



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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35/2025

12th November 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

Te hā o taku maunga ko taku manawa.

The breath of my mountain is my heart.

DATES TO NOTE

13 th Nov.	Spelling Bee
14 th Nov.	All Black Day
21 st Nov.	Ki-o-rahi Year 5-6
27 th Nov.	Science Roadshow
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.	5pm Break Up and BBQ Reports Issued
17 th Dec.	Last Day of the Year

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

The Fire

It has been a dramatic and traumatic weekend with the large fire in the Tongariro National Park affecting many of us. We are so grateful to those firefighters who worked to extinguish it, to those people behind the scenes who fed and supported the crews, and for the rain that seems to have extinguished the flames.

Four Teachers

At the end of last week, I was informed by the Ministry of Education that they have approved my request for an additional teacher; that we will be operating as a four-teacher school next year. This is due to our projected roll for 2026 being so high, up to 76 students.

I am also pleased to announce that Siobhan McKenna will be one of our teachers for 2026, having won the position made available by Jessie Smith going on study leave for the year.

I will be working closely with Annelies Resink to advertise and appoint the fourth teacher. Once this is done, we will be able to decide which

teacher will be teaching at what level, and which children are in what class. This will all be completed before the end of the school year.

Unfortunately, we will have to use the multi-purpose room again as a classroom but are looking at how we can also use it for technology lessons. If we continue to have sustained roll growth from within our school catchment zone the Ministry will be looking at providing an additional classroom. The reason we put the enrolment zone in place was to try to keep our roll numbers at the mid 60 level, hitting the mid-70s level increases us to a four-teacher school.

So, next year on our teaching staff will be:

Annelies Resink (one day a week teaching, four days a week administration)

Emma Tylee (four days a week)

Theresa Owen (five days a week)

Siobhan McKenna (five days a week)

New yet-to-be-appointed teacher (five days a week).

WELCOME TO ŌWHANGO

A warm welcome to Harrison Tylee who started school today, on his fifth birthday.



Harrison Tylee

CLASSROOM KŌRERO - Kōwhai

This week we welcomed Harrison Tylee to our classroom. He turned 5 on Monday and has

seamlessly transitioned into life at Owango School.



Harrison celebrates his birthday with cupcakes for the class

It's been an exciting few weeks in Kōwhai with all our learning centering around aorangi (planets), whetu (stars), marama (the moon) and tama-nui-te-rā (the sun) as we launched into our unit about space and our solar system, thanks to the suggestions of some curious little astronauts.



Experiencing a space flight via virtual reality

In writing, science and social studies, ngā tamariki have been working on their first research projects. In small groups, students chose a planet to study and have been using an online reading platform, Epic, plus our many pukapuka (books) on space to research facts on their chosen planet. This week they will present their facts and illustrations of their planets on a project board and share their findings with the class. It has been exciting for students using computers for the first time as a tool for their research and they're working really hard to create visually pleasing and informative project boards.



Haven-Skye & Remy collaborating on their project



Blake & Harper happily working away



Sheeran & Lennox researching their planet



Jordie learns about planet Earth

In science, we have used mini models to understand our universe and how it was formed and that it is ever-expanding. We simulated a galaxy using water and glitter to better understand their makeup. We used moon sand to explore how craters are formed from the impact and force from asteroids and meteors. We enjoyed storytime from space when a NASA astronaut read a book to us from the International Space Station. She talked about eating, sleeping and living in space then we learned about why astronauts wear nappies on space walks which lead to looking at the absorbency properties of nappies.



Harrison & Connor make a mini galaxy



Molly makes a playdough solar system

For visual arts last week, we did some directed drawings of astronauts. Although it may not seem very creative there are lots of skills to be gained from directed drawing which can help students develop their fine motor and listening skills, as well as improving their attention to detail and spatial awareness.



Space art

Once our astronauts were drawn, we made our own puffy paint from P.V.A. glue, shaving foam and dye and we applied this to round pieces of card to form planets with a 3D look. Then we glued our astronaut and planet onto starry backgrounds to produce really cool outer space pictures.



Ben and Harrison with their art

This week, in te reo Māori, we will begin to learn topic specific kupu (words) for all things space related!



Class photo at the Jim Barker Memorial playground in Ōtorohanga

Finally, last week we had an amazing trip to Kihikihi to visit the Space Centre there. Students were given missions to complete in order to earn their space cadet badges, and they worked really hard on these, learning lots of wondrous facts about space on their missions. We saw fantastic Lego space displays, learned about incredible astronauts and scientists and the important mahi they do, had a virtual trip into space and much more. The weather was in our favour and after a long drive, we enjoyed a picnic before heading into the centre, but I'll let the tamariki tell you their experiences as they wrote about them the next day.....



