



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- **we will know who our new presiding member (chairperson) is after this evening's hui.**

31/2025

15th October 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"Never do something for a child that they can do for themselves; you are robbing them from an opportunity to learn; you are robbing them of an opportunity to grow. It might be slower, but that is how they grow, that is how they build resilience" Rob Cope

DATES TO NOTE

15 th October	Yr 7&8 Rippa Finals- Taupō New School Board Hui 7pm
17 th October	Dress Up Day- Book Character Theme
21 st October	Senior Class Abseiling with Hillary Outdoors
22 nd October	Power to the Pouro Concert and Workshop
23 rd October	School Closed- proposed teacher strike
24 th October	Mountain Schools' Athletics Day
27 th October	Labour Day
29 th October	Mountain Athletics (Postponement Day)
31 st October	Bikes at School Day
4 th Nov.	Duffy Theatre Visit
7 th Nov.	Inter-School Athletics
11 th Nov.	School Photos
13 th Nov.	Spelling Bee
14 th Nov.	Inter-School Athletics (postponement Day)
21 st Nov.	Ki-o-rahi Year 5-6
28 th Nov.	Mountain Schools' Softball
5 th Dec.	Ki-o-rahi Year 7-8
11 th Dec.	School Grounds Overnighter
12 th Dec.	Brock's Farm Trip
16 th Dec.	5 pm Break Up and BBQ Reports Issued
17 th Dec.	Last Day of the Year

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Head Lice

Please keep an eye on your children's hair as we have had a few cases of head lice recently. Kids are not allowed to be at school if they are infected until they have been treated. I will attach more information about this at the bottom of this Pānui.

Sun Hats

As we enter the worst time of the year for UV radiation and sunburn, we commence our **No Hat No Play** rule for outside activities. The children may wear any type of sunhat, but if it doesn't cover the back of the head, they must put sunscreen onto their exposed skin.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO –Kōwhai

We're off to a lovely, settled start in Kōwhai. We have slipped back into our reading, writing and maths mahi seamlessly and are very lucky to have the support of Whaea Maree and Whaea Kim with this.

For te wiki o te reo Māori, at the end of last term, we learned kupu Māori for standard and non-standard units of measurement and we are going to carry this reo into our science mahi. Each student planted a sunflower seed (or five if they were very enthusiastic!) and then researched what sunflowers need to thrive. They have been taking turns watering them and checking up on them. Some students are hoping their sunflower will be taller than them. There's not much to measure yet, but everybody has some visible seedlings so watch this space.



Planting sunflowers with smiles!

In maths, we are learning all about number patterns, recognising the rule of a pattern, continuing it and coming up with our own number patterns. This is a crucial skill to develop an awareness of number relationships, the foundation for multiplication skills and critical thinking so if you hear your tamariki singing catchy skip counting songs, be sure to encourage their maths learning. Our littlest learners are focusing on recognising patterns in sequences of colours, shapes or objects, supporting their foundational maths skills.



Lennox creates his own pattern



Ben develops complex colour patterns

In the arts, with Pet Day on the horizon last week, we tried a few arts and crafts as our class activity entries. The first, was a multi-media piece that involved guided drawing, oil pastel blending and painting. I was super impressed at the focus students demonstrated and the beautiful manu (birds) they drew. They turned out great and are brightening up our classroom walls. The second activity was 'popsicle pets' where students chose an animal and made them out of popsicle sticks, paper, glue and googly eyes. These were fun and messy to make, and students voted to enter these as their class activity.



Harley-John and his popsicle pet frog



Quinn, Eric & Indie with their popsicle sticks pets.



Corbin outlines his manu drawing.



Finished manu art

In writing, students paired and shared their highlights from Pet Day then wrote down their ideas, with their focus being on recounting details and how they structure their sentences.

Pet Day by Molly Pierce

Yesterday, we had the most fun day ever! We had pet day. Poppy and I rode the 'Flower Power' boat. We did a race in the pool, and we came first. We were the only girls in the pool, and we won against all the boys!

