



# ŌWHANGO SCHOOL PĀNUI

The tamariki 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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35/2023

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

“When I was an unhappy little boy, going to the library changed my life. It may even have saved it. Amazing as it sounds, literature can do that for you. Books are your ticket to the whole world. They’re a free ticket to the entire earth.” Billy Connolly

## DATES TO NOTE

30 Nov	Bikes at School
1 Dec.	Interschool Touch Rugby
2 Dec.	Christmas Parade 11:30am
5 Dec.	Assembly 2pm
6 Dec.	School Board Hui
8 Dec.	Tongariro Crossing Trip
13 Dec.	Year 8 Leavers’ Treat
14 Dec.	Brock’s Farm Trip
15 Dec.	Reports Out
	Break Up Ceremony 5pm
18 Dec.	Last Day of School
5 February	First Day of 2024!

## PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It’s a really busy time at school with lots of great learning and fun activities happening. Behind the scenes the teachers are putting the final touches to the individual reports, as well as summaries of our assessments which inform our teaching for next year.

On the property front, we are about to get the pool prepared for opening. The school board are also in the process of accepting a quote to replace the pool fence, which is at the end of its life, though this work will not be done until next year. We have ordered furniture to furnish the new classroom, and during the holidays the floor will be sanded and varnished.

Coming up, next week we will announce who is going to be in which classroom next year. Please keep Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 5pm free, as we have

our Break Up ceremony in the hall, followed by a community potluck dinner at the school.

## CLASSROOM KORERO- Middle Room

Last week the middle room had lots of different learning opportunities. Tuesday was a science filled day with Jessica Walton. The students carried out a scientific investigation, focusing on Climate Change. They had to place a jar in a sunny area and record the temperature in the jar, and outside of the jar every three minutes until a constant temperature was reached. They then plotted their data onto a graph. The learning around this experiment was that Earth’s atmosphere traps heat from the sun, and that human activity is affecting Earth’s atmosphere. On Wednesday, the students who weren’t attending Interschool Athletics had a fantastic day in the junior room with Mrs Tylee and Whaea Maree, displaying all of their wonderful learning, listening, supporting and helping behaviours. Thursday was a STEM filled day with Whaea Siobhan. The students planned, designed, and created rafts out of tin foil. They then took their creations down to the creek to see if their design stayed afloat. The middle room ended their week with Whaea Regan. It was a day of garden-based learning - weeding and planting, art, as well as learning some of the elements in the Periodic Table. Lots of fun learning discoveries were made!

## BIKES AT SCHOOL

Tomorrow we are having another Bikes At School day. We do these a few times during the year, so the kids have the opportunity to ride their bikes with each other and build their riding skills. If you are bringing a bike or riding someone else’s, you must have a correctly fitting helmet and closed

toe shoes on, your bike must have brakes that work and tyres that are pumped up. This is an optional activity. We may even go to the pump track in the domain at lunch time to ride that.

### **OWHANGO'S GOT TALENT**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Ōwhango School had Owhango's Got Talent. There were many different performances, such as Evie playing the violin and Indie, Bailey and Ellie Rose doing a dance to Barbie Girl. We also had a few videos sent in showing kids scootering and motorbiking skills. It was hosted in the senior room by Cailin Owen and Taylor Faire. The judges were Whaea Regan and Whaea Siobhan, we are very thankful for their amazing judging. We enjoyed it so much and we are very proud of all the people who performed.

By Taylor and Cailin



The winners of each classroom were- Daithi (singing), Freida (playing keyboard) and Evie (playing violin)



Second place went to Haylee and Charlotte (singing and playing ukulele), Konna (cracking a whip) Bailey, Ellie-Rose and Indie (dancing)

### **POOL KEYS FOR SALE**

If you would like a swimming pool season key, contact the school. Cost is \$50 for the key; you get \$20 back when you return the key at the end of the season. Please pay by direct credit to the school account 03 0426 0141783 00, reference 'Pool Key'.



