



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 4, Term 3, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau,

There is a constant flurry of activity here - between basketball practice with Whaea Siobhan, Kapa Haka with Whaea Wai and Matua Hone, our seniors running lunch time games of soccer for the whole school, and a myriad of other activities. These children know how to keep fit, keep busy, and look after each other. We are off up the maunga on Friday - the weather isn't fabulous, but we are positive that it will hold just fine for some good lesson time in the morning. Fingers crossed that the weather holds long enough to enjoy the afternoon as well - but I will keep in touch. It is AMAZING to see how many of you have already downloaded the HERO app. We even had some absences reported via there this morning. It really will make a fabulous 'one stop shop' for all school communications as we slowly roll out opportunities. Thank you for supporting this move (and if you are unsure how to use it or even download the app, we are here to help!).

We managed to find a nice afternoon to complete the Tug O War competition from our House Challenge Day last term!

Congratulations to all our house groups who worked well together, cheered for each other and other houses! And competed fiercely.

4th Place - **Ngauruhoe** 21 pts

3rd Place - **Tongariro** 25 pts

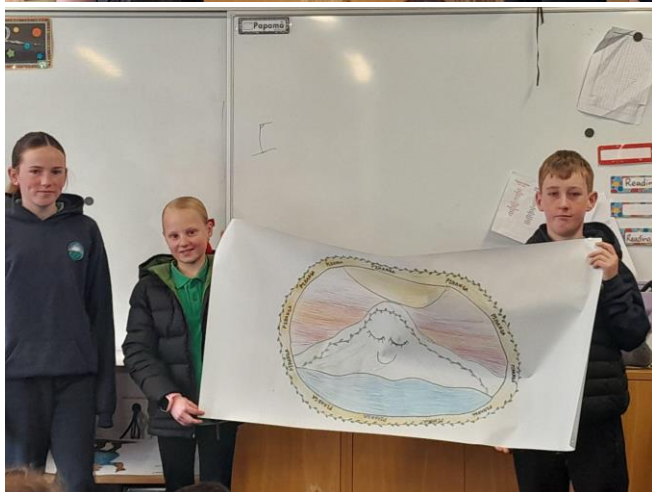
2nd Place - **Ruapehu** 42 pts

1st Place - **Pihanga** 44 pts



Announcing the winning house was also a good time to present our new House Logo's. Earlier this year, each house group was invited to design a logo. Some children worked collaboratively and some independently. A vote was cast by our kaiako and the winning logos are now here to stay! Banners have been made and we were so proud to unravel the banners yesterday so that our wee artists could be appreciated by our whole school. Ka pai to mahi tamariki mā!





Dates to Remember:

Wk 4	Taumarunui High School Open-Enrolment evening Thurs 13 Aug Y4-8 Ski Day - Friday 14 Aug
Wk 5	Spelling Bee Competition Thurs 20 Aug Y4-8 Ski Day - Friday 21 Aug
Wk 6	Mountain School's Cross Country (at Kaitieke School) Thurs 27th Aug Y4-8 Ski Day - Friday 28 Aug Whakakōtahitanga - Sat 29 Aug
Wk 7	Tackle 7's Tournament (Y7/Y8) 31 Aug Whole school tree planting event Thurs 3 Sept I/S Cross Country (Ongarue School) Fri 4 Sept Y0-3 Ski Day - Friday Fri 4 Sept
Wk 8	WFPSA Cross Country Thur 10 Sept Y0-3 Ski Day - Friday 11 Sept
Wk 9	Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga (bracket scheduled at 12.40 - 1 pm) Tues 15 Sept Y0-3 Ski Day - Friday 18 Sept
Wk 10	Tōtara Assembly 2pm Wed 23 Sept Whole School Ski Day - Friday (<u>last day of term</u>) 25 Sept
School Term Dates	Term 1 9 Feb - 2 April Term 2 20 April - 3 July Term 3 20 July - 25 September Term 4 12 Oct - 18 December

A message from one of our students who had a great idea!

Kia ora,

For this year's Ōwhango School Pet Day (date to be confirmed) we will be trying something new with a 'Spud in a Bucket' competition. Each student will be given a seed potato (Jersey Benne) to take home, plant in a large/10 litre bucket and get creative in ways to make their potatoes grow.

Judging will be held on Pet Day by emptying the contents of each bucket before awarding prizes for:

- Largest potato
- Smallest potato
- Weirdest looking potato
- Most potatoes



A huge thank you to locals who came yesterday and used their new pruning knowledge to prune the rest of our fruit trees - ready for

spring. We are very much still looking for mulch donations if you have anything suitable?

