



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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36/2025

19th November 2025



All Blacks' Day

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

"I never lose. I either win or I learn" Nelson Mandela

DATES TO NOTE

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 10 th Dec? | Year 8 Leavers' Treat |
| | Transition Day |
| 11 th Dec. | School Grounds Overnighter |
| 12 th Dec. | Brock's Farm Trip |
| 16 th Dec. | School Break Up Ceremony 5pm |
| | and BBQ 6:30pm |
| | Reports Issued |
| 17 th Dec. | Last Day of the School Year |

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Upcoming Events

We have a lot of fun, educational events in the pipeline as we work towards the end of this year. One new thing is the over-night camp on the school grounds which was requested by the students and is being led by Siobhan.

We also have Brocks Farm end-of-year trip the following day.

Also in the pipeline is the Year 8 Leavers Treat, we are working to finalise the plans for this, hopefully we can let you know about it next week. On the same day we have a Transition Day when the kids have a day in their next year classroom with their new classmates to help them prepare for this. This is pencilled in for the 10th of December, but it may change.

Please fill in the permission slips for these so that we can proceed smoothly with our planning.

Coloured Sand Asbestos Warning

You may have heard through the news outlets that there has been a recall of a coloured sand due to contamination with asbestos. I just want to reassure you that we have never used these products at our school.



If you have some at home, then follow this advice:

- Stop using the product immediately.
- Do not let children touch or play with the sand.
- Place the sand in a sealed container, then double-bag in thick plastic, seal with tape, and clearly label as “Asbestos-Contaminated Material.”
- Do not dispose of in household rubbish or vacuum it up. Contact your local council for advice on where and how to dispose of the contaminated material safely.
- Refer to the clean-up and disposal instructions in the Health NZ webpage here: [Asbestos in sand\(external link\)](#)
- Once secure, we encourage people to contact your retailer for a refund under the Consumer Guarantees Act.
- For further advice call the MBIE Consumer line 0508 426 678.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO - Kahikatea

Kahikatea has had a wonderfully creative and energetic few weeks! We began a new poetry unit by writing “Hello, Goodbye” poems to welcome in the new season, focusing on descriptive language to bring our ideas to life. We then moved on to crafting pattern poems inspired by Tongariro and the recent destructive and heart-breaking wildfire, experimenting with structure and vivid vocabulary—carefully choosing powerful nouns, adjectives, and adverbs to create strong imagery. In our topic

learning, we completed our study of **taonga puoro** by making our own clay **kōauau**, learning how to play them, and finally bringing all our instruments together to perform a class soundscape.



Nico expertly playing his kōauau



Aria experimenting with her kōauau

Alongside our classroom work, we have been learning the game of **Ki-o-rahi**, which is quite a complex sport, but one the students have embraced with enthusiasm. They are picking up the rules and strategies quickly and showing great teamwork. We have also been brushing up on our **Rounders** skills as we prepare for the upcoming Softball Tournament.



Rosa and Hinemoa guarding the tupu

Hello, Goodbye

*Hello, spring,
Goodbye, pouring freezing rain.
Hello, creamy cold ice-cream,
Goodbye, icy muddy puddles.
Hello, juicy red strawberries,
Goodbye, sniffly sick noses.
Hello, spring,
We are glad you are here.
By Elliott Pritt-Stewart*

THE SWIMMING POOL IS OPEN

With the run of hotter weather recently we have worked at getting the pool open earlier than usual. It is now ready so the children can bring their togs to school for a lunchtime swim, or if enough students in the class bring their togs their teacher may take them for a lesson in the pool. Our compulsory classroom swimming lessons start on the first day of next year, when the warm weather is more guaranteed.

SWIMMING POOL KEYS FOR SALE

If you would like a swimming pool season key, contact Karen in the office. Cost is \$50 for the key; you get \$20 back when you return the key at the end of the season. Please pay by direct credit to the school account 03 0426 0141783 00, reference 'Pool Key'.

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

The Year 5-6 Ki-O-Rahi Festival Day held at the Taumarunui Domain is this Friday 21st

November. Please see the transport list below for your information. We are leaving at 8.55am and will return before 3pm. The day will begin at 9.30am, so if you are meeting us there, please be at the gazebo by 9.20am. Please wear your sports t-shirt, pōtae (sunhat), sunscreen and bring a big drink and lunch.

