



# 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.

Phone 07 895 4823 Cell 027 895 4823

[www.owhangoschool.co.nz](http://www.owhangoschool.co.nz)

Office- Karen Erni -[office@owhango.school.nz](mailto:office@owhango.school.nz)

Principal- Ewan Starkey- [principal@owhango.school.nz](mailto:principal@owhango.school.nz)

School Board Presiding Member- Nicole Hosking- [nichosking44@gmail.com](mailto:nichosking44@gmail.com)

37/2023

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023



**The Tongariro Alpine Crossing Team**

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

## DATES TO NOTE

13 Dec.	Year 8 Leavers' Treat
14 Dec.	Brock's Farm Trip
15 Dec.	Reports Out
	End of Year Break Up and Year Eight Farewell 5pm
18 Dec.	Last Day of School
5 February	First Day of 2024!

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This is a wrap for the 2023 school year.

I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work this year as they have had to cope with large class sizes. Next year this will be alleviated by having the fourth teacher and all classes with less than 20 students. With our enrolment zone in place, we will be able to better manage this in the future. Despite this, I am really pleased, looking at all the testing data that has come in this term, with the academic progress of the

students. It is a testament to the excellent skills and long hours that the teachers put into their work.

Thanks too to the parents and community members who have supported the school in a wide range of ways; a couple of examples are Trisha, Ron and Kim who have been integral to keeping our fruit trees in order and have led the middle room as they work the school garden; Carol O'Donnell who comes in every Tuesday to listen to children read. There are many other examples of community involvement that makes our school a richer learning environment; all are sincerely appreciated.

I wish the year eights a fond farewell as you leave your primary schooling behind and spread your wings in the wider world. Farewell too to the families whose youngest is leaving our school and your current connection to our kura comes to an end: the Allison's, Faires, and the Barkers. I hope you all have a lovely time over the summer holidays and come back refreshed, ready for a new year of learning.

Ngā manaakitanga, Ewan Starkey.

## **END of YEAR BREAK UP and YEAR EIGHT FAREWELL**

On Friday at 5pm we will be holding our End of Year Break Up and Year Eight Farewell in the Ōwhango Hall, followed by a community barbeque. The programme is about one hour long, will run thus:

*Opening Waiata*

*School Board Presiding Member's Speech*

*Individual Student Certificates*

*Middle Room Item*

*Year 8 Farewell Presentations*

*Junior Room Item*

*Classroom Trophies*

*House Shield*

*Senior Room Item*

*Duffy Mainfreight Excellence in Attitude Award*

*Final Whole School Item*

## **COMMUNITY BBQ**

Following the Break Up, you are invited to join us at the school for a pot luck barbeque- please bring something to share, any meat must be defrosted. Note that there is no other way to head food than on the BBQ. Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks and your own cutlery and plates/bowls. Friends and family are all welcome to attend. Kids can bring their togs to have a swim in our pool, but parents will need to supervise them- teachers are off duty!

## **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS**

We are issuing the end of year reports on Friday. The teachers have worked hard to provide an overview of how your child is going at school, academically and socially. We aim for there to be no surprises in them, that they sound true to your understanding of your child. We do contact you during the year if we have any concerns and put in place a programme to address these concerns promptly.

Pay particular attention to the box labelled: *Is working at the National Curriculum level appropriate to year & age*, this shows you whether your child is working where they should be compared with other students their age. For some students this is difficult, or even an unreasonable expectation; in which case the teacher will be watching carefully to ensure that they are progressing at the same rate as their peers, rather than getting further behind.

At any time you are welcome to come in and discuss your child's schooling; it is best to ask for

a time to do this as trying to catch a teacher before school when they are busy preparing lessons can be problematic.

Currently, the biggest negative contributor to academic and social progress is attendance; this year we have some students who have missed large chunks of their schooling, and this has a measurable effect on their learning. I hope that this is just a lingering hangover of the covid era, and that next year we get back to regular attendance across the whole school. Please when you read your reports, look at the attendance comment so you can see how regular your child has been at school for this half of the year. It should be at 90% or above to be attending regularly, anything 80% or below is very concerning; 80% means you have missed one day every week.

## **TONGARIRO CROSSING TRIP- Year 6-8**

Congratulations to the year 6-8 students who showed all of our school values (participation, achievement and respect) while doing the Tongariro Alpine Crossing on Friday. It is a big challenge doing this 19km walk. We started on the track at 8am and were at the end by 5pm. We were treated to the perfect weather, and a great team of adults supporting us. Interestingly six out of the nine adults had not done this walk before. Our goal is to offer this walk once to all students who attend our school; so, the next trip will be in three years.