Pet Day by Harper Nicholson

My favourite part of pet day was eating a whole entire cake by myself! I made the cake, I baked the cake, and I bought it for myself!

Pet Day by Sheeran Leach

I liked making the flowers. I loved all the colours. I got one certificate at pet day. I had so much fun on the mud slide.

Pet Day by Quinn Hunt

My favourite part of pet day was sliding in the mud with Corbin and Eric. My second favourite part was that I got to race my blue boat in the school pool. And my third favourite part of pet day was that I got a certificate.

Pet Day by Indiana Closter

On pet day I watched the boat races, and it was funny. My Dad put his giant feet on a boat so the kids would sink into the dirty, green, yucky water. Then I went on to throw slimy, gooey mud. I saw Kotuku covered in mud, running and chasing Whaea Siobhan. It was really a crazy time! Then I hugged my Mum with mud all over me. That was a bit silly, but I had a fun day.

Our final activity for pet day was flower arranging. Students each chose a jar or bottle and decorated them with posca pens, ribbons and stickers then carefully added their flowers and greenery following the principles of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging with a focus online, form and shape. They made sure their jars weren't stuffed, with taller greenery and flowers at the back and not hidden. It was a very relaxing activity. Janey said, "I didn't know people had to think so much about making bunches of flowers!" Coby said, "I loved making the flowers because they look so good together and colourful. They look nice in my house now."

This term, we will see more of Whaea Regan in the junior room as I begin end of year assessments, and Mr. Starkey will be in there on Fridays of course so students will receive a wide variety of rich learning opportunities between the three of us. It is a super busy term, but we are all very excited about it in Kōwhai class.

BREAK UP DATE CHANGE

Please note that we have moved our Breakup and Year 8 Farewell back a day to Tuesday the 16th of December.

RNZ BALLET WORKSHOPS

This was another great success. See the photos below, but as many were taken while they were moving, you must play guess-who-this-is!





SENIOR CLASS ABSEILING WITH HILLARY OUTDOORS PURSUIT CENTRE

Kia ora parents / whānau of Rimu class students, Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre have invited our senior class to go abseiling with their tutors. Our focus on this abseiling adventure is safety, fitness, the opportunity to enjoy our local environment and building confidence.

This is on Tuesday 21 October 2025, which is this Tuesday. **It is very important that I receive all permission and transport by TOMORROW, Thursday 16th October** so I can organise transport. We will need whānau assistance with transport please. We will be leaving school at 9:00am and will be returning at 2:00pm. Please send the completed form back to school by TOMORROW Thursday 16th October.

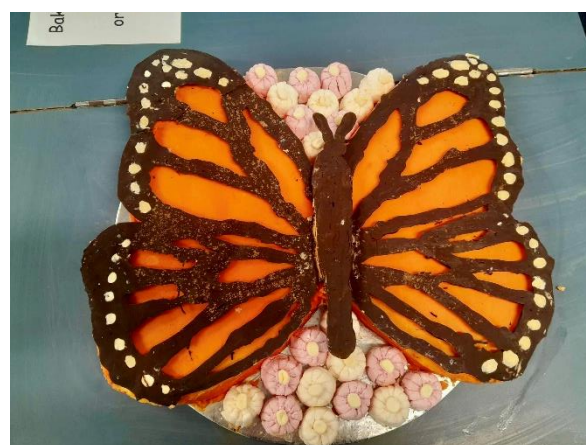
Ngā mihi, Whaea Jessie Smith

KCRU RIPPA CARNIVAL FINALS- TAUPŌ

This is on today. Good luck to our teams.

PET DAY AND SPRING FESTIVAL

Unfortunately, we did not proceed with the pet part of this as the forecast was for rain, but then that rain did not start until after 2pm; though once it started it didn't stop! The benefit of hindsight. However, we had a wonderful range of entries for our Spring Festival part. Thanks to all the parents who supported their children making their entries, and to our guest judges who had the difficult job of finding winners in a strong field. Also, thanks to the people who came along to view what we did, and to support our students. These days are rather nice. See some photos from the day below.



