



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

24/2025

13th August 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you" *Steven Wright*

DATES TO NOTE

15 th August	Senior Group Ski Day Five
20 th August	Duffy Role Model Assembly
	Yr 7 & 8 Ngāti Haua Day
22 nd August	Senior Group Ski Day Six
	Interschool Cross Country
27 th August	Yr 5 & 6 Ngāti Haua Day
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 Ski Day Three
16 th Sept.	School Assembly
17 th Sept.	Interschool Quiz Competition
19 th Sept.	Whole School Ski Day
	Last Day of Term Three

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGES

Going Green for Kyra

Our school is supporting the Green for Kyra fundraising appeal for our beautiful friend, colleague and the most amazing principal of Turaki School - Kyra Leatuafi, who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Kyra has been a wonderful leader of her school and hard-working supporter of the area's education, and we are all quite shocked and saddened by this news and are working hard to support her and her whānau during this time.

Ōwhango School will be joining the Green for Kyra day on Tuesday 19th August. Wear GREEN (Kyra's favourite colour) and bring a koha, which will be passed on to Kyra's whānau to support them during this hard time.



CLASSROOM KŌRERO – Kōwhai

It's all about nga puia (volcanoes) in Kōwhai at the moment. We are doing an integrated unit on volcanoes that incorporates science, te ao Māori, Aotearoa New Zealand histories, reading, writing, maths (statistics), social studies, technology and visual arts. It all started with some curious questions about te maunga we will soon be skiing on and has erupted (pun intended) into a wonderful world of learning.



Connor & Blake explore 'Volcano Island'



Modelling converging tectonic plates



Eric & Jordie model converging plates to show how volcanoes form

In science, we used an orange (the Earth's mantle), orange peel (Earth's crust) and strawberry jam (magma) to model how tectonic plates converge or come together to form openings in the Earth's crust. We used crackers and berry sauce to visualise how pressure from the tectonic plates (crackers) coming together forces the magma (berry sauce) to come to the Earth's surface. Jackson and Connor took over as kaiako last week by bringing in their own model volcanoes and using vinegar and baking soda to mimic a volcanic eruption. This caused lots of excitement...and mess! Some tamariki were unsure what ash was. Blake said it was "like a powder that's left after something burns". Whaea Kim then brought in a jar of volcanic ash from the 2012 Tongariro eruption which fascinated our wee scientists.



Kruza solves a Ngāti Haua-supplied maunga puzzle

Through te ao and te reo Māori and A.N.Z. histories, we have been using purakau (legends) like 'Battle of the Mountains' to connect to the turangawaewae (place and identity) of our tamariki, learning that stories of local maunga are significant to tangata whenua. We have been working on the pronunciation of local maunga names like Pihanga, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro.

In recent weeks, we have been learning how to structure narratives in writing. Students have been busy crafting fairytales and adventure stories with a clear beginning, middle and end. This week they have been using their prior

knowledge of sentence building and their newly acquired scientific vocabulary to craft texts that feature volcanoes. Our final project in our volcano study will be to revisit report writing and each student will plan and prepare an informational pamphlet about volcanoes. In the meantime, check out these exciting tales:

School Trip Goes Horribly Wrong!

By Quinn Hunt

Jason, Eric and Quinn were going to high school. They were excited for the school trip. They climbed into a helicopter for the trip to Obsidian Land. The three kids fell out of the helicopter! They landed on Obsidian Land. Eric nearly fell into the hottest lava. The teacher saved him, and they went home safely.

The Bush Explorer

By Corbin Wind

A bush explorer went to see Pihanga, the active volcano. He was looking for diamonds. So many grey rocks were floating in the air. The volcano was erupting. The bush explorer got rescued by a giant fish. He rode on her back to safety. The end.

Taranaki and Pihanga

By Sheeran Leach

Taranaki and Pihanga are volcanoes. They are good friends. Next, they both have ash clouds come out of their craters. Ben and I saw them erupting. We felt excited. We ran very fast! We climbed a high ladder into space. We were safe from the volcanoes. The end.

The Ruapehu Rescue

By Indiana Closter

Once there were two girls. One was a scientist, and the other was her friend Indie. They went for a hike up Ruapehu. It erupted with their friend Janey on it! Indie had a great idea, but the lava was running down fast from the crater. They got Janey down quickly. Then Molly the scientist called a helicopter. It brought them back to Ōwhango. They were happy to get rescued but mostly excited to see a volcano erupt! The end.

