



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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1/2024

7th February 2024

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar.

DATES TO NOTE

17 th Feb	Working Bee
28 th Feb	School Board Hui
8 th March	Mountain School Swimming
15 th March	Inter-school Swimming
22 nd March	Bike Trip- Tongariro River Trail
29 th March	Good Friday
1 st April	Easter Monday
2 nd April	Easter Tuesday
5 th April	Yr 5-6 Ki-o-rahi Day
9 th April	Show- Matinee Performance
10 th April	Show- Evening Performance
12 th April	Yr 7-8 Ki-o-rahi Day
	Last Day of Term One

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

2024, almost a quarter of the way through the millennium! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. I managed to get two weeks away exploring the foot of the Himalayas, in Kashmir, India. It was lovely to get to know a different landscape, the people and their culture. It also made me appreciate what we have here.

This term has got off to a great start. Over the holidays we cleaned out and converted the staffroom into our fourth classroom. It is looking great and Whaea Siobhan has put a lot of hours into setting up the room, ready for our learners to arrive.

As part of this process, we have relocated our school library to the corridor. We are waiting for some more furniture to complete this. As we do not have any spare space, the mobile library will not be visiting us this year, so we intend to make a greater use of our school library instead. We are excited to have the library now in a location that enables a whole class to see the books with

ease, it was always difficult in the old location as you could only fit a few children in the area at one time.

We are waiting for the architect to complete the drawings for the new staffroom, I will keep you posted on this once we have more information.

We have the skate park work underway, and the new pool fence will be happening after swimming has completed, sometime after term one. This year will be a big one for many exciting property developments which will make our school even better.

I am really excited with the team we have working this year and with the smaller class sizes. Karen will continue to be working in the office occasionally, so if she isn't in there then see either myself or a staff member.

Ewan Starkey

CLASSROOM KORERO- Lower middles

There has been much excitement about our new classroom:

"The reading rainforest is my favourite place!" - Meah

"I can't believe we get our own big desks!" - Azalea

"Everything is so new, our class is really awesome!" - Daithi Ōg

In week one, we are taking time to get to know each other and what we can each positively contribute to our classroom. We are putting these ideas together in our class waka mural. And we have learned the whakataukī 'He waka eke noa' which suggests working together towards a common goal.

Looking ahead, we will be doing a topic on 'Mythical Creatures' this term, which will integrate reading, writing, visual arts, drama, languages and social studies. Our first focus will be on taniwha. We would love to hear from any

whānau or community members who are willing to share stories of local taniwha or those that relate to your iwi, hapū or turangawaewae. We are especially interested in learning more about the Kawautahi, taniwha of the local Kawautahi lagoon in the valley. Our students love showcasing their culture and identities, and when whānau join in their learning so please do not be shy to come and share your stories with us. All students have been tasked with talking to their whānau about what mythical creatures feature within their various cultures. Students in our class will begin to have homework from next week. This will consist of reading, spelling rules and basic facts. Homework will always be a revision of what we are learning in class. I am looking forward to a full and exciting year with your wonderful tamariki in our new learning space. Whaea Siobhān



Our beautiful new classroom



The Reading Rainforest

WELCOME TO ŌWHANGO SCHOOL

A warm welcome to the Watson whanau who have moved to Ōwhango and enrolled their three children at our school; Lila is year three, Boyd is year six, and Myer is year four.



Lila, Boyd and Myer

WORKING BEE

Please leave Saturday 17th February free to come and help our Working Bee. We will start at 9am and end once the jobs are completed- hopefully it will be done in the morning.

Jobs include:

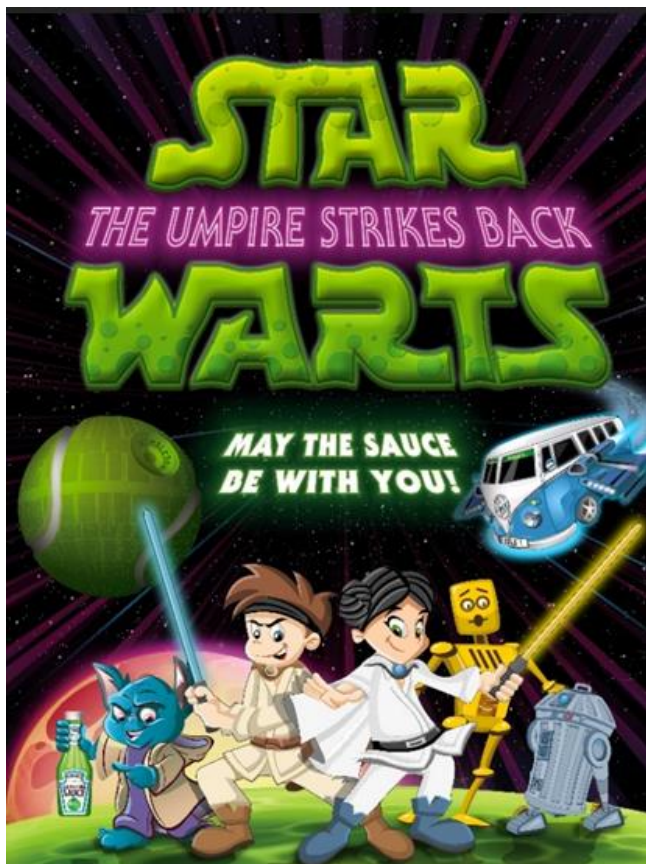
- Waterblast around the buildings (our water pressure only copes with one water blaster working at a time)
- Sand and prime the ball target wall
- Chain sawing firewood – pine slabs
- Transporting firewood to the shed
- Tossing the dry firewood to the back of the shed to make room for the new wood.

