



ŌWHANGO SCHOOL PĀNUI

The children at Ōwhango School are engaged in our unique, rural environment, are individual in their learning, and strong in experience and success.

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9/ 2023

29th March 2023

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUĀKĪ

“When we speak, we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.”

- Audre Lorde

DATES TO NOTE

30 March	Old Coach Road Bike Trip
31 March	Last Day of Golf
4 April	Assembly
5 April	Mobile Library Visit
6 April	Y 7 & 8 Tech
	Last day of school
7 April	Easter Friday

Term 2

24 April	Teacher Only Day
25 April	Anzac Day
26 April	First Day of Term Two
4 May	Y 7 & 8 Tech
5 May	Y 7&8 Kayaking Course
6 May	T 42 Event

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As a principal I avoid commenting on politics. However, I need to reassure you of what our school does, following the announcement last week by The National Party that it is going to make it compulsory for schools to teach an hour each of reading, writing and mathematics, five days a week, and to test the children twice a year. The inference being that we are not currently doing enough teaching in these subjects.

At Ōwhango School the School Board directs us to focus on these three 'core' subjects. We do teach them for an hour a day, at least four days a week. Leaving some time to teach PE, the arts, science, social sciences, technology, a range of health topics, and to participate in all-day events like interschool sports. Note that if we did this five days a week we would no longer be able to

go to interschool sports, skiing, bike trips, Brocks Farm, senior camp, or do our arts fortnight or biennial school show.

We currently test twice a year to measure how our children are progressing and monitor where we need to strengthen their learning.

National also announced that they are going to rewrite the curriculum. This is already happening by the Ministry of Education. I attended a hui last week to give feedback on this rewrite, and to keep abreast of the changes that are occurring. The staff will also be participating in a teacher-only-day on 24th of April focussed on this 'curriculum refresh' as the new curriculum has been branded.

I thought it important to reassure you about this, as there is a possibility that such announcements by political parties may cast doubts about the quality of education your child is currently getting at our school.

However, I am not suggesting here that you vote one way or another.

CLASSROOM KORERO – Middle Room

The Middle Room palaeontologists have been very busy these past two weeks. We have learnt what the characteristics and features of a dinosaur are compared to a prehistoric animal, we can use our scientific knowledge to explain what a dinosaur ate, how it moved, and where it lived based on their features. We have learnt how fossils are formed and what they teach us about dinosaurs. We also went on a Prehistoric Plant Hikoi and discovered that many of our local trees and plants were found during the Triassic Period.

For music, we are learning a new waiata called Koromiko – a beautifully calming song about the forest around us. We are also using rakau to practise beat and tempo, tricky but fun!



A NZ Ankylosaur by Charlotte



Elliott's plesiosaur



A selection of fossils made by the Middle Room

Triceratops

The Triceratops lived in the Cretaceous time, and it was millions of years ago. It had a spikey horn, and it was bigger than a person. It was a plant eater. It ate ferns and it also ate trees. Its horn could chop down the ferns.

By Olive



Monty and Nico taking notes on our Prehistoric Plant Hikoi

SENIOR CAMP

I was blown away by the bravery of our tamariki on this camp! I was especially impressed by those who overcame challenges over the week, whether it be homesickness, or fear of heights and speeds to name a few. They each overcame these challenges with a supportive bunch of friends by their side, sharing their own experiences and advice. These kids even managed to convince me I would love the giant swing and that it was great....we still differ in opinion there, but I was grateful for their encouragement to get me up there to try it out! This type of team building was one of the goals of our camp, bringing the class closer together for a positive start to their year ahead as a group. And our students really pulled together in their kitchens each night to whip up some delicious and hearty meals....except maybe Cailin, Piata, Poppy and Tilly's homemade wedges, I think they would agree that was not a culinary success, but an interesting learning experience!

Overall, what a fantastic week for our tamariki to learn new skills, try new activities, learn more about themselves, gain some independence and push themselves well outside of their comfort zones.

Thank you to our amazing whanau volunteers who spent time with us over the week; Aaron, Cara, Regan, Nicole, Ryan, Phoebe, Theresa and Michelle. Your help was much appreciated!

