



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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Principal- Ewan Starkey- principal@owhango.school.nz

School Board Presiding Member- Nicole Hosking- nichosking44@gmail.com

20/2025

16th July 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"Fall seven times, stand up eight." –

Japanese Proverb

DATES TO NOTE

16 th July	Water Treatment Opening
17 th July	Life Education Truck Visit
18 th July	Senior Group Ski Day One
21 st July	Year 7 & 8 Basketball Starts
24 th July	Hot Lunch Thursdays Start
23 rd July	Year 5 & 6 Basketball Starts
25 th July	Senior Group Ski Day Two
1 st August	Senior Group Ski Day Three
6 th August	Mountain Schools Cross Country Board Election Nominations Close
8 th August	Senior Group Ski Day Four Junior Rippa Rugby Tournament
15 th August	Senior Group Ski Day Five
22 nd August	Senior Group Postponement Ski Day Interschool Cross Country
29 th August	Junior Group Ski Day One
1 st Sept.	New Principal Appointed
3 rd Sept.	Outgoing School Board Hui
5 th Sept.	Junior Group Ski Day Two Senior Rippa Rugby
9 th Sept.	Donovan Bixley Author Visit
10 th Sept.	School Board Elections- last day
11 th Sept.	Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga
12 th Sept.	Junior Group Postponement Ski Day
17 th Sept.	Interschool Quiz Competition
19 th Sept.	Whole School Postponement Ski Day Last Day of Term Three

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGES

Board Elections

We have our triennial school board elections on the 10th of September this year. We have two current board members standing down, so we need at least two new people to stand. Please consider putting your name forward for this as the board is an integral part of a well-run school.

This is not an onerous roll. Basically, you attend one to two meetings per term to oversee the governance of the school. The school board is responsible for:

- policies and procedures
- planning for the future
- employing all school staff
- complying with the law
- managing budgets.

The board doesn't get involved in operational issues. The principal is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.

See below for the official Election Notice with nomination forms going out to eligible voters. These need to be back by **Wednesday 6th August**, when nominations close.

Principal Position - Timeline

You may have noticed in the local newspapers that the principal's vacancy has been advertised by the School Board. From the applications a shortlist will be made on the 24th of July. Interviews of these applicants will take place on the 23rd of August. The successful applicant will be notified on the 1st of September. An announcement to the community about who the new principal is will be made sometime after this.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO – Rimu

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Kapa Haka Celebration

We are proud to announce that Ōwhango School will be performing at the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Kapa Haka celebration, later this term (week 9). This is the annual school kapa haka festival, held over a three-day period at The Taupō Events Centre Stadium, Taupō. Ōwhango will be performing on Thursday 11 September. This exciting event, held in Taupō, is a celebration of kapa haka – a time to showcase the joy,

discipline, and teamwork involved in Māori performing arts, highlighting whanaungatanga (relationships and connections) and manaakitanga (support and care). Our whole school will travel together to support our kapa haka rōpū (group) and watch kapa haka performances from other schools, making it a full day of culture, connection, and celebration.

Our kapa haka group has now reached full capacity, and we've been incredibly impressed with the enthusiasm shown by our tamariki. The rōpū was thoughtfully selected by Whaea Jessie alongside our teaching team. Students were chosen for their commitment to weekly kapa haka practices, their enthusiasm for singing, and their willingness to perform. We are aiming to attend on the same day as other Taumarunui schools to share this special experience together. This is a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to represent our kura with pride and enjoy the positive, fun spirit of kapa haka.

ŌWHANGO SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Parent Election Notice

Nominations are open for the election of 5 parent representatives to the school board. All eligible voters will receive a nomination form. Use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community. You will also receive a nomination cover letter calling for nominations. Information on who is not eligible to be a board member is provided with this notice, and the nomination form. If you need more nomination forms, contact the school office. Nominations close at noon on **Wednesday 6th August 2025**. You may provide a signed candidate statement and photograph with your nomination. The electoral roll is held at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours. As nominations are received, there will be a list of candidates' names kept at the school up until election day, which you can view. Voting closes at 4pm on 10th September 2025.

Maree Hodges
Returning Officer

SPELLING BEE-postponed

Due to a lack of entries from schools, the spelling bee has been postponed. The organisers are

looking for an alternative date that enables more schools to attend. We will keep you informed.

DUFFY CAUGHT BEING GOOD.