In maths, we began our statistics unit learning about sorting and classifying. We used a human continuum to show how Kōwhai students can be sorted into different categories. This made it a little easier to classify animals and toys. This week, we are tying our volcano mahi into our statistics work by gathering, displaying and analysing data about students' preferred maunga from our book 'Battle of the Mountains'.



Lennox & Haven-Skye sort and classify animals

As a technology challenge, nga tamariki have been set the task this week of designing and building a life-like, Lego model of a volcano. They have to consider realistic shapes, colours and features of a volcano.

As our senior friends skied last Friday, we had a relaxing afternoon of art. We drew, painted and decorated multimedia volcanoes using card, paint, pastels, and wool. We think they look pretty lit! I lava good pun!



Kruza, Briarni & Harper with their volcano art



Sheeran works on his drawing

By the time you receive this email, we will have finished our Keeping Ourselves Safe program in collaboration with local police constable Peter Marks. Students have been engaged in some very thoughtful korero about how they can protect themselves in a number of unsafe scenarios. We have done this through picture books, videos and real-life anecdotes. Key takeaways included knowing their address or phone number in case of emergencies (please keep supporting them with this), understanding bodily autonomy and what unsafe touch is, the difference between good surprises and bad secrets, and thinking about who their trusted adults are. Thank you, Constable Marks, for supporting us with this very important health and safety learning.



Kotuku labels volcanic features on his diagram

Lastly, a huge congratulations to all of our Kōwhai students who turned up for the Mountain Schools Cross Country last week and gave it their best shot. We know this interschool events can be very overwhelming to our new and younger students. I was very proud of each one who came to school feeling nervous but gave it the best they could whether that was lining up on the start line, trying a little run, running with Mum's support, holding Whaea Siobhan's hand or just blasting through the course with ease...you are each amazing for your efforts!! Ka rawe tamariki ma!

Haere rā, Whaea Siobhan



Constable Marks reads a story about 'Keeping Ourselves Safe'



Kaia practices her spelling 'Kōwhai-style'



Corbin, Eric and Hunter charge ahead during the year two cross country race



Jordie, Remy and Haven-Skye are off to a great start

MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

We had a very enjoyable day at this well-run event last Wednesday. We were able to catch up with friends from our neighbouring schools as well as have some healthy competition.

Here are the students who placed in the top ten of their event. Those who were in the top three will get a certificate in the next assembly. The full results are on the notice board in the corridor at school.

First: Remy, Ainsley, Libby, Kaelyis-Rae, Gin, Blake, Mason, Oliver

Second: Jordie, Rose, Azalea, Grace, Chanae, Eric, Monty, Lucas

Third: Haven-Skye, Molly, Haylee, Corbin, Jackson, Lachlan, Jack P.

Fourth: Indiana, Beau,

Fifth: Harper, Leiki, Tilia,

Sixth: Darcy, Sheeran, Zurich,

Seventh: Aria, Lucy, Lily, Soren,

Eighth: Connor, Nico,

Ninth: Rosa, Lennox, Quinn, Juan,

Tenth: Briani, Ataahua, Olive, Kruza, Hunter,



The year three girls



Lachlan on his way to a third place



Beau, Jack P. Zurich and Soren relax between events

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Those students chosen to be in the Ōwhango School team for the Interschool Cross Country event on Friday 22nd August took home a permission slip on Monday. These were due in yesterday, so that we can enter our team.

SKIING

Last week was a good chance for the children to test the warmth and waterproofing of their ski gear. It was raining then snowing. All participated in the morning lessons, with the instructors being really sensitive to the needs of the kids and coming inside to warm up as needed. A few went out for the afternoon lesson and got one on one instruction. Congratulations to Ivy and Hinemoa who stayed in their lessons to the very end, amazing perseverance!

A day like that is okay for one trip, but we will not be doing that again this year. I have negotiated with Whakapapa so that if the forecast is looking bad again, I will be able to cancel the day, so long as start this process three days out. I cannot just cancel on the morning of the trip as they must let their instructors know to reorganise their schedules.

A reminder to please contact be at least 24 hours before the trip if your child is sick so we can refund their booking.

How many days will we be going skiing?

A few people have asked for clarification on this as we have some days that were labelled 'postponement days'. This is because in the past we have struggled to get up every week due to the weather. However, we have had a good run of weather (except last week).

If we do not have any cancelled days, we will still be going up on these postponement days as we have booked these. So, there is a chance that the Senior Ski Group go skiing seven times, and the Junior Ski Group go skiing four days. The final day of the term is a whole-school ski day, where there will be with no lessons, to practise the skills they have learnt this year.



Ainsley and Libby



Zurich and Mason do a single ski drill...



