



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 10, Term 3, 2026

Happy last week of term!!

Man does time fly when you're having fun! Only a couple more sleeps and then the holidays start for your tamariki (and we hope for you too!).

Looking back on the calendar this term, it seems mammoth what we achieved - and I am so proud of all of the children, and so thankful to all of our kaiako, for filling this term up with such wonderful learning experiences.

The children may come to school dressed in mufti on the last day of school. Always a fun way to end the term.

Next term, we will be having a bit of a focus on uniforms. This term, with how much we had going on, we let a lot slide - wrong jerseys, pants, coloured under items etc - so in Term 4, we ask that you send your children to school wearing the correct uniform please. A reminder that bottom halves are to be blue or black without pictures/writing, no 'skins' to be seen under shorts, and clean uniform t-shirts and jerseys on top only (a black or navy blue thermal underneath is fine on colder days). And as always, names on everything! Term 4 is also a SunSmart term, so children must have their hats daily. We do have sunblock available in class, but there is no better layer than that first smothering of sunblock at home before school. On warmer days where the mornings are still brisk, we ask that children wear shorts under tracksuit pants so that we can help them regulate their temperature if need be.

Good luck to those children who are off to Tough Kidz MudRun on Friday - have a ball! And truly, we wish you all the safest and happiest term

break! Enjoy the use of our grounds, we love how our community looks after it. See you all back on the 12th of October.

Annelies

Dates to Remember:

Wk 10	Tōtara Assembly 2pm (date change) Thursday 24 Sept Whole School Ski Day - Friday (<u>last day of term</u>) 25 Sept - cancelled. MUFT!
Term 4	Begins Mon 12 Oct
Week 2	Mountain Schools Athletics - Friday 23 Oct
Week 3	Pet Day - Tuesday 27 Oct Candy Land Disco - Friday 30 Oct
2026 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 Term 1 2027 starts 3rd February

Assembly

Tomorrow, Thursday the 24th of September, 2pm, we have this term's assembly. This will be hosted by Tōtara and will be held in Tōtara Class. All are welcome to attend as our students share some of their learning from this term and celebrate achievements.

Duffy Role Model Assembly



EVERY BOOK UNLOCKS A WORLD

www.booksinhomes.org.nz

Last week we had microbiologist Courtney Davies come and speak to us as part of the Duffy Books in Homes programme. She inspired our young scientists with her talk about her discoveries of 4 new viruses. The kids asked lots of very thoughtful questions and everyone, teachers included, learnt lots.



Kia ora koutou,

We are hosting a Community Open Day to bring people together to connect, learn and hear more about the Tongariro Fire Recovery Programme. Consider this your Save the Date invitation!

The day will showcase the mahi undertaken so far by the many rōpū involved in the recovery effort. It will be an informal and interactive event, with stalls where you can meet exhibitors, ask questions and learn about the work underway. There will also be a series of talks and demonstrations throughout the day.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the fire recovery programme, connect with the community, and celebrate the progress made so far. And of course, there will be kai on the BBQ!

Details

- Date: Friday 16th October

- Location: Blue Mountain Adventure Centre (BMAC), [17 Pito St, Raurimu](#)

If you're interested in coming along, **please register** here by Tuesday 29th September: [Community Open Day Tongariro Fire Recovery – Fill in form](#)

A detailed plan will be shared once arrangements are confirmed.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or give me a call on the number below.

Ngā mihi nui,

Clodagh Costello

Tūtei Hapori | Ranger Community

Ohakune Base

Phone: [+64 27 318 9154](tel:+64273189154)

www.doc.govt.nz

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga

Huge congratulations to every single member of our kapa haka roopu of 2026 for the absolute heart, soul, and unity you brought to the stage at Te Taiopenga this year.

Watching you all pull together, support one another, and deliver such a marvellous performance was nothing short of inspiring 😊😊.

You stepped out on stage with māhaki (humility), mānawanawa (dedication), māia (courage), and hiranga (determination), traits that shone clearly through every single waiata and action. You should all be exceptionally proud of the hours of practice you put in behind the scenes, and the incredible performance you delivered for us all.

Looking ahead, we are already excited to see what 2027 will bring for our roopu.