Transportation

| Driver | Students |
|----------------|---|
| Theresa Owen | Charlotte, Brodie, Grace, Kaelyis-Rae, Lily |
| Maree Hodges | Haylee, gazebo |
| Trudie Wheeler | Mason, Monty, Harry, Billie |
| Jessie Smith | Te Hana, Millie, Rosa, Olive |
| Meeting there | Juan, Lachlan, Tahu, Hinemoa, Nico |

SCIENCE ROADSHOW

On Thursday 27th of November the Kahikatea and Rimu classes will be travelling to the Taumarunui High School to attend the Science Roadshow. We will be **departing school at 8:45** as we need to be seated in the venue by 9:20.

The show finishes at 10:30 so we will be back at school at 11:00am. As we are going by bus, we will not be sending out a transport / permission slip. Please contact the school if your child does not have permission to attend this compulsory trip that is part of our science curriculum.



One of the activities is a demonstration of science

THE INAUGURAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Last Thursday we had the Spelling Bee.

A couple of people from each class (except the junior kids) got picked out to get entered into it. They were Poppy, Oliver, Hopaea, Soren, Monty, Lachlan, Charlotte, Hinemoa, Harry and Billie. Each of the year groups were called up one at a time to participate. When it was your turn,

the master of ceremonies called out a word you had to spell, you had to write the word on a whiteboard and say it into the microphone. If you got the word correct, then you would get to the next round but if you got it wrong you would collect your certificate and you would be eliminated.

I made it all the way into the last round until it was just two of us battling against each other. It was me and a boy from Manunui. It was really tense because if I got a word wrong, I would be eliminated. The battle went on for about ten minutes because we both kept getting them right so we would not get out. But unfortunately, I finally got out of the word argumentative, because I left in an e after the u.

Everyone had a great day, and I am sure we would love to do it again.

By Charlotte



Monty reads out his word



Hinemoa won her division- here she is awarded her medal

MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS SOFTBALL

On Friday 28th of November the whole school will be going to the Manunui Domain for the Mountain Schools Softball Tournament. On the day the children are put into teams to play games designed to teach them the skills of softball:

Year 1 & 2 Scatter Ball

Year 3 & 4 Rounders

Year 5 & 6 T Ball

Year 7 & 8 Softball

Each team will play four games. The students have been busy learning the game they will be playing in preparation for this day. Parents are welcome to come along and cheer their teams along. We will be departing at 9am and returning by 3pm. Please let the school know if you would rather meet us at the venue. We are not putting out permission / transport slips as we are going in by bus, and this is part of our compulsory physical education programme. Contact us if your child does not have permission to attend.

OVERNIGHT CAMP AT SCHOOL

11th of December 2025

Following suggestions from students we will be holding an optional overnight camp on the school field. There will be limited staff available, so it is important that we have whanau support to make it happen. Attached to this panui is a permission slip and whanau agreement for the camp. Please read the attached agreement carefully and go through it with your tamariki to ensure they understand it. We will take breaches of the agreement seriously and expect students who breach it to leave the overnight camp. If your child is not attending the overnight camp, we ask that they do not return to school after school has finished.

The camp is the night before our annual Brock's Farm trip. On Friday (12th), breakfast will be provided at school, and lunch will be provided at Brock's Farm by our P.T.A. so that is one less thing to worry about in the busyness of it all for our whanau!

The overnight camp timeline will look like this:

3pm: all students go home. Pack your overnight bag (bedding, pyjamas, toiletries, torch, games, snacks) and tent.

5.30pm: return to school and set up tents on the school field with your whanau's help (staff will not be setting up tents).

6pm: Play lawn games, sports, hang out with friends, tell stories etc.

8pm: Lights out for year 1-3 students

9pm: Lights out for year 4-8 students

7am: Breakfast in the multipurpose room, all staff and students help to clean up.

8am: Whanau/designated helpers return to help pack up tents, and drop off bikes, morning tea, togs etc. for Brock's Farm.

9am: Set off, fully prepared for Brock's Farm.

We are looking forward to a safe and fun overnight camp! If you have any questions, please contact Whaea Siobhan.

BROCK'S FARM TRIP

Please read the information about this trip below and fill out the permission slip so that planning can proceed.

SCHOOL PHOTOS- a final reminder

We will soon be printing our school photos. This is your last chance to order one or some. See the last two Pānui for the order form.

OUR KIDS ONLINE Two Minute Parenting Tips

This week: **The Worst Children's Library**

Imagine if everything children are exposed to online was placed on shelves in a library. You'd be looking at the world's worst children's library. What if someone actually did that — just the book titles?

Well... it's been done. And it's terrifying.

On December 10th, "The Worst Children's Library" is coming to the New Zealand Parliamentary Library — a powerful, uncomfortable, and urgently needed visual reminder of what kids are exposed to online every single day. This video breaks down why this matters and how we can use this moment to drive real, lasting legislative change.

