



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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29/2025

17th September 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

""Kua whetūrangitia koe"" You have joined the stars"

DATES TO NOTE

17 th Sept.	Interschool Quiz Competition postponed
	New Board Takes Office
19 th Sept.	Whole School Ski Day
	Last Day of Term Three
6 th October	First Day of Term Four
8 th October	PTA Hui 3:15
9 th October	RNZ Ballet Workshops
13 th October	Pet Day
15 th October	New School Board Hui 7pm
17 th October	Dress Up Day- theme to be announced
21 st October	Speech Competition
23 rd October	Senior Class Abseiling with Hillary Outdoors
24 th October	Mountain School's Athletics Day
27 th October	Labour Day
31 st October	Bikes at School Day

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kua hinga tētahi tōtara nui o Te Wao Nui a Tāne. Ka tuku aroha ki te whānau pani me te kura o Turaki i tēnei wā pouri.

Our wider school community is very saddened by the news of the death of Turaki Primary School's principal, Kyra Leatuafi on Sunday morning.

Kyra had all the attributes of an excellent leader: patience, calmness, kindness, an excellent understanding of kids, modesty, and a gentle but decisive leader of adults.

She was an active member of our principal's group, giving generously of her time. I always enjoyed her presence and valued her opinion; I am really going to miss her.

PARENT & STAFF BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS DECLARATION

Parent representative votes:

Name	Votes
Melissa Blackman	15
Mark Bramley	29
Dale Closter	52
Guy Hoban	40
Karen Komene	27
Todd Nicholson	47
Mandy O'Reilly	33
Rex Pierce	40
Elizabeth Tuakoi	2
Invalid Votes	0

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

Name
Dale Closter
Todd Nicholson
Guy Hoban
Rex Pierce
Mandy O'Reilly

Staff Representative

Siobhan McKenna-Murphy

As there was only one valid nomination, I hereby declare Siobhan McKenna-Murphy duly elected.

Signed
Maree Hodges, Returning Officer

SCHOOL BOARD HUI

Our new school board meets for their first hui on Wednesday 15th October at 7pm.

You are all welcome to attend.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO –Rimu

Te wiki o te reo Māori – Māori language week

*Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngahere.
Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.*

The bird that partakes of the miro berry owns the forest.

The bird that partakes of knowledge owns the world.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is officially here! Whether it's your very first kupu (word) or you're building towards a full kōrero (conversation), you are part of this journey, and you are part of keeping our reo alive.

Try out some simple kupu, basic korero or easy phrases with your tamariki! This week is for EVERYONE, no matter what your reo level. Together, we are making te reo Māori heard, spoken, and loved in every corner of Aotearoa.

Kia kaha te reo Māori - give it a go!

Join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. Check out this link www.reomaori.co.nz

A Korero from the Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Taiopenga Organisers

Tēnā koutou e te whānau
Tēnei te mihi maioha ki ngā kura, ngā rōpū kapa haka, me ngā whānau katoa i tae mai, i tū poho kereru hoki ki te Taiopenga Kapa Haka ā-Kura o Ngāti Tūwharetoa 2025. Ngā mihi nunui mō ā koutou mahi whakahirahira, mō te hāpai i tō tātou ahurea, me te whakakōtahi i a tātou i raro i te korowai o te kapa haka.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the schools, kapa haka groups, and whānau who attended and performed at the 2025 Ngāti Tūwharetoa Schools Kapa Haka Festival. A huge thank you for your incredible contributions, for uplifting and for uniting us all under the banner of kapa haka.

A special mention to all the tutors and kaiako who worked tirelessly to prepare their rōpū for this important event. Endless thanks also to Matua Grant Hohepa and Matua Snow Rameka – your support and expertise across the various groups did not go unnoticed.

To everyone who lent a hand throughout the year and across the four days of the festival – thank you for your dedication and commitment to our kaupapa.

And to the stars of the festival – the performers – we acknowledge and celebrate you. Your hard work truly showed, and once again we witnessed another year of outstanding performances.

