

13-02-2024

## EXCITING & IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Please note: these dates can be subject to change.

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb:** Meet the Teacher, School Closes @ 12.30pm

BSLA Parent Information Sessions – see details below

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** House Marching Competition @ 9.15am

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Weka Surf Trip Rms 1 & 2

**Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Weka Surf Trip Rms 4 & 5

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Weka Surf Trip Rms 23 & 24

**Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Weka Surf Trip Rm 3

**Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Kea Rock Pool Trip Rms 7 & 8

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Kea Rock Pool Trip Rms 6 & 11

Tui Waikareao Estuary Trip Rms 20, 21 & 22

**Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Kea Rock Pool Trip Rms 9, 10 & 12

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Weka Swimming Sports (pp 14<sup>th</sup> Mar)

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Mar:** PTA Adventure Run

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Year 6 Huria Marae Trip Rms 1, 2, 3

**Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Year 6 Huria Marae Trip Rms 4, 5, 23 & 24

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar:** Kea Triathlon/Duathlon (pp 25<sup>th</sup> Mar)

**Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** East Cluster Swimming

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr:** Easter, School Closed

## Text Number for Absentees

**027 584 2592**

If your child is going to be away from school please text 027 584 2592 before 8.55am to let us know

**Current School Roll – 522**

## Meet the Teacher Interviews

**School Closes @ 12.30pm**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and discuss their social and learning goals on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Meet the teacher appointments will be available between 1-7pm and school will close at 12.30pm to allow time for this. Visit [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the code **kmdjs** to make a booking.

## Better Start Literacy Approach

**Parent Information Session Years 0 – 2**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Art Room**

Come and hear about the Better Start Literacy Approach – a structured approach to literacy instruction for Year 0-2 classrooms, to support early reading, writing and oral language success. Whānau engagement is a critical component of early literacy success. 2.00 - 2.30pm and 4.30 - 5.00pm in the Art Room. Nau mai, haere mai!

**Navy blue school hats are to be worn in Terms 1 & 4. We have \$5 second hand hats available from the office. Cash only please**

# Principal's Pānui

Nau Mai, Haere Mai - Welcome Back Everyone!

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Ōtūmoetai Primary! I trust you all had a restful and relaxing summer break and enjoyed quality time with your whānau.

As we embark on another school year, I want to emphasise the crucial role that parent/whānau partnerships play in the success of our students. By working together, we can create an environment where every child feels supported, encouraged, and inspired to reach their full potential. We welcome your active involvement in school activities, parent/teacher interviews, homework, trips, fundraisers, attending school events and cheering on at the sidelines! We're all about creating a school family where everyone feels valued and supported. Your involvement at our kura makes a huge impact! In 2024, we are placing a real focus on the importance of regular school attendance. We will be reporting our daily & weekly school attendance data to our community, Board of Trustees and Ministry of Education. Attending school regularly is one of the key factors in academic success and personal development. Regular school days are where the magic happens! It's not only about books and lessons; it's also about friendships, fun, and building a routine that sets our kids up for success. So, let's make it a goal to be here, be present, and make every school day count.

You may have seen the 'Kura - Let's Do It' advertisements around town and online over the holidays as part of our WBOP Back to School Campaign. Have a look at Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or Tiktok to see videos from our children + local and national celebrities sharing the importance of being at school every day! <https://www.facebook.com/KuraTaurangaMoana>

Kura – Let's Do It!

Have a great year everyone!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Zara McIndoe  
Principal/Tumuaki

# 2024 OPS STAFF

Meet our team of super stars!

**Principal** - Zara McIndoe

**Senior School Deputy Principal** - Marcus Hughes  
Pastoral Care, Administration, Property &  
International Students

**Junior School Deputy Principal** - Jill Miller  
Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Evaluation  
PB4L, School Houses and School Sports

**Learning Support Coordinator** - Cathie  
Stenhouse - Additional Needs and Inclusive  
Education

**Office Administrator** - Wendy Bryers  
**Admin Assistant** - Fuchsia Crockford  
**Sports Coordinator** - Jason Shepard  
**ICT/Library** - Jess Baty  
**School Caretaker** - Ross Johnson

