



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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14/2025

21st May 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." Albert Einstein

DATES TO NOTE

21 st May	Bike-a-thon
2 nd June	King's Birthday Holiday
6 th June	High School Kapa Haka Performance
9 th June	Teacher Only Day- School Closed
10 th June	Arts Fortnight Starts
18 th June	Individual Reports Issued
19 th June	School Disco
20 th June	Matariki
24 th June	Kaitieke School Show Parent Teacher Interviews
25 th June	Assembly School Board Hui
27 th June	Last Day of Term Two

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our Kids Online

We want our school and our community to be a safe place for all children. Our tamariki are growing up in rapidly changing times, and the risk, frequency and severity of online harm are increasing. We need to tackle this as a community.

As such, we are repeating our successful information evening that we did last year, but this year it will be better, as we have filmmaker, author and speaker Rob Cope, producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover:

- **Cyberbullying** - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- **Social media** - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety

- **Gaming and the developing brain** – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- **Naked Selfies** - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school
- **Online predators** - The methods they use, how to spot them
- **Online porn vs healthy sexuality** - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.

Solutions

- **Filters** - Which filters are best and how to install them
- **Smartphones** - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- **Boundaries** - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- **3 golden rules** - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- **Talking to your kids** - How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage** - Reconnecting as a family.

Here is a promotional video for you to watch [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#). The talk will be held at the Taumarunui Memorial Hall on Tuesday 17th June from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Light snacks will be available.

Please note this talk is for **adults only** and is **not suitable** for children or teens to attend. We request that at least one representative from each family attend, and hope you are able to prioritise this within your busy lives. This topic is too big for us not to pay attention.

"We have now reached the point where it is irresponsible of us as parents, teachers, health professionals, and policymakers to continue to put these devices, which are designed to elicit addictive-like qualities, in our kids' hands and then expect them to be accountable for their own wellbeing." **Dr Samantha Marsh** - University of Auckland Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, July 2023

Included in your ticket is a one-year complimentary subscription to **"Parenting in an Online World 101"** from Rob and team at Our Kids Online. This is a cybersafety parenting course, designed specifically for NZ families. It usually costs \$99 per family. So, show up and get it for free! Course details can be found here [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)

Tickets available here:

(<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/our-kids-online-parent-evening-with-rob-cope/taumarunui>) - Ticket sales open Monday 12 May @9am. We also have some tickets for sale from the office. \$10 a ticket.

"We need to tackle this as a community so that all of our kids are safe. When I protected my kids online, I also protected yours, so please, please protect your kids online so that you are also protecting mine" Rob Cope

CLASSROOM KŌRERO - Rimu

Kayaking Adventure on Lake Taupō-nui-a-Tia with Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre

What an absolute pleasure it was to accompany sixteen of my amazing students from Rimu class on an unforgettable kayaking adventure on the stunning waters of Lake Taupō-nui-a-Tia at Waihi, last Wednesday, 14th of May. Unfortunately, many students were unwell or didn't participate, but those who attended had a truly wonderful day.

The conditions on the lake were idyllic, with calm waters and picturesque scenery providing the perfect setting for a day of adventure. It was beautiful and warm, with the sun shining down on us all day. Students developed a range of kayaking skills, built confidence on the water, took part in exciting games, and faced fun

challenges that pushed their boundaries in a supportive environment.

A huge thank you to Michelle, Carly, Te Hau, and Karen, who provided transport to Waihi, Tūrangi, and spent the day with us.

It was a day filled with teamwork, learning, and laughter—an experience enjoyed 100% by all. Ngā mihi, Whaea Jessie.



Showing the beautiful Waihi village in the background



Some games and relationship building with OPC before entering the water



The race is on!



Zurich and Lucas showing off a new trick, sitting on the tip of their kayaks.



Look at those stunning cloud formations, the weather and conditions were idyllic



Mason, enjoying every second on the lake.



Raft up! A skill learned to gather and listen to the instructors.