Jonny for being a great role model and keeping your peers / classmates in line; Beau for settling into your work quickly and producing excellent mahi; Monty for being a great leader and leading by example; Grace welcome to Ōwhango School; Poppy for persistence and excellence with printmaking throughout the arts fortnight



Lily welcome to Ōwhango School; Aria for her excellent participation and beautifully woven art pieces during visual arts fortnight; Daithí Óg for his excellent planning, creative mind and strong technical skill shown throughout visual arts fortnight; Jackson for his excellent progress in reading and maths; Rose welcome to Ōwhango School; Millie for showing outstanding effort in all areas and always giving her best with a positive attitude.



Coby for his excellent progress in maths; Harley-John and Kruza- welcome to Ōwhango School;

Indiana for consistently showing kindness to others and caring for our environment; Harper for her excellent progress in reading; Jordie welcome to Ōwhango School; Kotuku for his great effort and participation in our hunting and fishing topic.

HOT LUNCH THURSDAYS

Next week, we start our weekly hot lunches; this is a PTA fundraiser. Please note that this year it will be cash only, paid at 9am on the day. The prices remain the same as last year.

PTA HOT LUNCH THURSDAY MENU

Pies \$4

Sausage Rolls \$4

Hot Dogs \$4

Milo \$1 bring your own named cup.

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM UPDATE

Over the holidays we had many tradesmen onsite installing our units into our multi-purpose room. It is almost finished with some trim needing to be installed, and then we can move in all of the things we will store in there. And then we can start using it! See the photos below.



The sinks and ovens



The storage cupboards and windows that now open

SKIING

Our first senior group ski day is on Friday this week.

Despite there being limited snow with only Happy Valley beginners' area open, we will still be proceeding. It will be a great chance for the students, most of whom have not skied for at least two years (last year's ski camp did not proceed), to get back onto the snow and reestablish the skills that they have previously learnt. For our new skiers it will be a great way to learn how the day runs, how we get our ski hire equipment and have the support of their peers who are familiar with this experience.

If the weather is not suitable for the trip, we will cancel and inform you via email on the day before (on Thursday) at 3pm at the very latest. So, keep an eye on your emails if the weather is a bit iffy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if any changes are needing to be made; this is a lot to organise, and we do not always think of every detail.

This is a long day- with the children arriving early to school- the Senior Group depart at 7:25. We aim return to school around 4:00pm. If you have a sibling who needs to also be dropped off at school early or stay late, we will have a teacher onsite to look after them.

Please note that we need to cancel a child's booking, we need to do this 24 hours before the trip to get a refund. So please give me advance notice if you know your child will not be attending, just not turning up on the day means we still need to pay for their day.

I have inserted all the updated information at the bottom of this panui. An earlier version of this was emailed out on Saturday, this version has corrections in it. Please let me know if anything is not accurate.

Ewan Starkey

WATER TREATMENT OPENING

The school is participating in the Ōwhango Water Treatment Plant Opening celebrations in the Ōwhango Hall on Wednesday (today) at 10:30am. Whilst there we will be experiencing storytelling, STEM programme with Filtec, a Civil Defence display, and finishing off with a free sausage sizzle.

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: Dealing with Boy Energy!

Dealing with boy energy can be a challenge, but it's also an opportunity to guide their natural strengths.

My boys have a lot of energy, and while wrestling and testing their strength is a healthy part of learning to control their bodies and tempers, I'm here to help them channel that energy. By looking into who they truly are, I can help them discover their unique abilities and guide them on the path to becoming gorgeous young men who are full of life, purpose and wonder.



Control + Click to follow the link

SCHOOL BOARD HUI

At our last board hui we discussed:

The pleasing academic progress of the students in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing and maths; how our attendance goal is tracking; the school house; how the principal appointment is progressing; the board elections; the current building projects; a letter from a former parent; concreting the driveway at the entrance where the tar seal is broken; and we approved last years audited accounts.

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

The Taumarunui Junior Basketball Competition begins week 2 of Term 3, (next week) at the Taumarunui Athletic Stadium. We have enough players to make two teams within the Year 5/6 Grade and one team in the Year 7/8 Grade. Thanks so much to parents for offers of help and coaching.

Ōwhango Blaze (Year 5) Coach - Andrea Lethborg,

Ōwhango Thunder (Year 6) Coach – Karen Komene,

Ōwhango Breakers (Year 7/8) Coach – Lakenn Te Ahuru / Nicole Hosking.

Sports t-shirts will be allocated this week, please make sure players wear these each week as Taumarunui Junior Basketball will allocate their name to their number for the season. Please remember to pay your \$15 to the school office **this week**.