## **Year 5 & 6 - Weka Team**      **Year 3 & 4 - Kea Team**

Rm 1 - Karina Fry                      Rm 6 - Carla Morrison  
Rm 2 - Tia Tarau                      Rm 7 - Olivia Aplin  
Rm 3 - Katie Wallace                Rm 8 - Kaaren O'Neill  
Rm 4 - Carl Acton                    Rm 9 - Nyree Hanna  
Rm 5 - Cody Schou                   Rm 10 - Jo Denny  
Rm 23 - Jane Foster                  Rm 11 - Wayne Miller  
Rm 24 - Kendyll Reeve              Rm 12 - Fiona Brown

## **Year 1 & 2 Ruru Team**              **Year 1 Tui Team**

Rm 14 - Kathy Nicholson            Rm 20 - Sally Park  
Rm 15 - Rachael Rowley            Rm 21 - Fiona McKenzie  
Rm 16 - Anika Abbott                Rm 22 - Andrea Griffin  
Rm 17 - Emma Sherratt  
Rm 18 - Carolyn Andrews

## **Specialist Teachers**

Art - Jill Miller  
Music - Adam McLean  
Dance/Drama - Anna Robinson  
PE/Te Reo Māori/Waiata - Jon Baird  
STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Maths) -  
Rhiarn Reedy  
Kapa Haka - Jeremy Hantler  
ESOL (English as a Second Language) - Dylan Parker  
International Student Teacher - Victoria Caughey

## **Classroom Release Teachers**

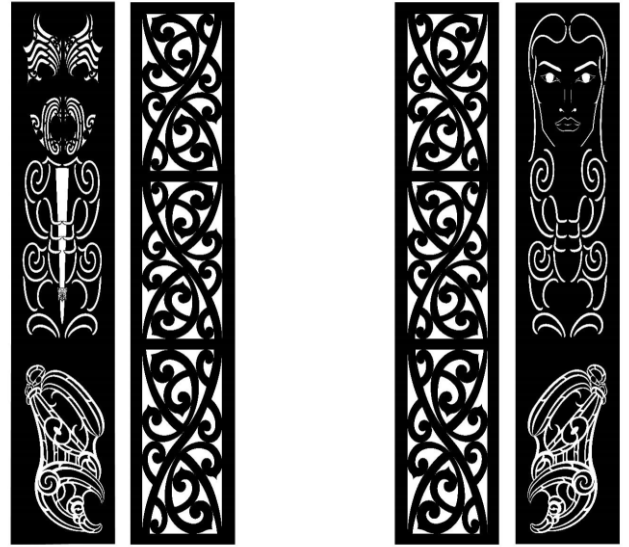
Grace Bollen, Carmelina Taylor, Rhiarn Reedy, Adam  
McLean, Kylie Henley

## **Reading Recovery & Special Programme/Support Teachers**

Lisa Thorne, Fiona McKenzie, Linda Wilson, Kylie  
Henley

## **Behaviour Support/Teacher Aides**

Fuchsia Crockford, Evelyn Cullen, Joanne Curd,  
Jordan Grogan, Rosie Kempe, Jimmy Pender, Jason  
Shepard, Jacqui Smith, Lisa Steptoe, Nathan  
Va'atausili, Lois Evans, Robyn Kuriger



## **Our New Waharoa (Entranceway)**

At 7am last Friday we were honoured to have Matua Tamati Tata, Ngairo Eruera and Tākiri Reweti unveil and bless the two new pou that stand proudly as a waharoa (entranceway) at the front of our kura.

The figures at the front of the waharoa represent mana whenua from our school hapū Ngāi Tamarāwaho. On the left is Paraone Koikoi and on the right is his wife Matatū. The heads at the bottom of each pou represent Ngāi Tamarāwaho tupuna (ancestor) Kino Taraia. On the sides of the pou are kowhaiwhai patterns that represent mana whenua and the wider community. The back of the waharoa, represents the public apology to Ngāi Tamarāwaho that was made in 2020 for the removal of Māori students from our school in 1939. The male and female figures represent the students that were removed from our school. Below each figure are heads coming together in a hongī to make one.

We are so proud of our magnificent new waharoa that was designed and created by local & renown carver, Whare Thompson.

Thank you to the BOT, PTA and TCC for funding our waharoa project. Ngā mihi to Matua Tamati Tata, Matua Des Tata and Matua Tu Pearson for their guidance and support. Thank you to Marcus Hughes for his organisation of, and liaison with, drainlayers and concreters from Downers, electricians from Aotea Electrical and digger operators from Page Earthworks.

If you are at our school, make sure you have a look at our wonderful new taonga (treasure). The waharoa is lit by LED lights at night so feel free to stop & have a look if you are driving by after hours!

We are so proud of our new taonga!