



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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16/2025

4th June 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"You teach people how to treat you by what you tolerate." Colby Kultgen

DATES TO NOTE

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

Principals Conference

It was worthwhile attending the Rural and Small Schools Principal Conference last week. We had many interesting speakers and workshops. One good announcement made there by the Minister of Education is a new scheme whereby beginning teachers will be paid extra if they work at rural and remote schools after their training. We have been asking for such a scheme for years, as students tend to stay in the cities after their training. It will help relieve the teacher shortage in rural areas.

Our Kids Online

With all the discussion in the media about banning children from social media, and bullying via social media, it is timely that we have the Our Kids Online course coming up soon. Last year we had about half of our families attend this event at school. Everyone who attended talked about how worthwhile it was to better understand how to navigate what is online to protect our children. This year we are bringing the man who made the videos to Taumarunui, Rob Cope, to present the

information in person. We **strongly encourage every family** to have at least one adult attend this event; **this is important.**

Here is a short video explaining this event:

[Our Kids Online Parent Meeting.](#)

We have tickets at the office of this event, or you can purchase online for \$10. It is being held at the Taumarunui & District Memorial Hall on Tuesday 17th June from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

WELCOME TO ŌWHANGO

A warm welcome to Rose, Lily and Grace Blackman who started this week.



Lily Y5, Rose Y3, and Grace Y6

CLASSROOM KŌRERO - Kahikatea

We have been learning about persuasive writing in Kahikatea over the last couple of weeks. We have learnt all the various features of a persuasive text and have tried our hand at a number of different styles of writing. We read a book called 'Busting' by Aaron Blabey about a character called Lou who was busting for the loo – it made everyone giggle when they had to think of persuasive reasons to jump the queue.

We also read the well known picture book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. Using the story as inspiration we had to choose a 'class colour' and write a letter persuading the class to

choose that colour. Here is Aria's persuasive letter...

Dear class,
I want to convince you that blue is the best choice to choose for our class colour. I think that when you read my things, you will agree.
First, blue is a really calm and peaceful colour and if you think about it, you see it every day. Here's some things that are blue: the ocean, the sky (if it's sunny).
Second, in the story *The Day the Crayons Quit*, blue works very hard because he looks short and stubby. This shows that he never gives up. Without the colour blue we would not be able to survive because there would be no water and no sky which means no us! That's creepy.
So let's choose blue as our class colour!
From Aria.

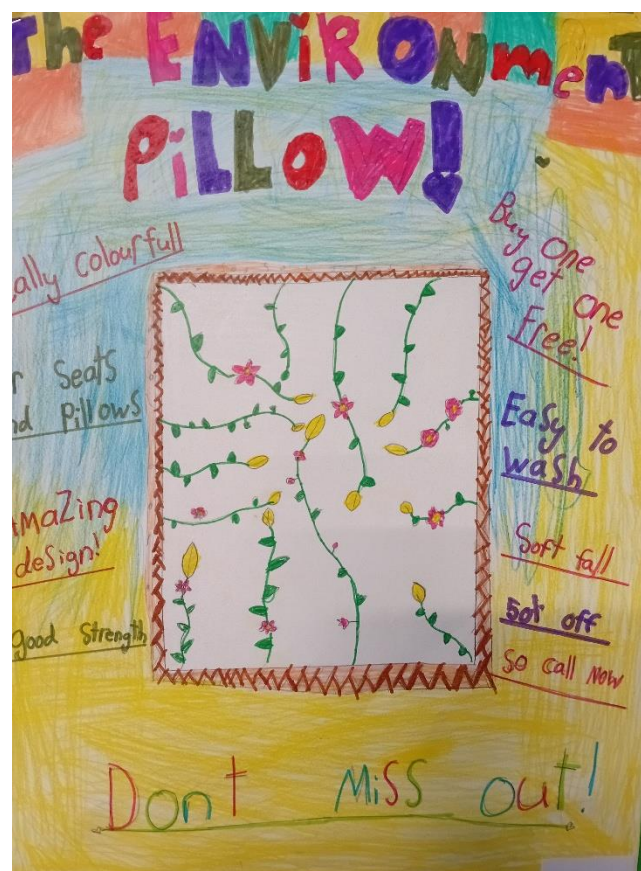
We also learnt how to use persuasive language features to create an advertisement. We chose an everyday object from our classroom and our challenge was to include all of the features we had learnt about to convince you to buy our product. Here are a few of our examples...
And remember, you are always welcome to pop into Kahikatea and see what else we have been up to!