Nga mihi, Deanna Mita (Administrator) **Te Kura o Hirangi.**



Backstage





Onstage



KAPA HAKA POEMS

Inspired by the Tai-o-penga Festival, Kahikatea wrote rhyming acrostic poems based on their kapa haka experiences:

Kapa Haka uses poi
And I accidently hit a boy.
Piu piu were swinging
As I was singing.
Hana did a pukana
And walked out with all her mana.
Kakariki was the colour of our dresses,
And everyone was impressed.
By Hinemoa Ormsby-Tuakoi

Kapa Haka uses poi
And I hit a boy.
Performing was a dream
Alongside my team
Haylie sang a song
As her team sang along.
Kapa Haka is almost done,
Oh what a bum!
By Patrick Murtagh

Kakariki was our colour,
As I sang sweetly to my mother.
Poi swung above our heads,
And I'm doing this again!
Here I sing with discipline,
And I feel like it's a win!
Ka Mate is our haka,
As we all do our pukana.

By Aria Smith

Kia ora Kapa Haka crew,
Awesome girls in swinging piu piu.
Perfect performance from our pals,
Amazing waiata from the gals.
Happy audience all around,
All loving the lovely sound.
Kyston sang a song,
And everyone sang along.

By Daithí Óg Murphy

The Kapa Haka Rōpū at the Taiopenga By Kōwhai- The Junior Room

They did a fierce haka,
stomping giant feet,
thunder rolling through the ground.

We were singing,
our voices rising
to the friendly crowd —
thousands of faces watching.

The girls went first,
the boys followed after,
strength and rhythm in every move.

Powerful girls with blazing eyes,
their pūkana fierce,
their hands alive with wiri,
poi flashing, swinging
around and around,
a storm of light and motion.

The audience clapped,
And as we went to leave,
they rose with a haka in reply,
their voices echoing ours.

We stood—
happy, excited,
scared, nervous,
and proud.

INTERSCHOOL QUIZ- postponed

A message from the organisers:

"With the passing of our beautiful Kyra, we have made the decision to postpone the quiz competition so our school community can grieve the loss of a beautiful and kind wahine."

WHOLE SCHOOL SKI DAY

We are all go for this Friday's Whole School Ski Day! The forecast is for a few snow showers clearing in the morning, with a southerly wind also easing in the morning, so dress warmly for the start of the day.

This will be the first time on the mountain for the junior ski group as the last three Fridays were cancelled due to the poor weather. The good news is that this poor weather has loaded the mountain with snow and enabled most of the lifts to now operate.

Later Start

Please note that we are departing school at 8:30am, those meeting us at the mountain need to be in Happy Valley at 9:30. Remember, if you are late, we will not wait.

Adult Help at the Start of the Day.

We need adults to assist the junior group, especially at the start of the day, when they are getting their ski hire boots and equipment on. Older children can also help the younger children with this.

Adult Help with Supervision

There will be no time for adults to go off and ski / board by yourselves. For the kids not in a lesson, they need two adults with each group, to ski with them as they explore the mountain, and must remain with those adults the whole time, with one adult leading, the other at the back. Adults will not be skiing with only their own children but with a small group of children who are at the same ability. The only place where children can ski without an adult is in Happy Valley.

Walking Passes As we have so many younger children this time, I have managed to get a few walking passes for adults not skiing. These are to be used with the following conditions:

1. They are only allowed at line up and in the beginner area (The pen). They cannot be walking around on the ski slope.
2. Ski lessons classically works best when the parents aren't there, so please ask

parents to leave the snow once the lesson starts unless they are specifically asked to stay.

3. They cannot ride the magic carpets.

Ski Lessons

As this is the first time the junior ski group has skied this season, **all of them** must take the morning lesson. 10:30 to 12:20. They can then free ski in the afternoon. Some of the older children have also opted to have a lesson in the morning.

Lunch and End of the Day

All groups must return to Happy Valley to have lunch together at 12:30. Then after an afternoon of skiing in their groups their skis to the hire place at 3:00 and returning to school at 4:00.

PTA HUI

The Parent Teacher Association have a meeting in the first Wednesday of next term, the 8th October at 3:15pm, in the staffroom. You are all welcome to attend.