A butterfly cake by Poppy



Quinn and Haven do some floral art



Hunter, Janey and Jordie decorate their vases



The completed vases and flower arrangements



Corbin and Harper select foliage



Lachlan creates a clay animal



Tilia and Charlotte concentrating



Darcy's flower cake



Mason's Puppy cakes



Blake's sheep cake



*Some gifts for a grandparent:
a coat hanger by Jack P.*



String art by Olive



A painting by Leiki



A necklace tree by Molly



Millie makes a flower shaped container



Carrots planted on a carrot cake by Remy



Georgia O'Keefe inspired flowers



Ben with his growing container complete with planets



Daithi Òg's small boat



A miniature garden



Harper and Leo look at their small boats floating



Nico and Jonny with their submarine



Poppy and Molly went to sea in a beautiful pea-green...pool



Darcy, Chanae and Tilia man the sales table



Harry delivers his bees to the sales table



What do you do when we have no pets due to the rain? Hunter has fun



Lennox gets wet



Eric and Quinn

SCHOOL BOARD HUI

Our new school board meets for their first hui tonight, Wednesday 15th October at 7pm in the staffroom. You are all welcome to attend.

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: **Entitlement vs Gratitude**



Believe it or not, entitlement is a learned behaviour. In this video, we look at what entitlement really is, how it develops over time, and most importantly, how to turn it around — raising kids full of gratitude.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QryfRyS-Gs>



Control + Click to follow the link

DRESS UP DAY- BOOK CHARACTER THEME

This Friday 17th October we are having a Book Character Day. Come dressed as an interesting

person or thing from a book! Anyone not participating can wear their uniform.

HEARING AND VISION CHECKS

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school ON Wednesday 26th November. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing problems. Please see the poster at the bottom of this Pānui for more information.

Community Notices

FREE CHILDREN'S SEASON PASSES

We have just been informed that in 2026, Whakapapa is continuing their free Season Passes for all children aged 10 and under. Claim your child's free Season Pass on their website before 30 April 2026.

See below for...

- **INFORMATION SHEET ON VISION AND HEARING CHECKS IN SCHOOL**
- **HEAD LICE INFORMATION SHEET**
- **TAUMARUNUI AMATEUR ATHLETICS CLUB POSTER**

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 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

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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Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre Rimu Class (Seniors) –

Abseiling at Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu (Carpark 3)

Tuesday 21 October 2025 – Next Tuesday

It is very important that I receive all permission and transport by TOMORROW

Family name _____

My child _____ may attend the **OPC Abseiling Day, in Tongariro National Park.**

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.)

If you are assisting with transport:

Name of driver _____

Signed _____



Information Sheet on Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing problems.

Which children are routinely checked?

- Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit, require rescreens or follow up
- New Immigrants
- Year 7 student's vision only

If there is a genuine hearing concern, parents/caregivers or teachers may request a hearing check - NB parents must consent to this. The Vision Hearing Technician will only be able to undertake a maximum of 5 screens on any visit. If there is a concern regarding vision, parents/caregivers are encouraged to seek advice from an optometrist. A subsidy is available for families/whanau that have a Community Services card or High Use Health card.

What tests are carried out?

Ears

- Audiometry (hearing test)
- Tympanometry – middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test
NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

The Vision Hearing Technician will:

- Notify parents/caregivers of all test results
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school ie, names, date of birth.

If the technician needs to contact parents/caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required.

Our Service may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.

If any parents/caregivers do not want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for their vision or hearing, they should let the school know.

Head lice

What are head lice?

Head lice are small, flat insects that live and lay eggs on the human scalp. They are sometimes called nits, kuts, kutu bugs, utu or rita. They live on the hair and feed by sucking blood from the scalp. They are pale grey (before feeding) and reddish brown (after feeding). They can look like grains of sand or dandruff. Head lice do not carry or pass on disease.

Who can get head lice?

Anyone can get head lice. They are a common problem and cause concern and frustration for parents and children. Catching head lice has nothing to do with poor hygiene.

How do people get head lice?