Advertisements by Kahikatea



Billie's advertisement for Glorious Tape



Lila's advertisement for The Enviroment Pillow

FREE SKIING

We are getting the information out about our learn-to-ski programme today, so you have time to organise yourselves for next term.

The good news is that we are making it free for the students this year, thanks to a generous subsidy by the PTA and the School Board.

As our first ski day is on the first week of next term, we need the permission slips back this term, so that planning can proceed. Please read through everything carefully, get yourselves prepared and ask if you have any questions.

VISITING PERFORMERS

Today we had a performance by Co Physical Theatre in the hall. The play, *Speak Up Friend* is a play for years 1 to 8 about having the courage to speak up for your friend. It is about bravery, friendship, spiders and weaving broken things back together. It was an excellent opportunity for our students to see some live, professional theatre and managed to captivate their attention for the whole hour. See the photos below.



The social media influencer



The spider



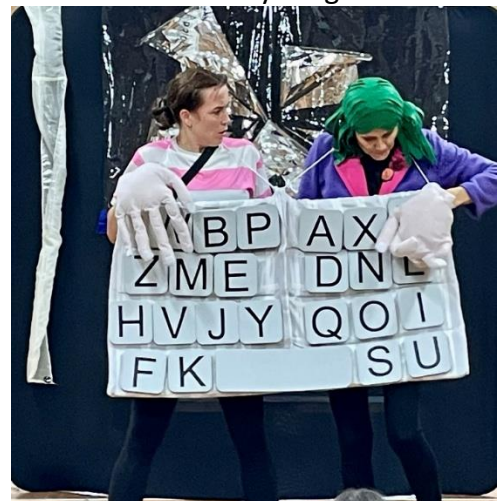
The gossips



The superhero



The smelly dragon



The keyboard warriors

TAUMARUNUI HIGH SCHOOL KAPA HAKA PERFORMANCE- a reminder

On Friday the 6th of June our whole school is going to watch a performance by Te Kāwei Tūroa, the high school kapa haka group as they prepare for the regional competitions. We are travelling in by bus.

BIKE-A-THON

We are still collating the total income and house points for the money side of the bike-a-thon. Please collect and pay your bike-a-thon sponsorship money into the PTA account in one lump sum to 030 426 0156205 00 with your name as a reference, then email the office to confirm you have done this. Thank you.

BIKE-A-THON – a correction

When collating the Most Laps for each age group we overlooked Remy, who did the most for the year 1-2 girls with 16 laps. We apologise for this error.



Honey crackles in the junior room with Whaea
Regan

TEACHER ONLY DAY- a reminder

We, along with most of the kura in Taumarunui have a teacher-only day on Monday 9th June to

work with people from the Ministry to unpack the new curriculum. The school is closed on this day. I apologise if this is an inconvenience for you.

FREE SKI SEASON PASSES- last chance 8th June

Just a reminder that if you would like a free season pass for an Ōwhango School student, contact the office for a special code to enable you to access this. This is strictly for our students only. You do not need this to participate in our school ski programme, but it enables you to ski when not with the school (e.g. weekends and school holidays).

Note to those people who could not access the passes due to a "This voucher has no usage left" message, this issue has been fixed now.

Passes must be requested via their website by the 8th June.

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

HOCKEY

This has now finished. Congratulations to the Ōwhango team who got 2nd equal in the tournament.

Please return your washed uniforms to school.