The instructors were wonderful at bringing the kids inside for a break and entertaining them



Haylee was well rugged up



The hand dryer worked overtime at warming up and drying out gloves!

DUFFY ROLE MODEL VISIT- DIANA QUEENIN

On Wednesday next week (20th August) at 9:30, we will be having a Duffy Role Model assembly. Our role model is Diana Queenin.



Diana Queenin

A veteran Role Model for Duffy Books, Diana has travelled the world, living for extended periods of time in Melbourne, New York and Los Angeles (as

well as Auckland and Wellington). While in New York she worked as a guide in the Museum of Natural History specialising in Dinosaurs and Ocean Life. A highlight of her career was attending the opening of 'Te Maori' at the Metropolitan Museum of Art when the exhibition went to New York. In Los Angeles she attended UCLA University and studied Bio Geography (the effect of nature on the land) and spent time in the American deserts among the cactus and snakes. Diana is a certified Scuba Diver and has dived in the Caribbean, the Red Sea, and Thailand and learned much about the underwater world. She joined Project Jonah on her return to New Zealand and is very interested in Whales and Dolphins (as well as monarch butterflies, plants, fishing, insects, birds, and reading lots of books!)

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

We have nine candidates for the five positions on our School Board. **Voting papers are being mailed out now.** These need to be returned by 4pm on the 10th September. Instructions are in with the voting papers. Thank you to the following people for offering to stand for our board:

Blackman, Melissa
Bramley, Mark
Closter, Dale
Komene, Karen
Nicholson, Todd
O'Reilly, Mandy
Pierce, Rex
Tuakoi, Elizabeth

Signed: Maree Hodges, Returning Officer

AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR VISIT – DONOVAN BIXLEY

Earlier this year, Kowhai students were using the Maui books of Donovan Bixley to inspire their writing and art tasks. They loved his cheeky retelling of the classic purakau and appealing illustrations. They asked if he could come to school so we wrote to him, and he replied, and is coming on September the 10th!

Donovan Bixley has written 100 books and illustrated over 120. He is looking forward to sharing his writing processes, his books, his inspiration and his illustrations with our tamariki.

Every class will have a session with Donovan but in the afternoon, he will be running an illustrator's workshop for our budding artists. This is an incredible opportunity to learn some amazing new artistic skills from an expert!

This workshop is limited to a small number of students. To make it fair in choosing who can attend, we are running a school-wide art competition for those interested. Students must create a unique/original character and submit it by the 28th of August to Whaea Siobhan, with your name and year on the back of your entry. We will not be working on these during class time so please encourage tamariki to try their best with entries in their free time. Winners will be announced on the 1st of September, and they will then attend the workshop (at school) in the afternoon of the 10th of September.

The criteria for entries is:

-Originality (No A.I. assistance, must be from your imagination, not an existing book/movie/cartoon character)

-Creativity (add interesting details to make your character unique)

-Presentation (must be neat, clear to see and on the A4 card supplied)

-Materials (on A4 card supplied, students can use any materials from home but cannot request use of school art supplies. Pictures can be drawn, sketched, painted, whatever format students choose)

-Effort (use colours, lines, positioning, shading and other art techniques to make your character stand out)

-Only open to current Owhango School students.

Some students asked if they had to write about/explain their characters. This is not necessary as we are focused on the art rather than writing.

Get creative, have fun and get those entries in! Also, see the poster about this below.

Whaea Siobhan

HOT LUNCH THURSDAYS

A reminder that tomorrow is Hot Lunch Thursday. Cash only.

PTA HOT LUNCH THURSDAY MENU

Pies \$4

Sausage Rolls \$4

Hot Dogs \$4

Milo \$1 bring your own named cup.

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: NZ Digital Harms Survey

Something different this week — we need your help! We've launched The Great NZ Digital Harms Survey to paint a clear, honest picture of what our tamariki and rangatahi are facing online.

What did you see online growing up?

What have your kids been exposed to?

What are you seeing on the frontlines?

Your voice matters. Let's make sure the right people hear it. Take the survey. Share it wide. Help protect our kids.

<https://www.ourkidsonline.info/nzdigitalharmssurvey>



Control + Click to follow the link

TE ARA PIKINGA KI TE PAE TĀWHITI

Wednesday 20th August year 7 & 8

Wednesday 27th August year 5 & 6

10am to 1:30pm

We are fortunate to have the opportunity for our Year 7 and 8 students then the year 5 and 6 students to join with others from across the Taumarunui district to learn about our local history at Ngāpuwaiwaha Marae in Taumarunui. In these wānanga we will be covering objective 1, 2 and 3 of the Ngāti Hāua curriculum. These events are being led by Te Ara Pikinga ki te pae Tāwhiti – Ngāti Hāua.