Third place went to Juan (motorbiking) Soren, Lucas, Oliver and Zurich (scootering), Finley (telling a joke lots of times) and Ben (singing)

### **INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to our team that competed in this event last Wednesday. Here are the results that we have:

Gin 2<sup>nd</sup> 400m, 6<sup>th</sup> 200m, 5<sup>th</sup> 100m,  
Tilly 5<sup>th</sup> 400m, 13<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Freida 5<sup>th</sup> 400m, 9<sup>th</sup> 200m, 3<sup>rd</sup> 10m,  
Ainsley 6<sup>th</sup> 200m, 5<sup>th</sup> 60m, 6<sup>th</sup> 100m,  
Kyston 3<sup>rd</sup> 200m, 4<sup>th</sup> 60m, 4<sup>th</sup> 100m,  
Kaelyis-Rae 3<sup>rd</sup> 200m, 4<sup>th</sup> 60m, 4<sup>th</sup> 100m,  
Charlotte 10<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Rosa 16<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Mason 6<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Monty 11<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Hazel 17<sup>th</sup> 200m,  
Oliver 2<sup>nd</sup> 200m,  
Lucas 10<sup>th</sup> 200m, 4<sup>th</sup> 100m,  
Ōwhango Boys Yr 5&6 Relay 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **ASSEMBLY**

We are having our final assembly at 2pm on Tuesday. The junior room is hosting this. You are all welcome to come.



Haylee and Charlotte sing A Lion Sleeps Tonight

### **SCHOOL BOARD HUI**

We are having our final school board hui on Wednesday next week. You are all welcome to attend.



Lo'i, Hopaea and Tilly sing Shallow

### ENROLMENT ZONE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION HUI-

Thanks to the people who came to this hui. It was worthwhile with some interesting points being brought up. The ministry will now proceed with implementing the enrolment zone so that it is in place for the start of next year.



Evie supporting Millie to sing E Tu Tangata

### TONGARIRO CROSSING TRIP- Year 6-8

All parents who expressed an interest in attending this trip have been contacted via email with transport arrangements. Please check your emails. Hiking boots are kindly on loan for free from Adventure Outdoors in National Park. Please refrain from contacting them directly, and email Whaea Siobhan instead should you need boots. I will be delivering the boots this week, when they are made available to us.

A reminder that the following gear list is compulsory, and we will be doing a **full gear check** (minus the food) **on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, so please ensure your child brings all of the following gear on this day:

- A sturdy, well-fitting backpack with hip straps, manageable for students to carry on their own
- Tramping boots or sturdy sneakers with good thread / grip (See below)
- 3 litres of water **minimum**
- A waterproof jacket

- Thermal long sleeve top (items that are easily layered and removed)
- Fleece overtop / sweatshirt (hunting long sleeve tops are great-cotton is not recommended)
- Thermal long johns or leggings (you may carry these in your backpack)
- Shorts
- Woollen gloves
- Neck warmer
- 2x hats – beanie and a sunhat
- Thick socks (no ankle socks)
- Sunscreen (applied before leaving school and in backpack for reapplication)
- Lip balm / Chapstick
- Toilet paper/tissues
- Plasters
- Sunglasses
- Big lunch with high-energy foods included (Any/all waste goes home in lunchbox)
- Lollies/chocolate are allowed for energy (No chewing gum)
- Personal medication (***Please discuss this with Whaea Siobhan in advance***)



Bailey, Ellie-Rose and Indie dance

### TOUCH RUGBY TOURNAMENT

On Friday the whole school will be participating in this tournament. The kids need to wear the sports uniform that has been issued to them, shorts and either bare feet or running shoes. Please bring a drink bottle of water only, lots of lunch or some money to buy lunch.

Thanks to those who have offered to manage a team on the day. We have emailed you to let you know which team you are managing, included a copy of the rules of the day, and a Team Manager Code of Conduct that needs to be signed and handed in to us on the morning.

Thanks too, to the people who have offered to transport the kids. We are very tight on transport, for this trip, with only one spare seat.

