



## 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 7 Term 2, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau, welcome to Week 7 !

I had a brilliant week away at conference - of learning and connecting with other Rural Principals from around the country. Although, I was certainly ready to come back home and to catch up with all the staff and tamariki at school. At the conference, we heard guest speakers who covered everything from wellbeing to curriculum change. One thing was clear - everyone is travelling in the same waka in education right now - change, uncertainty, pressure, and new learning for teachers and principals that has never been seen before. I didn't come home with a magic quick fix - but I did come back with the resolve to keep pushing forward, keeping your tamariki at the centre of everything and every choice that we make. One of my goals is to hold a parent information evening - one where we can showcase some of these changes. Namely, talk to the reporting requirements, touch on the new curriculum and assessment tools, look at how we are using AI in classrooms, and introduce our new SMS HERO, and our new policy website, SchoolDocs. We will look at holding a parent evening later in Term 3 when things do not feel so foreign and new. However, please know that if you have any wonderings at all, all you have to do is reach out to myself or your child's teacher. We love having parents involved in their children's education, and we are always happy to help you understand what goes on with learning while your child is in our care.

Thank you to those of you who have returned the new Blanket Consent Form - there was absolutely

no pressure to sign it, as we are also very happy to send you a permission slip to fill out for individual events, as we always have - just make sure to let me know that is your wishes, or return the signed blanket consent form this week.

A huge thank you to Emma for covering me while I was away last week. The school ticked along like clockwork and I was able to be away knowing that our school was in wonderful hands.

I would also like to thank Siobhan, her team of supporters at Ōwhango Alive, and her Kaitiaki Crew for the cool job they have been doing in our gardens. Seeing the Sensory Garden and the native nursery come to life is very impressive and will be such an asset to our school, and our community - both human and animals!

Just a heads up that there are many illnesses floating around, ranging from impetigo (school sores) to covid. Please keep ill children home and make sure that we are informed by 9 am each day with their absence reason. Thank you for supporting us with our attendance requirements.

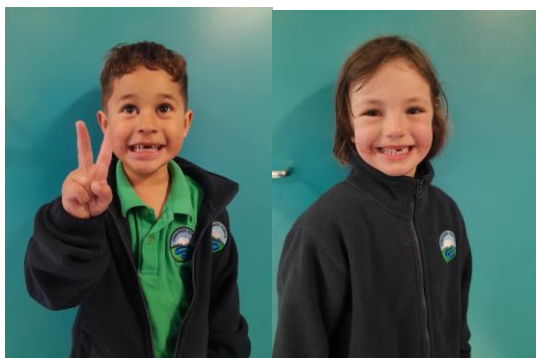
Warmest regards, and yay for the rain!

Annelies

## Dates to Remember:

<b>Wk 7</b>	<b>Mon. 1</b> - King's Birthday ( <b>School Closed</b> ) <b>Tues 2</b> - Visit from Echo - Avalanche Rescue Dog
<b>Wk 8</b>	<b>Wed. 10</b> - B.o.T. Hui (all welcome) <b>Fri. 12</b> - Interschools Soccer Y1-4
<b>Wk 9</b>	<b>Wed. 17</b> - Bike-a-thon! <b>Fri. 19</b> - Interschools Soccer Y5-8
<b>Wk 10</b>	<b>Fri. 26</b> - Reports go home. <b>Please email your child/ren's teacher to book a parent teacher interview.</b>
<b>Wk 11</b>	<b>Thur. 2</b> - Last day of term Matariki House Challenge <b>Fri. 3</b> - Teacher Only Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b> for tamariki
<b>School Term Dates</b>	<b>Term 1</b> 9 Feb - 2 April <b>Term 2</b> 20 April - 3 July <b>Term 3</b> 20 July - 25 September <b>Term 4</b> 12 Oct - 18 December

A huge friendly warm welcome to our newest learners, Taimana and Jolene! You've settled in so well and we love having you in Kōwhai class!



## TAUMARUNUI PRIMARY NETBALL

Wednesday 3rd June

4.10pm Ōwhango Tōtara vs Manunui Tui C4

4.10pm Ōwhango Rimu vs TPS Boom C1

4.50pm Ōwhango Kahikatea vs Turaki Koura

## TACKLE 5's FESTIVAL

The Tackle 5's Festival will be held on Friday 5 June at the Taumarunui Domain. We have five students representing our school, joining forces with Manunui School for the day. Good luck to Nico, Patrick, Kyston, Libby, and Ainsley. Further information about game times will be shared with

whānau as soon as it becomes available. Please remember to bring a large drink bottle, a packed lunch, and a mouthguard.

## INTERSCHOOL SOCCER

If you have not returned a permission and transport slip you will have received a reminder email. Please return this asap so transport and management on the day can be organised. Further information and a transport list for the Year 1-4 tournament will be shared in next week's pānui.

## ECHO THE AVALANCHE RESCUE DOG

Huge thanks to Lisa Jaggi for bringing Echo into school yesterday. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the combination of learning about mountain safety, dog safety and dog training.



