

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

"Otumoetai Intermediate School has a motto of 'Hope, Strive and Achieve'. I believe this is a good guideline for setting and achieving goals. You hope to achieve your goals, you strive with determination to achieve your goal and if you have committed to what you have hoped and strived to achieve, you will."

At Otumoetai Intermediate School there are many opportunities for those who are willing to take and fully commit to them. The opportunities at Otumoetai Intermediate School are as wide and varied as your interests and talents. I advise students to take any opportunities that you have because at this school they are endless and always worthwhile."

This quote by Amanda Richards, a previous student, demonstrates the attitude we encourage all our students to adopt. *"We all have strengths and weaknesses. What we do with them is the important thing."* At Otumoetai Intermediate School we provide opportunities for our students to discover, develop and use their strengths wisely. In the process we encourage our students to adopt a winning attitude, be creative and not to fear failure. To set goals and be able to work with and appreciate other students.

As a school we also appreciate the support and interest shown by you as parents and guardians in your child's education.

We invite you to become involved in the many activities, sports and trips offered and to keep in touch with your child's teacher regarding your child's academic, social, emotional and physical development this year.

FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year elections will be held for three positions on our school Board of Trustees.

We invite all interested parents along to our next Board meeting this Thursday, 18th February.

Come along to our boardroom at 7.30pm and join us at our meeting to see what the role entails.

If you are interested in standing for our Board and would like your questions answered, I am really happy to help. Just call me on:

Home: 576 6629

Work: 578 0552 (xt 2)

Mobile: 027 247 4150.

Patrick Zeinert

Board Chairman

FROM THE PTA

Welcome to the school year 2010 at Otumoetai Intermediate. We are pleased to have you here and part of our terrific school.

Having children here ourselves currently and in previous years, we know that opportunities abound and await your child over this next school year.

These opportunities are school/teacher managed, with the definite need for parent involvement on various levels throughout the school year to support the teachers and school in running such fantastic programmes and events for our children. So please accept this as an open invitation for you as parents to be part of this school, when and how you are available to do so.

On a personal note, at this level of schooling we have found that our children have loved knowing that we are, and still want very much to be, part of their school lives. Despite what they might say, it is important to them.

One of the ways you can be an effective part of this school community is to come along to Otumoetai Intermediate PTA (Parent Teacher Association). We are all parents of children who attend this school who meet to form that critical link between the school, teachers and home.

Having contact with other parents is different and often difficult at Intermediate level compared to Primary School, so this is an ideal way to meet other parents of children that your child goes to school with. You also gain valuable insights into how and why the school is run as it is.

Our first get together will be held:

Tuesday 23rd February (next week) 7.30pm in the staffroom (upstairs from the foyer)

At this first meeting we will be discussing the role of the PTA at Otumoetai Intermediate for 2010, including parent input on school organisation and policy, assisting with the school canteen, forming a parent support group and a steering committee for PTA funding, planning a series of PTA sponsored parent information nights.

We hope to hold one session a term for interested parents on:

15th June (Term 2)

21st September (Term 3)

9th November (Term 4)

Please come along to our get together next Tuesday for a no pressure, informal gathering of parents and staff.

For all Real Estate needs contact:




Proud sponsor of Otumoetai Intermediate School.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Some parents are unable to commit to a regular group but are happy to assist occasionally throughout the year.

If you are able to give a little of your time, please complete the slip below and return 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:	
- 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
- Assist with judging the Home Garden Competition in Term 4	YES/NO

SCHOOL LINKS

Over 250 parents have taken the opportunity to register for this new innovative way of communicating by text and email. We would encourage parents to sign up as this is a great tool for absentee calls.

To register, simply click on the School Links button on our school website homepage (bottom left) and follow the instructions.

We have set up all the school groups and all registered parents will be able to receive and respond instantly to notices.

Tauranga Girls' and Otumoetai College are also using School Links this year.

SCHOOL BUSES FOR 2010

This year any concerns regarding buses need to be directed to Miss Anderson or Mrs Schollum in the office. Please note the changes in prices and eligibility below:

CATEGORY 1: FREE TRANSPORT

Students who are eligible (meet the distance criteria) and who are attending their nearest school, are fully funded by the Ministry of Education. These students receive free transport on buses provided by the Tauranga Network Group.

CATEGORY 2: \$200 PER YEAR

All students who are ineligible (do not meet the distance criteria) but are attending their nearest school. These students can only use the buses if there is room for them.

CATEGORY 3: \$450 PER YEAR

All students who are ineligible (do not meet the distance criteria) and are not attending their nearest school. These students can only buy passes to use buses if there is room for them, which is usually not determined until part way through Term 1.

CATEGORY 4: \$300 PER YEAR

All students who are eligible (meet the distance criteria) but are not attending their nearest school.

Please note that these rules are applied to all schools in the same way, so we are not being singled out for these charges.