MISSING JUNIOR ROOM READING BOOKS House Points for Pukapuka

Dear junior room whānau. In recent years we have invested a lot of money into new structured literacy resources including sets of decodable books. Sadly, many of these are currently missing, meaning we are unable to use them with our reading groups.

For the next week, every school reader/book returned to school will receive a house point so

get searching under those beds and bring back our books. Thank you. Ngā mihi, Siobhan

PINK SHIRT DAY

We had a great response to this day. See the photos below.



Rimu



Kahikatea



Kōwhai

BIKE-A-THON – today!

This is on today, at 1:45 in the Domain. The kids will be riding for 45 minutes to get as many laps as possible. Please come along and cheer them on. We will need many hands to help count the kids as they do laps at this event. **Please be prepared to help** - you will be given a clipboard, and we will add the names of kids you know so you can count as they do each lap.

We will have some photos in next week's Pānui.

NEWSPAPER STILL NEEDED

We need some newspaper to do papier mache and to light our fires. Thanks.

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

TACKLE 5 RUGBY TOURNAMENT

This event for year 5 & 6 boys and girls is being run again by King Country Rugby Union on Wednesday 18th June at the Owen Delany Park, Taupō.

This is for students who have been taught how to correctly and safely tackle and be tackled. Each team needs at least five players, girls and boys play in separate competitions. If we do not have enough players to make a team, we will approach other schools to make up the numbers. Please fill out the form below if your child would like to participate.

As this is an extra-curricular event (not part of our curriculum) it needs parent support to proceed; we will not be sending staff along on the day.

Please fill out the permission slip below and return it to school tomorrow so planning can proceed.

PRIMARY NETBALL LEAGUE

Congratulations to Hopaea in the Senior team and Brodie in the Junior team who were voted by their opposition team as the Player of the Day for Week 3.

Week 4 Monday 26th May:

4.20pm TKKM Te Pihinga vs Ōwhango Junior

5.15pm Manunui Falcons vs Ōwhango Senior

Here are the results from this week:

PRIMARY NETBALL LEAGUE	
WEEK THREE	
MATCH RESULTS	
OWHANGO JUNIOR	5 vs 3 TKKM TE KĀKANO
MANUNUI WOLVES	0 vs 14 TKKM TE PIHINGA
TURAKI KŌURA	4 vs 0 TKKM TE KĀKANO
TKKM TE MAHURI	26 vs 2 MANUNUI CHAMPS
TURAKI GREEN	10 vs 27 OWHANGO SENIOR
MATIERE SENIOR	0 vs 36 TURAKI GOLD

PRIMARY
Netball
LEAGUE
TAUMARUNUI

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR HOCKEY

5:20pm Ōwhango vs All Saints



Jack, Lucas and Oliver after their rugby game on Saturday

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

REMANING TERM DATES 2025

Term Two Monday 28th April to Friday 27th June.
(Teacher Only Day Monday 9th June)

Term Three Monday 14th July to Friday 19th September

Term Four Monday 6th October to Wednesday 17th December

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR:

Duffy Books in Schools: W & C O'Donnell, Doyle Valuations, Ōwhango Motors, Awa Rere Hideaway, Tania and Mark Bramley.

Fern Energy Fuel for Schools Scheme

Ōwhango Adventures: Free bus use for trips

Sue Morris and Darren Brown Contactors for the firewood logs and delivery



KING COUNTRY PRIMARY SCHOOLS TACKLE 5's TOURNAMENT

For Year 5 & 6 students only

Wednesday 18th June 2025

OWEN DELANY PARK, TAUPŌ

Family name _____

My child / ren _____ may attend the King Country Primary Schools Tackle 5's Tournament at Owen Delany Park, Taupō

ADULT HELP

YES / NO I can stay and support all day

TRANSPORT

YES / NO I can provide smoke-free, and seat-belted transport for _____ (write number) children, in a registered and warranted vehicle that will be driven by a fully licensed driver who adheres to all traffic regulations. (Note, drivers will be paid some money to go towards their petrol costs.)

If you are assisting with transport:

Name of driver _____