TACKLE 5 RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Those playing in this tournament would have received an email explaining that they need to register via the new registration platform called Rugby Xplorer. Please make sure you have done this.

PRIMARY NETBALL LEAGUE

Week 6 Monday 9th June:

There are two games next week for the junior team:

3.30pm Ōwhango Junior vs Manunui Wolves

4.20pm Ōwhango Junior vs TKKM Te Kākano

5.15pm Ōwhango Senior vs Matiere Senior

Community Notices

Nothing 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

SKI TIME!

Next term the school is going to Whakapapa ski field on Mt Ruapehu to learn to ski. This notice is to inform you of our plans so you can start to get ready for these trips.

First, we will take the year 4-8 for five days skiing, then we take the year 1-3 children for two days skiing, we have some spare postponement or back-up days in case of bad weather, so there is also a chance that if the weather is good, they might get an additional day. The first ski day (years 4-8) is planned for Friday 18th July (term 3, week 1). Friday is our skiing day for all groups.

Costs: Free!

I want to thank the School Board and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who have once again generously offered to heavily subsidise our school skiing by about \$6,000 each, a total subsidy of \$12,000. Also, thanks to Whakapapa, who run the ski field who give us a cheaper local rohe rate on our package.

Due to this subsidy skiing will be free!

Transport:

We will be using parent cars to get up the mountain. These cars will be reimbursed some petrol money by the Board, based on the number of passengers they take.

The pick-up for the **year 4 to 8** children will be at Owhango School, meeting at 7:25am, departing *on the dot* of 7:30am. If you are late, we will not wait. From there we will go straight to Whakapapa ski field to collect our skis. The **year 1 to 3** ski trips will depart at 8am. These trips are later in the season when the weather is warmer.

All Day Lessons:

This year Whakapapa have offered all day lessons for the children. This means the instructors will really get to know the children and their abilities and be able to progress them further in their skiing. I am hoping that they can also get the same instructor each week as this will help with their progress, though we may need to reorganise the groups as kids tend to progress at different rates.

Parent Help:

We require parent help with this programme, to help the children to get their gear onsite, to navigate through the ski hire area and get to their lessons on time. We also ask you to be present during the lunch time so that we can ensure the kids are managing well. Otherwise, you are able to free ski or snowboard. Parents are welcome to participate in the children's lessons, but remember, the lesson is focussed on the kids, not the adults. If you are not a skier/boarder you are still welcome to come and enjoy a day in the café, catching up with us at lunchtime, or watching and supporting us in Happy Valley; to do this you do not need a lift pass.

For our parent helpers, we get one free ski hire and lift pass for every six students; any additional adults get charged at \$79. We divide this cost amongst all so that everyone pays the same amount if anything; often we have enough free passes to go around.

This Includes:

- Skis, boots, poles & helmet hire
- Lift passes
- Two 1 hour 50-minute skiing lessons by a qualified ski instructor.
- Transport to and from the mountain

This Does Not Include:

- Food
- Goggles / sunglasses (compulsory to prevent snow blindness) note that these cannot be hired but we have some at school that can be borrowed
- Warm and waterproof ski clothes

Free Loan Gear:

We have two boxes of ski clothing and helmets at school you are welcome to come and borrow for the duration of the programme. First in best dressed! Please return these washed.

Please note:

We only teach skiing, not snowboarding as it is too difficult to organise lessons for both as the ability groups become too small.

Clothing / Equipment Requirements:

Ski jacket – waterproof and windproof Thermals / Fleece (long sleeved top and leggings)
 Ski overalls / pants waterproof Sunscreen, lip balm.
 Ski goggles (better for snowy days but can get steamed up on sunny days) and/or sunglasses (best for sunny days) Warm socks (long woollen socks are best- one pair only)
 A neck warmer or balaclava Helmet – free with ski hire, we also have some to borrow at school
 Gloves: it is essential they are waterproof, woollen gloves by themselves are **not suitable**. A spare pair is a good idea as they can get wet then cold (especially if the kids are throwing snowballs!)
 Tie long hair back, low at the bottom of the neck to fit the helmet over the top
 Layers of clothing are preferable, as we get hot, we take off layers but keep on a waterproof outer layer
 Also, clip toenails- it helps when toes are in fitted ski boots all day.