Ngā mihi Siobhan McKenna-Murphy

TUI RIDGE PARK SENIOR CLASS CAMP

What a week, what a camp! Our Ōwhango kids truly are amazing! To say we are proud of these

tamariki is an understatement. Each and every one of them had at least one challenging moment / time / activity that they had to overcome. And they did it!



Tug of war

Tui Ridge Park offers accommodation and all the activities on site, with the high-risk activities supervised with trained instructors. This enabled the tamariki to have four activities a day, each lasting one and half hours. By the end of the day, the adults were shattered, however the tamariki still had energy to burn. Which was good because they were all in charge of their own menus, cooking and cleaning. We were impressed with their meal selections and they ate like kings and queens for the week!



Working through the rope maze

Some of our tamariki were initially scared of heights and many of the activities were at great heights. Some of these being the flying fox, the giant swing, high ropes and abseiling. Our adventurous tamariki were brave and determined, and the majority of them did all the activities. Some of the other activities were nerf wars, air rifles, archery, laser tag, indoor bowls, orienteering, sling shot paint ball, burma trail, frisbee golf, rope maze, indoor rock climbing, team building exercises, tug of war plus many other fun activities.



Poppy (the youngest in the class) was the first to put her hand up to do the 18m abseil!

We were so pleased with the children's perseverance and I am delighted to say all 26 students stayed right until the end on Friday, as planned.



Delaize focusing on his target (he got the bullseye and the highest points in archery)

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the whanau that transported our senior class and then stayed to support our kids (and their teachers). I could not have asked for a better crew. We could not have done this without you, and it was a success because of you all. Also, to the whanau that came during the week to visit and / or stay. Ngā mihi.



Jamie, Cailin and Taylor firing the air rifles



Girls looking the part for slingshot paintball...



...and the boys

Also, another huge THANK YOU to our wonderful Ōwhango school PTA who funded this Tui Ridge Park camp. Our tamariki are truly lucky for such generous and hardworking whanau and PTA. Thank you to the parents and whānau for organising all the kai and ensuring the homemade baking was plentiful!

Finally, a big THANK YOU to the 26 characters in the senior class of 2023. You are hilarious, cheeky, vibrant and oh so talented. What an awesome bunch of little campers!

Ngā mihi Jessie Smith



Piata and Taylor on the high ropes

OLD COACH ROAD BIKE TRIP- Tomorrow

We will have a bike check before we depart- **any bikes which do not pass will not be able to come!**

In the test we will check that tyres are pumped up, brakes work, chains oiled and tightened, helmets fit, suitable closed toe shoes such as sneakers are worn (not gumboots!).

Also please ensure that you bring: clothes suitable for riding a bike- layers for different temperatures, extra rations of food, plenty of water, a can-do attitude, a backpack to fit everything in while you ride.

This trip will proceed based on the current forecast.

We will depart after we have completed the bike inspections, sometime after 9:00am. We plan to be back by 3pm but if we are running late an email will be sent out explaining this.



Orienteering break outside the amazing gym

GOLF

Aaron Owen and Michelle Gavegan will be transporting tamariki to their final golf lesson this Friday. However, we still need one more driver as our usual whanau volunteers are busy. If you can help, please contact Siobhan a.s.a.p. so we can finalise transport arrangements. If your child normally attends golf on a Friday but is not this week for any reason, please notify us.

A reminder that students need to be at school at 8am on Friday with their running/golf shoes, sunhat and water bottle.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Roy Frampton, his team, and the Taumarunui Golf Club for their time, effort and resources this term, and for making this opportunity possible for our students. Ngā mihi nui Siobhan



Lo'i on the high ropes

LOST PROPERTY

Please come and check the lost property basket. It is overflowing with shoes, socks, gumboots, swim wear and other items of clothing!



Oliver ready for action in nerf wars

TOYS

A reminder that toys are allowed at school, however they are brought at your own risk - we discourage children from bringing favourite or expensive toys from home as they can easily get lost or broken.

If you have something special that you want to share as a 'news' item to the class, then you can ask the teacher to put it in a safe place for the rest of the day.



