



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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33/2025

29th October 2025

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

'You can't control the wind, but you can adjust the sails.' – Unknown

DATES TO NOTE

31 st October	Bikes at School Day
4 th Nov.	Duffy Theatre Visit
5 th Nov.	Kowhai Space Centre Trip
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
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.	5 pm Break Up and BBQ Reports Issued
17 th Dec.	Last Day of the Year

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Another thanks to all the people who supported our athletics day on Friday. These days are so good for the children on so many levels but cannot work without an army of volunteers.

CLASSROOM KŌRERO –Rimu

Abseiling at Hillary Outdoors Pursuits Centre – Tongariro National Park

Our Rimu class students had an unforgettable experience abseiling at the Hillary Outdoors Pursuits Centre last Tuesday, in the stunning Tongariro National Park. The activity proved very challenging for **all** students (Whaea Jessie included) — as everyone faced their fears and overcame obstacles with determination and courage. It was a true test of strength, both

physical and emotional, as students stepped over the edge and worked to control their descent. The day was filled with teamwork, encouragement, and plenty of proud smiles at the bottom of the cliff. A huge thank you to the awesome instructors from OPC for their guidance and support, and to the whānau who helped transport our tamariki. What a fabulous and memorable day of adventure!



We were split into 2 groups. One group stayed inside on the OPC rock climbing wall and the other group was abseiling outside. We then swapped over once everyone had a go.



Inside the OPC climbing wall.



Outside, we learned how the carabiners work and had a go on the practise wall before the real thing!



As Lucas descends, his classmates wait nervously for their turn.



Soren and Zurich side by side.



Oliver looks over nervously before descending the daunting cliff.



Soren was bravely the first one down and convinced the others it was fun!



The scariest part was the beginning, climbing over the railing and leaning over the edge!

Power to the Puoro

Ōwhango School had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Power to the Puoro presentation at the Taumarunui Memorial Hall. This is an interactive experience where students connect through the power of Taonga Puoro and our natural environment relevant to Aotearoa.

Jerome shared his whānau collection of Taonga Puoro mixed with modern sound technology to bring together the ancient and the new.



Some of the many taonga puoro on display and played by Jerome during the performance



Students from many of the Taumarunui primary schools were captivated as they explored the rich history and significance of traditional Māori instruments. Every puoro was demonstrated, giving students a chance to hear the unique sounds and rhythms that have been an important part of Māori culture for generations. The presentation highlighted the materials used to make these instruments, from wood, shells and bone to flax, and explained the cultural stories behind each one. Students were inspired by examples such as the pūtātara, hue, and kōauau, gaining a deeper appreciation for Māori music, history, and craftsmanship. It was a musically memorable experience that brought the sounds of Aotearoa's heritage to life.



Jerome skilfully playing the pūtātara



Making beautiful music with a koauau

Poppy Murtagh – Interschools' Speech Success

A huge congratulations to Poppy Murtagh, who represented Owhango School at the Taumarunui Interschools' Speech Competition – after spending the day abseiling off the side of a cliff, no less! Poppy came third in the senior division with her inspiring speech titled *"Why Every School in Aotearoa Should Learn Te Reo Māori."* In class, we have been focusing on persuasive writing and public speaking, and Poppy's effort showcased all the elements of an excellent speech — clear articulation, strong structure, confidence, and heartfelt conviction. We are so proud of her outstanding achievement and the

mana she brought to our school. Below is a short excerpt from Poppy's powerful speech.

"E huri tō aroaro ki te rā, tukuna tō ataarangi ki muri i a koe."

'Turn and face the sun and let your shadow fall behind you.'

This is one of many wisdomful whakatauki from the Māori world, many of which talk about some of the things they have been through showing the strength, love and importance behind this language. Te Reo Māori is indigenous to New Zealand and it's our national language which means it is ours to treasure and look after for as long as this country lives and teaching it to our next generation in schools will help us to nurture it for years to come."



Poppy presenting her speech at the Taumarunui Little Theatre to a large audience, with many of the local schools participating. We are so proud of you Poppy!

Nga mihi, Whaea Jessie

ATHLETICS DAY RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students who got in the top eight in the finals of their age group events. A full list of the placings is on the Notice Board in the corridor.

