



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

Term 4 Week 6

# Newsletter

Friday, 23 November 2018

## Principal Report

Kia ora,

Welcome to Xander, who started at Otama School this week. Xander is in Year 1 and joins us from Australia. We are all very pleased to see the continued roll growth here at school.

Some HUGE news: Otama School won the Otago-Southland Aquavan grand prize! Our Enviroschools work last term, a huge team effort with contributions from every student, has won us a trip to Dunedin, and a day at the Portobello Marine Lab at Otago University. There is a huge buzz about this; it is great to see our students learning that their hard work can have concrete rewards (as well as the intrinsic ones of course!). Congratulate your children for their great work.

Otago University's preference is that we try to squeeze in the trip before the end of the year, so you can imagine how we're all scrambling to arrange something in a very tight timeframe. I am non-negotiable on the matter that all of our students must be able to attend, so I have attached a separate form so that we can work out the logistics of the trip. Please return this on Monday – I do not want anyone to miss out on this opportunity. More information is on the form.

Adding to the general business of the term, we have entered Otama School in the Tough Kids event in Invercargill (5<sup>th</sup> December, postponement 6<sup>th</sup> December). This is a fun event which a lot of our students have already participated in. Parents are most welcome to join us, and if you are able to provide transport it would be much appreciated. Please indicate this on the separate form as well, so that we can get some fixed plans for the event.

The Otama School Board of Trustees is eager to continue to provide the best opportunities for our students. There are a lot of challenges that go with being a small sole-charge school, as we all know. I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has resolved to fund a second teacher for at least four days per week, starting next year. This will mean that there will be two trained teachers teaching onsite for most of the school week, which allows us to be even more responsive to student needs. I will be able to share more information next week.

Finally, I am always available to help with any requests you may have. However, because of my current teaching and professional obligations (and the fact that I can get upwards of 50 emails per day), I am not always able to respond in a timely manner to emails. If you have a general inquiry, it may be best to email Wendy at [admin@otama.school.nz](mailto:admin@otama.school.nz) or to call the school at 208 1829.

Someone asked me the other day if we're "starting to wind down for the year". As you can see, things are still full-steam ahead at Otama School!

Have a great weekend.

Samuel Smith

## Events Calendar

Tuesday 27 November  
Year 7 & 8 Programme

Wednesday 5 December  
Tough kids

**A reminder that school photo order forms are due back to school by 3 December, so I can get them to Geoff Horrell, thank you.**

## Community Events

The Southland District Council Holiday Programme is gearing up for action in 2019.

Send your kids along for games, sports, crafts, new friends and more!

- Children aged 5-12
- \$8 per child per day
- 10am-3pm

This year, we have added more FREE buses to make the programme easier to get to.

Check out the calendar below to see when we will be in a town near you!

**Bookings are essential as spaces are limited.**

JANUARY 2019						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI		
7 WINTON	8 WINTON	9 WINTON	10 RIVERTON	11 RIVERTON		
14 OTAUTAU	15 OTAUTAU	16 WYNDHAM	17 WYNDHAM	18 STEWART ISLAND	19 TOKANUI	
21 TE ANAU	22 TE ANAU	23 TE ANAU	24 LUMSDEN	25 LUMSDEN	26 LUMSDEN	
30 RIVERSDALE	Children aged 5-12	10am-3pm	\$8 per child per day	Limited spaces!	More bus information online	

Enrol today at [www.sdcholidayprogramme.co.nz](http://www.sdcholidayprogramme.co.nz)

## Gore Out of School Music 2019

Group music tuition for school kids, Tuesdays from 3.30-6.30pm

Introduction to Music 5-7 yrs

Violin 5+ | Singing 6+ | Ukulele 6+  
Recorder 6+ | Fife 7+ | Theory 7+  
Speech & Drama 7+ | Guitar 8+  
Percussion 8+ | Cello 9+ | Flute 9+  
Piano/Keyboard 9+ | Clarinet 9+ | Comet 9+  
Saxophone 9+ | Bass Guitar (Advanced) 9+

Email [gosmclasses@gmail.com](mailto:gosmclasses@gmail.com) or pick up a registration form from Gore Public Library or Rockleigh Jeweller  
NB only one intake for the year, enrollments close 21 January

Free Family-Friendly

# MOVIE

## THE STAR

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

SBS St James Theatre  
21 December | 2pm

Optional donation for Tear Fund's "Room at the Inn" Christmas Appeal for Syrian Refugees