



# 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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38/2025

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

*"If everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane" Steven Wright*

## DATES TO NOTE

5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Ki-o-rahi Year 7-8
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Parade
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Y8 Awa trip
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 8 Leavers' Treat
	Transition Day
	Board Hui 7pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	School Grounds Overnighter
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Brock's Farm Trip

16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	School Break Up Ceremony 5pm and BBQ 6:30pm
	Reports Issued
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Last Day of the School Year
	Water Fight & Crazy Hair Day

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT - ERO Report

We have finally received our Education Review Office (ERO) report. I am very happy, as it accurately portrays our school as I see it. I will attach it to our emailed version of this Pānui so you can read it in full, it will also be on our website. Here are some quotes from it:

*This section provides a summary of learner success and wellbeing. The judgments are based on the ERO School Improvement Framework and the evidence provided to ERO during the evaluation.*

How well are learners succeeding?	Learners experience high levels of success and make excellent progress; outcomes are similarly high for all groups.
What is the quality of teaching and learning?	Learners benefit from excellent quality teaching practice that improves progress and achievement in reading, writing and mathematics.
How well does the school curriculum respond to all learners needs?	Learners have rich opportunities to learn across the breadth and depth of the curriculum.  There is a consistent focus on supporting learners to gain skills in foundational skills in literacy and mathematics.  Learners with complex needs are well supported to achieve their education goals.
How well does school planning and conditions support ongoing improvement?	School planning and conditions to support ongoing improvement to the quality of education for learners are well established.
How well does the school include all learners and promote their engagement and wellbeing?	The school successfully promotes learners' engagement, wellbeing and inclusion.
How well does the school partner with parents, whānau and its community for the benefit of learners?	The school reports usefully and accurately to parents / whānau about their child's learning, achievement and progress.  The school responds well to a wide range of information gathered through community consultation, to inform strategic planning and curriculum decisions.
Student Health and Safety	The school board is taking reasonable steps to ensure student health and safety.

## Achievement in Years 0 to 8

*This section is about learner achievement. It outlines how well learners across the school meet or exceed the expected curriculum level of The New Zealand Curriculum in foundational skills.*

Less than a third	Less than half	Small majority	Large majority	Most	Almost all
0 to 33%	34 to 49%	50 to 64%	65 to 79%	80 to 90%	Over 90%

Reading	Most learners meet or exceed the expected curriculum level. Results are becoming more equitable for all groups of learners.
Writing	Most learners meet or exceed the expected curriculum level. Results are becoming more equitable for all groups of learners.
Mathematics	Almost all learners meet or exceed the expected curriculum level. Results are equitable for all groups of learners.

### Areas of Strength

High levels of overall student achievement in reading, writing and mathematics are sustained over time.

Leaders and teachers work collaboratively, utilising their individual strengths to lead the implementation of the school's strategic priorities and foster expectations for high quality teaching and equitable, excellent outcomes for all learners.

Consistent implementation of a structured approach to the teaching of literacy and mathematics supports students to gain strong foundation skills and strengthens learning across the curriculum.

Classrooms are characterised by high-quality teaching, clear routines, and positive relationships between teachers and students; learners are well supported to be inclusive and engaged in learning.

Students benefit from rich experiences to learn across the curriculum; strong links to the local environment provide powerful learning opportunities for all learners.

Internal expertise and strategically aligned professional learning and development develop and strengthen teacher capability and improve outcomes for learners.

Regular leadership reviews against school strategic goals guide ongoing improvements in student progress, achievement and learning outcomes.

The school board and principal take a strategic approach to resourcing and decision-making, using comprehensive information effectively to prioritise support for high-quality teaching and learning.

### Key priorities

The agreed next steps for the school are to:

- Sustain high levels of student achievement in literacy and mathematics.
- Fully embed and strengthen structured approaches to teaching and learning in mathematics and literacy to further support improved outcomes for all learners.
- Review and refine the school's assessment practices to align to the new curriculum and assessment requirements and further support student achievement and progress.
- Improve regular attendance for all students.





*Josh Lord's visit*

*halves*

### **CLASSROOM KŌRERO – Kōwhai**

This year has gone much too fast in Kōwhai class! It has been a wonderful year with your incredible tamariki. Writing their school reports, and taking time to reflect on their individual personalities, progress and achievements has been very insightful and rewarding. I have loved getting to know your little taonga in 2025! It is my favourite time of year, so I am now looking forward to getting stuck into some summer and festive fun with our Kōwhai kids in the remaining weeks of school.

