

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

This year we have had an amazing start with all students showing a high level of commitment to their studies and enthusiasm towards their learning and school activities. Throughout the school, student engagement is at an advanced level with all assessments completed and individual goals set.

With a national preoccupation on bullying and disruptive behaviour in schools at present, it is a pleasure to report to our community that our "Speak Up Campaign" is proving to be highly successful. Individual cases of bullying are swiftly reported by students and staff and dealt with. All students know we are a school community that looks out for each other and newcomers to the school from elsewhere soon discover our culture of speaking out is strong. Any disruptive or intimidatory behaviour they bring will swiftly be identified and the student concerned be made accountable to the school and their parents.

We would like to thank all parents and community members who are supporting us in our "Speak Up Campaign" by contacting the school if they observe or hear about any incident or behaviour that is unacceptable to a caring community. Every reported case of intimidation or bullying is followed up and parents are always contacted if their child is a bully or disruptive in class.

The "Speak Up" text number is 027 662 8559. This is a text only number where students can text any bullying in from anywhere, anytime, knowing that it will be followed up by the Pastoral Care Team here at school. Students should save this as a contact on their phone.

BOARD NEWS

At the last Board of Trustees elections, the school opted for staggered elections so that we would have continuity of service on the Board.

In May this year we will be holding elections for three positions on the Board of Trustees and encourage parents and caregivers to consider putting themselves forward as candidates.

If you are interested, please come along to one of our Board meetings to see us in action and to gain an understanding of what Board members do.

Our next meeting is on 18th March at 7.30pm in the Boardroom.

2010 Chairman

At their last Board meeting, members appointed Dale Henderson as Board Chair. We would like to thank Patrick Zeinert for filling this role over the past six years and the commitment and time he put into our school.

School Strategic Goals

Every month the Board has a focus on its strategic goals at each meeting.

This is done by spending the first half hour on one strategic goal, discussing school progress in this goal with information provided by the Principal and staff.

Once this strategic and monitoring discussion is held, the Board moves onto its regular meeting agenda.

Our strategic goals are shown below with the month they will be analysed at Board meetings.

Strategic Goals

- All students will experience effective learning in a positive environment (February, June, November).
- The school will foster a partnership between whanau (families) and school where learning is nurtured (March).
- The school will recruit and enable staff with the ability to meet school expectations (April).
- The school will ensure all students will develop the skills and competencies to live in a global community (May, October).
- The school will ensure all students will be given the opportunities to develop to their full potential (July).
- The school will focus on the emerging adolescent and the unique needs of this age group in their development (August).
- The school will seek opportunities to be innovative and develop a climate of continuous improvement (September).

CELLPHONES AS LEARNING TOOLS

This year sees the introduction of a new national curriculum in all schools. A major change has been the requirement for schools to implement Key Competencies for living and lifelong learning in the 21st Century.

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies:

- Thinking.
- Using language, symbols and texts.
- Managing self.
- Relating to others.
- Participating and contributing.

People use these competencies to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of their communities. More complex than skills, the competencies draw also on knowledge, attitudes and values in ways that lead to action. They are not separate or stand-alone. They are the key to learning in every learning area.

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Central to these is our young peoples' ability to use ICT including assistive technology to access and provide information and to communicate with others.

Our school prides itself on being a progressive and leading school. Two of our strategic goals seek to ensure all our students will develop the skills to live in a global community and for the school to be innovative and focused on continuous improvement.

The world our young people live in today is far different from that even five years ago. For the young and increasingly for business, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Flickr; and information sites such as Google and Wikipedia, are as well known as Coca Cola and McDonalds.

It is our responsibility to ensure our students can take their place in this world with the skills, values and moral obligations that accompany such freedom of information access and communication.

As from next week, students will be permitted to have cellphones at school under strict protocols. Provided individual students follow these protocols, they will have a Trusted Student status. Those who fail to follow the protocols will lose this status and will be banned from having a cellphone at school. This recognises that over 90% of our students are exemplary citizens of the school and their privileges do not deserve to be compromised by a small number who will be placed on a restricted list.

With the presence of student cellphones at school, we will develop new and innovative ways to utilise this technology for learning.

We will pioneer ways to use cellphones for videotaping and recording interviews, visits during field trips and uploading these to student portfolios on the school ICT network.

In this way our students will be able to lift their engagement in learning to a higher and more meaningful level.

This year we are carrying out a trial of UltraNet in all our laptop classes with the students developing ways to utilise social media skills within a secure, school based website.

In addition, students and parents are encouraged to register with School Links, our new information distribution portal.