PET DAY

Pet Day is quite early next term, so we are sending out the information about it now, to give the children time to make some of their entries over the holidays. For new families to this, the sheet should be self-explanatory but ask your teacher if you are unsure about what this is all about.

ASSEMBLY

At yesterday's Kōwhai class led assembly, we heard about all the wonderful learning that this class has done this term...



...Hunter, Harper and Ben talked about the police station visit...



...Haven-Skye and Indiana talked about Donovan Bixley's visit...



...Molly, Corbin and Quinn shared some of their excellent writing...



...Kotuku and Eric talked about the Taiopenga...



... and lots of acknowledgement was made of our sporting teams and individuals, including

the first-place winners in the Mountain School Cross Country event shown here.

DUFFY CAUGHT BEING GOOD

At our assembly we awarded the following students.



In Kahikatea room: Rosa for her kindness and care towards others, and for being a beautiful role model for your peers, Haylee for her excellent effort and progress in literacy and numeracy, Olive for her fabulous narrative writing, Elliott for his excellent effort, understanding and progress in mathematics, Brodie for the passion, dedication and aroha he gave in our kapa haka performance, and Billie for his terrific effort and enthusiasm in narrative writing.



In Rimu room: Ivy for courage and bravery performing at the Ngāti Tuwharetoa Taiopenga kapahaka performance, Hazel for stage presence at the Ngāti Tuwharetoa Taiopenga kapahaka performance, Darcy for being an excellent captain at the year 7 and 8 Rippa Rugby tournament, Kaelyis-Rae for excellence in sport, kapa haka and being an excellent ambassador for Owhango School, Hayzin for effort and persistence in mathematics, Tahu for perseverance to continue with kapa haka, and Juan for settling quicker into his school mahi.



In Kōwhai room: Sheeran for his effort and progress in maths, Blake for his helpfulness and manners, Eric for his excellence in maths, Corbin for his effort and dedication to reading, and Quinn for his increased effort in all areas.

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: Not My Kid? How Algorithms Nudge Good Kids Toward Extremes

Something a little different this week—and if there's one video you watch, make it this one. It was six months in the making.

For many of us, the idea that our beautiful child could be drawn toward radical views feels absurd—we're a good home with solid values. But our kids are online... a lot. Even seemingly "harmless" platforms like YouTube can shift a feed after one watch. One edgy clip → the algorithm serves more of it. The feed narrows, the voices get louder, and an echo chamber forms:they're the problem... it's us versus them.

In this video I break down how that drift happens (no panic, just the mechanics)

Here's the parent playbook to spot it early and steer together.

If you attended my talk and received the coupon for our course, there's a youth version of this video made specifically for 12+ waiting inside your course access.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka05ZkD75G8>



Control + Click to follow the link

MORE SHADE TREES

We have planted eight more shade trees at school as part of our ongoing project to improve the environment at school. All these trees are deciduous, so that we have the shade in summer, and sunlight in winter. Three are plum trees so that we also get fruit in autumn.

WHITEBOARDS FREE TO A GOOD HOME

We have some old whiteboards that are now surplus to requirements. They are double sided and measure 122cm x 82cm. First in first served.

WANTED PLEASE

At the beginning of next term, Kōwhai will be doing a little art project that requires some cardboard rolls. So, when you're next done with your paper towels, tin foil, cling film, receipt rolls, wrapping paper etc. please keep your cardboard rolls and donate them to Kōwhai. (No toilet roll holders please, for hygiene reasons). Much appreciated, Whaea Siobhán.

THE LAST HOT LUNCH THURSDAY

Our last Hot Lunch Thursday for the year is on tomorrow. Thank you everyone who has supported this PTA fundraiser.

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

BASKETBALL WRAP

Dribble dribble pass, pivot pivot pass, dribble dribble shoot - 9 weeks of basketball has come to an end for our Owango Thunder tamariki.