In maths, we have been learning about the basics of fractions. We started by understanding that fractions are part of a whole, and how we can share a whole into equal parts or fractions. Older students were learning about equivalent fractions and fractions of sets or groups. We had fun taking our learning outdoors and looking for fractions in nature.



*Flower fractions with Janey*



*The class organised themselves into two equal*



*Molly learns with leaves*



To end our space study, each student wrote a fun narrative about a trip to space:

***My Space Adventure***  
***by Hunter TeAhuru - Tepaki***

*I would hop in my fast rocket. I will fly to Mars. I hope I find aliens. I will kidnap them!  
I would take all their food. Next, I go to my super rocket. I am off to the moon! '3, 2, 1...blast off!' I go back to Earth. It was a fun trip.*

***My Space Adventure By Molly Pierce***

*Hi, my name is Molly. When I was waking up, I got a knock on the door. It was the government!!! They said "you are so smart. I want to launch you to space!"*

*"Hmmm yes I would love that!" I said.*

*"So, you want the job? Great! In two weeks, we will meet at the International Space Station."*

*2 weeks later...*

*I was dressed up and ready to go! That day somebody was in the new rocket I was given. Their name was Indie. She told me about her space adventures. I was amazed! Eventually we got to space. I looked at the clock; it took me 200 minutes to get there. And when I arrived it felt funny. I was floating in space. I saw Saturn shining near me. Obviously, I floated over to Saturn and started riding Saturn's rings. Soon, I went back to my white rocket. I played some games and did my research. I had research to do back on Earth too. I am going to miss space, but I will always remember the amazing trip.*

*"10, 9, 8 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...go!" I arrived back home safely.*

***Planet Pizza By Quinn Hunt***

*The king called me and asked me to be the first person in space. I rushed to my tall rocket; it was about to go without me! I went to Planet Pizza where it was raining pizza. I ate all the pizza and the cheesy moon too! Then I got kidnapped by aliens in a spaceship. I broke their engine and escaped. I hurried back to Earth where the king was waiting for me. Then I became the king!*

***Space Aliens By Lennox Tomlinson***

*I went to space. I hopped into my spiky rocket. I chased aliens. They were green. They had 10,000 eyes!*

***Space Adventures By Haven-Skye Te Ahuru***

*I got into my shiny rocket. I was going to the moon to kill some aliens. I killed 159 aliens. Then I flew home to Mars and ate the aliens for dinner.*

Now that we have concluded our space study, in science, we have moved onto another student-led interest, minibeasts. We have been learning about the habitats of common minibeasts in Aotearoa. We will find out about the many ways minibeasts help humans and create our own habitats for them around school through art and technology.

We have had some lovely pre-school visits from our new 4-year-old friends, Noa and Romana recently, who have made new friends and joined in with our learning beautifully. If you have a 4-year-old who will be enrolling in our kura in 2026, they are most welcome to join in our transition morning next Wednesday.



*Romana & Noa show off their literacy skills*



*Romana joined in a craft session with our 5-year-olds*

We have been having all sorts of fun with music recently. Students have been exploring a range of instruments with Mr. Starkey and trying out fuse bucket drumming with Whaea Siobhan. We have patterns and on recognising and repeating

musical patterns and playing in time to pieces of Christmas music. Thank you to Mitre 10 Taumarunui for providing the buckets.



*Concentrating on following a beat*

Just a reminder that although no formal swimming lessons are happening the school pool is open and available for swimming in most days under supervision either at lunchtime or during class time when time and weather allow. If you are happy for your child to swim, please check they have togs each morning to avoid disappointment.



*Molly, Indie, Kaia & Harper make a splash*



*Eric, Quinn & Blake take a dip*

Unfortunately, we still have some missing items in Kōwhai class belonging to Whaea Siobhan, Whaea Regan and two students that went missing on the 20th and 21st of November. We would appreciate the prompt return of these items so please help your tamariki have a search at home. The items are 12 x large plastic bugs, a life-like tarantula, 5 x test tubes with orange lids and a stand, droppers with colourful tops, a book named 'Skippy John Jones' and a large number of jibbitz that have been removed from crocs on our shoe rack.

This will be the junior room's last class korero for 2025. Ngaa mihi nui Kōwhai class for a fabulous year of learning and laughter together. Whaea Siobhan.

### **JOSH LORD VISIT**

We were very pleased to have our ex-student and local, Josh Lord visit us today and present us with an All Black jersey he wore when he recently played against Wales. We will get this framed so we can hang it at school.