## Touch Transport

Driver	Students
Michelle	Lucas Brodie Chanae Pria
Theresa	Cailin Charlotte Gin Darcy Rose
Tania	Harry Konna Quinn
Maree	Haylee Piata Te Hana Indie Eric Harper
Siobhan	Daithi Óg Gazebo
Ewan	Oliver Mason Beau Billie
Cara	Hazel Jamie Olive Rosa Millie Aiden Decan
Meet us there	Joshua Taylor Charlie James Delaize Freida Hopaea Zurich Soren Poppy Jack Aleah Hayzin Tumanako Kaelyis-Rae Juan Monty Tyler Scarlett Tahu Meah Kyston Patrick Lucy Finley Kopu Jack Jackson Ellie-Rose Molly Leiki Ben Tilia Nico Elliott Ainsley Azalea Aria
Not Attending	Lo'i Evie Evan Janey Max Bailey Leith Ivy

## FLAGS

You may notice we are flying a range of flags from our flagpole- we have these as they reflect the different cultures that attend our school, as part of our learning in the social sciences.



No, we haven't been taken over by Australia!

## END OF YEAR DAY TRIP TO BROCK'S FARM

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our end of year trip at Brock's Farm at the Whakapapa River. See the information and permission slip at the end of this pānui.

## OWHANGO ADVENTURES – WHANGANUI AWA CANOE TRIP

From the moment we were fitted with our life jackets at Ōwhango Adventures on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we all had a feeling of anticipation and excitement. Thirteen of our year seven and year eight tamariki were preparing for our long-awaited adventure. Both Mr Starkey and I were lucky enough to be going also.



Our starting point to launch our waka (canoes) was at Ngahuinga (Cherry Grove), Taumarunui where the Whanganui awa (river) and the Ongarue awa meet, join together and continue on as the greater Whanganui River. We had a safety briefing from two of our amazing guides, Willy and Maki. They spoke of the cultural and historic significance of this mighty entity and blessed us with a karakia for a journey of peace, safety and happiness. We were lucky enough to have six kaimahi (cultural guides) leading us. Their aroha, laughter, knowledge and care was there right from the very beginning to the very end.

From the heartwarming karanga as we left the shores, to the tranquillity of the Whanganui River, we knew this experience would be one that we would all remember for a lifetime.

There were five canoe in total on our haerenga (journey). The first waka in the water had Delaize in the front seat. The front person had to show good leadership and timing as they set the rhythm for the rest to row with. In the waka with Delaize was Taylor, Cailin and Aiden. TK was their guide. This group showed teamwork and consistency with their hoe (rowing – verb / oar - noun).

In the next waka was Konna in the front, Leith and then Joshua. Konna was heard constantly, he was in his element; his cheeky demeanour meant his waka mates were drenched by the end of our haerenga, not by accident, but by his classmates! It was all in good fun. Willy was their very patient guide.





The next waka had Charlie in front, then Jamie and Piata. Rongomai was their guide. This group were relaxed and flowed quietly down the awa, however were still up for a little splash as they passed another waka, if challenged.

The final waka by far had the most intellectual korero (talk – verb / conversation – noun). Well, that’s what we thought! As it consisted of

Mr Starkey in the front, me , James and our guide Maki. James was treated to interesting information about all the native trees that we passed on the awa, the birds that we saw, and even a little singing once in a while. Lucky James! The other children empathised with James being on a waka with the teachers, but I bet he was grateful when his classmates weren’t allowed to splash our waka because we had the cameras, and they couldn’t get wet (best excuse ever!)



The haerenga was 22km in total. As we were going downstream we weren’t expected to row the entire way. It was very relaxing. Our guides, who had the back seat and steered the waka, instructed us when to row (hoea te waka) and rest (hoe whakatau). There were areas where the river flowed swiftly and we met rapids, there were areas that were wide and still and then areas that magically changed colours as the light reflected. The beautiful summery day only added to the day. It was stunning and an experience and peace that you can only get from a cultural guided tour like this.



We are so very grateful to Grant Lethborg for this amazing opportunity, the awesome kaimahi of Ōwhango Adventures and the tamariki of ours that challenged themselves and came on this once in a lifetime journey with us. We were the first school that they took on the river this season and we were both humbled and privileged. We will remember this trip for a lifetime. If you or your family would like to do this amazing awa trip too, then please don’t hesitate to contact Ōwhango Adventures on [info@owhangoadventures.co.nz](mailto:info@owhangoadventures.co.nz) or Phone: 07-895-4854 Mobile: 027-678-6461. You will not be disappointed!  
Ngā mihi, Jessie Smith

### **The Whanganui Awa – senior class students’ writing excerpts**

The rapids roared, angry and bloodthirsty for the life of our kayak.