NB: Parents of students living in the Kaimai area can rest assured that inequities in bus charges between our school and Tauranga Intermediate have been resolved and the same rule should apply to all students from both schools.

We would encourage all families to try and pay for a pass for the whole year before the year begins. Students without a pass after 2 weeks back at school **WILL NOT BE CARRIED**. We have an account for every student using the bus and their payments - we must insist that passes are carried all the time. Parents are reminded that students have the privilege of using these services and may be removed for short or long terms for behaviours which are likely to endanger fellow passengers or distract the driver.

All details can be checked and your FAQs can be answered on www.schooltransport.org.nz.

**Any questions or problems
can be directed to the school office.**

TERM DATES 2010

Term 1	3 rd February - 1 st April 2010
Term 2	19 th April - 2 nd July 2010
(Please note there will be a Teacher Only Day on Friday 4 th June).	
Term 3	19 th July - 24 th September 2010
Term 4	11 th October - 17 th December 2010

For all Real Estate needs contact:



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CYCLING TO SCHOOL

It is great to see the large number of students cycling to school.

Please remember cycle helmets must be worn. Cycles are stored in our two secure cycle enclosures.

Students should also secure their own bike to the bicycle stand. Although the cycle enclosures are locked daily, the school takes no responsibility for stolen bikes or helmets. We will however follow up any attempted or reported thefts. Fortunately these are extremely rare occurrences.

PARENTS & OTHER VISITORS TO SCHOOL

To ensure all students are kept safe we ask all adult visitors to come to the office and sign in our visitors' book before moving on to your child's class.

Visitors are also provided with a visitor's label so all school personnel can see they have been signed in to the school site.

LOST PROPERTY

Please could all parents/caregivers ensure all student clothing and sandals/shoes are clearly named, ie names under sandal straps. Use twink to name the back of jumpers, inside of jackets, hats etc. Every endeavour is made to return named items to the student, however this is impossible if items are not named.

Lost Property is located in the Soft Materials Technology room.

Please reinforce that clothing is not to be left on the field or around the school during break times.

ASTROTURF KEYS FOR HIRE

The school has keys available for hire to families who wish to use the tennis courts out of school hours. Please contact the school office for further information.

STATIONERY, SCHOOL FEES

Many thanks to all families who have made sure their child is equipped with the right things to start their school year.

If you are a family with heavy commitments financially at this time of the year and would like to pay your fees in instalments or automatic payments, we can help. Please contact Barbara Schollum, our Executive Officer, at the office for assistance.

There has been a lot of media attention given to school fees and the need for schools to ask parents for support in funding some aspects of a school's programme.

The reality for schools is that government funding is based on a decile system where schools are given different amounts depending on their decile rating.

All schools are given base funding per pupil which is the same for all schools. The difference is in a grant called Targeted Funding for Educational Achievement and the amount provided to schools varies significantly. To give an example:

Our school has 820 students this year.

As a decile 7 school we will receive \$48,735.10 in targeted funding to assist us with employing teacher aides, support teachers and providing resources.

If we were a decile 4 school we would receive \$124,298.60. This is an additional \$75,500.00.

If we were a decile 2 school like Ilminster Intermediate in Gisborne, we would receive \$420,224.70. This is an additional \$371,400.00 every year.

There is absolutely no way our school can ask our community to fund this amount of shortfall.

We really appreciate the support given by families who pay the \$90 school donation and if everyone paid we would receive \$72,000.00 in addition to the government funding.

We really rely on this to pay for our computers, sports equipment and audio visual equipment like data projectors.

In the past we have been well resourced through the Telecom Connection but this has now stopped.

Every donation makes a real difference to our school and unless the government funds every school equally we will continue to need every family's support.

It is very upsetting for schools such as ours to be criticised in the media for asking for school donations when we really need them in the light of a huge disparity in government funding.

We know our parents expect the best for their children and as a school we are very successful in providing each child with a quality education.

To do this however we need everyone's support and appeal to all families not to dismiss our request but see how they can help with a school donation during the year.

SCHOOL HATS

This week all students will be required to have one of our school hats on their head when outside. These cost \$10.00 and students have a choice of five styles: a wide brimmed hat, bucket hat, baseball cap, military cap or trucker's cap. All hats must be plain navy blue in colour and should be named.

NZEI PAID UNION MEETING

THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2010

The school will remain open on this afternoon and a few teachers will be in a position to supervise classes. Students can go home at 12.30pm. Those students who remain on site will be supervised.

BUSES & FRONT OF SCHOOL

A big thank you to all parents who have supported the school by parking a distance from the school in the afternoon and arranging a pick up point.

We now have eight buses arriving in our school bus bay to pick up students and this area is now a clear way from 2.30pm to 4pm.