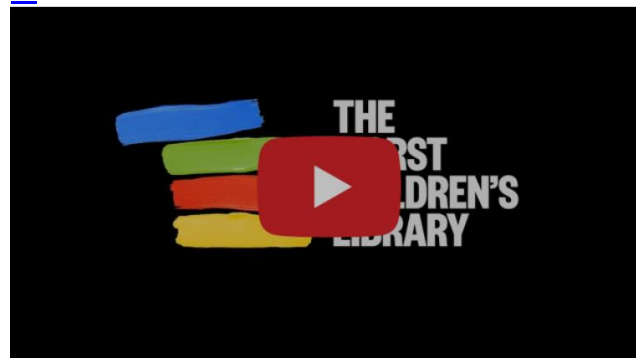
I've written a full piece of legislation — The New Zealand Child Internet Safety Act — designed to protect every child in Aotearoa from the online harms that are currently flooding into our homes and communities. Read the bill here:

https://www.ourkidsonline.info/files/ugd/63a506_8c16da791a0e4ee9b846428e5916d1d1.pdf

Share it with your local MP. Forward this video to other parents, teachers, and community leaders. We have a narrow window to act. If we stand together, we can push Parliament to take this seriously — not in 5 years, not after another generation of harm, but right now.

Thank you for watching, supporting, and speaking up. Together, we can keep our kids safe online.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNrZUghjw-E>



Control + Click to follow the link

P.T.A. CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER a reminder

Thank you for a fantastic response to our P.T.A. raffle, to those who have bought and sold tickets and to our generous sponsors. If you have raffle tickets you are unable to buy/sell, please return these to school **this week** so that we can sell them elsewhere. If any whānau would like to sell more tickets, there are a small number remaining and you can get these from Whaea Siobhán. For all tickets sold/unreturned, please ensure payment is made to:

Owhango P.T.A.

03-0426-0156205 00

Code: Your surname

Reference: Raffle

Tickets are \$5 each and entitle the buyer to one entry into our draw. The draw will be held on the 3rd of December and consists of three great prizes. Thank you for supporting our wonderful Ōwhango School P.T.A.



The three prizes

Community Notices

None this week

PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING DETAILS:

Ōwhango School: Uniform/stationery/sport fees
pay to 03 0426 0141783 00

PTA: Fundraisers 030 426 0156205 00

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

PTA Xmas Raffle Sponsors: Blazing Paddles, Ruapehu Quilters, The Park Hotel, Schnapps Bar & The Station Café

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Whole School Overnight Camp Permission Slip & Whanau Agreement

Thursday 11th December 2025, School Field, from 5.30pm

Return permission slip by Wednesday the 26th of November so that planning can proceed

Family name _____

My child / ren _____ may camp overnight on the school field.

ADULT HELP - Compulsory for all year 1-3 students

YES / NO I can stay and support all night or

If no, (adult name) _____ has agreed to be the designated adult for my year 1-3 child and will assume full responsibility for them for the duration of the camp.

ADULT HELP - Optional for year 4-8, but whanau must help set up their tent at 5.30pm

YES / NO I can stay and support all night

YES / NO I will be present to set up my child/ren's tent

If no, (adult name) _____ has agreed to be the designated adult to set up my child's tent.

Name and contact number for whanau member available on the night to collect your child in the event of emergency or breach of the below agreement:

Name _____ Phone _____

WHANAU AGREEMENT

In order for your tamariki to attend the overnight camp, you must read and agree to the following:

- Students are to go home from school at 3pm to pack and eat dinner. No dinner will be provided at school. They are not permitted to stay on school grounds unattended until the camp begins.
- Students may return with parents/designated helpers at 5.30pm to set up tents.
- Any child with a tent must have a parent/designated helper with them to help set it up. Staff will not be erecting tents.
- Boys and girls must sleep in separate tents, unless they are siblings, or by prior arrangement with Whaea Siobhan.
- All tents are to be set up on the school field, not in the bush areas or out of sight of staff.
- No vehicles are permitted to park on the school field at any time for safety reasons. Any whanau who wish to sleep in camping vehicles, must set up outside of school grounds.
- Year 1-3 students must have an adult with them overnight, if any parent assigns another adult to their year 1-3 child, that adult assumes responsibility for getting that child's tent set up, any toileting issues, administering medication, and taking them home if they are unhappy or unsettled etc.
- Year 4-8 students will be assigned to an on-site adult for supervision.
- Students with nighttime toileting, sleeping or medical issues must have a parent or designated adult with them overnight regardless of year group.
- Toilets will be open overnight but the rest of the school building is off limits during camp including the shower in the morning.
- No babies, preschoolers, high school students or pets are permitted to attend the overnight camp.
- No phones, electronic devices/wifi are allowed during the camp.
- No alcohol, drugs, smoking or vaping will be tolerated during the camp.
- No fires are permitted during the overnight camp.
- After 'lights out', students must remain in tents, except for toileting.
- Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time, unless with their whanau or designated adult.
- Breakfast is being sponsored by our P.T.A. All students will assist in preparing and cleaning up after breakfast with staff and whanau help.
- Pack down will begin from 8am, parents and designated adults must return to help their child with tent pack up/prep for Brock's Farm Trip on Friday.
- In the event of an emergency, breach of this agreement, adverse weather event or unforeseen circumstances, whanau members must be available to collect their tamariki from the camp at short notice.