Game 1 Win - 46 - 4 vs. TPS Grasshoppers

Game 2 Win - 32 - 4 vs. TTKM Te Aurere

Game 3 Win - 18 - 0 vs. NVS Raiders

Game 4 - Bye

Game 5 Win - 44 - 6 vs. Tarrangower Torpedoz

Game 6 Loss - 20 - 14 vs. Manunui Raiders

Game 7 Win - 24 - 20 vs. St Pats Shooters

Game 8 - Loss - 24 - 10 vs. TPS Tiny Giants

Game 9 - Win - 36 - 2 vs. Turaki Dragons

W, W, W, B, W, L, W, L, W - Resulted in our team placing 3rd in the competition, mīharo. The term saw great personal growth in each of our players.

Special mention goes to Charlotte who was awarded Sportsmanship. Kaelyis-Rae for coming away with top points scorer for our team (2nd in the competition), showing potential female.

Monty & Kaelyis-Rae were both picked for Dream Team 2025, tino pai rawa atu.

Thank you to my team: Charlotte, Juan, Kaelyis - Rae, Lachlan, Mason & Monty for all the laughs & lessons. A big mihi to our Owango Blaze team, for coming to tautoko our games when you could.

Photo credit, cheerleader, score keeper goes to Jahbon, nga mihi kia koe.

Karawhuia ki tō whakapakari pūkenga poitūkohu - Give it heaps with refining your basketball skills.

By Karen Komene

(And a huge thank you from the team to Karen for being their coach and manager)



The team Charlotte, Kaelyis-Rae, Monty, Lachlan and Monty (Juan is absent)



Kaelyis-Rae with her 'Showing Potential' certificate and ribbons



Kaelyis-Rae and Monty with their 'Dream Team' ribbons; Charlotte with her 'Sportsmanship' ribbon

THANKS

Well done to Ōwango Blaze who finished the season well. Hinemoa won the Team

Sportsmanship ribbon as well as the Top Scorer for her team.

Our thanks goes to the wonderful whānau support we have - Karen Komene for coaching Ōwhango Thunder, and Andrea Lethborg and Jesse Closter for coaching Ōwhango Blaze. We appreciate you!

TAUMARUNUI NETBALL PDP (PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM)

We had three girls from our school who were selected to play for Taumarunui Netball PDP (Player development program) teams, also formerly known in the past as Taumarunui Representative teams. Hopaea was a part of the Year 8A team, then we had Poppy and Kaelyis-Rae in the Year 7A team. Early Sunday mornings they would travel away, Rotorua, Hamilton twice and then to Cambridge, playing 3-5 games each time. Showing their commitment and love for the game. Such great experience for these girls playing netball at a higher level against city teams but also upskilling and making longtime friendships.

SPORTS T-SHIRTS TO BE RETURNED

Please return all washed sports tees back to the office this week. Thank you



Poppy, Hopaea and Kaelyis-Rae

Community Notices

WORLD RIVERS DAY

See the poster below

REMANING TERM DATES 2025

Term Four Monday 6th October to Wednesday 17th December

TERM DATES 2026

Term One: Monday 9th February to Thursday 2nd April

Term Two: Monday 20th April to Friday 3rd July

Term Three: Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

Term Four: Monday 12th October to Friday 18th December

A vertical poster for World Rivers Day. The background is a photograph of a river with white water rapids flowing over dark rocks. The text is overlaid in yellow and white. At the bottom left is the 'ŌwhangoAlive' logo with the tagline 'PROTECTING OUR OWN BACKYARD'. At the bottom right, it says 'OPEN TO THE PUBLIC', 'RSVP to: owhangoalive@yahoo.com', and 'www.owhangoalive.com'.

WORLD RIVERS DAY
SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
meet at the
WHAKAPAPA RIVER BRIDGE
OHIHINETONGA SCENIC RESERVE
10am - Welcome
followed by
PLANTING 130 NATIVE TREES
then at 11am approx. at the
OWHANGO DOMAIN PAVILION
GUEST SPEAKER - TYLER JARMAN
Bioversity Advisor
Horizons Regional Council

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RSVP to:
owhangoalive@yahoo.com
www.owhangoalive.com

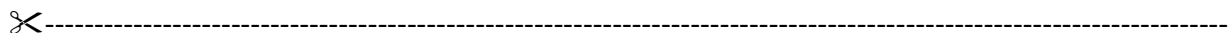
ŌwhangoAlive
PROTECTING OUR OWN BACKYARD

WHOLE SCHOOL SKI DAY Friday 19th September

Please check this information for mistakes- let Ewan know if there are any!

