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TERM
TWO



WEEK 2

THURSDAY 15TH MAY

2014

OPUA SCHOOL



A Visit From Sparky the Kiwi

Next Wednesday we will be visited by Sparky the one-legged Kiwi and his handler from the Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre. Sparky lost his leg to a gin trap and he would not be able to survive out in the wild so he now lives at the NBR centre and loves visiting schools.

Founded in 1992 by Robert and Robyn Webb, the centre provides help, treatment and rehabilitation for injured and ill native birds so that they can be returned to the wild. The centre is run with the help of a small and dedicated band of volunteers and is a non-profit organization which is solely reliant on donations from the public. We are asking for a donation of \$2 per pupil to go towards travel costs for Sparky. If you would like

to give more please feel free.

Sparky will be arriving at approximately 1pm and will spend a couple of hours with us. If you would like to meet Sparky please come along on Wednesday. Donations are payable to the school office - thank you. For more information check out their website -

www.nbr.org.nz

Physical Education in conjunction with the Bay of islands Gymnastics Club

Starting yesterday, Rooms 1 and 2 began a once a week, four week course on gymnastics run by Ali Edwards. Our pupils will be able to: explore and perform simple balances, transfer 'balance' skills into game situations and on equipment, develop awareness on 'how' body tension helps them control body movement and cooperate and work with their peers. Yet another fantastic learning opportunity for our children.

Soccer Tuesday

Tuesday 20th May

Dan the Soccer Man will be here on Tuesday to take some pupils from rooms 3 and 4 for soccer. We will also be visited by teams from Kawakawa Primary and we will play against them. The participants will need their WHITE sports shirts, black shorts and bare feet.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

- MONDAYS - Egg sandwiches \$2
- WEDNESDAYS - There will be no Wednesday lunches for the time being
- FRIDAYS - Sausage Sizzle \$2.50

Orders to be placed at the school office BEFORE 9am - Thank you

Update on Major Projects work

I promised last term to keep our parent community up-to-date on improvement work to be undertaken at the school in the near future. There are 2 significant improvement projects happening:

- Schools' Network Upgrade Project [SNUP]. This should start on May 26th and be finished by June 16th. It will involve some disruption to access as UFB cabling is laid around the site and there will be some power outages as new distribution boards and other items are installed. This is all very exciting and will significantly improve our students' access to the e-learning "superfast-highway";
- Ministry Property Improvements. Our Project Managers for forthcoming major property improvements, Fraser Thomas, are doing wonderful work in moving us towards a start date of July 5th - the first day of our mid-year holiday. We are at the stage of having received 3 formal Tenders and a decision is close on which company will be chosen to carry out the work. During this time there will obviously be significant disruption.

Rooms 1 and 2 will be temporarily re-located into our School Hall from the start of Term 3 with the hall getting dividers down the middle of it. It is a priority to get the two classes back into their normal classrooms, hopefully before the end of Term 3 but certainly by the start of Term 4. I am in discussions with Ministry about extra support and facilities in our hall to ensure the most effective, temporary teaching and learning environments can be established for the duration of the move.

The school car park will be completely out of use from the start to the end of the property work. This will put even more pressure on parking and drop off / pick up areas as the staff will have to park at the top of Kellet Street during this time. Please could I further encourage our parent community to stagger pick up / drop off times [Rms 1,2 and 3 from 3pm to 3.15pm and Rms 4 and 5 from 3.15pm to 3.30pm] and/or organize for our older students to meet mums and dads down Penney Street and/or the gym area.

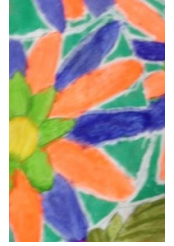
For parent awareness, during the preparation work for the renovations, we were unsurprised to find some asbestos in the cladding of some of our outer walls. This is very common in many school buildings across the country and the experts tell us that it is completely safe if undisturbed. During our renovations, any work on areas where this will be disturbed will be done during the school holidays.