PROTOCOLS FOR CELLPHONES AT SCHOOL

- All students wishing to have a cellphone at school must register on School Links (this will initially be done class by class at school. Students and parents can also do this through our school homepage at www.otuinter.school.nz).
- Phones must be switched off in class unless teachers give permission to use these for learning.
- No put downs or nasty texts allowed.
- No inappropriate music or ringtones.
- No inappropriate photos or videos.

- No cellphone chargers at school.
- Cellphones must be switched off in the Library and Assembly.
- No direct calls to friends or parents during school time. All contact with people outside of school must continue to be made through the school office.
- No videoing or photographing of others at school without their permission.
- No uploading of school images to social media sites such as Facebook, Bebo and YouTube.
- Cellphones brought to school remain the responsibility of the student. The school will take care but no responsibility for loss, breakage or theft of cellphones.
- Teachers will not take responsibility for the security or storage of cellphones.
- Students breaking these protocols will have their cellphones confiscated and parents will need to collect these from the Principal on Friday afternoons.
- Students breaking these protocols will be placed on a restricted list and banned from bringing their cellphone to school for a month. For a second offence, this will be extended to either a term or the remainder of the year depending on circumstances.

FROM THE PTA

Involving parents and families in children's education has been a priority for New Zealand PTAs since they were founded over 50 years ago. Parent Teacher Associations or Friends of the School groups are based on the philosophy:

Parent and family involvement increases student success.

There are six recognised types of effective parent involvement in schools world-wide.

They are:

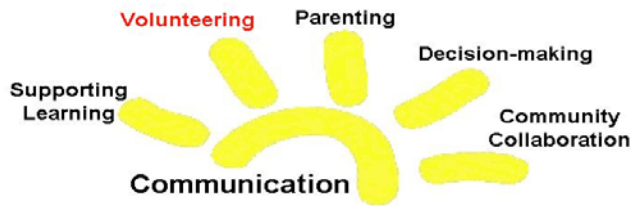
- Communicating - Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
- Parenting - Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- Student Learning - Parents Play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Volunteering - Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- School Decision Making and Advocacy - Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

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- Collaborating with the Community - Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.



Our children today face a world where the shape of the future is not clear; a world where values, lifestyles, concepts and attitudes are rapidly changing. Therefore it is essential that parents and teachers work together to help our children grow into adults who can cope with the ever-changing world.

Our Board and Community recognise this and have developed 7 strategic goals for the school including 3 key goals from the New Zealand Schooling Strategy 2006 to 2011.

The second school strategic goal "The school will foster the partnership between whanau (families) and school" is the one where the Otumoetai Intermediate School Parent teacher Association plays an important role.

The Parent Teacher Association at our school is made up of a committee comprising parents and members of staff whose focus is the achievement of this 2nd school goal. This committee is supported by parents and caregivers who make themselves available to assist in the school when they can as the **PTA Support Group**.

At their 2010 Annual Meeting the following executive members were elected:

Chairperson: Christine Deschamps

Secretary: Debbie Oborn

Treasurer: Robert Stam

Committee members:

Jane Hanson

Rebecca Benten

Jodie Gill

Bianca Tencate

The committee will hold 3 further meetings during the year each of which will have a theme for discussion that strengthens communication between the school and home and builds on parents' understanding of school programmes and student learning.

These will be advertised well in advance once planning is completed.

General Business Discussed at the AGM:

- There will only be one meeting each term.
- The importance of Year 8 for preparing students for secondary school.
- Home learning grid discussed.

- The PTA will hold a home garden competition again this year in Term 4.
- Ideas for parent teacher interaction: informal class BBQs, teacher regular communication with home through email. School Links discussed and parents encouraged to register.
- Each meeting to include a parent information topic or speaker to assist parents and caregivers understand school programmes and student learning needs.

Meeting Dates for 2010

- Term One AGM 23 February 2010
- Term Two 15th June
- Term Three 16th September
- Term Four 9th November

ADOLESCENT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Moving from Primary School to Intermediate involves many changes for students and their parents. This can be stressful, especially for those with medical conditions. Increased independence for the child, changes in routine and longer days may be some of the challenges met.

To support these new challenges ensure:

- You take time to talk with your child.
- Your child gets adequate rest.
- Has plenty of nutritious food to eat, including breakfast and extra snacks.
- Lots of fluid.

Beth is available for further support or advice. Contact via the school office or directly at (07) 577 3383 or beth.daniel@bopdhb.govt.nz.

Influenza Immunisation

Flu vaccines are now available at your doctors.

Immunisation is recommended and free of charge for the following groups of people:

- All people over 65 years of age
- People under 65 years of age including children with:
 - Asthma requiring regular preventative therapy.
 - Heart disease.
 - Rheumatic fever & rheumatic heart disease.
 - Diabetes.
 - Chronic Respiratory disease.
 - Chronic renal Disease.
 - Any cancer.
 - Some other diseases eg, immune suppression.