Charlie abseiling down the 18m cliff

Community Notices

PROPERTY MINDING SERVICE

Need to go away for a couple days and worried about your property? I am a trustworthy local mum who can feed your animals, collect mail, water gardens and check that all windows/doors are secure. Call Bry for more info 027 499 0182

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS & ROLLER DISCO

See the posters below.

PRIMARY NETBALL update

We have just been informed that the netball grading day is on Saturday 29th April. We will let you know what time when that information arrives. The first practise for the Ōwhango teams will be Wednesday 26th April (the first day of term two) 3:15-4:00. Subsequent practises will be on Mondays.

The first game for the senior team will be Wednesday 3rd May, and the Junior team Thursday 4th May.

FRESH FLOWERS FUNDRAISER- another reminder

20% from every bunch sold will be donated to the school PTA.

\$15 / small mixed bunch

\$30 / large mixed bunch

Dahlias \$10 / 5 stems

Sunflowers \$10 / 5 stems

Contact Regan on 027 331 9377

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS

Owhango School is part of the Fuel for Schools programme. Fern Energy (previously Northfuels) customers can nominate a participating school to receive 50 cents for every 100L of bulk fuel they have delivered. Once a school reaches their \$1,000 target they can redeem free technology, sports packages, or books. It's that simple. The more people involved the sooner they will be rewarded!

Talk to our local Account Manager Kelly Brears for more information on the Fuel for Schools programme, fuel tanks, oils, health and safety, or any of your bulk fuel requirements, she's happy to pop out and have a chat. Mobile: 027 208 4388

www.fernenergy.co.nz

kelly.brears@fernenergy.co.nz

PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING DETAILS:

Ōwhango School BoT: Stationery / sports & uniform purchases: **03 0426 0141783 00**

PTA: Fundraisers 030 426 0156205 00

2023 TERM DATES

Term 1- 1st February to 6th April

Term 2- 24 April to 30th June

Term 3- 17th July to 22nd September

Term 4- 9th October to 19th December

Teacher Only Days- 24th April, 6th June, and 20th November

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR

Duffy Books in Schools: W & C O'Donnell, DG Brown Contracting, Doyle Valuations, Ōwhango Motors, S & M Ashcroft Partnership.

Ōwhango Adventures: Free bus use for trips

Fern Energy Fuel for Schools Scheme: RC & JF Walker, MJ & TM Lord, KF & VI Kimberley, JB & KA Lord, WM & CE O'Donnell, Tina Freeman, Willy & Cara O'Donnell, Willy Bryan Earthworks, DR & LA Marshall and Rex and Hannah Pierce.

PTA Sponsors: Ringa Kaha Cabin, The Grounded Artisan, The Park Hotel Ruapehu, Kainui, Pepper & Me Pack, Purita Te Manawa, Vertigo Rock Climbing, Thai Restaurant, Blue Hill Café, Liquorland.

ORIGAMI



Join Noriko to learn the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures.

To enrol your children in this course please call into the REAP Office at 115 Hakiha Street to fill in the appropriate forms for your children.

DATE & TIME	18th April 2022 10.00AM - 12.00 PM
AGE	7 - 12 YRS
COST	Gold Coin Donation
VENUE	CKC REAP 115 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui

Spaces are limited. We advise you to book early to avoid disappointment

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



NEVALEA ALPACA FARM TOUR AND FELTED SOAP WORKSHOP



We invite responsible young people to join a fully supervised visit to the Nevalea Alpaca Farm for a farm tour and Felted Soap Workshop.

To enrol your children on to this excursion, please call into the REAP Office at 115 Hakiha Street to fill in the appropriate forms .

DATE & TIME	20th April 2022 10.00AM - 1.00PM
AGE	OVER 8 YEARS
COST	\$5.00pp
VENUE	Leaving and returning from CKC REAP 115 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui

We will be travelling to and from the Farm in the CKC REAP Van. We advise you to book early to avoid disappointment. NUMBERS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED



Entry \$5.00pp cash only

Quad/Inline Skaters Welcome!

ROLLER DISCO

Quad skate hire \$2.00pp

@ National Park School Hall
Friday 31st March
5.30pm to 7.30pm

Enquiries: office@nationalpark.school.nz