nz

REMEMBER:

- Free bus only if student lives more than 4.8km from nearest eligible primary/intermediate school.
- \$200 for students who are ineligible (do not meet distance criteria, 4.8km) but are attending their nearest school.
- \$450 for students who are ineligible (do not meet distance criteria, 4.8km) and are not attending their nearest school.
- \$300 for students who are eligible (meet the distance criteria) but are not attending their nearest school.

THESE FEES ARE ANNUAL AND CAN BE PAID TERM BY TERM AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

COMPULSORY FEES, SCHOOL DONATION & FUNDING SUPPORT FROM PARENTS

Although the school lost a significant source of funding when Telecom pulled out of the Telecom School Connection Scheme, we have kept our consumables levy and school donation levels the same as previous years.

The consumable levy is a compulsory cost and covers the cost of materials used by each student.

The school donation is a voluntary payment that we rely on to fund new equipment and technology not provided by government funds.

With the recession, many families may wish to pay their school fees by instalment. We can arrange weekly/fortnightly automatic payments with your assistance.

Most parents will find \$5.00 a week will cover the cost of a school hat, trips, camps and school fees. If there is any money left at the end of the year, we give this back to the parents concerned.

Parents are also able to ring Barbara Schollum, our Executive Officer, at any time to receive a balance and printout of your school account.

We really appreciate our families' support in this and ask that the \$90.00 be donated in support of the school and to keep our school well equipped.

The school donation is reduced to \$80.00 if paid by the end of March. All families who have paid this by the end of March will be entered into a draw for a free family dinner at a family restaurant.

School donations are also tax deductible.

ID AND CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Photolife Studios will be taking student ID and class photographs **Thursday 18th February**.

NEW WAY OF SCHOOL PARENT COMMUNICATION

Our school has joined School-Links which is a service that enables you as parents to:

- Receive two-way TXT and email alerts from the school. For example, you can receive alerts for school closures, sports practice changes/cancellations, grounds changes or in the event of an emergency.
- Receive TXT and email alerts if your child is absent from school.
- Book your parent-teacher interviews on line.
- Notify us of your child's absences at any time by simply logging on to our School-Links portal.
- Receive all your newsletters and general notices directly to your email account.

We are encouraging all parents and caregivers to register on our School-Links site so you can benefit from this terrific innovation in communication with the school.

Otumoetai College is also adopting this new service and this gives all parents an opportunity to become familiar with School-Links before your child starts secondary school.

You will find information on how to register in the enclosed pamphlet.

FRONT OF SCHOOL PICK UPS AND PARKING

Please note that the bus bay and drop off zone is no longer available to parents/drivers who wish to wait for their child to come out of school by parking in this zone.

Because more buses will be dropping off and picking up students in this area, the drop off zone will now be a clearway during the following hours on a school day:

7.30am to 9am

2.00pm to 4pm

Parents and caregivers are asked to make arrangements with their child to meet for pick up in neighbouring streets or along Ngatai Road. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS & SUN HATS

At Otumoetai Intermediate School all students are expected to wear their uniforms with pride at all times. Please refer to the School Information Book or website for full details. During Terms 1 and 4 everyone will be expected to wear a school hat or cap when they are outside in the sun. These are available from the Resource Room for the price of \$10.00.

PERSONAL ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Please do not allow your child to bring jewellery or any other personal items of value to school as we take no responsibility for valuables left in the classroom.

CELLPHONES

Last year a parent, staff and student survey was carried out to determine whether or not students should be able to have cellphones at school. 70% of all respondents said students should have this privilege with appropriate conditions.

For the first three weeks of term, all students are expected to leave their cellphones at home while students and teachers develop school protocols for their use.

Students who need to have a cellphone with them for safety reasons when travelling to and from school must check these in at the office each morning until the protocols are ready and a new policy is adopted.

Parents and caregivers will receive a copy of the new cellphone protocols and school policy prior to the changes being implemented.

Once adopted, individual students will receive a trusted student status. If a student fails to follow the new protocols they will lose this status and the privilege of having a cellphone at school. This is to recognise that the vast majority of our students are exemplary citizens and should not be penalised as a result of the actions of a few. All cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The members of our Board of Trustees are:

Mr Patrick Zeinert, Chairman	576 6629
Mrs Helen Neale, Treasurer	579 1998
Mr Tony Jane, Board Member	576 3006
Mrs Angie Higgison, Board Member	543 2267
Mr Dale Henderson, Board Member	576 1820
Mr Henk Popping, Principal	576 5105

This year there are Board elections across New Zealand. Our school has a staggered election with members elected for two different terms.

At Otumoetai Intermediate there will be three positions vacant this year as Mr Patrick Zeinert, Mrs Helen Neale and Mr Dale Henderson complete their current terms.

Mr Tony Jane and Mrs Angie Higgison will continue as Board members for another 18 months.

We encourage parents and caregivers to consider putting themselves forward as candidates for our dynamic Board. Nominations open on 15th March 2010.

We also encourage interested parents to come along to our next Board meeting on 18th February 2010 to see how our Board meets and governs the school.

For all Real Estate needs contact:



Proud sponsor of Otumoetai Intermediate School.

Traditionally our Board members have worked exceptionally well as a team for the greater good of the school. We are looking for parents who can contribute with a good amount of common sense, an interest in the welfare of staff, students and a motivation to providing our students with the best possible education.

