



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 8, Term 3, 2026

Annelies

Kia ora e te whānau,

With Taiopenga just around the corner, our rōpū are getting ready to do their absolute best and wow us all! We know that not all of our whānau / community will be able to make the journey to Taupō on Tuesday next week, so we would like to extend a special invitation to a performance at the **Ōwhango Hall at 2.30 pm, Monday 14th September.**

Just a friendly reminder that children are not to be dropped off any earlier than 8.30 am please. If you do need to drop them earlier on occasion, please email their teacher prior to organise.

Interschools Cross Country was wet, muddy, slightly chilly and a whole lot of fun. All of our tamariki competed beautifully and should be very proud of themselves! A special thanks to our whānau who came along that day and braved copious amounts of sheep poo, helping with sodden gear and children, and ensured the day ran smoothly.

An extra mention to those children who placed in the top 10:

10th Place; Molly, Kruza, Grace

8th Place; Rose

7th Place; Azalea

6th Place; Lachlan

5th Place; Blake, Beau

4th Place; Kaelyis-Rae, Haven-Skye, Libby, Kyston

3rd Place; Quinn, Monty, Haylee

2nd Place; Lennox, Mason, Remy

1st Place; Joride, Ainsley, Jack P

Photos at the end of our pānau!

A special mention to Mason, Monty and Jack who will be heading off to Hamilton next Thursday to represent our kura at the Waikato Cross Country!

Have a spectacular week everyone,

Dates to Remember:

Wk 8	KCRU Rippa Carnival Wed 9 Sept Y0-3 Ski Day - Friday 11 Sept
Wk 9	Whānau Performance Mon 14 Sept, 2.30 pm Ōwhango Hall Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga (bracket scheduled at 12.40 - 1 pm) Tues 15 Sept WFPSA Cross Country Thur 17 Sept Y0-3 Ski Day - Friday 18 Sept
Wk 10	Tōtara Assembly 2pm (date change) Thursday 25 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


Ōwhango Alive
PROTECTING OUR OWN BACKYARD

Kia ora koutou,

Ōwhango Alive is celebrating World Rivers Day again, meeting at the Whakapapa River Bridge car park and we would like to extend an invitation for you to join us, as we celebrate and acknowledge the importance of our rivers globally.

We will also be planting approximately 150 native trees along the banks of the river - sturdy footwear and spades would be advised, so you can plant your own tree/s and then watch them happily flourish over the years.

Once the trees are planted, I will head up to the Owango Pavilion in the Domain for refreshments and to listen to our guest speaker, Alastair Cole. Alastair is a herpetologist and will share with us his extensive knowledge on skinks, geckos and lizards - I believe he is bringing some live examples with him too!

We traditionally launch the popular Owango Alive calendar on World Rivers Day, which features photographs taken in and around the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve. The calendar is certainly popular and has been a great fundraiser for us over the years.

We hope you can join us - if you could RSVP by September 17th, we can then ensure there's enough kai for us all - there's nothing worse than not having enough sausage rolls and cakes! Oh, and a reminder to put your clocks forward the night before, as Daylight Savings starts on Sunday 27th Sept.

Everyone is welcome, so feel free to spread the word!

Nga mihi,

Mark Fredericks
Owango Alive chairman.
0275734359

**Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga
Kapa Haka Festival**
**Taupō Events Centre (next to AC Baths),
Taupō**
Tuesday 15 September 2026



This

year, Ōwango School is excited to once again be entering our kapa haka rōpū into the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga kapa haka festival. This is not a competition, but a celebration of kapa haka and an opportunity for our tamariki to perform in front of a large audience, experience the excitement of a festival, and enjoy watching other schools and kura perform.

Primary schools, high schools, te kōhanga reo and kindergartens from across the Ngāti Tūwharetoa rohe will be taking part, making this a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to come together and celebrate kapa haka, whanaungatanga (relationships) and kotahitanga (unity).

The entire school will be travelling to Taupō on Tuesday 15 September to support our kapa haka rōpū. We will leave Ōwango School at **9:00am** and travel together to the Taupō Events Centre.

Te Rōpū Kapa Haka o Ōwango is currently scheduled to perform at 12:40pm. Please be aware that performance times can change on the day, and our rōpū may be called to perform slightly earlier, as happened last year, or later. As this is a large event with many groups involved, there is a considerable amount of organisation behind the scenes. Once our students arrive at the Taupō Events Centre, it is therefore important that they remain together as a

group and follow the instructions of their teachers and tutors.

Our kapa haka rōpū will also need to be in the changing rooms before 12:00pm. This is likely to be a busy and hurried part of the day, so we ask that everyone helps us to ensure our tamariki are ready and where they need to be.