Astronauts Harper & Molly reporting for duty

"I went in Harrison's car. It was so hot but exciting. The best part of the day was going into the V.R. room. I liked doing space missions with Harrison too. I had a sunny, happy day."
-Connor Couper

"I jumped into my car and Janey and Indiana came too. Todd drove the car to the Space Centre. Molly and Remy parked behind my dad's

car. We got out of the car and had our morning tea under a shady tree. I took a photo on the U.F.O. Afterwards we went to the playground. My favourite part of the day was the V.R." -
-Harper Nicholson



Jordie blasts off to space!

"I went in my car and tama-nui-te-rā was shining brightly. It was a beautiful hot day and we were sweaty! We were in our motokā for two hours. It was fun at the Whare Taurangi. I liked the video games. My highlight was eating K.F.C. It was a fantastic day."
-Eric Graham

"I went in Corbin's car. I was in the car for about two hours! The Space Centre was so exciting. When we went in, we sat down to have a talk. Then we went in the V.R. room. I liked looking at the Lego then I had a turn on the rocket. We went to the park and played. We ate ice blocks and then we went home. I had an amazing day."
-Quinn Hunt

"Me and Blake were playing in the car. It was a long journey. I had a sleep for a bit. I was delighted; it was a happy day. I was feeling so excited at the Space Centre. Then I said "bye" to Blake as I dropped him off. My favourite thing in the Space Centre was trying the V.R. I had a spectacular day."
-Ben Lacy

"I went in Corbin's car. I was so excited! It was a sunny day. The trip was very long. I really liked

the V.R. room. It felt like being a real astronaut floating. It was strange because I couldn't see my hands. I had the best day."

-Sheeran Leach

"At the Space Centre I was incredibly excited. I went in Todd's car, and we went to McDonald's to get a drink. It was so funny because when we were driving Molly's car was always in front of us. I got a space badge and when we got back Harper dropped me off. My favourite part was the V.R. It was amazing!"

-Janey Patena-Smythe

"In the morning, I was excited because it was a big day. I jumped into my school uniform and went to school. We did the roll and went into our cars. I went with Todd, Janey and Harper. I got sick when I smelled Todd's coffee. When we got there, we had a picnic. Spaceman Dave was waiting for us. When we were done eating in the sun we went inside the Space Centre. Dave told us a bit about space then we started to look around. Me and my teacher tried on the bullet-proof space uniforms. We did some activity sheets to earn a badge. And guess what? We got one! After that we had a picnic at the glorious park. Later, I had a nap in the car. When I woke up, I was at my house. That was the funniest day ever. My teacher is the best!"

-Indiana Closter



Eric launches himself into space

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the wonderful whānau helpers who joined us on our trip. Your willingness to help our tamariki and enjoy the centre as much as them really added to the positivity of our trip. And thank you to our P.T.A. who covered the cost of this trip. Ngā mihi nui. Whaea Siobhan.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We managed to get our class photos taken today, between the showers of rain- see below. If you would like to order one fill in the form at the bottom of this Pānui. All money goes to the PTA.



The Whole School



Kahikatea



Kōwhhai



Rimu

ALL BLACK DAY

As requested by the tamariki, we will be having an **All Black Day** this Friday 14th November. Let's get behind our team and celebrate our favourite All Black, ex Ōwhango student Josh Lord and his whānau. Please wear black and bring your All Black spirit!



Josh Lord

KI-O-RAHI FESTIVAL DAYS- year 5-8

We are waiting for the last of the permission slips to come in for this. Please see last weeks' Pānui for the details and the form to complete.

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

We had a strong team of 28 students attending this event, on a very hot spring day. Here are the results of the kids who got in the top ten of their age group finals. The full results can be found on the TYCY website.

400m- Haylee 2nd, Oliver 2nd, Tilia 4th, Charlotte 5th, Beau 5th, Ainsley 6th, Kaelyis-Rae 6th, Mason 7th, Monty 9th, Chanae 9th,

200m- Lennox 2nd, Jordie 3rd, Beau 3rd, Haven-Skye 4th, Oliver 4th, Haylee 5th, Monty 6th, Kaelyis-Rae 7th, Ainsley 8th, Charlotte 9th, Kyston 9th, Mason 10th,

60m- Haven-Skye 3rd, Lennox 4th, Jordie 7th,

800m- Mason 3rd, Beau 4th

1500m- Chanae 5th, Jack 7th, Tilia 8th

100m- Lennox 4th, Beau 4th, Oliver 4th, Monty 5th, Haven-Skye 5th, Haylee 5th, Kaelyis-Rae 5th, Luca's 6th, Grace 7th,

Relays- Girls Mini Midget 1st, Girls Intermediate 2nd, Boys Intermediate 4th, Girls Senior 4th,

Long Jump- Kaelyis-Rae 1st, Lennox 2nd, Jordie 2nd, Haven-Skye 3rd, Oliver 3rd, Monty 4th, Mason 6th, Haylee 6th, Billie 6th, Kyston 8th, Libby 8th, Lachlan 9th, Kotuku 10th, Chanae 10th

Shotput- Kaelyis-Rae 3rd, Monty 5th,

Discus- Kaelyis-Rae 2nd, Oliver 7th, Tilia 8th, Charlotte 8th,



Lennox gets second



Oliver runs with his crocs in hand!