As we came round the corner, we could see the biggest rapids yet! The water went from murky brown to rollicking and frothing white water rapids. As we drifted in a straight line towards the rapids, I yelled “all ahead both sides!” As soon as the words had left my mouth, the speed of the Canadian canoe rapidly increased. Now we were going fast. Now we were close, I could see the true size of the rapids. Standing at around my knee height, they were a formidable opponent. By Konna Moss.



I soaked in the rich landscape that surrounded me. The serenity was endless as our waka glided across the tranquil water. We calmly paddled towards a small rapid in sync. I flinched when we neared the

rumbling rapid, but surprisingly we floated over it with ease. I sighed with relief and wondered why I was so nervous. I desperately wanted to go over another huge rapid!

I happily squealed as we progressed over bumpier rapids that caused water to dramatically spray into our wobbly waka. After my endless fit of laughing, we continued our pleasant journey across the Whanganui River. By Cailin Owen

My feet were chilling on the bow of the canoe, sunglasses secure, waiting for everyone to catch up. When all of a sudden our nemesis, Konna's crew sped up and started to pass us! I told my crew Piata and Jamie to paddle hard, then I catapulted water at them as hard as I could, stunning them for enough time for us to make our escape. By Charlie Walton

"HOEA TE WAKA!" our captain said as we crossed some medium sized rapids. The waka jumped and bounced as we went through the rapids but before we knew it our waka started to turn to the right side. We turned around to the side so now we were going down the awa sideways.

By Taylor Faire



Paddling down the calm awa in our waka, I scoop water and chuck it at Josh's canoe. They try to paddle away but we could keep up. We had little water wars along the river. We stopped paddling for a bit because the rough rapids were coming up. But I knew I was safe from the beginning. TK was an extremely awesome controller. By Delaize Te Ahuru-Mahu

As we paddled down the Whanganui River, we rode the rapids. They were calm and then rough to ride on. The river was quiet like a ninja, sneaking up on you disguised as a rock. By Jamie Parry

I grabbed my paddle and then checked if my life jacket was secure. "Yep all ready to go". Charlie, Jamie and I used all of our muscles to push the canoe along the shimmering river. I looked ahead to see the powerful rapids approach.

By Piata Smith

**PTA XMAS PARADE FLOAT - a reminder**

The Christmas Parade is on again on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and you are all welcome to come along and join us on the PTA float truck. Veolia are kindly supporting us again this year with a truck and driver- school dad Justin. There is no theme this year, so can we please have everyone dressed in Xmas clothes or red/green clothes if you do not have anything Xmas themed. You will find us in the lineup of floats, by the Taumarunui outdoor pool. Please meet us there by 11.30 to get onto the truck and get those smiles ready. Parents are welcome to join in the fun. Merry Christmas from the PTA.

**Y1-4 MINI MEEZ BASKETBALL COMPETITION**

Semi-finals draw

3.45pm	Year 3 & 4 MATIERE MAVERICKS V ŌWHANGO GREEN (non comp. game) Court One
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4.45pm	Year 1 & 2 ŌWHANGO SHOOTERS V MANUNUI ALLBLACK'S 4th-5th A GRADE Court Two
5.05pm	Year 3 & 4 ŌWHANGO ALL STARS V MANUNUI WARRIORS 4th-5th B GRADE Court One

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

None this week

**PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING DETAILS:**

**Ōwhango School:** Uniform / stationery / sport fees pay to 03 0426 0141783 00

**PTA:** Fundraisers 030 426 0156205 00

**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:** Blazing Paddles Ltd, Bos Taurus, DR & LA Marshall Ltd, JB & KA Lord, KF or VI Kimberley, MJ & TM Lord, O'Donnell WM & CE, RC & JF Walker, Tylee Family Trust, W Bryan Earthworks Ltd, Waihou Farming Trust.