Booked Dates:

Year 4-8					
Ski day one 18/7	Ski day two 25/7	Ski day three 1/8	Ski day four 8/8	Ski day five 15/8	Back up day 22/8

Year 1-3			Whole School
Ski day one 29/8	Ski day two 5/9	Back up day 12/9	Extra Back up day 19/9

Cancellations:

We must decide to proceed or cancel a trip on the Monday before the trip to not incur a large financial penalty from Ruapehu. This decision will be based on the forecast. It is common for us to have to postpone a few times every year, due to the nature of the weather on the maunga. We aim to go when the weather is good, so the children have an enjoyable time.

Illness:

If your child does not attend on the day we get charged for them. If we know your child will be ill, please inform us if your child will not be attending **before the day of the trip**

Compulsory:

This year our learning to ski programme is part of our curriculum, it is compulsory unless you are sick or injured and therefore must stay at home. We will not be providing a teacher at school for anyone opting out.

Finally:

Please return the permission slips promptly so planning can resume with ease- this is quite an administrative juggling act! We need up-to-date information for each trip. So please answer emails or fill in forms when they arrive.

We are including permission slips now for the first trip as it is on the first Friday of next term. We need these back by the end of this term.

Thank you for your co-operation with all of this.

If you have any questions, please come in and talk with me, email me at principal@owhango.school.nz or call me on 07 895 48 23.

Thanks
 Ewan Starkey
 Skiing co-ordinator





2025 OWHANGO SCHOOL SKI PROGRAMME PERMISSION SLIP

Please return this form to school before the end of this term

Pupil's Name/s: _____

My child **has / has not** got permission to participate in the school ski programme. Note any child not participating will have to stay at home as this is part of our curriculum.

Note this year the ski programme is **FREE for the students**.

COST- ADULTS:

Day lift pass, ski hire, and optional lesson with the children.

Adults not skiing do not need to pay this but will be limited to Happy Valley café and plaza area.

Note: For every six students attending we get **one free adult ski hire and lift pass**.

Additional passes cost \$79. We share the cost of any additional passes required (if any) amongst all adults wanting a pass.

We ask for \$40 per day per adult to cover this cost, though you will probably get a refund of some of this money if it is more than we need. This refund will be worked out at the end of the ski season.

\$40 times
the number of days
attending (and circle
the days below)

Total cost for adult \$.....

ADULT ASSISTANCE

Please circle days you will be available to help, note our ski days are all on **Fridays**.

Booked Dates:

Year 4-8

Ski day one 18/7	Ski day two 25/7	Ski day three 1/8	Ski day four 8/8	Ski day five 15/8	Back up day 22/8
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Year 1-3

Ski day one 29/8	Ski day two 5/9	Back up day 12/9
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Whole School

Extra Back up day 19/9

TRANSPORT - We will be using parent cars to get up the mountain. Please indicate if you can provide transport.

I am able to provide transport YES / NO.

I have a 4wd vehicle YES / NO.

I am able to provide smoke-free, seat-belted transport for _____ (write the number including your child) children, in a registered and warranted vehicle that will be driven by a fully licensed driver who adheres to all traffic regulations.

Name of driver _____

MEDICAL CHARGES

If your child is injured on the mountain the medical centre doctor's consultation is free however there is a charge for any consumables used (e.g. x-ray = approximately \$70). Should your child require urgent medical treatment on the mountain, you will be liable for these fees. **By giving permission, I agree to pay for any medical costs incurred.**

PAYMENT for adult passes Note that payment must be made one week before the trip at the very latest.

I enclose \$ _____/Internet banked dated: _____ Signed _____

For internet banking payments please note on the form the date transaction completed.

Bank details: Westpac Taumarunui. Account Number 03 0426 0141783 00