We would love to see as many whānau as possible travel with us to Taupō to support and watch our tamariki perform on stage. Your encouragement and support mean so much to our students and help make these experiences memorable for them.

We will arrange bus transport / shared transport for students if required, and financial assistance will be available for whānau who are able to take their own vehicles to Taupō.

We look forward to sharing this special day with our tamariki, whānau and the wider Ngāti Tūwharetoa community, and celebrating the wonderful kaupapa of kapa haka and kotahitanga together. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi,
Whaea Jessie Smith
jessie@owhango.school.nz

Class Kōrero - Kōwhai

Our poor wee Kōwhai kids have been hit hard with all sorts of bugs this term and us kaiako have not been exempt either so I would like to extend a huge ngā mihi to Whaea Regan and Whaea Kim for their flexibility and covering for me whilst I fought off some bugs last week. The tamariki have had a wonderful time engaging not just with core curriculum areas but with some lovely winter art creations too. Check out their snow globes:



Snow globes with Whaea Regan

As our kapa haka rōpū prepare to perform at the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Festival next week, I checked in to see how some of our littlest performers are feeling after Te Wakakōtahitanga:

“I like doing the poi the most. I had to work hard to learn how to do it. I was proud of myself up on stage.” -Haven-Skye (6)

“I loved it! The people facing us looked happy and that made me feel proud. I had never worn a maro before. It was very cool.” -Romana (5)

“My favourite part was doing the haka with the boys. The actions make me feel happy. The stage felt ginormous and I was not even a little bit nervous!” - Kruza (6)

“My Nana was there. She was proud of me because I was on stage for the first time and tried my best.” - Alfie (5)



Kruza, Alfie & Romana at Te Whakakōtahitanga

As a tauiwi (foreigner) in Aotearoa New Zealand, I could never teach these tamariki the amazing skills and connections Whaea Wai, Matua Hone, Whaea Jessie and Whaea Karen have been instilling in our tamariki this year and I am very grateful to see a growth in not only skills, but confidence in our tamariki each week as they express their mana and connect with the stories and histories of their whenua (land). Ka rawe!



Learning adventures in Kōwhai

In preparation for our first ski day on the maunga, we have been learning about the pūrākau 'The Battle of the Mountains' and how it relates to our area. We read multiple versions and had some great class discussions around why different versions may exist. We talked about the tradition of oral storytelling in te ao Māori and tamariki shared examples from their own homes. We then began creating collage art to represent the maunga that stood out to them from the different versions and wrote brief recounts based on their perspectives:

Battle of the Mountains

By Briarni Leat

The calm Pihanga was looking after her babies and she was all by herself. When the others came, the other mountains were fighting to get Pihanga. Pihanga was not happy with the others.

Battle of the Mountains

By Reese Roberts

Pihanga was a pretty girl mountain.
She loved Tongariro.

Battle of the Mountains

By Harley-John Atkins

Taranaki and other mountains attacked Tongariro. The losing mountains moved to new places. They froze when the sun came up.
Tongariro won the war for Pihanga.

Battle of the Mountains

By Leo Nicholson

Taranaki was throwing lava rocks at Tongariro. Tongariro won the battle. He stood with Pihanga forever.



Lennox & Mila work diligently on their maunga collage art

Battle of the Mountains

By Elli Bramley

The mountains threw lava. They loved Pihanga.
Pihanga loved Tongariro.

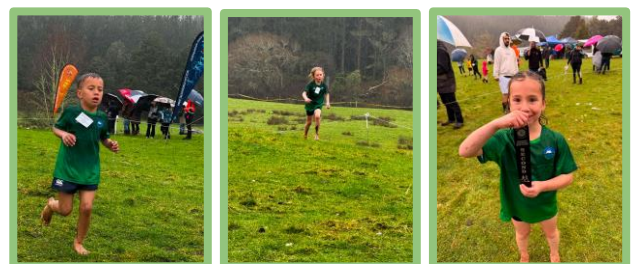
Battle of the Mountains

By Remy Pritt-Stewart

There were three mountains named Tongariro, Pihanga, Taranaki and two children called Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. Taranaki wanted to fight Tongariro for Pihanga so Taranaki's hot rocks came bursting out of his crater and went towards Tongariro. Tongariro had hot lava that came at Taranaki but Taranaki dodged the lava! Tongariro won the battle. All the mountains separated from each other and became frozen. Tongariro and Pihanga stayed together forever.

In other learning areas, we are investigating fractions in maths, beginning a study on Antarctica in science and starting to write exciting narratives.

A huge congratulations to all of our Kōwhai athletes that had podium finishes at both Mountain Schools and Interschools cross country events. We are so proud of your huge efforts.