The seed potatoes will be given out sometime soon so that there is enough time for the potatoes to grow. The students will also get to take home their potatoes to eat at the end of the day.

Classroom Kōrero - Rimu

The term has started well and the vibe is positive. We began with Harold and Crispian from Life Education where our focus topic was 'Healthy Growth and Changes'. This will be followed up by a Puberty unit later in the term. If you have any questions regarding the content of this upcoming unit please call in to speak with me, or email me on kate@owhango.school.nz

All senior students have been working hard on perfecting their waiata, haka and waiata-ā-ringa for the upcoming kapa haka performances. We are thankful to have guidance from talented parents who are giving their time to tutor our children. Expectations are high because we want to get the very best out of our children and it is pleasing to see their progress and enthusiasm. The outdoor practice yesterday gave us a great opportunity to see how things are coming together and areas that need to be improved. A reminder that we have their first performance, Whakakōtahitanga, on Sat 29 August.



Enthusiasm for the Interschool Spelling Bee is high. Fun activities introduced by visiting REAP staff created a good level of interest and final entries for the event will be submitted this week. Two students from year 7 and year 8 respectively will be chosen to represent our Feedback regarding skiing has been positive from our senior students. A number have expressed an interest in the upcoming NIPS competition. A high level of skiing ability is required and a desire to compete in this quality competition is a must. Whaea Siobhan will keep whanau updated.

Classroom Kōrero - Kōwhai

The term is off to a flying start in all areas. We welcomed two new ākonga, Alaia and Elli, who are now firm best friends and slotting in beautifully to our learning space. It has been a pleasure having Whaea Kim rejoin us to support learning in Kōwhai and Tōtara classes too. Thanks, Kim! We began the term with Harold and Crispian from the Life Education Trust who helped us understand what it means to be a good and kind friend. We got to know our new classmates and each other by playing the 'web of connection' game, where students shared about their whānau, pets, friends, interests, favourite food, and hobbies in a fun and meaningful way where we could see just how well we are all connected to each other.



'The Web of Connection'

In pangarau/maths, we began the term looking at number structure and have moved into learning new addition strategies in interactive ways. When we revisit learning strands, it is always so rewarding to see the progress ngā tamariki have made, and in just six short months. Our youngest learners have been using pebbles, pegs, sticks, stones, bricks and other hands-on manipulatives to bridge the gap from real life problem solving to working with abstract number concepts. Our more expert mathematicians are using numberlines, tens frame and hundreds boards to support more advanced addition strategies like counting on and partitioning.



Romana, Taimana & Elli work on adding

Our integrated unit to start the term has been based on 'Our Senses'. We have been learning how our senses help us explore the world around us. We are now using this knowledge to plan our new sensory garden. Ngā tamariki designed and began painting two nature-themed, colourful tables (farm cable reels) for seating, with the help of our good friends Mason and Monty, who were amazing role models and helpers. Watch this space for the finished product! Later, Hunter had the idea, after learning about fairy forests in Ireland, that we should each decorate a fairy door for our garden so mahi is underway on these too.

We have been doing special sensory stimulating scavenger hunts, and lots of tasting, feeling, listening, smelling and touching around school to see what we like, don't like and find interesting. I'm looking forward to seeing how this manifests in our sensory garden area throughout the next few weeks. A huge ngā mihi to Whaea Regan for supporting this kaupapa when she is relieving across school. She has been working on supporting each child (y0-8) to make beautifully detailed clay butterfly feeders and she has been making interesting jellies and visually pleasing art works with our tamariki too to stimulate the senses.



Painting fairy doors and furniture for the sensory garden



Sweet or sour? I think we know which Lennox chose!

With our annual Mountain Schools Crosscountry event coming up, we have been training most days down at the domain. We have a competitive wee bunch in Kōwhai so we are focussing not just on competing for ourselves but showing our strong sportsmanship skills to tautoko others through new challenges.



Gunning for the finish line

Stay healthy e te whānau, Whaea Siobhán.





our peers and kaiako so we can all implement improved waste management at our kura.



In keeping with this kaupapa, Ōwhango School is now a 'Paper 4 Trees' school once again. This means you will spot some flash new recycling bins in each classroom and our offices. For every bit of responsible recycling we do, we earn native trees to plant in our community.

This week sees the first of many litter pick up days around the village for our Kaitiaki Crew, based on a student suggestion. If you see us out and about, feel free to join us in keeping our community litter free!

And finally, it is heartwarming to see our mahi paying off with our native seedlings beginning to germinate in the greenhouse and our spring bulbs and wildflowers beginning to show in the sensory garden area. We will have some news to share about an exciting collaboration in the coming weeks as we ramp up the development of our sensory garden. Watch this space!