To our taura who are moving on and taking their next steps, know that you carry our aroha and support with you. May you continue to thrive, aim high, and keep climbing every mountain set before you - whāia te iti kahurangi. We could not be more proud of you all.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou for everything you all, kaiako and whānau included, have poured into our roopu this year, you have all left a lasting mark, and we could not have done it without you.

Whaea Wai raua ko Matua Hone.



Classroom Kōrero - Kahikatea

Last week we celebrated Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori in Kahikatea. This year's theme, Ake Ake Ake – A Forever Language, celebrates Te Reo Towns – the communities, kura, workplaces and whānau who are helping to make te reo Māori a natural and visible part of everyday life.

We started the week with kapa haka at the Tūwharetoa Taiopenga in Taupō – the perfect way to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. We joined with other kura and communities from across our rohe to celebrate te ao Māori. Our students performed wonderfully and looked amazing. They faced their nerves, sang beautifully and supported one another throughout their performance. We were very proud of them.



Over the next few days, we enjoyed watching the livestreams of our other local kura, cheering them on from our classroom. We watched Manunui School, Turaki School, Taumarunui High School, Te Kura

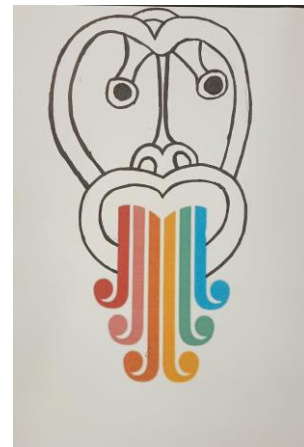
Kaupapa Māori o Taumarunui, Tarrangower and Taumarunui Primary School, celebrating the amazing performances of tamariki and rangatahi from our wider community, enjoying seeing cousins, friends and teammates on stage.

Back in Kahikatea, we continued our celebrations in lots of different ways. During M3, we explored Māori pūrākau (stories) connected to towns and places around Aotearoa, combining storytelling with mindfulness and movement. We also created artwork inspired by Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori using vivid and brightly coloured felt pens, listened to waiata and spent time learning and practising the correct pronunciation of our Māori vowel sounds through some fun activity booklets.

It has been a wonderful week of hearing, seeing, speaking, singing and celebrating te reo Māori. But te reo isn't just for one week – it is a language for every day and for everyone. Every kupu we learn, share and use helps to keep te reo alive and thriving, creating a future where it continues to be heard, spoken and celebrated by all of us, now and for the generations to come.



Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori inspired art work by Elliott Pritt-Stewart



Mahi toi by Lily Blackman

Globals

Over the weekend, ten of our children headed to Taupō for the NZ Junior Rugby Globals games. Much like the girls' festival, this is an eventful three-day competition where they play five games against teams from across the country and even from overseas. The festival continues to grow each year, and we're so grateful to be a part of it.

This year, Monty, Mason, Hayzin, Kaelyis-Rae, Jonny, Lachlan, Jack, and Juan played for the U13s, while Kyston and Patrick competed in the U10s, all representing Taumarunui Junior Rugby.

Every team is paired up with a buddy team from another club or region to build friendships and connections on and off the field.

U13s faced some tough teams, but never once stopped them; they pushed through to the very end and were awarded Best and Fairest team, being the only team to receive a full five.

U10s had a mixed result, with a couple of very close losses by a try, a shake-up in the middle from a highly skilled team, and some great wins to finish on a high.

A fantastic weekend for everyone involved.



WFPSA Cross Country

Mason Wheeler, Monty Hoban and Jack Pierce travelled to Hamilton last Thursday and competed at the WFPSA Cross Country. They were racing against top competitors with approximately 70 students in each year level. Jack placed 23rd, Monty 18th and Mason placed 15th. An excellent result, congratulations.

Taumarunui Junior Basketball

Wednesday is our last day of basketball for the season, with the finals for the Year 5/6 Grade being played. Over the season both teams have played hard, supported each other, had lots of fun and represented our kura well. A very big thank you to Siobhán McKenna-Murphy and Kereama Watson who have supported and coached the two teams over the term. We greatly appreciate the time, expertise and enjoyment you give to our tamariki. Good luck to both teams for their final game.

Golf

Junior Golf for Years 1 to 10, will occur at Taumarunui Golf Course from 4 to 6 p.m. every Friday. The event will start on **16 October 2026**, and the last day will be **Friday, 11 December 2026**. There will be no junior golf on **23 October 2026 (Labour Weekend)**.

