



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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26/2025

27th August 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"Until you try, you don't know what you can't do." Henry James

DATES TO NOTE

29 th August	Junior Group Ski Day One cancelled
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.	Assembly 2:00
17 th Sept.	Interschool Quiz Competition
19 th Sept.	Whole School Ski Day Last Day of Term Three

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGES

A Message from Jessie Smith

Teachers' Study Award for 2026

Over the past few years, I have thought about the possibility of taking a year away from the classroom to focus on further study. After more than 16 years of teaching here in Aotearoa, and two years overseas, I felt it was time to reinvigorate my own learning journey.

Earlier this year, I applied for a prestigious and highly sort after scholarship through the Ministry of Education. I am delighted to share that I have been awarded a Teachers' Study Award for 2026. This will allow me to spend next year studying through Massey University, supported financially by the Ministry of Education and with full support our the Ōwhango School Board of Trustees.

This opportunity will give me the chance to explore areas of learning I am deeply interested in, while refreshing and extending my

professional knowledge. I look forward to returning to Ōwhango School in 2027 with fresh ideas, renewed energy, and new learning to share—ultimately for the benefit of our tamariki and school community.

Ngā mihi, Jessie Smith.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO – Rimu

Year 7 And 8 Day at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae with Ngāti Hāua.

Our Year 7 and 8 tamariki had an amazing day at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae with Ngāti Hāua. It was an extremely positive experience for all students, filled with manaakitanga (hospitality), whanaungatanga (relationship building / connection) and kotahitanga (unity).

The day began with a whakatau at 10am, followed by a packed programme of kōrero about Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae, waiata, haka and shared learning. Highlights included the history of the wharenuī, powerful Ngāti Hāua haka and waiata practices, fun learning games, a delicious lunch in the wharekai, and capturing the moment with a group photo. We are very grateful to Grant Lethborg from Owhango Adventures for providing the bus transport, and to Jenny Allen for leading the Ngāti Hāua education curriculum that made this day so rich and memorable.

We returned to school with full hearts, where Whaea Wai Patena-Mariu, Hone Smythe and Karen Komene were waiting patiently to continue the learning journey through kapa haka practice. Their guidance is helping prepare our tamariki for the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga, and we are so thankful for the support of everyone who made these special experiences possible.

Ngā mihi, Whaea Jessie Smith.



Year 7 and 8 tamariki from all the schools within Taumarunui rohe (area) listen intently to the korero about the history of Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae.



The girls learned 2 beautiful waiata and the boys learned a waiata and a powerful haka, complete with actions.

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud of our 23 Owango School students who competed in the Interschools Cross Country event held last Friday at Ongarue School. The sun was shining and the tamariki were excited! Every single student gave their best effort, all completing the course and placing well. The event was wonderfully organised by Amy Perez from Taumarunui Youth Community Trust, the iSports rangatahi from Taumarunui High School and the amazing team from TYCT. What stood out most was our students' effort, exceptional behaviour, and positivity throughout the day—ka mau te wehi! Thanks to all the whānau that came along to support our amazing runners and Stephen Wheeler for transporting the gazebo for our tamariki. Ngā mihi, Jessie Smith.



Corbin and Eric waiting excitedly for their race



Lachlan's powerful sprint towards the finish line



Jordie showing strength right to the very end



Kaelyis-Rae's determination and resilience carried her all the way through. What an incredible finish!



Mason showed drive and tenacity as he powered through to the finish.

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

We are waiting for the results from the interschool cross country event and will publish them once they arrive.

CREATE A CHARACTER ART COMPETITION

This competition closes tomorrow, Thursday the 28th of September, at 3pm. Check that your entries meet the criteria and submit to Whaea Siobhán. Winners win a spot in the exclusive illustration workshop with Aotearoa author and illustrator, Donovan Bixley. Winners will be announced on Monday.