Planting kakabeak & kōwhai seeds

Sport - Year 5-8 Basketball



Ōwhango Blaze



Ōwhango Thunder

Our basketballers are practicing and playing hard and will share a mid-season update next week.

Kaitiaki Crew

It is a pleasure to welcome Monty to the Kaitiaki Crew, after another student stepped down. We know you will do great things with us Monty! Carrying on from our mahi last term around upgrading our school waste management systems, our Kaitiaki Crew will work with myself, Rochelle from Enviroschools and Emily from Ruapehu District Council to look at where our waste ends up, in order to decide how we should process it at school. We will go to the Taumarunui Reuse Centre for some hands-on learning on the 1st of September, watch out for permission slips. We will bring our new learning back to share with

Pou Project

Last term, some keen artists submitted their ideas for pou to adorn the entranceway of our sensory garden. A real passion for Papatūānuku shone through the designs and it was decided that we would have four pou that represent our special and unique Ōwhango area; ngahere (Haylee, Millie, Molly, Leiki), awa (Monty), maunga (Daithī Ōg & Elliott) and ranginui (Te Hana, Olive). A huge thank you to Kruza (and his cousin, Corbin) for helping me prime the posts for this project in the holidays! And it was great to see some of our artists begin to bring their designs to life yesterday. Thank you to our generous community members who have

donated colourful paints for the project and to our P.T.A. for purchasing the posts. I think this is going to be really special e te whānau so if you would like to get involved and support our enthusiastic artists please get in touch with Whaea Siobhān.



Kruza & Corbin priming the posts Te Hana & Olive get sketching



Haylie directs Millie, Molly & Leiki on how to sketch out her ngahere design. Great teamwork!

On Sunday Eric, Corbin and Levi along with their team played tackle rugby in Hamilton at the Waikato junior rugby festival. They played 4 games against teams from all over the waikato and won 3 out of 4 of their games. It was a wet and muddy day but they all had a lot of fun and learnt a lot. Well done boys!



Ski Day #4 14 August

TRANSPORT				
Driver	Can fit	4WD	Students Coming =	
Te Hau	2	Y	Tahu, Nico	
Deb	3	Y	Elliot, Juan, <i>Natalia</i>	
Janeen	4	Y	Jackson, Sheeran, Billie, Jack O	
Nicole	4	Y	Zurich, Soren, Beau, Jonny	
Katie	4	Y	Ainsley, Ataahua, Aria	
Regan (staff)	4	Y	Monty, Charlotte, <i>Annelies</i>	
Annelies (staff)	4	Y	TAKE IF NEEDED	
Stacey	4	Y	Millie, Te Hana, Haylee, Eric	
Trudie	4	Y	Mason, Stan, Brodie	
Kids Going				
Sickness			Lucy	
Adults coming but not driving			Natalia,	
Meeting us there			Dave - Daithi-Og Tania - Harry, Leiki (Sally?) Rex - Poppy, Patrick, Jack, Molly Melissa - Grace, Lily, Rose Karen - Lachlan Lakenn - Hayzin, Azalea Kaaryn/James - Olive, Quinn Kereama - Kyson, Kaelyis-Rae	

PASSES-ADULTS		
NEED A PASS & SKIS – 1 free:6 kids	NOT SKIING	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Nicole	Te Hau	Dave
Janeen	Natalia	Melissa
Stacey		Deb
Lakenn		Karen
Kereama		Regan
Trudie		Kaaryn/James
Rex		Tania



Dear Parents & Caregivers,

We are delighted to introduce Hero as our new secure online platform for learning, reporting, communication, and school administration. Hero brings together everything you need to stay connected with your child's school life, accessible on any device.

The features available with Hero include:

- Absent or late notifications
- School notices / newsletters
- Private and secure posts and progress updates shared by your child's teacher
- Student reports
- Surveys
- Permission forms
- Online payments
- View school term dates and a calendar of events
- Navigate to other school-related web pages

We will roll these features out to you in phases, **starting with the ability for you to report absences or lateness directly through the app**. You will also be able to see our calendar of events and copies of newsletters and notices.

Can you please also check and update the attached contact and medical information for your child/ren and return to school? The email address attached to the primary contact person will be the one connected to your student/s' Hero account.

To log in for the first time, follow the steps in this link or attached to the back of this notice.



We look forward to welcoming you into Hero and sharing in your child's learning journey.

Visit the [Hero Parent Guide](#) or contact Annelies or Emma at principal@owhango.school.nz emma@owhango.school.nz with any questions.

The option of emailing and/or phoning the school office directly for your communications with school will continue to remain available.

