



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

21/2025

23rd July 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!" Steven Wright

DATES TO NOTE

23 rd July	Year 5 & 6 Basketball Starts
24 th July	Hot Lunch Thursdays Start
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

Term Two Attendance

One of our goals this year is to increase our attendance rates.

The figures for Term Two show a great improvement in the number of students who are **Regularly Attending** (i.e., attending school 90% or more of the term)—with **74%** achieving this. This meets our goal of having more than 70% of students attending regularly.

Unfortunately, we still have concerns with students who are classified as **Chronically Absent**

(attending school less than 70% of the term), and those who are **Moderately Absent** (attending between 70–80% of the term). The main reason for many of these lower attendance rates is students taking holidays during the school term. If we are serious about improving attendance—and about ensuring our students maximise their learning—we need to prioritise taking holidays during the 12 weeks of the year when the school is closed for instruction. They are called *holidays* for a reason!

2025 Attendance Goal

Percentage of days your child is at school	Ministry Terminology	Attendance Goal 2025	Term One Attendance	Term Two Attendance
Less than 70%	Chronic Absence	0%	6%	6%
70% - 80%	Moderate Absence	<4%	8%	9%
80% - 90%	Irregular Absence	< 26%	20%	12%
90%+	Regular Attendance	>70%	66%	74%

WELCOME TO ŌWHANGO

A warm welcome to Briarni and Ataahua-Violet Leat who have enrolled at our school.



Briarni and Ataahua-Violet

CLASSROOM KŌRERO – Kōwhai

What an exciting time Kōwhai students have had in the holidays, visiting whanau, skiing, playing, building, creating and much more. We are excited to start the term with a new friend in Kowhai. Briarni is five years old and is a very talented artist, who loves to draw. Haere mai, Briarni.

We have been so lucky to visit Harold the Giraffe in the Life Education truck to learn all about healthy food choices, everyday Vs sometimes foods, where our food comes from, and the amazing things good food can do to help our bodies grow strong and healthy.



Janey uses her number line to check her mahi.

In writing, we are learning about narratives. We have learned about different parts of narratives like the beginning, middle and end and using characters and settings to keep our stories interesting. We have been using 'twisted' fairytales and classic narratives such as 'The Gruffalo' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to identify various features of narratives. Check out our fun Gruffalo crafts, that supported our understanding of parts of stories, as well as developing our fine motor skills through cutting, gluing and handwriting. We read 'The Quangle Wangle's Hat' and imagined what the Quangle Wangle Quee looked like to help support our thinking around character development. Here are a few examples from our lessons on planning a beginning, middle and end of a short narrative:

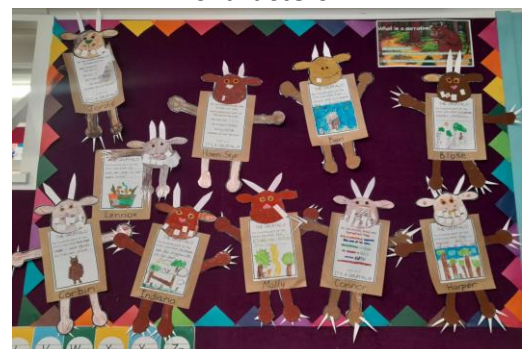


Kowhai kids with Harold the Giraffe.

In maths, we are kicking off the term by revisiting different addition and subtraction strategies. Some students are adding/subtracting to five or ten using Numicon shapes, others are adding single digits to the number ten, and older students are learning to use the part/whole model to add and subtract larger numbers. We have also been using number lines to support or independently check our mahi. On Fridays, we will have a different focus, which will be all about statistics.



Indie, Molly & Hunter and their Quangle Wangle characters.



Our Gruffalo wall.

"I had my 7th birthday. I put on a party hat. Then I got a slice of cake. It was fantastic! Then I unwrapped my presents excitedly." -Eric



Eric uses visual clues to write his narrative.

"It was my 7th birthday. First, I put my birthday hat on my head. Then, I blew out the birthday candles on my birthday cake. It was delicious. Last, I gently opened my presents. I had a great birthday party." -Ben

"It was my birthday. I was happy because it was my party. Then I blew out the candles and ate my cake. Then I unwrapped the presents. I got a soccer ball. Last, I unwrapped the second present. It was Barbies." -Remy

In health and P.E., we are not just learning about healthy eating but also working on our fitness and gross motor skills in preparation for the upcoming cross country events. Please ensure tamariki have running shoes and a water bottle to bring to the domain each day for this. We have a busy and fun-filled term ahead of us in Kowhai and we are all very excited for it! Nga mihi, Whaea Siobhan



Corbin and Molly developing their characters.