Monday 21st July

Ōwhango Breakers (Year 7/8) BYE

Wednesday 23rd July

3:45pm Court 2 Ōwhango Blaze (Year 5) vs Manunui Dunkers

3:45pm Court 1 Ōwhango Thunder (Year 6) vs TPS Grass Hoppers

ANOTHER NETBALL TOURNAMENT

We have been invited to register a team in the following tournament, please see the below notice and attached flyer. Note that this is only open for Rimu (Senior Class). If your child would like to play in this tournament, please return the attached permission form by Monday 21st July. We will also need a parent to coach and a parent referee to register.

We're excited to announce a Mini Netball Tournament happening next Sunday, 27th July. Apologies for the short notice — we've just received approval from the execs! This tournament is a great warm-up for our final tournament in Cambridge the following weekend. We've invited a few school teams to join us and are still waiting on final confirmations, but it's looking promising so far. We're planning for: Year 7 Pool Year 8 Pool Possible Mixed/Middle Pool depending on numbers. Entry is FREE, and if teams require umpires, we'll do our best to supply them. PDP players are expected to participate and play in the teams. We'll also have a BBQ stall running on the day with sausages, drinks, and more available for purchase. Game times and start-of-day details will be confirmed closer to the date. Lots of prizes up for grabs Looking forward to a fun and competitive day of netball!

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 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

Senior Group Ski Day One Information for Parents

Year 3 ½ - 8 Friday 18th July 2025

We have 44 students on this trip for years 3 ½ -8 (we have three Year 3 students coming who met the criteria to attend with this group). As our ski camp last year was cancelled, for most it will be the first time skiing for two years so we will be taking things slowly, getting back into the routines, and remembering what to do. I have made a rough guess of what level lesson each student needs, but these will be adjusted on the day if we see evidence that it is not appropriate. Please note that these are not social groups- often children want to be in a group with their mates, rather than at their level.

One change this year is we get all day lessons. These start at 10:30am (we must be there ten minutes before the start) and finish at 3pm, with an hour break at approximately 12:20. Lessons start in Happy Valley.

The day runs like this.

It is an early start- we meet at school at 7:25am and depart school at 7:30am; if you are late, we will not wait. From school we drive up to Whakapapa, turning left at Waimarino (formally known as National Park Village), and right to State Highway 48 past The Chateau and up the Bruce Road to the ski area. You can either drop your students at the very top, in the five-minute drop-off zone (I will be there to oversee them), then find a parking place, or you can find a parking place and then walk up the hill with them. Do not leave any of the kids gear in the car as we do not return to these until the end of the day.

From there we go to Happy Valley to dump our bags in one place then get our ski equipment. We all get fitted with skis, boots and helmets- the younger or newer kids will **need adult help with this please**. Kids need to make sure they do not leave anything behind in the hire shop, often gloves, sunglasses get left behind. I will get the ski passes and hand these out after you have your skis. The kids will also put on their Ōwhango School ski bibs- these must always be worn on the outside of their clothes when skiing so we can easily identify them.

Then it is a good time to go to the toilet and have a snack.

There should be enough time to have some warmup laps skiing down Happy Valley. BUT it is important that the kids are ready for their lesson, standing by the lesson flag meeting area at 10:20am.

Once the lessons are underway the adults can either join in the lesson or have some free time. Meet us back in Happy Valley for lunch at 12:00. After lunch they have the second part of their lesson. There is a possibility that we change the groups around as the ski instructors fine-tune their groupings to ensure that the kids are getting lessons at their current level. Adult helpers are again having free time, until the lesson ends at 3:00pm. **At this point we need adult help** to manage the students as they are tired, need to return their hire gear, not lose their own gear, return their ski bib and lift pass to Mr Starkey, have a snack, etc. If any carloads want to stay longer (lifts close about 4:30pm) then let me know but note that I need to get the students ski passes and school bibs back. We aim to get the kids back to school at

4pm. If you have a sibling who needs to also be dropped off at school early or stay late, we will have a teacher onsite to look after them.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT: all adult helpers must put my cell phone number into their phone so you can contact me on the mountain- 027 631 8631.

Bad Weather

We decide about whether we can proceed by 3pm the day before, this will be emailed out. There is an expectation that we will proceed unless the mountain is closed, even if only Happy Valley is open.

Absences

Please note that to cancel a child's booking, we need to do this 24 hours before the trip to get a refund. So please give me advance notice if you know your child will not be attending, just not turning up on the day means we still need to pay for their day.

Also note that this year skiing is a compulsory part of our physical education programme; there will not be a teacher at school to look after students who do not attend.