Key dates for Board elections are:

- 15 March 2010 - Nominations open**
- Noon 23rd April 2010 - Nominations close**
- By 28th April 2010 - Voting forms mailed out**
- 7th May 2010 - Voting Day**
- 13th May 2010 - Count Votes**
- 14th May 2010 - New Board Members take office**

P.T.A. ANNUAL MEETING

Don't forget to come along on **Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm to the staffroom upstairs.**

In 2004, the P.T.A committee resolved to change how the P.T.A will run at Otumoetai Intermediate School. Our school is given huge support from parents as coaches and managers of sports teams (we could have over 100 parents in these roles during the winter sports season), as parent helpers, in the canteen and during school trips, camps etc.


The committee realises that for many working parents and caregivers, time is precious so it made sense to restructure our P.T.A.

This year, the P.T.A will be led by a small steering committee made up of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and organiser of canteen helpers' roster supported by a backup group of parents and caregivers who can be called upon for assistance when needed. This is our parent support group.

Meetings are held once a term with a parent information focus for the first part followed by a quick meeting.

The first part generally has a topic of particular interest to parents and includes an opportunity for parents to give feedback on aspects of school life and learning programmes.

If you are able to assist as a parent support group member, please complete and return this slip to the school office.

 **PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**
OFFER OF HELP AS A SUPPORT GROUP MEMBER
 Name..... Tel:
 Email:
 Child's Name: Class:
 - I am able to support the P.T.A. once or twice a year in the following way: YES/NO
 Helping in the canteen once a month YES/NO
 Contributing to any consultative meetings or surveys that may be called for long term planning YES/NO
 Assisting with the Book Fair in June during a parent interview night YES/NO
 Assisting with school events such as showcase, talent quest, sports days YES/NO

HOME GARDEN COMPETITION

2009 saw the school introduce a home garden competition to encourage students to learn the traditional skills of growing their own plants.

This has coincided with the development of garden allotments on railway land near the Matua roundabout on Ngatai Road and the development of an outdoor classroom on Garden Carmichael Reserve.

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in the following categories last year:

CREATIVE

- 1ST Emma East for her garden in a suitcase
- 2nd Hayden Saxton created a bath garden
- 3rd Jade Leckner and Deborah Paine, jointly created a garden in a washing basket.

COMPACT

1st Sean Clink who used an old kiwifruit bin and chose tasty plants to grow.

2nd Jordan Valentine used recycled timber to build a garden with his grandfather and grew his garden from seed.

Runners up were Cassandra Allen, Sophie Roberts, Hamish Mowat, Stuart Roodt, Ashley Prentice and Patsy Baldwin.

BACKYARD

1st Martyn Chew who dug a garden in the back lawn and has managed to grow some very healthy plants with a huge range.

2nd Jonathon and Damon Hill - we were very impressed with their stone wall gardens and the range of plants.

Runners up were Laura Bell, Ellen Tisch, Natalie Ball, Nathan Wilson, Nasya Thompson and Lily Adams.

This year the PTA will once again be hosting the 2010 Home Garden competition commencing Term 4. Our sincere thanks to Palmers Gardenworld in Bethlehem for their continued support.

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER COMPETITION

This competition was judged over the holidays and we were delighted to hear that Ben Cooper's poster will represent New Zealand in this event. The theme was the Power of Peace and Ben created a stunning poster. His work will now go to New York to be judged against students from around the world. We wish him all the best. Results will be known in May 2010.

For all Real Estate needs contact:



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **Digischool:** Extremely cool media arts courses taught after school. Enrol now for Term 1. Spaces are limited. Film-Game Design-Animation-Photoshop. Call Jonathan on 570 0066 or visit www.digischool.co.nz.
- **R10 FOOTBALL - Brazilian Soccer Programme called Futsal (Indoor Soccer):** Starts 12 Feb at Merivale Action Centre (School). Juniors 6-9 years 5.30pm to 7pm. Seniors (10-13 years old) 7pm to 8.30pm. For more info phone Sharon on 0274 427 366 or email the.zoo6@xtra.co.nz.
- **Rhythmz Dance Co:** Affordable and fun hip hop, acro-dance, ballet and jazz dance classes, suitable for boys and girls. Term 1 starts next week, classes available for Ages 2 to 14. Please phone 578 8780 or visit www.rhythmzdanceco.co.nz for the timetable and for any further enquiries.
- **Relationship Services Upcoming Courses and Seminars for Parents:** Relationship Services is a family therapy service located in Brookfield Tce, Otumoetai that offers regular courses and seminars to parents of young children and adolescents, to separated parents and to parents with blended families. Their Term 1 timetable is out now. Fees are no more than \$20 and courses start February. For a timetable please phone Relationship Services on 576 8392, email tauranga@relationships.org.nz or google "Public Courses in Bay of Plenty".
- **Gym Club 2010:** Classes start at Otumoetai Intermediate on Tuesday 9th February at 3.15pm. Give your children a head start for the 2010 Gymnastics shows and competitions. Enrol them in the Term 1 Gymnastics badge programme. Programme costs \$80 for the term. Registration can be completed online at www.GYMclub.co.nz. Contact Mark Groos on 576 5208 for more info.
- **Baxter Guitar & Drum Lessons:** Lessons for all ages close to central Tauranga. Phone Matt on 570 3350 or 021 0261 4723.

Kia Kaha
Regards

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL

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