*Patrick, Poppy, Molly, Jack and Josh with the jersey*

### **YEAR 7/8 KI-O-RAHI FESTIVAL**

The Year 7-8 Ki-O-Rahi Festival Day is to be held at the Taumarunui Domain this Friday 5th December. Please see the transport list below for your information. We are leaving school at 9am and will return before 3pm. The day will begin at 9.30am, so if you are meeting us there, please be at the Ōwhango gazebo by 9.20am. Please wear your sports t-shirt, pōtae (sunhat), sunscreen and bring a big drink and lunch. There will also be food available to buy.



Here is the Ki-O-Rahi transportation:

Driver	Students
Hannah Lord	Jack, Poppy, Chanae, Darcy, Beau
Jessie Smith	Oliver, Lucas Gazebo
Meeting there	Hazel, Gin, Tilia, Ivy, Hopaea, Zurich, Soren, Hayzin

### ŌWHANGO ADVENTURES – WAKA TRIP ON THE WHANGANUI RIVER

The Ōwhango School year eight students have been given a wonderful opportunity to paddle down the Whanganui River with Ōwhango Adventures on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 leaving Ōwhango School at 8:00am.** This is a special treat for our year eight students to celebrate their time here at Ōwhango School.

We are very grateful to Grant and Jacob Lethborg and their amazing team at Ōwhango Adventures for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

We will not be needing transportation for this trip, nor will we require parent assistance. Ōwhango Adventures have highly trained guides onboard, so this is solely for the year eight tamariki of Ōwhango School. Mrs Tylee and Whaea Theresa are the lucky teachers that will be attending this activity with our tamariki. Whaea Jessie and Mr Starkey were lucky enough to go on the last Whanganui Awa trip, and we want to share it around so the teachers can enjoy themselves too!

If your family or friends think this might be something you want to do yourselves at a later date then go to **info@owhangoadventures** or call **0800 2 CANOE** and book in with them today!

This is a compulsory excursion that will teach our students a great deal of historical knowledge, landmarks and stories of our local area. This type of learning is invaluable. This is a breath-taking trip on the upper Whanganui River. The trip starts at Ngahuinga - Cherry Grove in Taumarunui and ends in Ohinepane further down the river.

#### The kids will need to bring:

- Lunch / Snacks
- Water
- Sunscreen
- Sunhat

- Sneakers (or bare feet) - no jandals or crocs
- Towel
- Shorts
- T-Shirt
- Maybe a light rain jacket
- Swim Wear

We have reprinted the permission slip below.  
Please return this tomorrow.  
Ngā mihi, Jessie Smith

### MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

We had a wonderful day at this yesterday. National Park School took over the running of this event this year, and it ran like clockwork. The reason we added this to our sporting programme is that when we were reviewing our PE programme, we realised that we did not have any events that use 'striking', i.e. hitting a ball with a bat, as an event. This is not something that the interschool sports organisers currently offer. It has been great to see our kids progress with this skill during our last few weeks as we prepared for this event. Here are some photos from the day:



Monty and Olive



Lennox, Eric & Mike



*Kaelyis-Rae*



*Haylee and Mason*



*Having a break from the sun in our gazebo*

### **SCIENCE ROADSHOW**

On Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November Kahikatea and Rimu classes travelled into Taumarunui High School to participate in the science roadshow in the school's gym. When we arrived at the gym, we were told to sit down on the ground in a line quietly while they were talking, at the start of the show we were told to block our ears as they demonstrated popping a balloon with gas inside. After the show had finished we were allowed to go to different stations and play with the things there some examples were lay down on a bed of

nails , build a bridge to walk over with big blocks, guess what tree the nut or leaf came from , and a mystery box were you had to guess what was in the box by only using your hands. Once the time was up, we sat back down to watch the second half of the show. This time they got another volunteer, a teacher from Turaki to sit on a wheelchair in a rubbish bag. They then put a vacuum cleaner and put the pipe into the bag and turned it on and the bag tightened around the teacher's body after the teacher had sat back down then they showed us some more fascinating facts about science. I really enjoyed it, and I hope it happens again next year. By Monty



*One of the demonstrations*



*Mason on the bed of nails,  
before his visit to the hospital*

### **OVERNIGHT CAMP AT SCHOOL**

Thursday 11th of December 2025

Remember to get your permission slip in if you are participating in this. The information was published two weeks ago.