Lachlan puts the shot



Beau in a close finish



Jack winds up for discus



Libby jumps for eighth



Kaelyis-Rae jumps for first place



Chanae gets tenth



A close finish for Monty in the relay



Tilia's relay team get fourth

SPELLING BEE

Thursday 13th November 2025 - 10am to 2pm
at the Miriama Community Hub. Kim will now be
the staff member overseeing this group.

Transportation

Driver	Students
Meet There	Poppy, Hopaea, Harry,
Kim Petersen	Hinemoa, Charlotte, Billie, Monty,
Karen Komene	Lachlan, Oliver, Soren

OUR KIDS ONLINE Two Minute Parenting Tips

This week: Gaming and Brain Development
Ever wondered what really happens to your
child's brain when they game? In this video, we'll
unpack the brain science behind it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mf-q-7ICcY>



Control + Click to follow the link

P.T.A. CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Today, we kick off our P.T.A. Christmas raffle. 100% of the funds raised in this raffle go to the P.T.A. who support school trips, skiing, sports shirts, kapa haka uniforms and much, much more that benefits our tamariki greatly throughout the school year so please get on board by buying or selling some tickets.



There are three great hampers up for grabs, a celebration hamper that includes \$100 restaurant voucher for The Park Hotel and delicious treats, a Christmas hamper containing a beautiful, locally handcrafted quilt, a round of mini golf for the whanau at Schnapps bar and Christmas themed goodies, and our summer fun hamper which includes a river adventure with Blazing Paddles (worth \$2,400!) and other fun summer essentials. The photos below are an example of the hampers but we are still receiving amazing donations so you can expect extra awesomeness in the final prizes!



Every raffle ticket is worth \$5 and is valid for one entry into the prize draw. Every school whanau has been allocated five numbered tickets to sell at \$5 each and they are attached to your panui today. If you cannot sell the tickets, please return them to school as soon as possible so we can sell them elsewhere. All ticket sales should be paid into the P.T.A. account before the 1st of December and unsold tickets returned, or they will not be valid for the draw. The draw will be

held on the 3rd of December. Each ticket has a space for the buyer's name, phone number and email address. Please ensure these are filled in before returning the completed part to school. They can be placed in the clearly marked raffle box at the school office. Please see Whaea Siobhan if you have any questions or if you would like additional tickets to sell...the more the merrier!

All raffle sales can be paid to:

Owhango P.T.A.
03-0426-0156205 00
Code: Your surname
Reference: Raffle

Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

HUNTERVILLE'S SHEPERD SHEMOZZLE

On the 1st of November I travelled to Hunterville which is about 40 minutes out of Palmerston North to compete in the shepherd's shemozzle. Tilly and Nico also competed in the same race as me. Our race was Intermediate from the age of 10-13 and we wore yellow bibs. The Junior race was from the age of 7-10 and wore green bibs.

And the Teenagers race was from the age of 13-16 and wore brown bibs. I competed in the Junior race last year and came 1st! The Intermediate race was way harder than the Junior race. In the Junior race you had to go down a slide, but in the Intermediate race you had to swim through a deep swamp and slide down a 10-metre mud slide. In the Junior race you had to eat a capsicum, but in the Intermediate race you had to eat a stale cracker with sardines. We also had to run at least 1km up a steep hill. We also had to carry a lemon in our mouths for 50 meters.

There were a countless amount of food trucks and stalls. There was even a band playing at the shemozzle! I liked this year's shemozzle more than last year because it was sunny and not raining like last year. Overall, the shemozzle is a fun experience, and I would recommend you should do it next year. By Mason Wheeler



Mason at the Shemozzle

Community Notices

HOUSE WATER BLASTING

I have recently finished high school for the year and I'm ready to work. I'm offering water blasting services for houses over the summer holidays. I've got experience in water blasting family homes. I am equipped with my own electrical STIHL water blaster ready to tackle any job. If you're interested in getting your house looking fresh, please give me a txt or call.

Thanks, Lewis Wheeler 0274083642.

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

Mitre 10 25 buckets for drumming

Ōwhango Adventures: Free bus use for trips

Sue Morris and Darren Brown Contactors for the
firewood logs and delivery

Ruapehu Quilters a quilt for PTA raffle

Blazing Paddles PTA sponsor

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Ōwhango School Class Photograph Order Form 2025

PTA CLASS PHOTO FUNDRAISER - \$20 each

Family Name _____

Class	Number	Total
Room 1 (Kahikatea)		
Room 2 (Rimu)		
Room 3 (Kōwhai)		
Whole School Photo		
	Total Payment	
	Date paid	

Please include payment with your order. If paying by internet banking, please deposit payment into the

PTA Bank Account: 03 0426 0156205 00

Ref: School Photos with your family name.

Thank you very much for your support!

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