Whaea Lisa introduces SARDA (Search and Rescue Dogs Avalanche) to the whole school



Whaea Lisa explains the importance of skiing within the boundaries and shares some of the tools





Echo shows off some of his other tricks



Willy O'Donnell with his hockey team after presenting players with their certificates and trophies.

### YEAR 5-8 ORIENTEERING

Aroha mai, apologies, we missed a few orienteering placings in last week's pānui. Our students competed well:

- 3rd - Year 7/8 Ōwhango Rima
- 1st - Year 5/6 Ainsley Parkinson Map C
- 1st - Year 5/6 Azalea Te Ahuru Tepaki Map E
- 1st - Year 5/6 Brodie Joyce Map A
- 1st - Year 5/6 Nico Brewer Map B
- 2nd - Year 5/6 Daithí Óg Murphy Map B
- 1st - Year 5/6 Harry Bramley Map D
- 1st - Year 7/8 Grace Blackman Map C
- 3rd - Year 7/8 Kaelyis-Rae Te Ahuru-Watson Map G

### Wet Weather Reminder

As the wet weather begins to set in, our curious and creative kids still want to get outside and play. This sometimes means getting wet and muddy...sometimes intentionally, sometimes not. We ask that all tamariki carry spare clothes (bottoms, socks and undies especially) in their school bags as we do not have a supply of spare clothes at school any more. On that note, if your child has borrowed clothing from school this year, please wash and return them as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Class Kōrero - Kōwhai

We've all gone a bit batty in Kōwhai since our last pānui! We've been learning all about pekapeka or bats! We have integrated our learning through writing, visual arts, science, maths and even some P.E. games. It has been a fun few weeks.

In **science**, we have learned about bat habitats, their diets, features, habits and their importance to te ao. We had a visit from Clodagh/D.o.C. and the Batmobile. It was filled with fascinating facts and artefacts related to pekapeka. This gave us a really great opportunity to distinguish between our native species and to differentiate between long and short tailed pekapeka. We now know all about echolocation too so ask us all about it. We even had a sniff of some guano or bat poo!!!



In **maths**, we have been learning about measurement. We have learned about non-standard and standard units of measurement and

have had fun comparing our heights, our pekapeka wing spans, our sticks (because you know everyone has a favourite stick, right!), leaves and we created and compared centimeter snakes.



We read a very kiwi version of the 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' then completed a technology challenge in small groups to see who could build the tallest and widest bridges for the goats to cross, from various classroom materials. Kruza said, "I love using the measuring tape. It's more fun than the ruler and it is better for longer things. Our bridge is 116cm. I always start at zero and make sure it lines up carefully to my bridge." Jolene noticed "my ruler is shorter than the others" and Remy added "yeah yours is 20cm and mine is 30cm but your snake is not that short so you need a longer ruler". Great team work girls!



In **writing**, we focussed on the pekapeka facts we had been learning, to write some informative texts. As the builders were in our classrooms that week, we buddied up with Tōtara for an interesting A.I. session where we shared our knowledge and learned some cool new information. Our younger tamariki are working on forming simple sentences with punctuation, with our older rangatahi focussing on varying their sentence types and trying more complex sentence structures with added detail, for example:

*Bats can fly. Bats have wings. Bats eat insects. Bats live in trees. Bats are in Ōwhango.*

**-Haven-Skye Te Ahuru**

*Bats use echolocation so they can hunt moths and other insects. Bats sleep in the day and they sleep upside down. Long tailed bats live here in Ōwhango.*

**-Blake O'Reilly**

*Pekapeka have wings. They fold their wings and crawl on the ground. They use their tail to scoop up their food. They have a little bit of fur on their body. Pekapeka can live in a roost. They like to live in tall trees with a bunch of their friends. When a bat has a baby it is called a pup. The long tail bats live in our bush. Their poop makes our soil healthy and then new plants can grow. There is another bat in New Zealand called the short tail bats. Pekapeka use echolocation to find their food.*

**-Remy Pritt-Stewart**



In **visual arts**, we spent a morning with our tuakana from Kahikatea and learned all about blending oil pastels to create a dusk sky effect then popped some folded pekapeka on for a 3D flying effect. We think they look quite cool. Come in and check them out in our school hallway. We had amazing guidance and support from our older friends in this activity so thank you Kahikatea!



This week, we are shifting our focus to developing our new sensory garden. We are going to explore ecosystems and pollinators and how we can promote both in this special area. Yesterday, we started learning about insects that are good pollinators and how we can protect them in the colder months so they can be super helpful in our mara kai and ngahere. We designed bug hotels, today we are gathering suitable materials and by the end of this week we will have a super deluxe 'Minibeast Mansion' to show you in our sensory garden site so watch this space! As always, it has been a productive but positive few weeks in our busy little learning hive! Thank you for sharing your precious taonga, your tamariki with us. Whaea Siobhān.