The beautiful scene as we set off

## **Titanic Tongariro**

Tired eyes on the way to the towering Tongariro. Loose gravel slips between my shoes while Taylor clammers behind. Burnt rock, dug down deep in the colossal crater. The Emerald Lakes, shimmering in the sunshine. Lake Rotoaira, at the bottom of our journey. The Devil's Staircase with the mission in its name. Dazzling daisies, swaying

in the breeze. The end, like a paradise finish line.

By Freida Hoban Age 11



Piata leading across the board walk

### **The Mighty Mountain Challenge**

Hot sizzling sun, dusty, dry, dreading, downhill, Red Crater, formed 300 years ago, spectacular Mars view. White sprinkled snow patch yet sun beaming down. Shredding legs staggering up the rocky mountain. Smokey mist of Ketetahi greeting us. I have finally climbed and met my mighty mountain of Tongariro who towers above us. By Piata Smith



Morning tea at the foot of the Devil's Staircase

### **The Tongariro Crossing**

Climbing the red dusty rocks, I finally reach the top. Looking at the beautiful nature of the Red Crater. Racing down the steep rocky ground, I look around to see the beautiful blue Emerald Lakes, watching the queues grow longer and longer down the maunga. Walking through the bush, all we had to do was push through the pain, thinking of how I will explain this amazing experience. By Tilly and Taylor



The boys after crossing Central Crater

### **Deceiving Distance**

The formidable Tongariro crossing in the distance, defiant of all elements but lava, boardwalk, gravel, stepping stones, stairs, and scree, all playing a part, we discover. Many kilometres, walking and walking until we have a short break. Everyone resting their legs, leaving nothing but track in their wake. Next is the Devil's Staircase, where all the demons live, making the track easier, wanting us to come and arrive, wanting us to stay and keep them occupied. We walk on, living on our pride. By Konna Moss



Trudie and Cara climbing up to Red Crater

### **Tongariro Alpine Crossing**

A magnificent day, yet a horrible pain in my thighs. Leather coloured crater, dark and moody. Devil's Staircase, towering and ready to eat you alive. Emerald Lakes shimmering in the glossy water sparkled like an emerald. The Blue Lake, a circle around a patch of diamond water. Scrambling down loose, brisky gravel, grasping onto walking poles. The glistened eyes of tourists discovering the beautiful sights of Mount Tongariro. Finally reaching the end we all flop to the ground and rip off our hot soggy shoes in relief. By Hopaea



Chanae and Hopaea having lunch at Emerald Lake

### **Tongariro Alpine Crossing**

The deceiving pain was running up my body. I could slowly feel energy floating away in the cold breezy air, I kept on going. We stopped on a wet

dirty rock to have some refreshing cold water while we were slowly falling asleep. As we walked up the tiny, gravelled hill we passed the beautiful coated Red Crater with its stunning views. We slid down a dusty sandy hill as we admired the stunning Emerald Lake as all its magnetic colours shimmered in the beaming sun. As we reached the end of the beautiful green forest we slowly floated down on the hot, dark coloured ground in relief we made it to the end. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing, difficult yet pleasing. By Chanae Sapina

### **Breathtaking Mount Tongariro**

The surreal landscape stretched out for eternity. Courage built up inside me. The subtle breeze gently kissed the delicate daisies. Treacherous Devil's Staircase eating at my shattered legs. The Mars effect secluded me from planet Earth. Breathtaking Red Crater engulfs me in amazement. Glimmering lakes majestically reflect the radiant sun. Stunning Lake Rotoaira sparkled in the forever distance. I was flooded with relief and pride as the finish line came into view. By Cailin Owen

### **SCHOOL BOARD HUI**

At last week's hui we viewed and discussed the core curriculum progress charts and commentaries for the whole school; approved contributing to the cost of the new pool fence; discussed the next steps to get the skate park underway; approved the strategic plan; heard a summary of the principal appraisal and discussed what could happen with this next year; discussed the new classroom and staffroom property update; looked at the draft 2024 budget; discussed what might be put into the next five year property agreement; discussed the attendance figures for the last half of this year.

### **STATIONERY 2024**

In preparation for next year, we just wanted to explain what is happening with stationery.

We will have a stationery pack ready for each child on day one so that you do not need to run around in January buying books etc. You are welcome to purchase special felt pens/colouring pencils etc. for your child, but the core stationery will be provided by us.

These packs are designed to last all year and if your child needs further stationery, we will provide it free of charge. The cost of the pack is \$22 per student.

Please pay to the school account 03 0426 0141783 00 and put STATIONERY 2024 as the reference.

### **DUFFY BOOK SPONSOR NEEDED**

We are looking for another sponsor to support our involvement in the Duffy Book programme. If you or your business would like to sponsor this for 2024, please contact Maree Ashcroft at school.

### **CLASS PHOTOS**

People who have ordered and paid for their class photos will receive these on Friday.

### **SKATE PARK UPDATE**

On Friday, J from J Stone Skate Parks will be at school working with the students to get their ideas for our skate park. Over the holidays he will then draw these up into visual plans.



