



OTAHUHU PRIMARY SCHOOL

"He wahi tutaki mo nga tamariki o te ao - A meeting place for the children of the world"



Newsletter No. 18 - 11/12/2024



Kia ora, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Namaste, Fakaalofa atu, Bula, Kia orana, Mauri, Nihao, Salam, Sawasdee, Kumusta Kayo, Hola, Xin chao, Vanakkam, Choum reap sor, Ming-gah-lah-bahr, Akkam, As-salaam 'alykum

Principal's Message:

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau and warm Pacific greetings!

As the year draws to a close, I am reflecting on what has been a BUSY and impactful year. It has been a privilege to witness the growth and achievements across our school community. I want to acknowledge and celebrate all that has been accomplished - everyone's hard work, resilience and commitment continues to be inspiring.

This year has been filled with many milestones, and some of the highlights are captured in the photos which have been shared in our newsletters. From the launch of innovative programmes like our gardens and enviro work to the completion of many property works in 2024, we have much to celebrate. I am particularly proud we were able to offer our first noho marae in 2024 with Te Whanau Tutakitanga. What an amazing time we had together celebrating kotahitanga.

A huge thank you to our incredible staff, whose passion and dedication drive the success of our tamariki. To our whānau; your support and feedback throughout the year have been invaluable in enabling us to achieve our shared goals. We also extend a special acknowledgement to our Board of Trustees and especially our Presiding member Raneeta Failua for their steadfast governance and support.

This year we farewell Sepi Vake and Eric Samuelu whose contributions to OPS have been much appreciated. We wish you well with your future endeavours. Thank you both for your service and commitment to Otauhu Primary School.

In 2025 we will begin the school year with learning conversations on Tuesday 28th January. This is a time to pop into school and meet your teacher with your child from 9am - 3pm. School will officially begin on Wednesday 29th January at 8:45am. The pōwhiri to welcome all new whanau will be held on Friday 31st January 9am.

Please ensure your children have the correct school uniform to begin the year. All stationery is provided free of charge as well as lunches and fruit. If you are enrolling any children, the office will be open from Wednesday 22nd January to Friday 24th January from 9am - 12:30pm. The office will be open from Tuesday 28th January all day. It is a very busy time of year at this time so please try and complete your enrolments as soon as possible. We will be completing all enrolments online in 2025. There will be staff available to help you with this process.

Just a reminder, our final celebration for 2024, will be the concert which begins at 5pm on Thursday 12th December. Sausages, juices and lolly bags will all be available to buy for \$2.00 from 4pm.

Our final day Friday 13th December school will finish at 11:30am. Please ensure you collect your children on time.

Wishing you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Whaea Jenny - Tūmuaki / Principal



Thank you whānau!

On the 27th November we welcomed all of our whānau who have supported the school with learning, trips and events this year, for a special morning tea. We thank all whānau for their contributions this year.



Important Dates for Term 4 2024 & Term 1 2025

Wed 11 Dec	Junior and Senior Prizgiving
Wed 11 Dec	Reports Go Home
Thurs 12 Dec	Christmas Concert - 5pm
Fri 13 Dec	Last day of school - school finishes at 11.30am
Tues 28 Jan	Meet the Teacher Day (open day for whānau)
Wed 29 Jan	First Day of School (classes open for instruction)
Thurs 6 Feb	Waitangi Day (School Closed)
Fri 7 Feb	School Closed for Instruction

Assembly Certificate Winners for ATTITUDE - Term 4: Weeks 5-6

Junior Hub

Room 14: Atilini Uta & Uaniva Uta
Room 16: Esther Asola & Kasanita Wati
Room 23: Eden Tutavaha & Jahziah Tokona Heta
Room 24: Aaiza Rasool & Cleopas Shayamuranda
Room 25: Giana Dudley & Krishav Prasad
Room 26: Mayuka Dharma & Ruhee Ali
Room 27: Elyana Fiapito Dempsey & Tausi'a Afoa

Senior Hub

Room 5: Mahmoud Mohamad & Shanaya Begum
Room 6: Jamie Hendren & Malakai Finau
Room 7: Rayan Chand & June Vai Tafai
Room 8: Faiz Ali & Kolotita Faiva
Room 11: Vyaan Narayan & Nabihah Aarzo
Room 12: Shivansh Naicker & Avrish Kumar
Room 13: Ethan Narayan & Zaahirah Khan
Room 15: Mark Vaka & Dipisha Chand

Bilingual Hub

Room 1A: Pa'iato'o Meatuai & Iosefo Sefo
Room 2: Zebulun Maka & Abigail Amataga
Room 3: Matailili Dempsey & Abbey Oloapu
Room 4: April Sue & Francis Niko
Room 17: Aaryah Davies & Te Hono Ngamoki
Room 18: Melody Kaio-Nathan
Room 19: Sione Maka'afi & Kendrick 'Ake
Room 20: Finau Latai & Keziah Molia
Room 21: Malakai Lātū & Likaki 'Ofahengāue
Room 22: Helen Maka'afi & Kyvan-James 'Ake



Attendance in 2024

Year 1	78.13%
Year 2	79.37%
Year 3	77.04%
Year 4	81.07%
Year 5	82.69%
Year 6	85.08%

From the first day of school until Friday of Week 8, Term 4, our whole school attendance is at 81.84%. Although this was a slight increase on last year, our lower attendance over the final four weeks of school has had a serious impact on our overall attendance figures.

We want to remind all whānau that EVERY DAY MATTERS. Let's aspire as a community to make sure every school day becomes a priority in 2025!



2025 Term Dates



Term 1

From: Tuesday, 28th January (Meet the Teacher Day)
 To: Friday, 11th April

Term 2

From: Monday, 28th April
 To: Friday, 27th June

Term 3

From: Monday, 14th July
 To: Friday, 19th September

Term 4

From: Monday, 6th October
 To: Friday, 11th December



Nga Mihi

Jenny Bernard

TUMUAKI / PRINCIPAL

Athletics!

On Thursday and Friday Week 6 (thanks to the rain it was spread over two days...) we held our school athletics competition. This was such a fun day, with awesome enthusiasm and competitive spirit. Well done to all of the students who placed in their events!

We also took a team to the MOSA Athletics Day competition, where our students represented us with pride. Several students placed in their events against 11 other schools, and all six of our relay teams made it into the finals - an awesome achievement!



Reading Together!

On Friday Week 8 we were blessed to have Alan Duff, author of *Once Were Warriors* and a founder of Duffy Books, join us to celebrate our Reading Together Whānau Programme. Students and families have been meeting weekly on Wednesdays to read in the library and develop a love of reading. Alan shared an important message with us - your current station does not decide your future! Work hard for your future!

Monitors Trip

On Friday Week 7 Matua Josh was lucky enough to take our Year 6 monitors to Rainbow's End! This was a way for us to celebrate the hard work and effort our House Captains, Road Patrollers and Librarians have put in this year in making OPS a better place to be.



Year 6 Graduation

Yesterday we got the chance to honour our Year 6 leavers in a ceremony with whānau, then a special lunch.

We are going to miss these students so much and wish them all the best as they move onto Intermediate school.

We encourage them to take their HEART Values with them wherever they go!

To those whānau moving on from OPS for the final time, we thank you for your time with us and trusting us with your precious children. Ngā mihi.