People get head lice from head to head contact with someone who already has head lice. This can easily happen when children play or sleep together and their heads touch. Head lice can only crawl from hair to hair. They can't fly or jump from head to head. Head lice only survive on humans. They die quickly when they are not on the head, usually within 24 hours.

How do I check for and treat head lice?

Head lice can live all over the head but particularly like warm places behind the ears, around the bottom of the hair line, and on top of the head. Treatment of head lice is usually by physical methods (wet combing) or chemical/herbal treatments. You don't need to buy expensive products to get rid of head lice. You can buy a fine-tooth head lice comb from your pharmacy. See instructions on the following page. If you choose to use a chemical or herbal treatment, speak to your pharmacist, doctor or nurse for advice about what treatment to use and how to use it. Never use fly spray, kerosene or treatments intended for animals – these may harm children and adults.

If you find live head lice or eggs on your child's scalp, use the wet comb method to get rid of as many nits as soon as you can. Remember to check everyone in the house for nits as well. Use the wet comb method every day on everyone who has nits. You can stop once you find no lice or eggs for 3 days in a row.

Check the hair of everyone in the house twice a week for the next 2 weeks to make sure everyone stays clear.

Check for lice and eggs whenever you are brushing your child's hair or any time they are scratching their head.

KidsHealth

kidshealth.org.nz

Published on kidshealth (<http://www.kidshealth.org.nz>)



Head lice - checking and treating with wet comb & conditioner

Wet combing with conditioner and a fine tooth nit comb (without using chemicals) is an effective way to find and remove head lice, if done properly.

It can take up to an hour to remove all live lice and eggs. It depends how thick and long the hair is.



- Make your child comfortable and let them read their favourite book or watch their favourite programme or movie.
- Comb or brush out knots with an ordinary comb. Put lots of conditioner through wet or dry hair.
- Start at the scalp and go all the way down to the hair ends.



- Comb conditioner through hair, using an ordinary comb.



- Change to a fine-tooth head lice comb and comb sections of your child's hair.



- Comb from the roots to the ends of the hair.



- After each comb, wipe the conditioner on to a paper towel or tissue.
- Check the tissue or paper towel for lice and eggs. They're small so look closely!



- Comb every part of the head, section by section. Comb each section at least 4 or 5 times before moving on to the next section.
- Rinse out conditioner.
- If you find lice or eggs, repeat these steps every day until you find no lice for 3 days in a row.
- Check the hair of everyone in the house twice a week for the next 2 weeks to make sure everyone stays clear.

KidsHealth

kidshealth.org.nz

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Taumarunui Amateur Athletics Club

COMMUNITY ATHLETICS OFFERED TO KIDS



★ Term 4 ★

We provide local kids with the opportunity to take part in athletics in our community. Our volunteer-run club helps teach, support, and develop each child, building their skills and confidence as individuals.



THE RUNNING

"Feel the adrenaline as you race to the finish line in high-energy sprints!"

SHOT PUT

"Showcase your strength and technique in the shot put competition!"

DISCUS

"Navigate the skies and master your spin to launch the discus far and wide!"

LONG JUMP

"Fly through the air and dominate the long jump with speed and agility!"

WHAT WE OFFER...

Session #1

Tiny Tots (2 years+) & Year 1-2

15th October – 19th November
(6 weeks)

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Session #2

Year 3-8

15th October – 26th November
(7 weeks)

5:30pm – 6:45pm

FEES...

Fees: \$20 per child

Singlets: \$20 (available to purchase on the night)

Volunteers needed

CALL: 027 6353991

WHAT WE OFFER...

- TAAC Club Nights are held on Wednesdays during Term 4, at the Taumarunui Domain.
- Children aged 2 - Year 8 are welcome to attend and participate in athletics activities. They will learn correct techniques and protocols and increase their fitness and strength.
- Tiny Tots - ages 2 - 4 - participate in the modified run, jump and throw activities.
- 5/6 year olds - participate in more advanced modified run, jump, and throw activities.
- 7+year-olds - participate in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, Discus, Shot Put, and Long Jump.



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: [TAUMARUNUI AMATEUR ATHLETICS CLUB](#)