

From Deb's Desk

Check out [this article](http://www.aldenhabacon.com/13-tips-how-to-talk-to-children-about-diversity) - <http://www.aldenhabacon.com/13-tips-how-to-talk-to-children-about-diversity> if the recent events in Christchurch have left you searching for a way to talk to your children (It is not just about religious diversity). Like all articles or thinking I share with you - take what speaks to you and your values and sift the rest. For me this article reminded me of some of the conversations I had with my two as primary age children. Often it was as a response to an observation or comment that one of them had blurted, sometimes loudly and to the embarrassment of me at the time. Our children have great observations about the world around them, often they 'blow us away' with their insight or the novel way they interpret what they see. Sometimes as the adult, finding the right thing to say or the right way to respond seems like a mystery. Sometimes we can put an adult filter on a child concern. In some of the information I have read over the past few weeks the importance seems to be on responding to the questions and possibly valid concerns at an age appropriate level. This can be extremely challenging when we may be struggling with our own thinking.

Thanks - School Review

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the School Survey. In the past we have given a survey of this kind in Term 4, however this year by collecting your responses in Term One we have opportunity to respond to your feedback in this year.

We asked 3 quick questions relating to the school pool, Before and After School Care and Christian Religious Education at Manakau School. These are all areas that parents have asked me about or I have comments that have been relayed to me. The responses will feed into a deeper inquiry which the Board of Trustees can then respond to.

When planning for any organisation to move forward responding to the needs of the major stakeholders, in this case the children and their families, it is important to hear what you think. I appreciate the comments that have given a greater understanding of your thoughts.

Gardens

You may have noticed the efforts of one of our parents over the past few weeks. Lucy has been responding to a need she noticed with our trees. One of the trees has been particularly under stress due to the weather conditions and has dropped a huge number of seed pods at the front of the historic block. The gardens look like they are well loved and the path is clear. **Many thanks for your efforts Lucy!!** Together Each Achieves More.



School Assemblies



This term many of you have attended our weekly assemblies and often it has been to support your children as their classes have presented

assembly. I thank the children for their efforts and the teachers for the extra responsibility this has put on them. Next term we'll continue this format starting with Room 5 in Week 1.

If you can, please continue to support this event as your addition to our audience lifts the children's performance and gives a greater purpose to having the assembly as a whole. We have had some fantastic additions to the assembly - New presenters, Jokes with Joe, Art, Dance, Secret handshakes and a lot of sharing current topics of learning in our classes. I can't wait to see what the children and teachers come up with for Term 2.

When the phone was
tied with a wire
- Humans were free...



Board of Trustees.

This year is election year for members of the Board of Trustees. Have you thought about becoming a board member for your school?

We are holding a community hui at Te Whare Awhina at Waiopahu College on 8 April 2019 at 6.00 pm in the lead up to this year's board of trustees' elections.

This hui is specifically designed to inform those who are considering standing for election in June and should provide lots of useful information what's involved, the process around nominations and elections, and roles and responsibilities of trusteeship. Existing board members are welcome to attend, but the evening is aimed specifically at those who have not been on a school board before.

At a hui you'll hear about:...

- What is a school board of trustees.
- What do trustees do.
- What skills do trustees need.
- Who can become a trustee.
- How do I become a trustee.
- Who is on a board of trustees.
- How is a board elected.
- What help do school trustees get.
- How does the board of trustees work.

We look forward to seeing you and helping your school's succession planning!

Interschool Athletics

Wow what a great day was had by those involved in this event, yesterday. Manakau School was well represented in the top 3 positions again and again during the day, in different events. Congratulations to you all for your great effort.

Caregiver required. We have a school parent who is looking for someone who could care give, for one child, every day after school. If you are interested, please speak with 'office' Deb.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Waitohu School Gala 2019. Sunday 7 April.
11am-2pm.

Otaki's Autumn Pool Party

Friday 5 April 2019. 4pm-7.30pm. \$3 entry. Inflatables - Dunk tank - games. Free sausage with entry. Supervised afterschool fun for 8-13 year olds.

Youth Life Skills Course

Through horses we will help your child to build their confidence, manage their emotions better, learn to problem solve, increase their resilience and self esteem and much more. No riding but lots of fun! Good for girls or boys, 'horsey' or non-horsey kids aged 8-16. April 15-16 2019. 10am-4.30pm. 1272 State Highway One, Manakau. Registration is now open. Get more details about the course by emailing @lead-the-way.co.nz or calling Andrew on 027 271 154.

Creating in Clay

Otaki Pottery Club.

School Holiday Clay Workshops
for young people aged 7-18 years.

Tutor: Paula Archibald. \$30 per person - includes materials and firing. 1st Term Holidays. Tuesday 16th April 10am -12noon, and 1pm - 3pm

Also available are

After School Clay Classes.

4 weeks from 6th May 2019.

Every Monday 3.30-5pm.

Maximum of 12 students from 7 years and older.
\$50 per student incl materials and firings.

Contact Margaret Hunt.

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Or visit www.Otakipotteryclub.org