Haven-Skye and Ben with their completed Gruffalos.

KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE

Over the next few weeks, we will be teaching the following units:

Knowing What to Do: Me Mohio Kia Pehea (Years 0 – 3),

Getting Help: Te Whiwhi Awhina (Years 4 – 6)

Standing Up for Myself (Years 7 -8).

These are part of the personal safety programme *Keeping Ourselves Safe*.

Keeping Ourselves Safe has been designed to give students the skills to cope in situations involving personal safety. It has three overall aims:

- To develop and strengthen children's skills to keep themselves safe with other people.
- To support and encourage at risk children to get help from caring adults.
- To make teachers and parents/caregivers more aware of the need to keep children safe from abuse by adults and other children.

Keeping Ourselves Safe will be taught by your child's teacher, with support from the local School Community Officer as required.

To be successful. The *Keeping Ourselves Safe* needs your help and support. Your child will have Home Book Activities to work on with you.

It is important that you participate as much as possible and talk to your child about what they have been learning. This will help reinforce the messages the school is giving and help your child to use his or her new skills with confidence.

Please contact the school if you would like any more information about the programme or about child abuse.

Here is a link to more information about this programme:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-and-community-advice/school-portal/resources/successful-relationships/info-parents-whanau>

HOT LUNCH THURSDAYS

Tomorrow, 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.

SKIING

Our first senior group ski day was a great success, with beautiful weather and excellent support. Thank you everyone for your support with this. It was great to see our first time skiers get going and within a day all of them were skiing down confidently controlling their speed and turning in both directions.

The new system of having all day lessons is making a difference- with the instructors being able to get to know the kids, and to progress them better. They will have the same instructor this week, though there is a possibility that some children will get moved around groups if they progress at different rates, or if group numbers need to be better balanced.

This week we are looking at being able to go on the Rangatira chair lift and access the Rock Garden slopes.

Also, the Double Happy chair lift in Happy Valley is now operating, so those students who have never ridden on a chairlift can learn on that first. Please check the Day Two information below and get back to me if anything needs changing or if you have any questions.

I have had several requests for high school siblings to come along with us on our ski trips. I encourage you firstly to participate in the high

school's snow programme, I do not encourage truancy from school. If they do come along on our day, you must purchase all lift, ski hire and lessons through Whakapapa's customer services. They cannot piggyback onto the discounts allocated to Ōwhango School students.

On Fridays, Siobhan will be in the junior room from 7:20am so that year 1-3 siblings of skiers who need to arrive early will have a warm space, activities and supervision before school starts. Likewise, she will remain at school until skiers and whanau return for their siblings. Students who need supervision on these days must be dropped off directly into the junior room and picked up from the junior room at the end of the day, so that she can account for additional students at these times.

Thanks, Ewan Starkey



Jonny gets some air



Josh leads our first time skiers down the hill in a good pizza / snowplough



Katie, Maree and Theresa give their ski legs a good work out



The kids listen to Heidi



Instructor Mia leads her group in a drill



Indie, Patrick and Azalea found some time to play in the snow



Ainsley zooms by



Lachlan made great progress on his first day skiing



At the end of the day, we had to try to find our gumboots!

YEAR 1-4 INTERSCHOOL RIPPA RUGBY

The Year 1–4 Rippa Rugby is Friday 8th August at the Taumarunui Domain.

- Participation in this event is compulsory for all Year 1–3 students who are not in the Senior Ski Group.
- For Year 3–4 students in the Senior Ski Programme, participation in the Rippa Rugby tournament is optional, however you will miss that ski day. If your child chooses to take part in the tournament, this decision is final. Their ski lessons and passes for Friday 8th August will be cancelled and cannot be reinstated, even if the tournament is postponed.

Please complete the attached permission slip and return to the office by Friday 25th July.

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: Parents' Guide to Movies and TV

Not sure if a movie or TV show is age-appropriate for your child?

Before they watch, check:

- IMDB Parents Guide – detailed breakdowns of violence, language, sex, and more.
- Common Sense Media – reviews, age ratings, and what to talk about after the credits roll.

Know what they're watching — and make informed choices that fit your family!



Control + Click to follow the link

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Presently we have two nominations for the five positions on the School Board. Nominations must be in by Wednesday 6th August.