The juniors showing their turtle art at our assembly

### **SPORTS UNIFORMS RETURNED**

An email was sent out to those people who have not returned their sports uniform. Please, we need these in by Friday at the latest.

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

Thanks to everyone who have returned their permission slips for this trip; these need to be returned before we go, or you will have to stay at home as there will be nobody left at school.

We will decide on whether the weather is suitable on the day before at 3pm, and an email will be sent out saying if it is on or off. However, if we do go, the final decision on whether the river is at a safe level for tubing will be made on the morning, when we are down there.

Please note that this trip is for Ōwhango School students, their parents and younger siblings only; sorry, no high school students.

### What the students will need to bring:

**Water bottle**

**Sunhat**

**Suitable walking shoes**

**A morning tea and lunch**

**Togs and towel** (for the amazing water slide)

**A change of clothes** including something warm.

Kids can wear **mufti**

Year 4 – 8 students taking part in tubing will also need a **bike helmet** and **sneakers** that can be tied on tightly to wear in the river, and a **life jacket** if you have one (otherwise we will have some supplied by Owhango Adventures). **Wetsuits** are optional.

Mr Starkey has done a safety talk with the students about swimming and tubing in rivers, so they are all well prepared. Adults are welcome to bring your own chairs, sunshade, togs etc. We will be departing not long after 9am and be back at school by 3pm.

### **DUFFY BOOK CAUGHT BEING GOOD**

At our last assembly, the following children were awarded:



In junior room: Molly for her excellent effort in all areas; Leiki for her incredible reading and writing progress; Daithi for his marvellous mathematics; Bailey for his helpful and caring attitude; Indie for her great progress in reading.



In the middle room: Meah for her great progress in maths; Aleah for her very good improvement in reading comprehension; Beau for always demonstrating excellent sportsmanship for his

classmates to look up to; Decan for his excellent progress in reading; Millie for working hard in maths.



In the senior room: Gin for always giving her top effort; Chanae for her participation in sports; Darcy for always making a top effort in all areas; Joshua for his excellent effort in the touch training and tournament; Delaize for his excellent leadership in touch rugby and his mean stepping skill; Max for his good effort in kapa haka and singing.

### **LAST DAY OF THE YEAR**

Through trick of the calendar, we have the unusual accident of ending our year on a Monday. On the last day of every term, the kids can wear mufti. The pool will be open, so togs and a towel is recommended. Our day runs the normal hours of 9am to 3pm. If enough kids are interested, we can also run our annual water fight- so bring your water guns, we will have ice cream containers for those without, but no water balloons please because they can hurt.

### **LOST PROPERTY- Final reminder**

Please check the lost property basket for your clothing. It is overflowing. Anything left behind after the last day of term gets biffed.

### **MOBILE LIBRARY- Returning of books**

Students can return their mobile library books to school before the end of the term or deliver them to the Taumarunui Library themselves.

### **SCHOOL POOL KEYS- A final reminder**

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'.

### **Y1-4 MINI MEEZ BASKETBALL COMPETITION**

Congratulations to Ōwhango Green who won the Year 3/4 A Grade, and Ōwhango Shooters who

placed 3rd in the Year 1/2 A Grade. Special mention goes to the following Ōwhango students who received awards at Friday's prize giving:

Kyston Te Ahuru-Watson – Breakthrough Team Choice Award for scoring 56 points this season.

Juan Dutra – Breakthrough Team Choice Award for improvement and attitude.

Monty Hoban – Breakthrough Team Choice Award for attitude, skill set, and contribution to his team.

Kaelyis-Rae Te Ahuru-Watson – Offensive Player of the Year with the most points out of any player in the Year 3/4 grade.

Well done to all the players this season, you all played so well together. Thank you to Jahbon Te Ahuru and Siobhan McKenna-Murphy for coaching.



The Ōwhango Green Team

### PTA RAFFLE RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who supported the PTA Beef Cube raffle, which was recently drawn under police supervision. Congratulations to ticket

number 56: Jessie Smith; perfect timing for those summer barbies!

### PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING DETAILS:

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

**PTA:** Fundraisers 030 426 0156205 00

### 2024 TERM DATES

**Term One-** 5<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Term Two-** 29<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Term Three-** 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Term Four-** 14<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Teacher Only Days-** 4<sup>th</sup> June & 25<sup>th</sup> 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:** Blazing Paddles Ltd, Bos Tauras, 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.



Back Row: Jayden Menefy, Konna Moss  
2nd Row: Piata Smith, Cody Smith, Ewan Starkey (Teacher), Freida Hoban, Rose Bryan  
Front Row: Elise Frampton, Hazel O'Donnell, Ollie Wheeler, Lucas Gavegan, Jack Pierce, Cailin Owen  
Absent: Charlie Walton

Some of our year 8 leavers- when they were in the junior room