Any worries or concerns?

Don't forget, if you have any worries or concerns, do not hesitate to pop in and talk it or them through with the teacher[s] concerned. Such rapid, open, positive and direct communication is what the teachers want and is most often the very best way to a quick solution or clarification of any information or situation.



PTA MEETING - TUESDAY 20th MAY
3.15pm School Staffroom
ALL WELCOME!



If you are thinking about joining the PTA you are heartily encouraged to come along to next week's meeting!

NETBALL

Red Dragons v Keri Diamonds

10.30am Court 8

Pohutukawas v Riverview

11.45am Court 4

Kia Kaha v KKHS Limited Edition

11.45am Court 3

Please be at the courts 30 minutes before your game.

HOCKEY

Mini Sticks

Opuia V KCS Blue Sticks

9.50am Field ONE

Intermediate

Opuia v Okaihau College

12.30pm Field ONE

Please be at the field 30 minutes before your game.

Send sports draws, reports and photos to Maree for inclusion in the weekly newsletter! opua@xtra.co.nz

ATTENDANCE = ACHIEVEMENT

Tomorrow Mrs Worthington is taking five Opuia School pupils to Urupukapuka to help with planting native trees on the island. This is a joint project between Explore NZ, Department of Conservation, Guardians of the Bay of Islands and Project Island Song and several local schools. What a wonderful opportunity! We are so lucky to live in paradise and it is imperative that we teach our children about the importance of looking after our precious flora and fauna.



Tomorrow, between 11.30 and 12.30, we will be entertained by a visiting school orchestra from Tangaroa College which is situated in Otara, Auckland.

This visit to Opuia School is made possible by the generosity of Kevin and Jan Smith (and Joanna and Marcel) from The Retreat Bay of Islands.

Please feel free to come along and sit in on the performance. These guys are GOOD!

Board and Community News

The Board met on Monday evening -the discussions included the following:

- Most of the electrical problems in the school house have been sorted out.
- The renovations to Rooms 1 and 2 and some other construction work are due to start in July.
- Our SNUP (computer wiring and server stack) work should begin in 2 weeks and be completed in 2 to 3 weeks after that. This will mean that we will be fully on the super-fast highway enabling our new computers to be used to their best advantage.
- As part of the Board review process, the Appointments' Policy and the Relationship between the Board and the Principal Policy were reviewed.
- The Board agreed to the Electoral Commission's request to use our hall on 20 September 2014 as a voting place for the 2014 general election.
- The possibility of installing solar power in the school was discussed.

The Board is still open to suggestions about solving our parking problem. If you have any ideas please talk to any Board member.

Margaret Lange
Staff Trustee

Saturday 4th. May saw a wonderful occurrence for Opua as it saw the community start to turn out in force to clean up this wonderful picturesque Village. Just on 40 people gave up their Sunday afternoon, on a wonderful sunny day, to start the clean-up of the beaches. The bags donated by Far North District Council were soon filled up and two fires were lit to get rid of the stuff that would burn. One lesson learnt here was in future if we are going to burn we need to wait for an off shore wind. Apparently our smoke filled in the houses above the beach. SORRY people.

One group did the beach from the store around to Doug's boatyard while other groups did Lemon & English Bays plus the Colenso Triangle. Also done was the roadside from Opua to the Roadrunner.

You may have also seen the area around the Opua Sign and the Anchor had had attention.

So we are well underway at giving Opua a long deserved fresh and tidy look.

Looking forward to meeting you all at the upcoming barbeque and our next working bee.

Remember if you have any ideas we can use or do in making Opua a nicer place to live do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards
Brian Hepburn, Chairman
402-6070



Upcoming Events

Community BBQ at Opua Community Hall

25th May 2014 from 4pm onwards

Bring your own meat and drinks and a dessert to share.

ALL WELCOME!