60 metres

Harper 6th, Ainsley 1st, Libby 4th, Corbin 4th, Lennox 8th, Kyston 3rd,

100 metres

Ainsley 1st, Libby 6th, Azalea 8th, Kaelyis-Rae 3rd, Charlotte 7th, Gin 4th, Chanae 7th, Corbin 1st, Lennox 8th, Kyston 3rd, Monty 4th, Mason 5th, Nico 6th, Juan 8th, Oliver 2nd, Lucas 3rd, Beau 6th,

200m

Haven-Skye 4th, Ainsley 1st, Rose 5th, Libby 6th, Azalea 8th, Charlotte 4th, Kaelyis-Rae 5th, Haylee 6th, Gin 1st, Tilia 3rd, Chanae 6th, Corbin 6th, Lennox 7th, Kotuku 8th, Kyston 2nd, Monty 2nd, Mason 3rd, Lachlan 5th, Oliver 2nd, Beau 4th, Lucas 5th, Jack P 7th,

400m

Kaelyis-Rae 3rd, Charlotte 7th, Haylee 8th, Gin 1st, Tilia 4th, Chanae 8th, Monty 1st, Lachlan 3rd, Mason 4th, Oliver 1st, Jack P 5th, Beau 7th

800m

Haylee 3rd, Mason 1st, Monty 2nd, Lachlan 4th,

1500m

Chanae 2nd, Tilia 4th, Darcy 5th, Poppy 8th, Jack P 2nd, Oliver 3rd, Lucas 4th, Beau 6th

Long Jump

Haven-Skye 1st, Janey 7th, Libby 2nd, Ainsley 3rd, Molly 6th, Rose 7th, Kaelyis-Rae 1st, Charlotte 3rd, Haylee 4th, Tilia 3rd, Chanae 4th, Gin 8th, Lennox 2nd, Kotuku 4th, Blake 5th, Kyston 2nd, Mason 2nd, Monty 4th, Lachlan 6th, Jonny 7th, Nico 8th, Oliver 1st, Beau 6th, Soren 8th,

High Jump

Rose 2nd, Libby 3rd=, Ainsley 5th=, Charlotte 4th=, Kaelyis-Rae 6th=, Tilia 2nd, Darcy 4th, Chanae 5th=, Corbin 1st=, Blake 1st=, Harley-John 1st=, Kyston 8th=, Monty 2nd=, Juan 6th, Lachlan 7th=, Billie 9th=, Mason 9th=

Shotput

Kaelyis-Rae 1st, Hinemoa 2nd=, Haylee 5th, Charlotte 8th, Tilia 6th, Darcy 8th, Lachlan 2nd, Jonny 4th, Monty 6th,

Discus

Kaelyis-Rae 1st, Hinemoa 3rd, Charlotte 5th, Darcy 6th, Tilia 7th, Monty 2nd, Jonny 6th, Oliver 1st, Jack P 5th.

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Another massive thank you to everyone who helped to make this day happen for our children. It is a huge team effort. We were lucky the weather gods were on our side after all the rain we have had before and after this day. We are currently working out the team to go to Interschool Athletics, those selected will be taking a permission slip home soon.

Some photos of the day are below.



Our wonderful PTA cooking up a storm to keep the athletes and spectators fed



The workers at the results tent were very busy too



Jack got second in the 1500m



Lucas and Beau in the 200m final



Briarni running along



Soren nudged the bar, but it stayed on at 100cm



Oliver jumped 110cm



Ainsley won the 60m final



Mason on the home straight of the 800m- he got first



Kaelyis-Rae jumped 95cm



Corbin finishes the shuttle relay, with our wonderful starter, James, encouraging him along

ATHLETICS DAY HOUSE POINTS

The following points were earned by the House Groups:

(1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point)

Ngāuruhoe 13 points

Ruapehu 57 points

Tongariro 27 points

KŌWHAI SPACE CENTRE KIHIKIHI TRIP

Wednesday 5th of November

Departing school at 8.45am,

Returning approx. 4pm

Permission and transport slips were due back today for this trip. There are still some outstanding, please get them in by tomorrow (Thursday the 30th) so planning can proceed, or we will assume your child does not have permission to attend. On that note, please be aware that our transport list may change.

