



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 6 Term 1, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau, welcome to Week 6!

Here we are already, heading to the finish line of Term 1. With it being only an 8 week term, I am so impressed with the quality of teaching and learning - juggling camps, sporting opportunities, community events and so forth.

The education landscape is a bit of a nail-biting area at the moment whilst we deal with continual changes to curriculum areas, assessment and reporting, attendance and navigating all the other complexities of our mahi. We are so blessed at our kura to have such supportive parents of our wonderful kaiako. And the smiles on the children's faces are testament to how incredible the learning is here.

I have met so many of you this term. If I haven't yet, please know that my office door is open (as much as it can be!) and that I would love to meet you all. And if you have a passion, or an area of expertise (sewing, art, a sport, etc) and would like to share some of your time and talents with us at Owhango School, please do let us know!
Ngā mihi, Annelies

Our Kids Online: By Rob Cope

The Thinking Step Without Drama!

I'm not a fan of the "naughty step" — because most of the time kids aren't actually being naughty, they're overwhelmed, tired, or struggling to manage big emotions.

What I do like is the "thinking step." It's a calm space where they can sit, take a breather, and reflect on their behaviour. And if they refuse to

sit? That's when I pull out a little magic trick that works a treat!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkn3W9InAOA>

Dates to Remember:

Wk 6	Tues 17 Mar - Owhango Alive - Whio Tues 17 Mar - Assembly 2 pm Wed 18 Mar - Owhango Alive - Whio Fri 20 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y5&6
Wk 7	Fri 27 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y7&8
Wk 8	Thur 2 Apr - Last Day T1
Holidays!	Easter 3 - 6 April Term 2 begins 20th April
Term 2	20 April - 3 July
Term 3	20 July - 25 September
Term 4	12 October - 18 December

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR HOCKEY

Fun and Small Sticks are on the top turf at 3.45pm.

6.25pm Tokirima Tigers vs Ōwhango

TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Friday 20th March - Semi Finals

3.45pm Year 1/2 Ōwhango Shooters vs Turaki Flyers

5.15pm Year 3/4 Ōwhango Thunder vs St Pats Clovers

TAUMARUNUI PRIMARY NETBALL

Thank you to everyone who has returned permission slips, it's great to see so many children keen to play this season. We have organised the players into the following teams:

Ōwhango Senior - Poppy, Hayzin, Kaelyis-Rae, Charlotte, Monty, Millie, Haylee, Te Hana, coach - Jahbon.

Ōwhango Junior - Lily, Jackson Green, Lucy, Libby, Kyston, Ainsley, Azalea, Rose, Molly, coach - Stacey.

Ōwhango Senior will practice at school on Mondays from 3.30-5pm. Ōwhango Junior will practice at school on Mondays from 3.15-4pm. Practices start Monday 23rd March.

We will be playing in the Netball Festival on Saturday 28th March, which is also now the Open Day for the season. All other dates are the same, with weekly games beginning on Wednesday 22nd April. I will share information about the upcoming Netball Festival as soon as it becomes available. Netball uniforms will be issued within the week. I will advise you of the fees within the coming week as well. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions. Theresa

YEAR 5/6 KI-O-RAHI FESTIVAL

The Year 5/6 Ki-o-Rahi Festival is being held this Friday 20th at the Taumarunui Domain. Please remember to pack a big packed lunch and a drink of water only. We will hand out sports t-shirts this week to wear. The structure of the day is as follows:

The purpose is to build our student's leadership skills, physical skills and learn the story behind the game and the rules.

START: 9.30am FINISH: 2.30pm

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

- Tell the story and explain the rules of the game; Breakout into mixed groups (students will be mixed up and working alongside students from other schools)
- Games - playing the game is a great way to learn as they play.
- Mini tournaments

TIME SCHEDULE

- 9.30am Briefing
- 9.40am Split out teams - name teams
- 11am Drills & Skills

DRILL & SKILLS

- 15 min games x4 Stations - Touch Down / Tag Rip / Bust the Hut / Target Practice
- 11am - Station 1
- 11.15pm - Station 2
- 11.30 - Station 3
- 11.45 - Station 4
- 12pm - LUNCH

MINI TOURNAMENT

7-minute halves / 2-minute half-time / 4 minutes between games.