Any breaches of the above will result in whanau being asked to remove their tamariki from the camp.

Parents/Caregivers Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

END OF YEAR TRIP TO BROCK'S FARM

On Friday 12th of December, we will be having our end of year trip at Brock's Farm next to the Whakapapa River.

This is an outdoor-based day with fun, challenging, fitness-focussed activities, making the most of the beautiful, local environment. We will be leaving the school about 9:15 to walk down to the farm; the year 4-8 children have the option of cycling down (and back up at the end of the day).

If the weather is unsuitable a decision to cancel will be made at 3pm on Thursday (the previous day) and families will be emailed; instead, we will be doing a fun, wet weather alternative programme at school.

There is no postponement day.

The children do not need to wear their uniform on this day.

This trip is for current pupils and pre-schoolers and their whanau.

Cyclists

The year 4-8 children have the option to cycle down and back up from Brocks Farm. Please check tyres are pumped, brakes work and that they wear closed toe shoes and a fitted bike helmet.

Walkers

All children not cycling will be walking down. Please wear suitable, sun-smart clothing (shoulders covered) for outdoor activities.

Please wear suitable shoes for walking on the gravel road to the Whakapapa River.

At the end of the day the year 1-2 students only, will have the option of travelling in cars back up the hill to school if there is enough transport.

Tubing

The year 4-8 students will have the option of taking part in tubing in the Whakapapa River. The children will be taught about river safety before the tubing begins. Teachers and parents will also be overseeing that correct safety procedures are adhered to.

Tubing is dependent on river flow and adult support - if there has been a lot of rainfall and the river is too high, tubing will be cancelled on the day. We also need enough adults in the water with the children and on the banks as spotters and lifeguards. If you can assist with this activity, please fill in the form.

To take part in the tubing students must bring back the **permission slip** below.

The children must wear a **bike helmet, sneakers** and a life jacket. We also recommend wearing a wetsuit for warmth! We will be supplying life jackets for those students who do not have their own.

Waterslide

The children will need their togs and towel to participate in our giant water slide. This is suitable for all ages, including adults (if they don't scream).

Lunch

The PTA is generously providing a free lunch. The children will need to bring their own morning tea, and a drink bottle with water in it only.

Students will need to bring:

Water bottle

Sunhat

A morning tea & lunch if they don't like schnitzel and salad.

Togs and towel (for water slide)

Year 4 – 8 students taking part in tubing will also need a bike helmet & sneakers to wear in the river, and a life jacket if you have one (otherwise we will have some supplied by Owhango Adventures).
A change of clothes including something warm.
You are welcome to bring your own chairs, sunshade etc.
Note that this is a mufti day- no uniform is necessary.



BROCK'S FARM PERMISSION & PARENT ASSISTANCE

Friday the 12th of December (No postponement date.)

My child / children _____ have my permission to attend this trip to Brock's Farm.

CYCLING (only for year 4-8)

My child / children _____ will be cycling to and from Brock's Farm and I am confident s/he/they have the stamina and ability to do this. **YES / NO**

TUBING ASSISTANCE

I can offer parent help and supervision with tubing- either from the riverbank or in the water. **YES / NO**

CYCLING ASSISTANCE

I can cycle down and back with the children **YES / NO**

TRANSPORT

Please tick your choice

I am able to provide smoke free, seat belted transport for _____ year 1 & 2 children back to school at the end of the day, in a registered and warranted vehicle that will be driven by a fully licensed driver who adheres to all traffic regulations.

or

I will be **walking** down & back with the students. **YES / NO**

or

I will be **biking** down & back with the students. **YES / NO**

Adult's Name _____



BROCK'S FARM RIVER TUBING ACTIVITY PERMISSION FORM

Please note only children in years 4-8 can participate in the tubing activity.

Friday the 12th of December (No postponement date.)

FAMILY NAME _____

To take part in the tubing students must bring wear a **bike helmet and sneakers.**

I give permission for my child/ren _____ to participate in the river tubing.

Signed _____