Junior golf will again start on 5 **February 2027**, and the last day will be **27 March 2027**.

Cost: \$2 per player.

There will be drinks, treats and spot prizes every week. Players only need to bring a good "can-do" attitude (we have equipment for all participants). Those who have their personal clubs are welcome to bring them. Happy golfing.



Me te whakaaro nui

With kind thoughts

[Rupert Lerm](#)

Native Nursery/Sensory Garden/Kaitiaki Crew Update

It has been a busy few weeks ticking off tasks for our many enviro projects. On Monday, Kōwhai students did some intense weeding around the native nursery and sensory garden site. Connor Couper had the brilliant idea to harvest the pumpkin seeds from our Matariki feast last term. He has been drying them out and this week we planted them in pots and popped

them in the green house. Whilst all of this was going on Harley-John Atkins and Harrison Tylee decided to gather Kōwhai seed pods, lots of others joined in too. We learned how to scarify them, soaked them in water overnight, and on Wednesday planted 200 Kōwhai seeds in the greenhouse too! Over the holidays you may notice Kim and Owen Petersen and Ōwhango Alive friends doing some mahi on our shade area and adding flooring and shelving to the greenhouse. Thank you for your kind and generous support. Feel free to offer a hand if you can.



The Kaitiaki Crew have been very focussed on the sensory garden in recent weeks. We have four exciting updates to share:

1. The Highschool Trades Academy have done amazing structural work on raised beds, benches and a sensory path (please stay out of this area for now).



Thank you to Taumarunui Highschool Trades Academy

2. We applied for a grant to help finalise the sensory garden area and successfully received \$741 from Horizon's Regional Council which will go towards plants, cement and pavers.



The Kaitiaki Crew with pollinator friendly plants

3. Charlotte and Poppy are running a naming competition for our sensory garden. Details attached, entry box at school entrance or Blue Hill Cafe. This runs until October 21st, then our Kaitiaki Crew will choose a winning name.



Charlotte & Poppy set up the naming competition

4. We are aiming to have a little opening ceremony of our garden on **Pet Day at 10am**. All are welcome to attend and explore our new learning space.

Our sensory garden site may not look like much right now but the Trades Academy are finalising their mahi, we are about to begin some painting and staining, our spring bulbs are making an appearance, tamariki are working hard on their four pou that represent Ōwhango, completing butterfly feeders and considering many little final touches.

During our recent trip to Taumarunui Reuse Centre, the Kaitiaki Crew collected interesting items to reuse in our sensory garden. Leiki is on the hunt for a metal ring or pot (to hang items from) that she can use as the top of her metal wind chimes so please come see us if you can help with that. Charlotte gathered ceramic tiles which she busily glazed with Elliott, Stan and Daithi Ōg on Friday. Next they will pop them in the kiln, break them and use them as mosaic tiles to add to a garden mirror feature. Monty found a handled pot and an old metal pole which he has fixed, decorated and turned into a bird bath and Daithi Ōg found three ceramic dishes he has connected and added a porcelain manu to make a 3-tier bird feeder. More cool projects to follow soon!



Daithi Ōg & Monty with their creations, Ainsley glazing butterfly feeders

The sensory garden, although driven by the Kaitiaki Crew has been a real team effort amongst our

tamariki, school-wide, with artists, painters, botanists, gardeners, gardeners, entomologists, environmentalists and all around awesome kids coming together to make a really cool, calm learning space for themselves....mīharo tamariki mā. Whaea Siobhān.

Maunga Challenge - S.T.E.M. Day

What a wonderful day we had yesterday in our maunga groups working through some neat activities in science, technology, engineering and maths. It was delightful to see tamariki participating in challenges with others they do not normally spend time with, co-operating, creating and problem solving together. Points were rewarded throughout the day for our school values but also for elements of S.T.E.M. learning such as innovation, creativity, problem solving and thinking outside the box. Scores from the day are:

Ruapehu: 200 points = 1st
Tongariro: 180 points = 2nd
Pihanga: 171 points = 3rd
Ngauruhoe: 153 points = 4th



Our tamariki did not disappoint! They created intricate vertical Lego marble runs with Whaea Siobhān and Whaea Kim, participated in paper plane building challenges with Mrs. Tylee, explored molecular structures and ice properties with Mrs. Cookson and engaged in innovative bridge designing with a mathematical twist with Whaea Theresa.