Kōwhai crosscountry action

We are looking forward to a healthy and productive end of term in Kōwhai class, with plenty more fantastic learning opportunities. Whaea Siobhān.



P.T.A. Hot Lunch Thursdays

A reminder that our P.T.A. hot lunch fundraiser will resume tomorrow for the final 3 Thursdays of the term. It is cash only, and a great way to support our P.T.A. to fundraise for the many amazing opportunities they subsidise for our tamariki each year. Thank you to Ms. Cookson and Rimu students for your help and flexibility every Thursday and a special mention to Nicole Hosking who has organised this fundraiser each week this term.



Happy hot lunch customers

Prices:

- \$5 - Pie
- \$5 - Hotdog
- \$4 - Sausage roll
- \$1 - Milo



Enhancing Wetlands

With Rebecca Eivers

Ongarue - 21st September
Owhango - 23rd September
Whanganui- 25th September
10am - 3pm

Join us for a hands-on wetland workshop with wetland specialist Rebecca Eivers (Wai Kōkupu Consulting)! We'll cover how to develop and enhance wetland areas on your property, why these often-overlooked corners of the farm matter so much for water quality and biodiversity, and we'll get out and visit a few real wetland sites in the catchment to see the theory in action. Whether you've got an established wetland, a soggy paddock corner you're not sure what to do with, or you're just curious about what's possible, this workshop is for you.

Open to all — bring your gumboots!

REGISTER NOW
ncavewrcc@gmail.com

WHANGANUI REGION CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE

Tree planting last week - Otapouri Road

Nga Mihi Nui to our Owhango & Kaitieke School students, teachers, parents, helpers and volunteers. Mrs Resink called last Thursday's planting...

"The Best Day Ever " and I'm sure we all agree!

Our native plants received a big drink of water yesterday and now brilliant sunshine today, they are happy and growing already!

Owen & I will be very caring Kaitiaki for these native plants, making sure the grass doesn't grow over them, so that you will all see the beautiful area you have created in years to come!

We are most grateful also to Tania Bramley (Landcare Trust) and Tarsh de Rose (Whakapapa Water Catchment

Co-Ordinator) for their proposal, action & drive to make this special event happen!

Ka kite ano, Whaea Kim



In other exciting news, we have been collaborating with Taumarunui Highschool's Trades Academy to make some of the trickier elements of our garden come to life. This is a neat way for our tamariki to see some of the learning that can happen at their local high school.



Garden beds and butterfly feeders taking shape

Thank you Mandy O'Reilly for this great idea, and to Steve Kernot and his fantastic students for all of their mahi on our raised beds and new benches so far, in the memorial area. They are also busy working with us to design a sensory path for the area.

Sensory Garden Update

Our sensory garden is starting to take more shape. It has been a great team effort with Whaea Kim supporting tamariki with some painting tasks this week, Whaea Regan has been working all term with all tamariki from years 0-8 to create butterfly feeders, our seniors have supported younger students with mini projects, and of course our fabulous tamariki of all ages who have been adding their creativity to projects in recent weeks that will soon come together. This exciting project designed by and for our students will be a lovely addition to our outdoor learning areas.

In the coming weeks, we will be getting stuck into some weeding, planting, and announcing a competition to come up with an ingoa (name) for our new learning area so get your thinking caps on e te whānau! If you have any interesting sensory stimulating plants, herbs or seedlings that you would like to donate to our sensory garden, please get in touch. All donations are very welcome. Whaea Siobhān

Proud of all of our competitors! Well done Ōwhango School! Mrs R



Painting 'pencils' for the raised garden beds



Our pou get their first lick of paint



Ski Day #8 11th Sept (subject to change)

TRANSPORT				
Driver	Can fit	4WD	Students Coming =	
Emma	4	Y	Harrison, Alfie, Connor, Legion	
Erin	4	Y	Corbin, Kotuku, Noa, Levi	
Stacey	4	N	Eric, Blake, Janey, Mila	
Aimee	3	Y	Jolene, Briarni	
Deb	3	Y	Remy, Jordie, Alaia	
Sarah	3	Y	Leo, Harper, Romana	
Siobhan/Kim	3	Y	Haven-Skye, Hunter, Reese	
Meeting There			Danielle (Mitch) - Harley John Di - Ngakuru, Taimana Kirsty - Ben Karen - Lennox Sally - Elli	
Absent			Kruza	

PASSES-ADULTS		
NEED A PASS & SKIS – 1 free:6 kids	NOT SKIING	HAVE OWN SEASON PASS
Erin	Emma	Deb
Stacey	Kim	Karen K
Aimee		Siobh��n
Sarah		