Please phone your GP for further information or to arrange immunisation

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SCHOOL LINKS

Many of our parents have registered their mobiles and email accounts to receive school notices and book parent interviews on line.

All parents however, will receive text messages if their child is absent from school. The school uses mobile phone numbers provided by parents and caregivers at enrolment. If you think we are using the wrong mobile number for your family please contact the office.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Students, their caregivers and teachers will have the opportunity to meet to discuss individual student's learning this week.

All parents and students are encouraged to attend these in order for future learning goals to be set.

Interviews can be booked online through School Links or through the teacher by returning the form sent home last week.

SUN HATS

Sunhats are a compulsory part of our uniform and it is absolutely great to see that some of our classes have almost 100% of students wearing their hat. These must be worn outside during Terms 1 and 4. The hats are available from the Resource Room at a cost of \$10. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL FEES FAMILY DINNER DRAW

We really appreciate all families that support the school through paying school donations.

Please remember these are tax deductible and all donations of \$80.00 paid by the end of March will be entered into a draw for a family dinner at a local restaurant.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION DATES

YEAR 7 NGATUHOA CAMP

All camps will be for three days. There will be between two and four camps each week. First and second year teachers will be buddied with experienced staff.

(Staff will receive an information pack with details regarding Ngatuhua camp nearer the time of their camps).

Term 4:	13 - 15 Oct	Rm 14
	1 - 3 Nov	Rm 24 and 25
	3 - 5 Nov	Rm 23 and 26
	22 - 24 Nov	Rm 13 and Rm 17
	24 - 26 Nov	Rm 16 and Rm 18
	6 - 8 Dec	Rm 7 and Rm 8
	8 - 10 Dec	Rm 5 and Rm 6

The cost is \$90:00.

YEAR 8 AQUATICS PROGRAMME

Waimarino: Dec 6 - Dec 10

COST: \$20:00

Beach Education: Dec 7 - Dec 10

COST: \$10:00

Sailing Nov 22 - 26, Nov 29 - Dec 3 and Dec 6 - Dec 10

COST \$25:00

NB: TOTAL COST PER STUDENT IS \$55:00 THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY TRANSPORT OR OTHER COSTS.

QUADATHLON

On Friday 370 students and half our teachers travelled to Pilot Bay for the annual quadathlon. Six buses and six truckloads of bikes made it just in time for the start of this first opportunity for our students to earn a sports colour. Our school contingent made up 55% of the total entrants for the event and they made us proud of the way they handled the event.

We would also like to show our appreciation to the parents who assisted us on the day, the teachers and support staff who helped with the students.

We would not be able to put together such a large contingent for a sports event without the tremendous support of Kent Valley Commercials, Rite Price Rentals Ltd and Bailey & Harrison Ltd who provided the trucks to transport all 200 bikes to the event and back.

If you can provide them with some business, you will be helping us and their business.

IRON KID DUATHLON

Congratulations to all students who took part in this event at The Lakes on 26th February.

A particular well done to the following placegetters:

Harry O'Dea	2 nd	Year 7 Boys
Luke Maxwell	3 rd	Year 7 Boys
Anna Tingey	3 rd	Year 7 Girls
Isaiah Duncanson	3 rd	Year 8 Boys
Taylor Ford	3 rd	Year 8 Girls

The Year 7 and 8 relay team came 2nd.

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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.



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

CANTEEN

The canteen menu and order form can now be downloaded from our school website: www.otuinter.school.nz.

MARINKOVICH PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL OFFER

Marinkovich Photography have the pleasure of offering Otumoetai Intermediate School families a fantastic portrait sitting for only \$25 (usually \$150).

For all portrait sessions booked, Marinkovich Photography will donate \$25 to your school to help raise funds for more music equipment. Offer expires 18th April 2010.

Call the studio on (07) 570 0585 to arrange your portrait session.

COOL BANANAS YOUTH WORK TRUST - After School Programme for 11-13 Year Olds

We think there is a lack of after school care for children over the age of 10. Children are not allowed to be left alone before the age of 14. The Cool Bananas Youth Work Trust is in the process of getting an Oscar-approved after school programme specifically for 11-13 year olds.

If you are interested in your child being part of this programme, please return the slip below to the school office.

The programme will be run every day Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5pm at OBC Community Center on Otumoetai Road. The programme could include afternoon tea, a supervised homework center, games and occasional field trips.

The estimated cost (depending on numbers enrolling) will be \$6 per hour per child. For families that have a Community Service Card, a WINZ subsidy will be available. We are hoping to have the programme up and running by the beginning of the third term this year.