Attachments Below

Please check the following information is correct:

- Transport List
- Adult Passes
- Lessons
- Clothing & Equipment Requirements

SENIOR SKI DAY 1 Friday 18th July

TRANSPORT			
Driver	Can fit	4WD	Students (44)
Trudie Wheeler	4	Y	Oliver Mason Monty Jonny
Michelle Ross	4	Y	Ivy Gin Chanae
Te Hau Blackman	4	Y	Hopaea Tahu Nico Tilia
Reuben Hardwidge	2	Y	Darcy Hazel
Nicole Hosking	4	Y	Zurich Soren Juan Ewan Starkey
Lakenn Te Ahuru	3	Y	Hayzin Azalea
Haylie Martin	3	Y	Poppy Patrick Jack P
Jessie Smith	4	Y	Te Hana Theresa Owen Charlotte
Melissa Blackman	Meet there	Y	Grace Lily
Karen Komene	Meet there	Y	Lachlan
James Hunt	3	Y	Olive Hinemoa
Tania Bramley	4	Y	Harry Billie Beau
Jesse or Dale Closter	3	Y	Rosa Millie Indie
Maree Hodges	Meet there	Y	Haylee
Deb Pritt-Stewart	3	Y	Elliott Brodie Danielle Mitchell
Erin or Hayden Wind	4	Y	Libby Lucy Ainsley Katie Parkinson
Kereama Watson	2	Y	Kaelyis-Rae Kyston
Michelle Gavegan	Meet there	Y	Lucas
Bill or Sally Bramley	Meet there	Y	Leiki
Kids Not Going			Daithi Òg

PASSES-ADULTS		
NEED A PASS & SKIS – 1 free:6 kids With 42+ kids, we get 7 free passes and 7 discounted passes. Any additional passes are at full price	ADDITIONAL ADULT PASS- at full price	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Maree Hodges		Ewan Starkey

Te Hau Blackman		Michelle Gavegan
Reuben Hardwidge		Tania Bramley
Nicole Hosking		Bill or Sally Bramley
Karen Komene		James Hunt
Lewis Stewart		
Erin or Hayden Wind		
Jessie Smith	NOT NEED A PASS- not skiing	
Theresa Owen	Melissa Blackman	
Katie Parkinson	Michelle Ross	
Lakenn Te Ahuru	Trudie Wheeler	
Haylie Martin		
Kereama Watson		

LESSONS	
All Day Lesson Times: 10:30- 12:20 then 1:00 to 2:50	
<i>Note- Supervising adults are welcome to join in on lessons with the students if they ride or ski at a similar level – however the focus of the lesson will be on the students.</i>	
First Time Skier	
Grace, Lachlan, Lily, Hinemoa, Libby	
5 students	
Green Runs- Beginner	
Lucy, Patrick, Ainsley, Azalea, Kyston, Indie	
6 students	
Blue Runs- Intermediate	
Hazel, Gin, Tilia, Ivy, Hopaea, Darcy, Jack P, Beau, Hayzin, Poppy, Juan, Jonny, Mason, Kaelyis-Rae, Tahu, Nico, Brodie, Olive, Harry, Rosa, Te Hana, Billie, Millie, Haylee, Elliott, Daithi O'G, Charlotte Leiki, Chanae	
28 students	
Black Runs- Advanced	
Oliver, Lucas, Monty Zurich, Soren,	
5 students	
Total 44 students	

A Reminder of the 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 as you don't want extra bulk in your ski boots)

A neck warmer or balaclava Helmets are free with ski hire.

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.

Finally, thanks for your assistance with making these trips happen for our kids.
Ewan Starkey, Skiing Co-ordinator

Mini Netball Tournament

(This is an extra-curricular activity- outside of school hours)

Sunday 27th July

Taumarunui Netball Centre

Child/ren's Name/s.....

School Year/s.....

Parent:

Yes / No I can coach the team. (Please circle your answer)

If you have your umpires' ticket and can umpire **Yes / No** (Please circle your answer)

Adult's Name.....



TAUMARUNUI
Netball
MINI TOURNAMENT

FREE REGISTRATION
COOL PRIZES

SUNDAY 27TH JULY
11AM START

REGISTRATIONS DUE IN
BY WEDNESDAY 23RD
JULY.

SEND REGISTRATIONS TO
TE ANNA PHILLIPS OR
ELKANAH ANDREWS-PETERS.
TEEBABY09@ICLOUD.COM
ELKANAH PETERS843@GMAIL.COM

SAUSAGE
SIZZLES AND
DRINKS FOR
SALE

Ready. Net. Go!

TAUMARUNUI
NETBALL CENTER
41 TURAKI STREET



Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know
to be a school board member.

Contact the Returning Officer- Maree Hodges email: maree@owhango.school.nz



SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTIONS