



**OTAMA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
*Little Footprints - Big Steps*

Term 2 Week 5  
**Newsletter**

Friday, 1 June 2018

## Principal Report

Kia ora,

This week has been the most eventful of the year. The cold has come! Please be safe as you travel.

Swimming lessons have begun. Taking the bus to the pool comes at a significant cost, even though the lessons themselves are free. It would be much appreciated if families were able to make a donation (\$30.00 per student or \$50.00) to help us alleviate these costs. Thank you to those families who have already donated for this purpose.

On Wednesday morning, I was not confident that the local conditions were safe enough for our students to participate in the cross country. I made the decision that the school would not travel to Waikaka as planned; parents were contacted and were able to take their students to participate if they wished. I am ultimately responsible for student safety on trips, and my prime responsibility to ensure that students are safe. All decisions I make as principal of Otama School will continue to put student safety first.

Otama School aims to be accommodating to any requests from families. This week it has been difficult to contact parents to verify changes of routine, particularly as swimming impacts upon our ability to communicate. It is very important that parents make contact with us via note, email, or telephone, so that we are able to support any changes in routine. Our obligation to ensure the safety of our learners means that we cannot, for example, release students into the care of others without explicit permission from parents. If we maintain these standards of communication, families can rest easy, knowing that their children are in safe hands at all times. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.

You may be aware that negotiations are underway for the Primary Teachers and Principals Collective Agreements. As part of this process, paid union meetings (during school contact time) will be taking place over the next few weeks. As always, there is also the possibility of strike action.

The union has requested that principals ask parents to collect their children early on meeting dates. However, I prioritise the education of my students. Instead, I want to take this opportunity to promise that, to the fullest extent permissible, Otama School will not close as a result of any actions or meetings relating to these negotiations.

Well done to **Nicole McBain**, **Kewene Donaldson**, and **Christopher McBain**, who qualified for the Eastern Cross Country races on the 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Congratulations to:

**Ella**, for working conscientiously while challenging herself to learn new things. Well done!

**Christopher Whyte**, for supporting and encouraging his peers. Well Done!

Have a great long weekend. See you on Tuesday.

Samuel Smith

## Events Calendar

Tuesday 5 June–Tuesday 12 June  
Swimming Lessons 1.30-2.30pm

Tuesday 5 June  
Year 7 & 8 Technology

Thursday 14 June  
Eastern Cross Country

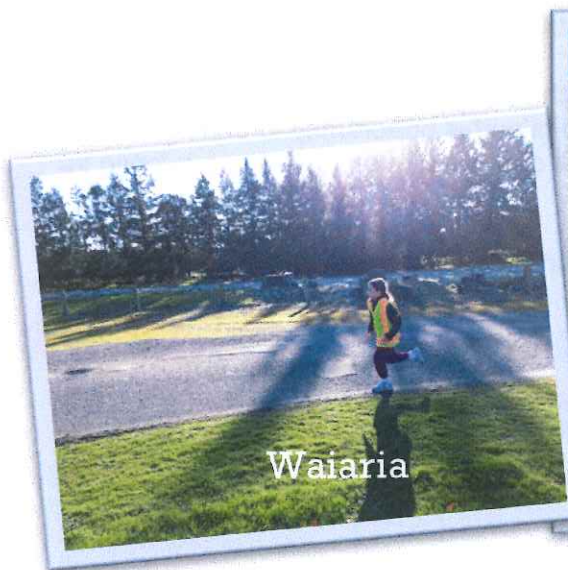


Students were given a challenge to make wet weather gear out of a material

Hi All,  
That time of year coming up for most of us with lambing and calving, so thought some pies will help stock the freezer, also have Bidfood with yummy food and useful products.  
If you would like to place an order, but don't have a form, please contact, or flick me an email, or Wendy. Cash or cheque would be appreciated, please make cheques out to Otama School PTA, due in by the 4 June 2018, thank you.  
The food and products usually take about a week to arrive, but you will be contacted as soon as these have been sorted.  
Thank you,  
Alyssa Spikin 0276695262,  
email: a.spikin@hotmail.com

**Note:**  
A reminder the forms and money for Bidfood and Marlow's Pies' are due back on the 6 June, thank you.

## Well done to all who participated at Cross Country



Waiaria



Nicole



Kewene

# Community Events



**PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST**  
Breast Cancer Foundation NZ

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
The Gore & Clutha Women's Refuge's Pink Ribbon Breakfast

DATE:  
Friday 19th of June, 2018

TIME:  
8.00am

WHERE:  
The Gore Women's Refuge Office,  
77a Main Street, Gore

RSVP TO:  
admin@gorerefuge.org.nz

DONATE: <https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/page/goreandcluthawomensrefugeshostpage>

**Support Group**  
"Cancer, Coffee and a Chat"

Last Wednesday of the month  
10 - 11am  
Centre for Rural Health Development  
Kakapo Street, Gore  
Weds 2nd May, Weds 30th May,  
Weds 27th June

This group is open to anyone living with cancer and/or their carer. Some members may be newly diagnosed while others may be undergoing treatment or have finished treatment.



For more information contact:  
Cancer Society Southland  
Ph: 03 218 4108  
Email: [southland@cannewsoc.org.nz](mailto:southland@cannewsoc.org.nz)

**Southland Hug a Rig Day**  
11th August 2018 12.30pm to 3.30pm



Celebrating 10 Years of  
Taking people with special needs, & lifelong medical conditions  
For a Ride in a Big Rig, Classic Car or Hot Rod  
Venue: Hokonui Rural Transport, Aparima Street, Gore

For more info: Check out our Facebook page: Southland Hug a Rig  
Or Contact Dianne on 032081758 or 0277732700 Email: [southlandhugarig@gmail.com](mailto:southlandhugarig@gmail.com)

**AUTISM NZ**  
Every step together

**Autism Support Group**

Come out and get to know other parents, caregivers and professionals in a non-threatening environment


- Share Experiences
- Discuss Ideas
- Learn what resources are available

Location: Calvin Church, 25 Robertson Street, normally in the lounge room, far left

Time: 11am to 12pm  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

For more information or if you would like specific resources please contact  
Wendy Jenkins - Autism Outreach Coordinator  
03 2182420 022 0200 106  
[southland@autismnz.org.nz](mailto:southland@autismnz.org.nz)

**DOES YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES  
OR DO YOU FEEL THAT THEY ARE NOT FULFILLING  
THEIR POTENTIAL?**



This information evening is open to parents of children of all ages, specifically those parents whose children have not been formally diagnosed with any particular type of learning difficulty.

The evening will be facilitated by Dyslexia Support Southland team members who all have their own personal story of navigating learning difficulties and the interventions available in Southland.


Some of the areas they will cover include *Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Irlen's Syndrome and Dyspraxia.*

Come along and hear what this can mean for your child, your family, school and teachers.

*"Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding".*  
-Robert John Meehan.

**St Mary's School**  
14 Ardwick Street, Gore  
6 June 2018 7pm

Registrations to Community Connections Centre  
032088480 [cccaore@cnt.org.nz](mailto:cccaore@cnt.org.nz) 0221988416 or just come along on the night.



**Gore Out of School Music**  
Intro to Music for 5-7 year olds



**Tuesday afternoons, May-September**  
30 minute class after school during term time

Introducing musical concepts (high & low fast & slow), singing and playing instruments

To enrol email [gosmclasses@gmail.com](mailto:gosmclasses@gmail.com) by 10 April with your name & contact details, child's name & age

For more information phone  
Natalie 2.08 9994 or Nicola 02.10 871 8072