



## 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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Week 5, Term 1, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau, welcome to Week 5!

We are over the half way mark of this term and it feels crazy how fast the days are whizzing by and how much our tamariki are achieving and enjoying. We had wonderful success at Swimming Sports and would love to thank the parents who helped with transport and timing races. We appreciate you so very much. I will post the swimming results further down in this pānuī.

*We warmly invite you to our first assembly for the year next, Tuesday 17th March, 2 pm.*

Ngā mihi, Annelies

Wk 5	Wed 11 Mar - BOT Hui 6pm. All welcome Fri 13 Mar - IS Swimming
Wk 6	Fri 20 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y5&6
Wk 7	Fri 27 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y7&8
Wk 8	Thur 2 Apr - <b>Last Day T1</b>
Holidays!	Easter 3 - 6 April <b>Term 2 begins 20th April</b>



This week we gathered in our new House Groups and voted for two leaders per group. The leaders will be presented with badges and will be offered this opportunity to showcase and develop their leadership skills. Children voted based on who they thought would lead their House to victory based on respect, support, kindness, and being a great role model.

I am honoured to present our 2026 House Leaders:

**Ngauruhoe - Jack P & Kaeylis-Rae**

**Tongariro - Grace & Monty**

**Ruapehu - Soren & Zurich**

**Pihanga - Mason & Hayzin**



**HEADLICE - We are having difficulty stopping the spread of lice at school this term. PLEASE DO NOT send your child to school if they have lice. All children need to be checked daily at home. We will be keeping an eye out for them at school and sending home any child with lice, as they spread rapidly. As well as Nit Shampoos, there are many other ways to treat lice such as straightening hair, conditioning hair and using the egg comb, and getting over the counter or Dr prescribed shampoo's.**



*Every March, New Zealand celebrates Whio Awareness Month, shining a spotlight on the rare and remarkable Whio (blue duck) - a river specialist found only in Aotearoa. With their whistling call, slate-blue plumage, and presence on our \$10 banknote, Whio are a national treasure. Yet they remain one of our most endangered native birds.*

*Today, fewer than 3,000 whio survive in the wild, reminding us that conservation efforts are more urgent than ever.*

Next Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th, we are asking all our tamariki to **dress up in as much blue as they can** (mufti) as we spend two full days in our House Groups working alongside Ōwhango Alive at the Domain. These two days are being dedicated to fun and informative activities all based around Whio, to help enable our students to truly appreciate how fortunate we are to be in an area where Whio exists.

**Dates to Remember:**

REMINDER: Please make sure that all young students are being picked up at the gate. We have had a serious near miss of a

child almost being hit by two vehicles on our village roads recently. They are narrow roads, and with so many cars at pick up time, we need to be extra vigilant in keeping all our tamariki safe. On that note, please ensure that your children have helmets for when they are biking and scootering to, from, or at school.



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*Lots of sporting opportunities being offered to our tamariki - please do keep an eye on our newsletter for dates and details. We will make sure to send home paper copies of permission slips.*

### **TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL**

Tēnā koe Ōwhango whānau,  
Basketball Update!

Ōwhango Thunder had another great game on Friday. They played Manunui Tui and came away with the win 16-8. We're very proud of all the kid's effort every week. A big thank you to Erin for helping the kids last week while I was away. Ngā mihi,  
Stace.

*There are no games for our Ōwhango teams this Friday, enjoy the break! Teams will be moving into semi-finals next week.*

### **TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR HOCKEY**

Small Sticks on the top turf at 3.45pm

Game 2 - 4.25pm Owhango  NPS A Team

Game 5 - 6.25pm TPS Chiefs  Owhango

### **INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS**

Good luck to our Interschool Swimmers who are competing this Friday 13th March at the Trust Waikato Indoor Swimming Pool. We will be leaving school at 8.40am, please refer to the attached transport list. Swimmers can warm up between 9-9.20am, with races starting at 9.30am sharp. Ensure you pack a big drink of water and lunch. Information regarding the Swimming Schedule, rules and extra information will be available on the TYCT website.

### **TAUMARUNUI PRIMARY NETBALL**

Please remember to return a netball permission slip asap if your child would like to play netball. A

paper copy has been sent home this week with those who are interested in playing. Dates to remember:

Opening Day - Wednesday 22nd April (Games will not be played on a Wednesday).

Primary Season Concludes: 1st July

Future Ferns: Thursdays 23rd April - 3 July

### **MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS SWIMMING SPORTS**



We had a fantastic day of swimming last Friday for Mountain Schools Swimming Sports. All of our tamariki represented our kura wonderfully, displaying excellent swimming and sportsmanship skills across the width and length races. It was great to see how the children have progressed over the season. Well done to the following students who placed:

25m Freestyle: 2nd Stan Mills, 3rd Kyston Te Ahuru-Watson

50m Freestyle: 1st Stan Mills

25m Breaststroke: 1st Libby Wind, 1st Stan Mills

50m Breaststroke: 2nd Stan Mills

25m Backstroke: 1st Libby Wind, 1st Stan Mills,  
3rd Brodie Joyce

50m Backstroke: 3rd Libby Wind

Congratulations to our swimmers who are attending Interschool Swimming Sports this Friday 13th - Libby Wind, Kyston Te Ahuru-Watson, Elliott Pritt-Stewart, Nico Brewer, Brodie Joyce, Stan Mills, Kaelyis-Rae Te Ahuru-Watson, Monty Hoban, Soren Hosking, Zurich Hosking.

### **CLASSROOM KORERO: SENIOR CAMP 2026**

Kia ora koutou, We returned last Friday from our Senior Camp at Tui Ridge Park, near Rotorua. It was everything we could have hoped for. The sun shone all week, the accommodation was clean and comfortable, the food was delicious, and our parent helpers brought great energy and enthusiasm. The activities were both challenging and rewarding, led by supportive instructors who knew how to bring out the very best in every child. I was incredibly impressed with the entire experience and with the students themselves. We couldn't have asked for a more positive group or a better environment in which to learn and grow.



“It was a great learning experience for us. One of the things I learned from the rock wall and high ropes was the value of resilience and not giving up when things get hard.” (Poppy)



Student reflections this week have been very positive. Here are just a few of the many comments shared: “You were amazing to us and all the games and activities were fun. Tui Ridge has a great setup and I’m sure all the other kids that go there will enjoy the activities like I did.” (Hayzin)

“When I was there I learned that it wasn’t scary to be without my parents.” (Soren)

“One thing I learned was that cooking dinner every night isn’t easy...” (Juan)



“I felt proud of myself for facing my fears and doing some activities that weren’t really in my comfort zone.” (Charlotte)

For me personally, it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children even better. They are a credit to you all, and I thank you for the privilege of accompanying them on Senior Camp 2026.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou, Ms Cookson.