ZUMBA

We are really excited to offer Zumba classes at Otumoetai Intermediate. These are held on Friday lunchtimes. The cost is \$2.00 to be handed in at the door.

Zumba is an exercise class to Latin American dance. It is a great way to have fun and suits all fitness levels.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS 2010 COMPETITIONS

At Otumoetai Intermediate we encourage all our students to enter the Australian competitions. The cost is \$7.50 for Science, Computer Skills, Mathematics and English, \$17.50 for Writing and \$9.50 for Spelling.

The closing dates for the payments/entries are as follows:

Computer Skills	Friday 23 rd April
Science	Friday 7 th May
Spelling	Friday 21 st May
Writing	Friday 21 st May
English	Thursday 1 st July
Mathematics	Thursday 1 st July

The closing dates for payment are as above and **no late entries will be accepted.**

Complete the return slip and return with the correct payment in an envelope and place in the posting box in the office foyer of the administration area.

Please complete the return slip below and send along to the school office.

For all Real Estate needs contact:



Proud sponsor of Otumoetai Intermediate School.



AUSTRALIAN COMPETITIONS

Child's Name..... Room.....

Year Level.....

I would like to enter the following Australian competitions:

Writing	\$17.50	Yes/No
Spelling	\$9.50	Yes/No
Computer	\$7.50	Yes/No
Science	\$7.50	Yes/No
Maths	\$7.50	Yes/No
English	\$7.50	Yes/No

I enclose \$..... in payment.

Signed.....

Parent/Caregiver



TE WERO NUI NEW PLAYGROUND

This week Te Wero Nui (the Ultimate Challenge) will be open to student use. Our thanks to all families who helped fundraise for this great asset and to the New Zealand Community Trust for their generous grants of \$18,000.00 towards this.



GIFTED & TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME

For a number of years the school has provided an extensive Friday programme to cater for our gifted and talented students. This involves students who have been identified as gifted, in a range of advanced learning and activities. Each student has an *individual learning pathway* facilitated by a staff member whose role is to link these students with appropriate mentors and experts and to develop a programme of learning particularly suited to them as an individual.

There are four strands to our programme as follows:

1. **Incredible Minds:** Caters for students who need advanced learning in academic subjects such as Science, Future Problem Solving, Maths, Philosophy, Writing and Design Technology.
2. **Sports Academy:** Caters for high achieving students in a range of sports. Priority is given to Year 8 students but places are available for exceptional Year 7 students.
3. **Arts Academy:** Caters for high achieving students in Visual Arts, Music, Performing Arts and Information Technology including film making.
4. **Leadership Centre:** Caters for students who demonstrate skills in leadership. A broad range of activities are provided throughout the year including in-school mentoring and coaching.

This week interested students will receive notices about how to apply for the Sports Academy, Arts Academy and Science Extension classes.

For Design Technology, Information Technology, Maths, Writing and Philosophy, students will be selected based on their academic levels and given invitations to join these advanced classes.

If you are worried your child may have missed a notice, please contact the office staff on 576 5105 or Lynne Hutchinson, Deputy Principal and Coordinator.

ADOLESCENT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Beth Daniel is the Adolescent Public Health Nurse available to all students to support their health and wellbeing. Beth works with families, in school and in the community. Referral may be made by parent, teacher or the individual.

Beth is employed by the BOP District Health Board and the service is free.

For health information, referral or any queries contact Beth through the school office or directly at (07) 577 3383 or beth.daniel@bopdhb.govt.nz.

SPORTS NEWS

School sports are underway with a number of information meetings and trials held for the following sports:


- **KiwiTag (Rugby League):** Contact Stan Nicholas on 576 6099 for further information.
- **Softball:** Contact Diana Scott on 579 4311 for further information.
- **Volleyball:** Contact Paul Braddock on 576 1390 for further information.
- **Netball:** Contact Mrs Te Mete on 576 5105 for further information.

- **Swimming Team:** Contact Mr Goodchild on 576 5105.
- **Surfing Team:** Contact Mrs Quinn on 576 5105.
- **Touch Rugby Team:** Contact Mr Parker on 576 5105.
- **Iron Kid Triathlon:** Contact Mr Hughes on 576 5105.

HOCKEY

Last year we fielded 7 teams in the local competitions. The number of teams that play is dependent on the availability of coaches and managers. If you can assist with coaching or managing a team this year, please return the slip below to the school office. Trials and team selections will take place in March.

There will be a meeting of all interested players in the next two weeks where a notice with a registration form will be given out. Students will need to complete and return the attached registration form.

 **HOCKEY 2010**

Name.....Phone.....

I am happy to assist as a coach YES/NO
 I am happy to assist as a manager YES/NO

Previous Experience:

.....

.....

**COMMUNITY QUADATHLON
5TH MARCH AT PILOT BAY**

All students who wish to enter this event are able to participate. Last year we took over 400 students in several buses and their bikes by truck.