TRANSPORT Blue font means having a lesson			
Driver	Can fit	4WD	PASSENGERS (Adult passengers are in bold)
Nicole	4	Y	Zurich, Soren, Juan,
Dale	4	Y	Rosa, Indiana, Eric, Millie,
Theresa	6	Y	Charlotte Haylee, Te Hana Jessie Ataahua-Violet, Briarni,
Deb	5	Y	Elliott, Remy, Beau, Billie,
Mitch	3	Y	Danielle, Lucy, Harley-John
Libby	5	Y	Jack O. Hinemoa, Liz, Kaiataarangi, Brodie
Kim	2	?	Sheeran, Coby,
Corey	3	Y	Jackson, Connor,
Katie	4	Y	Ainsley, Jordie, Chintel Kotuku
Te Hau	4	Y	Hopaea, Tahu Gin,
Sarah	3	N	Harper, Blake, Mandy,
Reuben	2	Y	Darcy,
Meet on the mountain			Ivy, Grace, Lily, Rose, Harry, Daithi Òg, Leiki, Ben, Azalea, Hunter, Haven-Skye, Janey, Aria, Jack P. Molly, Olive, Quinn, Poppy, Patrick, Lucas,
At Global Games Rugby			Oliver, Hazel, Tilia, Hayzin, Jonny, Monty, Mason, Lachlan, Kaelyis-Rae, Nico, Lennox, Kruza, Kyston (Libby & Corbin @ Moto X Nationals)
Not Going			Chanae

PASSES-ADULTS		
NEED A PASS & SKIS – 1 free pass for every 6 kids. The remaining cost will be shared evenly with all of these people	NOT SKIING	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Nicole	Michelle R	Melissa B
Theresa	Te Hau	Daniel
Mark B	Dannielle	Dale
Jessie S	Corey	Siobhan
Deb	Liz	Jesse B / Grace
Katie	Paul & Kirsty	Hari
Libby	Kim	James
Mandy	Waitangi	Ewan
Mitch	Haylie	
Reuben		
Jessica Mc		



OWHANGO SCHOOL

PET DAY & SPRING FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Our Pet Day and Spring Festival will be held on Monday 13th October 2025. On this day parents and the community can come along after 12:01pm to view the creations and watch the animals being judged.

Students may make a **minimum of two** and a **maximum of four** individual activities below:

A GIFT

- ◆ A gift for a grandparent.

COOKING

- ◆ Baking decorated like an animal or in a spring theme, packaged or sliced and priced if going on the sales table.
- ◆ Homemade sweets & other baking packaged or sliced and priced if going on the sales table.

GROWING

- ◆ A growing container garden, e.g., tub of vegies, hanging basket etc
- ◆ A decorative sand saucer or miniature garden

CONSTRUCTING

These two activities may be a group or an individual activity:

- ◆ A Lego creation- in either a spring theme or pet theme
- ◆ A large raft – judging criteria: that will support at least one person and can paddle the length of the school pool, bonus points for engineering skills and decorative skill.
- ◆ A small boat - judging criteria: that it will stay afloat while all of the rafts are paddled the length of the pool; bonus points for engineering skills and decorative skill.

PRESCHOOL

- ◆ There is a table for pre-schoolers to make something that fits any of the above categories.

RULES

- These are all to be **prepared at home**.
- Creations must be **made by the students**, NOT the parents and not store bought.
- Please **do not** name your work; we will give you stickers with your special anonymous code on it.
- Students will be doing additional activities at school that will be on display.
- You may make a **minimum of two** and a **maximum of four** individual activities
- Students wishing to sell their creation must price it beforehand.

Sales Table

After the judging of the displays, the children will be able to offer their work for sale. This year all the money goes to the child who made the item for sale. The year 7 & 8 children will manage the sales table. The children will need to price their own goods on arrival at school.

House Points

The children win points for their house group in every event, as follows-

First= 3 points

Second= 2 points

Third= 1 point