### **BROCK'S FARM TRIP**

We are chasing the few remaining permission slips for this. Please get them to us by today at the latest. You have been emailed if we do not have your slip in.



## SCHOOL BOARD HUI

The board will have their final hui for the year on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December at 7pm. You are all welcome to attend.

## OUR KIDS ONLINE Two Minute Parenting Tips

This week: How Much Tablet Time Is Safe for Growing Brains?



With developmental delays in children skyrocketing, this video asks a crucial question every parent needs to consider: how much tablet time is actually safe for our children's young, developing brains?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdYE3CaVLYY>



*Control + Click to follow the link*

## XMAS PARADE- This Saturday

Come along dressed in Kiwiana Christmas spirit and be part of this year's float. Clothing ideas: Silver Fern, Gumboots, Pohutukawa, Flags (NZ & Māori), Buzzy Bee, Jandals, Pavlova, Kiwi Fruit or anything else that you feel is Kiwi Christmas.

We'll be meeting 11.30am by Taumarunui pools.

For those able to help set the truck up please meet at 10am at the Taumarunui Grandstand. We are still looking for someone to bring in a small BBQ, if you can help with this please let me know.

Maree Hodges

## P.T.A. CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

### WINNERS

Our P.T.A. raffle was drawn under police supervision today and the results are as follows:

**1st Place:** Ewan Starkey (Summer Fun Hamper)

**2nd Place:** Kelle Hobson (Christmas Hamper)

**3rd Place:** Nancy Martin (Celebration Hamper)

Congratulations to all of our winners. Your prizes can be collected from the school office. And a huge ngaa mihi once again to all who supported this P.T.A. fundraiser.

## SWIMMING POOL KEYS FOR SALE a reminder

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'.

### Community Notices

Owhango Market is on this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Owhango Hall. Come along and support your community.

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Term Two:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

**Term Three:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

**Term Four:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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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**Year 8 Whanganui Awa trip with Ōwhango Adventures Permission Slip**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

**Cherry Grove - Ngahuinga, Taumarunui 9.00am start,**  
**Departing School to walk down to Ōwhango Adventures at 8.00am**

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

My child \_\_\_\_\_ may attend the Whanganui Awa Trip with Ōwhango Adventures.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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**Whole School Overnight Camp Update**  
**Thursday 11th December 2025, School Field, from 5.30pm**

Thank you to everyone who returned their permission slips on time, by last Wednesday.

- There are two incomplete ones, if your tamariki are not on the list below contact Whaea Siobhan.
  - All students need an adult/whanau member to erect their tent with them; our kaiako will not be doing this.
  - Students who do not have a whanau member staying over will be assigned by a teacher to an adult for supervision.
  - Please ensure you remind your tamariki of the whanau agreement you signed, it is valid whether or not their whanau are present.
  - Any breaches of the agreement will result in your tamariki being sent home.
  - If you have not returned a permission slip, you are not included in the camp, and we ask that you leave school at 3pm and do not return during the camp.
  - Remember, have dinner before you return to school at 5.30pm.
  - You may bring appropriate snacks, and breakfast will be provided for campers in the morning.
- Let's keep our camp safe, fun and positive for all!

Signed Whaea Siobhan.

<b>Incomplete Permission Slips (Please see Whaea Siobhán)</b>
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Gin, Chanae
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<b>Year 1-3 Students Camping with a Whanau Member</b>
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Kruza, Quinn, Leiki, Harper, Aria, Harrison, Eric, Ben, Indie, Kaia, Jordie, Blake, Jack and Rose
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Student (Year 4-8)	Tent Helper	Whanau Staying Over
Daithí Óg	Whaea Siobhán	Whaea Siobhán
Te Hana	Whaea Jessie	Whaea Jessie
Kaelyis-Rae, Kyston	Jahbon	Jahbon
Jack	Rex	Rex
Monty	Guy	Guy
Olive	Kaaryn	Kaaryn
Grace, Lily	Melissa	Melissa
Haylee	Maree	Maree

Millie	Stacey	Stacey
Harry	Tania	Tania
Ainsley	Katie	Katie
Rosa	Dale	Dale
Hinemoa	Liz	Liz
Hazel	Cara/William	None
Lucas	Michelle	
Zurich, Soren	Nicole	
Hayzin, Tilia, Nico	Lakenn	
Jonny	Carly	
Hopaea, Tahu	Te Hau	
Ivy	Michelle	
Billie, Beau	Toni	
Mason, Oliver	Trudie	