Maree Hodges
Returning Officer

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Week 2 Monday 28th July

4.30pm Ōwhango Breakers (Year 7 & 8) vs Tokirima Warriors

Week 2 Wednesday 30th July

4:15pm Court 1 Ōwhango Thunder (Year 6) vs TKKM Te Aurere

4:45pm Court 2 Ōwhango Blaze (Year 5) vs Matiere Mana

Community Notices

TAUMARUNUI HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

See the poster below.

If caregivers cannot make this evening, they are welcome to contact me any time from now on, to enrol their Year 8 for Year 9 2026.

Julie Gilbert

Enrolment Coordinator

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 SKI DAY 2 Friday 25th July

TRANSPORT				
Driver	Can fit	4WD	Students Coming (45)	
Trudie Wheeler	4	Y	Oliver Mason Monty	
Michelle Ross	4	Y	Ivy Gin Chanae	
Te Hau Blackman	4	Y	Hopaea Tahu	
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	
Jessie Smith	4	Y	Te Hana Theresa Owen Charlotte	
Melissa Blackman	Meet there	Y	Grace Lily Rose	
Karen Komene	2	Y	Lachlan	
James or Kaaryn Hunt	3	Y	Olive Hinemoa	
Tania Bramley	Meet there	Y	Harry	
Carly Marshall	4	Y	Jonny Nico Billie Beau	
Jesse or Dale Closter	3	Y	Rosa Millie Indie	
Maree Hodges	Meet there	Y	Haylee	
Deb Pritt-Stewart	3	Y	Elliott Brodie	
Katie Parkinson	4	Y	Ainsley Libby Lucy Danielle Mitchell	
Michelle Gavegan	Meet there	Y	Lucas	
Bill or Sally Bramley	Meet there	Y	Leiki	
Jessica McNaught	?	?	Jack P	
Dave Murphy	Meet there	Y	Daithì Òg	
Kereama Watson	2	Y	Kaelyis-Rae Kyston	
Kids Not Going			Tilia	

PASSES-ADULTS		
NEED A PASS & SKIS – 1 free:6 kids With 42+ kids, we get 7 free passes and 7 discounted passes @ \$79pp Any additional passes are at full price	ADDITIONAL ADULT PASS- at full price	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Maree Hodges	None	Ewan Starkey
Te Hau Blackman		Michelle Gavegan
Reuben Hardwidge		Tania Bramley
Nicole Hosking	NOT NEED A PASS- not skiing	Bill or Sally Bramley
Karen Komene	Melissa Blackman	Dave Murphy
Deb Pritt- Stewart	Michelle Ross	
Jessie Smith	Haylie Martin	
Theresa Owen		
Katie Parkinson		
Lakenn Te Ahuru		
Trudie Wheeler		
Kaaryn Hunt		
Jessica McNaught		
Kereama Watson		

✂-----

Year 1-4 Rippa Rugby Tournament Permission Slip

Friday 8th August 2025

Cherry Grove, Taumarunui; 9:30am start, departing School at 8:50am

Please note that this tournament is compulsory for Year 1-3 students not participating in the Senior Ski Programme. These students are expected to attend as part of the curriculum.

*Please return permission slip by **Friday 25th July***

Family name _____

My child / ren _____ may attend the Rippa Rugby Tournament at Taumarunui Domain.

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.)

Do you live outside Ōwhango and will be **meeting us at the venue** in Taumarunui because it is closer to travel there rather than help bring children to this event? YES / NO

YES / NO I will be sending a booster seat for my child
(Note by law children under 7 must be in a booster seat)

If you are assisting with transport:

Name of driver _____

Positive Adult Behaviour Agreement

By signing this form, I acknowledge and agree to support the following expectations:

- I will uphold **Positive Sideline Behaviour** by encouraging all tamariki, showing respect to referees, coaches, and other whānau, and supporting fair play.
- I understand that **coaches coach and referees officiate**, and I will not interfere or give instructions from the sideline.
- I will ensure that my behaviour contributes to a **safe, inclusive, and respectful environment** for all participants.
- I agree to the Taumarunui Youth and Community Trust's **Positive Vibes Only** approach and will support their officials, staff, and volunteers in delivering sport for our tamariki.
- I understand that **poor sideline behaviour may result in myself or my child being removed** from the activity or event.

Let's work together to make school sport a positive experience for every child. By signing below, I agree to the above conditions.

Parents/Caregivers Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

TAUMARUNUI HIGH SCHOOL

2025 OPEN EVENING

4:30 - 6:30^{PM}
THURSDAY 7 AUGUST

Explore the empowering
education we offer our learners
**spot prizes, guided tours,
interactive activities
and light refreshments**



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2026



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