"It's been really fun working with different people and learning from their ideas." -Rose



"My favourite bit was bridge building. We came second. Ours held 2kg. We did planning, weighting, testing and it was really fun. " -Hunter



"I am going to build three different plane designs. I want one that is aerodynamic so I am aiming for light and fast." -Brodie



"Arch bridges are the strongest type. And did you know triangles are the strongest shape so we are using those in our design." -Beau

Ka rawe tamariki mā, what an awesome effort all round and a fantastic day together. Whaea Siobhān.



OWHANGO SCHOOL PET DAY & SPRING FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Our Pet Day and Spring Festival will be held on Tuesday 27th October, 2026. On this day whānau and our community can come along after 12:00 pm to view the creations and watch the animals being judged.

Students may make a **minimum of two** and a **maximum of four** individual activities below:

A GIFT

- A gift for a grandparent.

COOKING

- ◆ Baking decorated like an animal or in a spring theme

GROWING

- ◆ A growing container garden, e.g., tub of veggies, hanging basket
- ◆ Their Jersey Benne Spud in a Bucket
- ◆ A decorative sand saucer or miniature garden

CONSTRUCTING

These two activities may be a group or an individual activity:

- ◆ A Lego creation- in either a spring theme or pet theme
- ◆ A large raft – judging criteria: that will support at least one person and can paddle the length of the school pool, bonus points for engineering skills and decorative skill.
- ◆ A small boat - judging criteria: that it will stay afloat while all of the rafts are paddled the length of the pool; bonus points for engineering skills and decorative skill.
- ◆ Marble run

PRESCHOOL

- ◆ There is a table for pre-schoolers to make something that fits any of the above categories.

RULES

- These are all to be **prepared at home**.
- Creations must be **made by the students themselves**.
- Please **do not** name your work; we will give you stickers with your special anonymous code on it.
- Students will be doing additional activities at school that will be on display.
- You may make a **minimum of two** and a **maximum of four** individual activities

House Points

The children win points for their house group in every event, as follows-

First= 3 points Second= 2 points Third= 1 point



ŌWHANGO SCHOOL PET DAY 2026 PET REGISTRATION

Each child may enter one pet.

Any pet is welcome.

Pets are to arrive at school at or just after 12:00. If the weather is unsuitable an email will be sent out by 11 am to inform parents that we have cancelled the pet section.

All pets must be contained or restrained, not roaming free.

All pets must have a water container.

Pets must be able to be controlled by the child.

No aggressive dogs.

Children must stay with their pets during judging time.

There will be areas for each type of pet to be tied, or for their cage to sit, please look for the signs or ask if you are unsure where to put them.

There will be a time for the judges to interview the pet owner and judge them for an appropriate award.

After this, pets that can be, will be led by their owner around an agility course and show their leading skills.

The focus on this is fun and competition.

PET REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this Pet Registration form to school by 16th October

CHILD'S NAME: _____ **TYPE OF PET:** _____ **PET'S NAME:** _____

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CHILD'S NAME: _____ **TYPE OF PET:** _____ **PET'S NAME:** _____

I will deliver these pets to school at or just after 12.00 on the day

Pets cannot be left at school in the morning

I will ensure that the pet/s are adequately secured and have water.

We agree to abide by the above conditions.

Signed by parent / caregiver _____

We Need An Ingoa!

Ōwhango School needs your help!! We need a name for our new sensory garden. Our sensory garden is a calm space for reflection, relaxation and regulation.

Some words that may be good to include in our name are:

Ngahere, Calm, Sensory, Relax. The name can be in Māori or English and entries close on Wednesday 21 of October term 4.

And winners will be announced at Pet Day. A box to put your entries in will be located at the Office at the front of the school.

Criteria

All entries must be appropriate for our school and must tie in with the kaupapa of our sensory garden.

You can put as many entries as you like as long as they are not inappropriate.

Try make your entry relateable to the sensory garden as much as you can as that is what we will be judging it on.

You must put your name on the entry slip of paper and put why you chose that name.

Competition run by Poppy and Charlotte, Kaitiaki Crew