Come and have a look at the Donovan Bixley display in the corridor with some of the kids' entries, as well as some of his books

NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA TAIOPENGA

On Thursday the 11th of September the whole school will be travelling to Taupō to support the kapa haka roopu as they perform at the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga. We will need to depart at 8:30am and will be back at school by 3:00pm. At this stage we need to organise transportation

so please fill in the attached permission and transport slip and return it to school so planning can proceed. There will be more details on how this day will run in next week's Pānui.

GOING GREEN FOR KYRA

Just an update on this appeal, it has raised \$4,716 for this appeal, with some more coming in. Thank you everyone.

KAPA HAKA

It is lovely hearing our kapa haka group practising regularly in preparation for the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga on September 11th. A big thank you to Waitangi and Hone who have volunteered to support Jessie Smith with getting the roopu ready.



The kapa haka roopu in rehearsal

SKIING- Junior Ski Group Day One- Cancelled

Due to the poor forecast for this Friday, we have made the call to cancel this trip, as we want this Junior Group to have a comfortable experience on their first trip. We will try again next week.

SKIING- Senior Ski Group

The final day of lessons for the senior group went well, with measurable progress made by all students. It was really pleasing to see the confidence and control the students were displaying as they negotiated their way through the crowds on both the Rock Garden and the Gondola run. Many are finishing their turns in parallel, some are even in parallel throughout the whole turn. This year's learn-to-ski programme has been successful. The weather has helped with this as five out of the six days were glorious

sunshine, which made up for the lack of snow causing a restricted terrain, with only one track down the mountain.



The final day of lessons with instructor Maya



Spring is on its way, with our magnolia flowering. This was planted in memory of our previous principal, Joy Brown

ASSEMBLY

This term kōwhai class (juniors) will be hosting our school assembly. It will be on Tuesday the 16th of September starting at 2:00pm. You are all welcome to come and see what we have been doing this term.

YEAR 5-8 KCRU RIPPA RUGBY TOURNAMENT

We are waiting for the last of the permission slips to be returned to school so planning can proceed.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

By now you should have received your voting papers via the mail. Please contact the school if you have not received yours.

These need to be returned either using the self-addressed envelope supplied with your voting information, or by dropping it into the voting box in school office.

(One voting paper to one envelope). Voting closes on Wednesday the 10th of September 4pm.

Maree Hodges, Returning Officer

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: **What Smartphone Is Safe For my Kids?**

The only phone I would trust with my kids. Safe Surfer's Kid-Safe Phone can't be worked around. With world-class filtering, nudity detection, and keyword alerts for bullying, self-harm, porn, and more — it gives kids freedom to connect while giving parents peace of mind. If you've been along to one of my talks then you've already heard how great I think it is! Check it out here <https://kidsafehone.nz>



Control + Click to follow the link

HOT LUNCH THURSDAYS

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

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Monday 1st September

Ōwhango Breakers BYE

Wednesday 3rd September

3.45pm Court 1 St Patricks vs Ōwhango Thunder

4.15pm Court 2 St Patricks Breakers vs Ōwhango Blaze

Community Notices

DoC NGAHERE AT NIGHT

See the poster 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

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 October 12th to Friday 18th 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

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Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Transport and Permission Slip

Thursday 11th September 2025

Taupo Events Centre, Spa Road

Departing School at 8:30am, return to school by 3:00pm

Family name _____

My child / ren _____ **may attend the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga**

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.)

I will be meeting us at the venue. **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 _____



NGAHERE AT NIGHT: BATS & BUGS

Tuesday 2nd September
6.30pm - 8pm

Ōwhango Pavilion, Okioi Road, Ōwhango 3990

Join DOC at the Ōwhango Pavilion to hear about some of Aotearoa's fascinating nocturnal creatures!

As night falls, we'll learn how to use bat-boxes to hear if any pekapeka (long-tailed bats) are out for the evening, and switch on our torches to look for bugs that come alive in the dark. Explore the nightlife of the ngahere in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.

Hot drinks and snacks will be provided.

Please wear warm clothes, sturdy footwear, and bring your headlight or torch!

TO REGISTER CLICK LINK IN POST