COOL BANANAS YOUTH WORK TRUST AFTER SCHOOL LINKS

Child's Name: _____ Room: _____

Parents/Caregivers Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

YES I would like my child to be considered for the Cool Bananas after School programme for 11-13 year olds.

Signed: _____

Parent/Caregiver

INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAY REQUIRED

We have a male international student who requires a homestay within walking distance to school. He would like to stay with a family who has a son attending Otumoetai Intermediate and will be here for the 2010 school year. Please phone Monica Dadson on 576 5015 (ext 744).

For all Real Estate needs contact:



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **Otumoetai College PTA International Food Festival Fundraiser:** Friday 25th March from 5.30pm to 8.30pm at Otumoetai College, Windsor Road, Otumoetai. Free entry, raffles, Morton Estate Winery, De Bier Haus, International Food stalls and great entertainment. For further info contact Robert Pinkerton on 576 9624.
- **Digischool:** Extremely cool media arts courses. Enroll now for our fantastic school holiday programme. We are also taking enrolments for Term 2. We welcome people to come and visit our studio to view our range of exciting courses. Beginning Term 2 - Learn from home with our distance learning options. Contact Jonathan on 570 0066 to enquire or visit www.afterschooldigital.co.nz.
- **Kip McGrath Education Centre:** Is your child up to standard? Classes available during the day and after school. Trained teachers, focus on literacy and numeracy, essay writing and study skills for Years 8-13, specialist in Dyslexia and Irlen Syndrome. Free consultation and assessment. Visit www.kipmcgrath.co.nz or phone 578 1518.
- **Helen O'Grady Drama Classes:** Confidence, good communication skills, creative thinking and social skills can be developed in all children through a comprehensive drama programme. For children 5-16 years old. Lessons include speech, music and movement and creative drama in an atmosphere that emphasises cooperation and fun. For more info contact Camilla May on 576 4400.
- **Junior Boxing Classes - TGABOX Health & Fitness:** A boxing fitness class designed for junior boxers aged 10-15 years. Learn the boxing basics in a fun and challenging environment. This is a non contact class. Thursdays 4pm to 5pm, 43 Waihi Road. Phone 578 0788 for more info.
- **Basketball & Soccer Coaching:** Mount Action Centre. 12th, 13th and 14th April. Spaces limited, registration essential. Call 574 9862.
- **Te Puna JMC Rugby Weigh-in and Registration:** Wed 10th March and Tues 16th March from 4pm to 6pm at the Te Puna Rugby Clubrooms at Maramatanga Park, Te Puna. Contact Leigh Kite on 548 2825 or 021 386 970 for more info.
- **Judea Rugby Registration Day:** Sat 6th March or Thurs 11th March at Sutherland Road, Judea. Please provide a birth certificate for proof of age. Contact Jason Seeling for more info on 021 022 45782 or 571 0624.
- **ARGOS GymSport Tauranga Holiday Programme:** 6th - 9th April. Gymnastics, trampoline, games, activities and more. See www.argosgym.co.nz for more details or phone 577 0603.

- **Childrens' Dance Class:** Commencing Term 2 for ages 8-12 years. Latin American, Rock & Roll, Ballroom. Call Sonia Hodson, Supreme Dance Centre on 574 6568 or 027 322 1786.
- **Whakamarama MX Funday (Track 54):** Sunday 21st March at 474 Youngson Road, Whakamarama. Sign on at 8am, briefing at 9.30am. \$20 per rider. Food available on the day. Contact Lisa on (07) 552 5068 for more info.
- **Girl's Blue Bike for Sale:** Belonged to an ex-international student. Good condition. Offers over \$50. Contact Monica on 576 51205 xt 744.
- **Free American Style Cheerleading Classes:** Everyone is welcome - no experience necessary. For more info call 0800cheerleader or visit www.allstarcheerleaders.co.nz.
- **School Holiday Workshops:** Tall poppies, bright sparks, high flyers, rising stars, creative thinkers, odd bods and all gifted and talented students aged 8-15 years old. Wed 7th - Fri 9th April at Selwyn College, Kohimarama, Auckland. Full details are at www.holidayseminars.co.nz/next_seminar, or email info@holidayseminars.co.nz. Phone (09) 585 0111 or 021 389 448.
- **The Cargo Shed Got Talent - Talent Quest:** 11am Saturday 17th April at the Cargo Shed, No 5 Dive Crescent, Tauranga. Register today and be in to win. Win prizes and bragging rights! You have 5 minutes to show our judges that you have talent! Entry forms available from Creative Tauranga and The Cargo Shed. \$5 entry fee.

Kia Kaha
Regards

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL

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