As part of the day, students will also learn a haka and waiata. Our tamariki will depart Ōwhango School at 9:30am and return at 1:30pm.

We are most grateful to Jenny Allen and Te Ara Pikinga ki te pae Tāwhiti, who are not only presenting the valuable knowledge to our tamariki, but they are also generously providing lunch for all participants. Students are asked to

bring their own morning tea and a drink bottle filled with water.

Please contact the school if your child does not have permission to attend. Thank you to Grant Lethborg of Ōwhango Adventures for generously transporting our tamariki to and from the venue.
Ngā mihi, Jessie Smith

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Please note that these games are a week ahead to include the Year 7/8 games. Check the dates carefully.

Monday 18th August

5.00pm Ōwhango Breakers vs St Pats
Highlanders

Wednesday 20th August

4.15pm Court 1 Ōwhango Thunder (Y6) vs
Tarrangower
4.15pm Court 2 Ōwhango Blaze (Y5) vs Turaki
Dragons

Community Notices

Incredible Years Parenting Course

See the poster below

TWO ORRIS MEETINGS

See the notices below

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

Owhango School Presents...

CREATE A CHARACTER

Art Competition

Criteria:

- Originality (no AI assistance, no copying existing characters)
- Creativity (add interesting details to make your character unique)
- Presentation (must be presented neatly, clear to see and be on A4 card)
- Materials (A4 card supplied, all other materials must be from home)
- Effort (use colour, line, shading and other art techniques to make your entry stand out)
- For current Owhango School Students only.

Prize: Top entries win a place in an exclusive art workshop with Aotearoa author Donovan Bixley, right here at Owhango School!!!

Get Creative!

Entries to Whaea Siobhan by 28th of August @ 3pm

WINNERS ANNOUNCED 1st OF SEPTEMBER!



INCREDIBLE YEARS PARENTING PROGRAMME

NGA TAU MIHARO



Incredible Years is a 14-week programme for parents and caregivers of children aged 3 and above to grow their positive parenting skills.

Date: Every Wednesdays for 14 weeks beginning September 3rd 2025

Venue: Taumarunui - TKCT main office

Time: 10:00am-12:30pm



Incredible Years offers parents and caregivers the chance to:

- share their experiences with other parents facing similar challenges
- explore new ideas for parenting their children
- practice those ideas in a safe and supportive environment

For more information: Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust
Facilitators: Shana & Myra-Lea

For further inquiries:

E-mail: Myra-Lea.Saies@kokiritrust.org.nz

Phone: 0272748880



OWHANGO RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS SOCIETY INC.

Sunday 24th August 2025, 4pm

at
Owhango Hall

Presentation of:

1. Reports
2. Annual Accounts
3. Election of Officers
5. Adopt new Constitution
6. Set membership fees
7. General Business
 - Hall & Pavillion cost increases
 - Re establish the Memorandum of Understanding regarding use of 1080 poison within Owhango water supply catchment?

Finish with a cuppa and biscuit.

All Welcome.

Note:

The Annual Membership fee of \$2 is now due and to be paid before 24th August 2025 please.

New members most welcome.

Pay direct credit with your name as reference to

KiwiBank 38 9019 0571111 00

Notice is Given of a Special General Meeting of Owhango Residents & Ratepayers Incorporated Society immediately following the AGM set down for 24 August 4pm at the Owhango Hall

AGENDA

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

OWHANGO RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS SOCIETY INC.

Sunday 24th August 2025

after the AGM set down for 4pm

at the Owhango Hall

BUSINESS

Adopt new Constitution

The current constitution of ORRIS must be entirely replaced with a new constitution that complies with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and regulations there under. This matter must be resolved by ORRIS at a special general meeting and cannot be dealt with at an AGM. The constitution that is proposed to be adopted by circulated to members by email on 28 June.

Kind Regards Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society Inc CMB 8
Owhango 3990

Please check this for accuracy
SENIOR SKI DAY 5 Friday 15th August

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

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	NOT SKIING	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Reuben Hardwidge	Melissa Blackman	Ewan Starkey
Nicole Hosking	Haylie Martin	Tania Bramley
Karen Komene	Te Hau Blackman	Bill or Sally Bramley
Kaaryn Ward	Danielle Mitchell	Dave Murphy
Katie Parkinson	Erin Wind	Siobhan McKenna
Lakenn Te Ahuru		Dale & Jesse Closter
Trudie Wheeler		Regan Hoban
Deb Pritt-Stewart		
Kereama Watson		
Theresa Owen		
Jessica McNaught		

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