1. 12.30pm - Round 1
2. 12.50pm - Round 2
3. 1.10pm - Round 3
4. 1.30pm - Round 4
5. 1.50pm - Round 5
6. 2.10pm - Round 6
7. 2.30pm - FINISH

Year 5/6 Kiorahi Transport		
DATE: Friday 20 th August		
SITUATION: Taumarunui Domain		
TEACHER ORGANISING THE ACTIVITY: Theresa Owen		
TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS: leaving school at 9am returning before 3pm		
Driver	Can take	Students
Theresa Owen	6	Brodie, Billie, Daithí Óg, Azalea, Olive
Jesse Closter	4	Rosa, Te Hana, Haylee, Millie
Deb Stewart	3	Elliott, Harry, Stan
Erin Wind	4	Libby, Lucy, Ainsley, Lily
Karen Komene	1	Kyston
Meet there		Nico, Patrick

Farwell Morning Tea for Rosa, Indiana and whānau! 10.30 am 26th March. We invite you to join us in this farewell of Indi, Rosa and their whānau. All children are asked to bring a plate of kai to share.



Classroom Kōrero - Kōwhai

This week, we welcome Leo Nicholson to our kura. Leo turned 5 on Monday and is so ready for school life with a fabulous attitude to learning.



Hari huritau, Leo!

Lennox, Harley-John & Frog-Boy!

Ngā mihi nui to Kim Petersen who has taken up our invitation to listen to Kōwhai class students read on a weekly basis. It is always special and so beneficial for our students to share their learning with our school community.

It is all about **science** in Kōwhai at the minute. I had some learning about whio and healthy ngahere (forests) all lined up but last week we had a special visitor which added another layer to our living world mahi. Lennox brought his new pet frog 'Frog Boy' to school. I don't know if you have ever tried to focus a classroom of 5 and 6 year olds when a frog is visiting but I can tell you it is impossible!!! So all plans went out the window and we learned about frogs. We learned about their different species, those native and endemic to Aotearoa, their habitats, features, food and more. We brainstormed our prior knowledge, drew diagrams and wrote about frogs. Thanks Lennox and whānau for sharing 'Frog Boy' with us.

In other science news, it is **Whio Awareness Week** and we are blessed to have amazing local experts in Liz Brooker, Lily from D.o.C. and Ōwhango Alive share their knowledge with our tamariki. Liz read her new pukapuka, Whionui, to the whole school and shared fun and educational follow up activities with us. And Ōwhango Alive and Lily are also working school-wide to share their conservation expertise with our maunga groups this week. Our students have been so engaged in this mahi and are all invested in protecting our whenua, and all of its native and endemic species.



Whaea Liz shares a whio chick.

Our whio facts.

In **writing**, we are using our senses and language experiences such as nature walks, finger painting, lego building and tactile play to help give more depth to our ideas. Tamariki write more in depth when they write about what they know and we have been having great success with developing our ideas in this way.



Blake with his 'spiky' find

Romana & Noa find 'fluffy' items

In **social studies**, we have learned about the importance of oral storytelling in te ao Māori and have been sharing pūrākau such as Kupe and te Wheke Nui. We followed this up by retelling the story through visual art with each student creating a collage showing Kupe discovering Aotearoa. In contrast, with it being St. Patrick's Day yesterday, we learned about similar traditions in Ireland and I shared a virtual tour of castles and other places of interest as well as the story of Fionn McCumhaill and the Giant's Causeway, which stirred imaginations.



Learning about Aotearoa and Airangi (Ireland)

Ōwhango Alive

PROTECTING OUR OWN BACKYARD

This month is Whio Awareness Month and we have spent two days this week, dressed in blue, learning about the incredible Whio. We divided ourselves into our four new House Groups, and spent Tuesday and Wednesday in a rotation - working with our house teacher, and working alongside Ōwhango Alive!



“Blue Ducks are endemic. There are fewer than 3000. They have a lot of predators like stoats, rats, cats and ferrets. We can trap them to stop them from hurting the Whio.”

By Jack O

“Working with our new House Groups this week has been pretty good. Whio are endemic to NZ. I have really liked working with my brother this week.”

Lachlan Tomlinson

“We need to keep rubbish off the land so it does not get into the rivers with our Blue Ducks.”

Remy Pritt-Stewart

“Rubbish can make the Blue Ducks sick. I like drawing Blue Ducks. And I like writing about them.”

Haven-Skye Te Ahuru