Please remember, this trip is not suitable for babies or preschoolers.

On the day, students will need:

- A substantial morning tea and lunch
- Water bottle
- Raincoats
- Sun hats
- Full school uniform
- Personal medication

Please meet at school at 8.30am for a roll call, safety briefing and sharp 8.45am departure.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to drive students and to help with groups at the Space Centre and at the playground afterwards, your help is very much appreciated and the reason we can make these trips happen. Looking forward to a fun and educational trip with our wee astronauts!

Whaea Siobhan

Transport:

Driver	Passengers
Hannah	Karen Lord, Molly, Remy
Stacey	Eric, Kotuku, Hunter
Paul	Kirsty, Ben, Blake
Todd	Harper, Janey, Indiana
Erin	Corbin, Quinn
Katie	Jahbon, Jordie, Kruza, Haven
Emma	Kim, Harrison, Connor
Danielle	Harley-John, Lennox
To be confirmed	Sheeran, Coby
No Permission Slip Returned	Kaiataarangi, Briarni

SKI MONEY DUE- a reminder

Adult skiing costs have been processed. Invoices were emailed out two weeks ago to parents who participated day by day with the amounts now due. Please pay these promptly to Westpac 03 0426 0141783 00 reference "Adult skiing". Thank you.

BIKES AT SCHOOL DAY

On Friday we are having another of our Bikes at School days, if the weather isn't wet! These days are organised so that the kids have a chance to ride their bikes around the school during their playtimes. Usually, we don't allow this. It is optional, so there is no pressure for children to bring a bike. Please judge the weather yourself and decide if your child can bring their bike, there will be no email sent out to cancel this.

P.T.A. FUNDRAISER

Recently we applied for and received a beautiful, handmade quilt from the Ruapehu Quilters to raffle. We are working on sourcing some other exciting items too to offer a Christmas hamper raffle in order to raise funds for new kapa haka uniforms, sports shirts, class trips and other treats for our tamariki.

We are seeking donations to make our hamper bigger and better so if all whānau who are able to, could please donate an item (such as non-perishable foods, sweet treats, toys, Christmas decorations etc) to add to the Christmas hamper that would be greatly appreciated. There will be a container for donated items in the school office.

Please bring your items in before Friday the 7th of November. After that, we will share more information on the raffle and prizes.

If you are not sure about the mahi our amazing P.T.A. do to support wonderful opportunities for our school, please ask a staff member about adding you to the P.T.A. Messenger group.

Nā Siobhan McKenna

OUR KIDS ONLINE

This week: **How Our Children's Strengths Become Online Weaknesses**

Our kids' best traits — curiosity, empathy, and kindness — can make them vulnerable in the online world. The same curiosity that drives them to explore in real life can lead them into risky spaces online, and their empathy can be twisted or taken advantage of by people who know exactly how to exploit it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjchNY7dKOo>



Control + Click to follow the link

ARE THESE YOURS?

These were recently left at school, probably donations for athletics day, and do not have a name on the bottom. Come and get them if they are yours.



Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

JUNIOR GOLF

The Junior Golf programme will again start up at the Taumarunui Golf Course from 4 to 6 p.m. every Friday. The event will start on **7 November 2025**, and the last day for 2025 will be **Friday, 12 December**. Then, junior golf will restart on **13 February 2026**, and the last day for the summer will be **27 March 2026**.

Cost: \$2 per player. There will be a **drink, a treat, and spot prizes at the end of every session**. You don't need any balls or golf clubs, but if you have them, bring them along. Players only need to bring:

- a hat
- water bottle
- footwear (closed shoe, not sandals, jandals or bare feet); and
- a "positive" attitude.

Parent volunteers who can support the programme are welcome. Parents are

encouraged to join our **Messenger group "Taumarunui Junior Golf"**. Notices will go out to the group, especially when we encounter bad weather that would lead to cancellation/s. Also, you can use the group for any general questions. Signed Rupert Lerm

Community Notices

NATIONAL PARK SCHOOL TRICK OR TREAT

EVENT See the poster below

HALLOWEEN GALA AND DISCO

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 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