SCHOOL SHOW

Emma Tylee is organising and directing our biennial school show this term. It is a humorous show, called Star Warts, and as the title suggests, it is a comedy based on Star Wars and other space adventure stories. This week Emma is auditioning the students for the main parts. With every child being given a part in the show. The show will be presented twice- a matinee in the afternoon, and an evening show, in the last week of this term. Here is Emma's first message about the show:

It's show year! This year we are going to hold our school show in the last week of Term One. Auditions for the main parts are underway today (Wednesday) with rehearsals to start from Monday next week. All students will have a role

to play in the show. Keep an eye out for requests for costume pieces or props in future newsletters. Get ready for more catchy songs and a good dose of dad jokes as Luke Warmwater, Princess Nebula, Daft Ada and friends attempt to save the universe from the evil Umpire of Wimbledon.



The poster for our school show

SUNSMART HATS

We are having so much trouble with children not knowing where their sunhat is, that we are changing our rules around sunhat wearing.

A big part of the problem is that all the hats look the same, so that the children struggle to find their hat, even though they are all named on the inside. So, we are allowing them to bring their own style of hat to school, it can be any colour.

The only rules are ones that are based on being SunSmart:

- The hat must either have a brim that goes all around the hat with a minimum width of 6cm (this is the size of the current bucket hats)
- Or a cap with neck protection so that the back of the neck is covered
- Your hat must have your name on the inside.

STATIONERY 2024

All of the students have been given their stationery packs.

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. If paying by cash, please put it into an envelope with the child/rens name on the outside and hand it into the office.

SWIMMING LESSONS

The teachers are taking daily swimming lessons with their class; therefore it is essential that all children have their togs and towel at school every day if they are to progress with their swimming skills. With the high drowning rate in Aotearoa, we see this as an essential skill, which is why we put so much money into maintaining our pool and adding solar heating to keep it at a comfortable temperature.

We recommend that the children leave their togs at school during the week then take them home to be washed on Friday, so that they always have them here, ready for their lessons. They can hang their togs and towels over their chairs so that they dry overnight.

Any child who is unable to swim for medical reasons must present a note from home explaining . We appreciate your support with this issue.

DEEP WATER SWIMMING EXPERIENCE

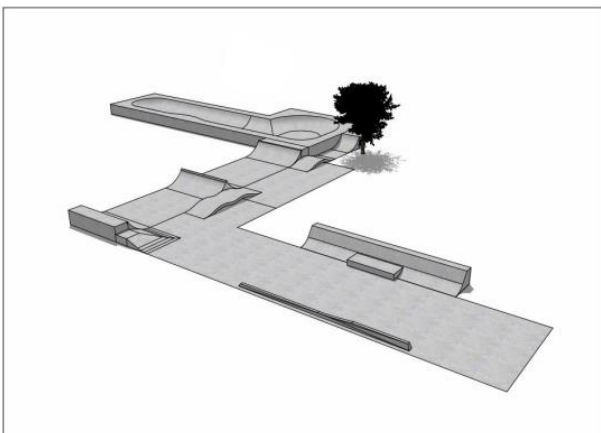
On Thursday 22nd February the Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 students will be travelling into the Trust Waikato Community Pool at Taumarunui High School for a deep-water swimming lesson. Grant Lethborg has generously offered to provide a bus for transport, alongside Theresa Owen and Maree Ashcroft. This is compulsory and a great chance to practise the skills needed for our upcoming Mountain Schools Swimming Sports, such as diving and swimming 25m lengths, which we are not able to practise in our pool. A permission slip will be sent home with these students this week, please return it as soon as possible.



J starts preparing the site

SKATE PARK UPDATE

Over the holidays J was busy finalising the plans for our skate park. He also erected fencing around the construction area and will very soon be onsite getting the groundwork prepared this week. The work should be completed by the end of term one. See the final plan below.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

This order form is going out today. If you would like to order some books from it you need to get the form back to us by the 28th of February.

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- 5th February to 12th April

Term Two- 29th April to 5th July

Term Three- 22nd July to 27th September

Term Four- 14th October to 18th December

Teacher Only Days- 4th June & 25th 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.



More Skate Park action