**Blue Hill Cafe:** Netball sponsorship

**PTA Sponsors:** Ringa Kaha Cabin, The Grounded Artisan, The Park Hotel Ruapehu, Kainui, LPS Cabinetry, Purita Te Manawa, Vertigo Rock Climbing, Thai Restaurant, Blue Hill Café, Liquorland. Pat Lacy Livestock Ltd, Silver Fern Farms, New World, Tongariro Water, Veolia.

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## END OF YEAR TRIP TO BROCK'S FARM

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December, we will be having our end of year trip at Brock's Farm next to the Whakapapa River.

This is an outdoor-based day with fun, challenging, fitness-focussed activities, making the most of the beautiful, local environment. We will be leaving the school about 9:15 to walk down to the farm, the year 4-8 children have the option of cycling down (and back at the end of the day).

If the weather is unsuitable a decision to cancel will be made at 3pm on Thursday (the previous day) and families will be emailed; instead, we will be doing a fun, wet weather alternative programme at school. There is no postponement day.

The children do not need to wear their uniform on this day.

This trip is for current pupils and pre-schoolers and their whanau.

### **Cyclists**

The year 4-8 children have the option to cycle down and back from Brocks Farm. Please check tyres are pumped, brakes work, and wear closed toe shoes and a fitted bike helmet.

### **Walkers**

All children not cycling will be walking down. Please wear suitable, sun smart clothing (shoulders covered) for outdoor activities.

Please wear suitable shoes for walking on the gravel road to the Whakapapa River.

At the end of the day the year 1-2 students only, will have the option of travelling in cars back up the hill to school if there is enough transport.

### **Tubing**

The year 4-8 students will have the option of taking part in tubing in the Whakapapa River. The children will be taught about river safety before the tubing begins. Teachers and parents will also be overseeing that correct safety procedures are adhered to.

Tubing is dependent on river flow and adult support - if there has been a lot of rainfall and the river is too high, tubing will be cancelled. We also need enough adults in the water with the children and on the banks as spotters and lifeguards. If you can assist with this activity, please fill in the form.

To take part in the tubing students must bring back the **permission slip** below.

The children must wear a **bike helmet, sneakers** and a life jacket. We also recommend wearing a wetsuit for warmth! We will be supplying life jackets for those students who do not have their own.

### **Waterslide**

The children will need their togs and towel to participate in our giant water slide. This is suitable for all ages, including adults (if they don't scream).

### **Lunch**

The children will need to bring their own morning tea, lunch and a drink bottle with water in it only.

### **Students will need to bring:**

Water bottle

Sunhat

A morning tea & lunch if they don't like sausage sizzles.

Togs and towel (for water slide)

Year 4 – 8 students taking part in tubing will also need a bike helmet & sneakers to wear in the river, and a life jacket if you have one (otherwise we will have some supplied by Owhango Adventures).

Change of clothes including something warm

You are welcome to bring your own chairs, sunshade etc.

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**BROCK’S FARM PERMISSION & PARENT ASSISTANCE**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December (No postponement date.)

**FAMILY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

My child / children \_\_\_\_\_ have my permission to attend this trip to Brock’s Farm.

**CYCLING** (only for year 4-8)

My child / children \_\_\_\_\_ will be cycling to and from Brock’s Farm and I am confident s/he/they have the stamina and ability to do this. **YES / NO**

**TUBING ASSISTANCE**

I can offer parent help and supervision with tubing- either from the river bank or in the water. **YES / NO**

**CYCLING ASSISTANCE**

I can cycle down and back with the children **YES / NO**

**TRANSPORT**

*Please tick your choice*

I am able to provide smoke free, seat belted transport for \_\_\_\_\_ year 1 & 2 children back to school at the end of the day, in a registered and warranted vehicle that will be driven by a fully licensed driver who adheres to all traffic regulations.

I will be **walking** down & back with the students. **YES / NO**

I will be **biking** down & back with the students. **YES / NO**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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**BROCK’S FARM PERMISSION FORM**

**RIVER TUBING ACTIVITY**

**Please note only children in years 4-8 can participate in the tubing activity.**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of December (No postponement date.)

**FAMILY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

To take part in the tubing students must bring wear a **bike helmet and sneakers.**

I give permission for my child/ren \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the river tubing.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_