The emphasis is on 'giving it a go'. This is an ideal opportunity for any student who has never done a multi-sport to come along and participate in a supportive, non-threatening environment.

The event is non-competitive and all our participating students will be awarded their first sports colour for the year as school representatives.

Entry forms will be available soon and entry can be individual or as a team member.

If there is anyone able to help with large trucks for the transportation of bikes to Pilot Bay, please contact Marcus Hughes, Sports Director, at school on 576 5105.

FUTURE CHAMPIONS DAY

To be held Friday 19th March 2010.

Interested students will be invited to apply for this event. It is aimed at the Bay's elite sports people and selections made by the Western Bay Energy for Education Trust and Sport BOP who sponsor and organise the event.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Samantha Charlton (18 years) who has been selected for the New Zealand Black Sticks Hockey team.

Samantha was an original member of our Sports Academy and joins ex students Kane Williamson (New Zealand Cricket and Northern Knights), Luuka Jones (Olympian in white water kayaking), Moss Burmester (Olympian in swimming) and Vanessa Quin (world champion downhill bike rider) as exceptional New Zealand representatives who attended Otumoetai Intermediate.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **Soccer Coaching:** Ex full international soccer player available for girls' coaching. Please email the club secretary karina@dominatortga.co.nz or tony.ferris@elite.co.nz. Registration can also be done online on www.otumoetaisoccer.co.nz.
- **Children's Painting & Drawing Tuition:** With Artist Paula Knight. Pencil, pastel, watercolour and acrylic painting. Also enquire about adult classes. Phone 542 3455 or 029 602 4108.
- **Dance Education Centre, Tauranga:** Qualified and experienced teachers offering classes in classical ballet, urban dance, tap dance, contemporary dance, musical theatre and production work. Main studio is in Matua. Branches in Pyes Pa and Mount Maunganui. Phone 576 7815 or email debgooch@dec.co.nz for more info.
- **ARGOS GymSport Tauranga:** Currently taking enrolments for Term 1 for gymnastics, tumbling, TeamGym, trampoline. Classes for all ages and abilities, male or female. For more info contact 577 0603 or email office@argosgymsport.co.nz.
- **Mudslide Day, Bruning Farm, Omokoroa Road:** 21st February 9.30am to 3pm. \$5 per participant. Western BOP Scout Zone and TECT are sending an invitation to all school aged children to come along to our annual Mudslide Day at Bruning's Farm, Omokoroa. There will be a huge 60m slippery slide, rope bridges, army style obstacle course, the Omokoroa Fire Brigade, food, rides, fun and much more.

- There will be hot food and drinks at the end after participants are washed down by the fire brigade. Parking will be up Omokoroa Road - please do not stop on State Highway 2. Togs or old clothes, old shoes, swim goggles, a towel and change of clothes are recommended. For more details contact 578 4631.
- **Tauranga Synchronised Swimming Club:** Looking for new members. Girls between the age of 10 and 16 who can already swim but want to try something new. Normal club training days are initially on a Saturday at Baywave. Come along during February or March at 9.30am and give it a go (entry fees into the pool will apply). All welcome. Call Sally for more info on 0274 484 105 or 572 5140 (evenings).
- **Tauranga Fish & Dive Club Fishing Competition:** 21st February 6am to 3.30pm. Entry fee \$10. Open to everyone 16 years and under. Harbour only fishing (this includes wharves and rocks anywhere in the harbor). \$4,000.00 worth of prizes. Entry form and rules on www.recfish.co.nz/index.cfm/tfdc_inc. For more info contact Gordon on 027 604 0031 or Terri on 021 849 238 or email tfdc@extra.co.nz.
- **Junior Soccer 8 Years to 14 Years:** For junior district wide competition with a family environment. Contact Cherie on 577 0792.
- **Childcare:** Mum willing to look after your children before school or after school (or any time.) Phone 579 9675.
- **NumberWorks'n'Words:** Maths and English Tuition. Boost your child's confidence and education with NumberWorks'nWords specialist after school tuition. They provide individualised instruction in maths and English for students who are struggling to keep up and those bursting to race ahead. Phone now for an assessment and introductory lesson on 578 5575 or visit www.numberworksnnwords.com for more info.
- **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.
- **Otumoetai Eels Rugby League Registration Day:** Sunday 21st February 10am - 12 noon. Mitchell Park - 50 Seymour Place. BBQ and refreshments available. For more info contact Stan on 576 6099.
- **MX Funday:** Katikati Women's Football team are holding a MX Funday on 21st March at 474 Youngson Road, Whakamarama. This event is for riders of all abilities. The track incorporates table tops, jumps, berms and hills as well. \$20 per rider. For more info contact Lisa on 552 5068 or email Rosemont@eol.co.nz.

Kia Kaha
Regards

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL