

The Owairoa Primary

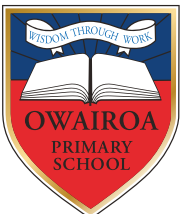
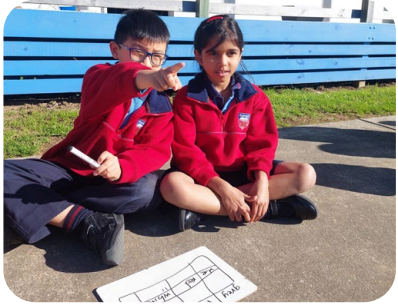
School Scribe

news and views from around our school

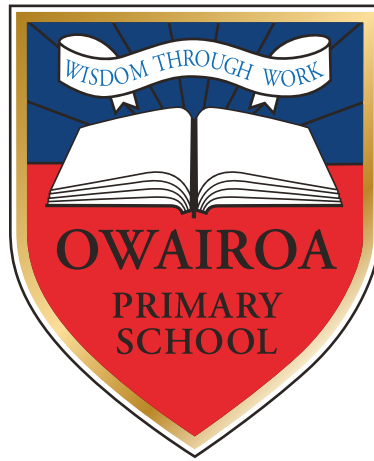


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Issue No 5, 20th June 2023



Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.
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Phone 0064 9 538 0060 **Email** officemanager@owairoa.school.nz
www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

With two weeks left of Term Two, it is an exciting time for us all as we gear up to enjoy our exciting 'Hooked on Reading' Book Week this week, and then celebrate the end of yet another successful semester here at Owairoa Primary School next Friday.

This newsletter edition highlights a range of academic, sporting and extracurricular achievements of our students and staff that have taken place over the past few weeks. We are proud of the incredible work that has been done and the progress that has been made in various areas of the school. We now have an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and set goals for the upcoming term.

We are committed to ensuring that our students are well-rounded and able to explore their talents and interests. I want to thank our staff for their dedication and hard work in driving our school forward. To the parents, your continued support and involvement in your child's education is highly appreciated.

As we move into the Winter holidays, I want to encourage everyone to take some time to rest, recharge, and come back ready to tackle the second half of the school year with renewed energy and determination, and as always, thank you for your continued support of our school.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Madelaine Malicdem
- Kaveesha Amarapathi
- Mudiyanselage
- Oshadhee Amarapathi
- Mudiyanselage
- Agam Sarkaria
- Irving Sun
- Carla Jansen
- Caitlyn Jansen
- Leah Jansen
- Zara Cicek
- Okan Cicek
- Khloe Rose McGuire



Empowering Young Minds Through Innovation

At the time of writing, New Zealand's workforce of just under 3 million people includes nearly 540,000 workers with a STEAM qualification. Recognising the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in primary education, Owairoa's awesome educators continue to work hard to implement an innovative ISTEAM

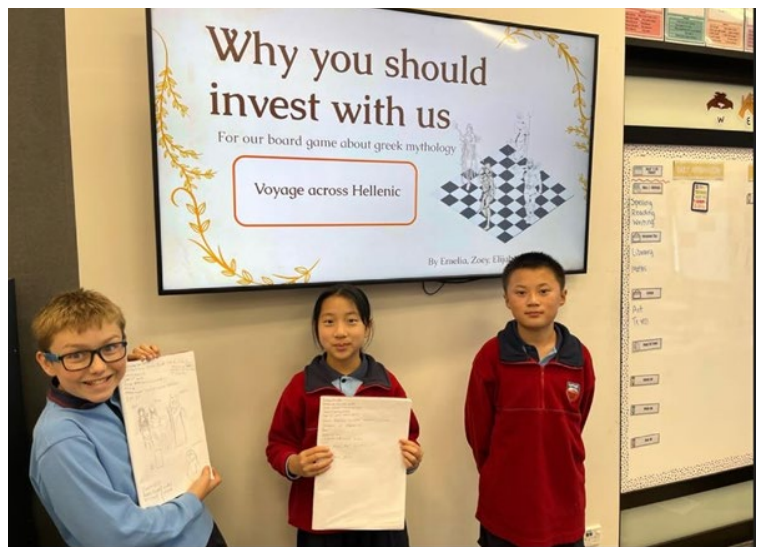
program, which inspires and empowers young minds to explore and excel in these increasingly important fields.

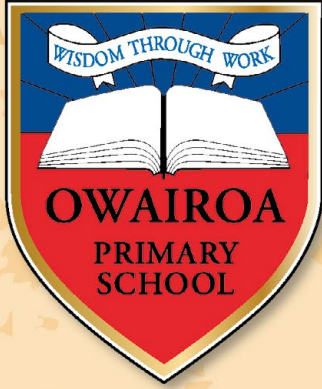
In Room M2, students have embarked on a fascinating journey into Aotearoa History as part of their ISTEAM curriculum. Engaging with the Māori pūrākau (legend) of Kupe and the Giant Wheke, they dove deep into the fascinating cultural heritage of New Zealand. Inspired by Kupe's story, the students designed and developed nets to catch fish, which explored the notion of providing sustenance for their whānau, just as Kupe did long ago. This hands-on approach not only heightened their understanding of our history, but also fostered problem-solving skills and provided explicit focus on the Key Competency, Relating to Others.

On the opposite side of the school, Room 8 witnessed the intersection of science and creativity as they delved into the realm of animal biology. Utilising their knowledge of the different body parts mammals, reptiles, birds and fish have, the students crafted a model of a 'combination creature', called Creature X, using Play-do. This interdisciplinary project not only honed their artistic skills, but also nurtured their scientific inquiry and critical thinking abilities.

Meanwhile, in M14, budding entrepreneurs were honing their business acumen. Developing business plans for "M14's Shark Tank," the students were tasked with constructing a board game and presenting their plans to convince their teacher to 'invest' in their company. This project not only provided a platform to showcase their creativity, but also instilled crucial skills in strategic thinking, communication, and financial literacy.

The ISTEAM program at Owairoa Primary School demonstrates the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped for the demands of the modern world. By integrating STEAM disciplines into the curriculum, we strive to foster a love for learning and to empower students to think critically, collaborate effectively and embrace innovation.





GET HOOKED ON READING

BOOK WEEK

Monday 19th June

to

Friday 23rd June



Football Fun-in-the-Sun Day



On Thursday 8 June, Owairoa learners took part in the HPPA Soccer Field Day. We kick-started our day with some glorious sunshine with four teams of mixed ability players, ready to give it a go. Excited learners took the bus down to the Meadowland Reserve, which offered a perfect location for some light-hearted competition against other local schools.

Selected from across the Year 5-6 group, some students already had soccer skills. These players had an opportunity to try out different positions, without the pressure of 'having to win'. However, many others came along with no experience whatsoever, so that they could give the sport a go. Making new friends from other classes and learning some new ball skills was the goal of the day.

The four aptly named teams, Tigers, Cobras, Lions and Dragons, took part in up to 6 mini games. Learners played their hearts out and supported each other with shouts of encouragement from the sidelines. Goals were lost and won, wins celebrated, and tired but happy learners returned to Owairoa, having had a blast of a day in the stunning winter sunshine.



The Owairoa Girls' Football Teams Shine in the HPPA Tournament

Overcoming the challenges of unpredictable weather, the Owairoa girls' football teams finally had their moment to shine as they competed in the highly anticipated HPPA football tournament at William Green Reserve. With both the Owairoa 1st and 2nd teams playing in five 7-a-side games, the girls demonstrated their football skills, teamwork, and resilience.

The Owairoa 1st team proved their mettle by securing three victories throughout the tournament. Their campaign kicked off with a resounding 8-0 triumph, showcasing their attacking prowess and ability to find the back of the net. Although they faced a challenging goalless draw against Macleans Primary School, the girls displayed great defensive skills and kept their opponents at bay. In a closely contested match against Ormiston Primary School, the Owairoa 1st team fought valiantly but narrowly lost by a score of 2-3.

The Owairoa 2nd team also left their mark on the tournament, winning two games while facing three defeats. Despite the losses, they displayed remarkable resilience and fought until the final whistle in every match. Beyond the results on the scoreboard, the HPPA tournament provided a valuable learning experience for both of our Owairoa teams. The Owairoa girls can be proud of their achievements and the spirit they displayed throughout the tournament.



8 Great Habits to Being a Leader

The 2023 House Leaders had the opportunity to work with Miss Hewlett in a day long leadership mentoring programme called The 8 Great Habits. The students learnt about the 8 Great Habits of being a good leader. The Eight Great Habits Course equips our young leaders to get control of their lives, improve relationships with friends, make smarter decisions, get along with parents and caregivers, overcome bad habits, define values and what matters most to them, get more done in less time, increase self-confidence, be happy, find balance between school, work, friends and everything else.

This programme has been formulated for our appointed House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders, which aims to coach the students for their new leadership roles at Owairoa. It guides them through hands on and engaging activities to help equip them with the skills to navigate their way through life.

At the end of the day-long session, students then use their new knowledge to create a talk to the rest of the House Leaders, as well as Mrs Bull about what they learnt that day, the habit they need to work on, how the new learning will help them at school and home, along with developing a personal mission statement that they can refer to in the future.



PARENTS ARE YOU PLAYING YOUR PART?



With the winter weather arriving, it is a timely reminder about the importance of road safety around our school. Our students are our top priority, and we all have a joint responsibility to keep them safe and ensure that everyone arrives at school and returns home safely.

One of the ongoing concerns our school community faces is the issue of parking. Please remember that parking on yellow lines or over driveways is strictly prohibited. These regulations are in place for a reason: to prevent congestion and reduce the risk of accidents on the roads and paths around our school.

We understand that finding a parking spot can sometimes be challenging, but we urge everyone to follow the rules and park safely and legally. This means avoiding parking on the yellow lines and instead using designated parking areas or finding a spot on the side streets nearby.

In addition to following proper parking procedures, we also urge everyone to take extra caution when driving around the school area. By following these simple guidelines, we can all play a role in ensuring the safety of our school community. Thank you for your cooperation.

And The Winner is...

OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are thrilled to announce that our new 18 classroom building, the 'Alan McIntyre Centre' was announced as the winner of the Education Category at the New Zealand Institute of Architects 2023 Auckland Architecture Awards, held at the Auckland Viaduct last week.

This recognition is a testament to the innovation and design excellence that went into creating this remarkable structure for our school. The project started with a vision to build a cutting-edge facility that led to the construction of an amazing facility that caters to modern teaching methods here at Owairoa Primary School, while accommodating our growing student population.

Our team of architects and designers from RTA Studio worked closely with our school and the Ministry of Education to understand our needs and goals for this space. They then drew inspiration from their extensive research and incorporated the latest trends in educational design to create a facility for our school that is both functional and beautiful.

As part of the judging process, we welcomed the architects and judging jury on site to do a tour of the amazing facility. They looked at how the building exterior functions and interacts with the landscaping and exterior play spaces, creating an atmosphere that promotes creativity, productivity, and learning. They also showcased the state-of-the-art inside features, looking at how the flexible learning environments were designed to include shared breakout for creative work and smaller focus learning spaces, depending on the desired level of student and teacher collaboration, as well as stopping to admire the expansive view of the Howick community from the top storey.

We were extremely proud that the 'Alan McIntyre Centre' has been recognised as winning recipient for this award, especially in such a competitive field. We would like to express our gratitude to RTA Studios for their hard work, dedication, and creativity. This award is a testament to the power of teamwork and collaboration, to bring this exciting vision here at Owairoa Primary School to life.



And The Winner is... **OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**New Zealand
Architecture
Awards**

Award:

**Auckland
Architecture
Award**

Presented to:

RTA Studio

For:

**Owairoa
Primary School**

Year Awarded:

2023

Category:

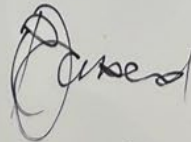
Education

Citation:

The bold and playful exterior contains a calm and responsive learning environment, which clearly talks to the architect's command of achieving balance across complex briefing requirements.

Highly legible and straightforward planning strategies deliver a variety of learning spaces through a mix of focused, enclosed and communal environments. Skilled management of brief, budget and project execution results in a highly sustainable building that generates enough renewable energy to power the building and give back to the grid. Carefully navigating the specific needs of the Ministry of Education, the school, their whānau and wider community, this project talks to the value of strong collaborative client relationships.

Branch Chair:



Convenor:



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Whaihanga
New Zealand
Institute of
Architects**

Resene **APL**
the paint the professionals use WINDOW SOLUTIONS



The official citation from the award ceremony is as follows:

Owairoa Primary School by RTA Studio

The bold and playful exterior contains a calm and responsive learning environment, which clearly talks to the architect's command of achieving balance across complex briefing requirements.

Highly legible and straightforward planning strategies deliver a variety of learning spaces through a mix of focused, enclosed and communal environments. Skilled management of brief, budget and project execution results in a highly sustainable building that generates enough renewable energy to power the building and give back to the grid. Carefully navigating the specific needs of the Ministry of Education, the school, their whānau and wider community, this project talks to the value of strong collaborative client relationships.

Middle School Poetry Competition

The Middle School Poetry Competition was held on Thursday, 1st June. It was a vibrant showcase of the young talent that we have in the Middle School. Students from Years 3 and 4 took to the stage, sharing their well-rehearsed poems. Over the course of Term 2, all students learnt a poem of their choosing and along with the support of their teachers, developed their oral language and presentation skills.

Our esteemed panel of judges, Mrs Humphreys and Ms Randhawa, had the challenging task of judging the competition, carefully evaluating the clarity of voice, intonation, voice projection, expression, gestures, memorisation, and stance of each finalist. The winners were announced with much excitement to those in attendance.



Year 3 Winners:

1st – Miane Jooste (Room M8)

2nd – May Li (Room M4)

3rd – George Diprose (Room M7)



Year 4 Winners:

1st – Antoine Henderson (Room M3)

2nd – Katie Thornton (Room 25)

3rd – Lilian Al-Tameemi (Room M2)

Kahui Ako Within School Leader Appointments

We wish to congratulate our four new Kahui Ako Within School Leaders at Owairoa Primary School, who have successfully applied for a one-year appointment with our Bucklands Beach Te Ara Kahui Ako Community of Learning, to complete a year long enquiry on their chosen topic.

- **Mr Jonathan Basson – Mitey Mental Health Programme**
- **Mr Gareth Rossiter – Emotional Regulation of Students**
- **Mr Luke O'Brien – Literacy Intervention**
- **Miss Tracey Haugh – Oral Language development in New Entrants**

The purpose of the Within School Leader is to promote best teaching practice and strengthen the use of an inquiry approach to teaching and learning. In doing so, they will draw on a range of professional resources and adapt what they do to meet the student's needs and strengths, working directly with other teachers to help identify and respond to challenges in practice and support the Community of Learning's objectives. We wish them well with their Within School Leader journey.



KAHUI AKO
Congratulations



Kids Get Wild

As students entered our School Hall last week, they were greeted with an incredible array of hanging vines, colourful leaves, exotic birds and tropical flowers as our PTA worked hard to transform this space into an amazing jungle-inspired Disco for our students.

Everyone was wild with excitement as students embraced the fun theme, arriving dressed in their best jungle outfits, including animal masks, leopard print shirts, and khakis. We even spotted wild lions, striped zebras and even a few cheeky monkeys enjoying the tropical party atmosphere.

Each of our three Jungle Disco events were filled with fun and laughter and it was great to see everyone having such a wonderful time, making our PTA event a huge success.

Thank you to all the amazing Parent Volunteers and supportive School Staff who helped make this event happen. Thanks also to our crafty crafters, supply buyers and picker-uppers, our volunteer coordinators and especially to the DJ, our MC and Disco Leaders! Thanks also goes to our lolly bag packers, our servers on the day and the wonderful cleaners after the event!

Thank you to all the Parents for supporting this event. We hope that your children had as much fun as we did!

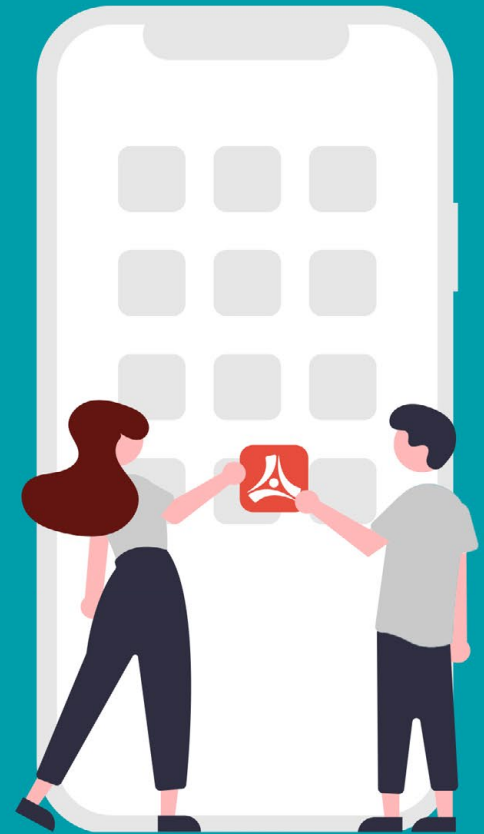


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The free Audiri school app offers parents a convenient way to stay up-to-date with the school calendar, last-minute forms, newsletters, all school communications, and even make cashless payments. With Audiri, you can get started in just a few minutes by following these simple steps:

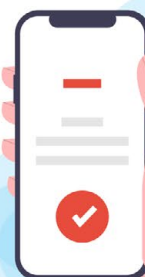
- 1.** Open the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and search for 'Audiri'. Install the app.
- 2.** Create an account and follow the prompts. Click 'Sign up'. Enter your email address, create a password and click on 'Sign up'. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your account. Open the confirmation email and confirm your account.
- 3.** Open the app, and click 'Add/Remove'. Type your school's name and press enter.
- 4.** Tap the + icon to add. Now you can see your school, under My Schools & Services.



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audiri.com.au



HOUSE LEADERS-Spotlight



Samantha Dixon – Tainui House Leader

My name is Samantha Dixon, I am 10 years old and a proud House Leader of Tainui. I love doing art and playing the cello.

Throughout my years so far at Owairoa I am grateful for our kind amazing teachers and friends who have always supported me when I have needed it the most. I enjoy Owairoa because it opens up a lot of learning opportunities for everyone! The opportunities that I have experienced to date are Kokokaha Sailing, Kaitiaki, Choir, Librarian, Chess and Kapa Haka. My most favourite of those though has been my involvement with the Kaitiaki group. I have really enjoyed learning how to respect and care for the environment, as well as participating in the planting day. This was a lot of fun because we planted over a thousand trees! Being a Librarian I learnt how to search for books, shelve books, and even issue books. My co-Librarians and I thought managing the Library at lunchtimes was fun to do. I look forward to embracing more opportunities in my final year at Owairoa.

My advice to other students when they come to the school is: just be yourself and have fun and enjoy it while you can. When other children are being selfish, rude, or unkind, you can go and find a Mediator or House Leader, or even a Duty Teacher to help you resolve any conflict or problems. If you are bored and don't have anything to do at lunch, why not go pick up some rubbish (at least five pieces), and when you're done show the rubbish to a Duty Teacher or a House Leader, and they may give you a House point or two. Showing kindness to others is also another way you could earn house points.

I am so excited to have been voted in as House Leader and am looking forward to being a great role model to my peers. I love showing kindness and respect to others. My goal as House Leader is to guide and encourage every member of Tainui House to make our house the best it can be and win the House Shield for 2023!



Alex Londt – Tainui House Leader

My name is Alex Londt and I am 10 years old. I enjoy playing sports, and spending time with my friends and family. I am proud to be a House Leader, as I can help others in the school.

What I like about Owairoa is the opportunities students are given to get involved in different activities across the school. Owairoa offers heaps of sporting, cultural and academic opportunities. My favourite schooling memory is of making the Rugby team in Year 4 and Year 5.

My advice for other students at Owairoa Primary is to be always true to yourself and get involved in as many opportunities as you can. Remember to always smile and be kind to your teachers and friends. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will strive to be a good role model to you all.



TAINUI





Junior Blog High and Mitey



This term, our Junior School has embarked on a thrilling new initiative centred around mental health education and the overall wellbeing of our children. We believe that nurturing their emotional and mental growth is just as important as their academic development.

Through our partnership with the MITEY programme, we were lucky to have a visit by Mitey Coach Rob Edmondson to work with our students.

An initial lesson was focussed on showing and discussing emotions, along with how we feel in certain situations. Many students showed excitement at the prospect of a dinosaur at the door!

Throughout the rest of the year, we will be engaging in activities, discussions and using resources that promote learning about resilience, self-care, and building positive relationships.

It is great to see the positive impact this initiative is already having on our Junior School community, and we look forward to seeing our children flourish as the year progresses.

Middle Blog Simultaneous Storytelling Experience



Middle School students recently joined forces with over 2 million students worldwide to participate in a simultaneous storytelling event centred around the children's book "The Speedy Sloth." This experience allowed students to delve into the magical world of author Rebecca Young and witness the artistic brilliance of illustrator Heath McKenzie.

Learners gathered in front of their classroom TV screens, awaiting the live reading of "The Speedy Sloth" by Rebecca Young herself. Through her engaging narration, Rebecca Young transported us into a world where a seemingly ordinary sloth steps up, perseveres, overcomes the challenge of a race, and is still home in time for dinner. The story's underlying themes of integrity and self-esteem resonated within our school community, aligning with two of our R.I.S.E values.

Following the reading, our excitement grew as Heath McKenzie took the virtual stage. With his artistic prowess, he skilfully guided us through the process of illustrating the book, demonstrating his techniques, and even treating us to a live drawing session. This was followed up in many middle school classes with drawing lessons around Spike the Sloth.

We are grateful to have been part of this remarkable event, 'joining hands' with millions of other students from across New Zealand and Australia.

Senior Blog Seniors Measure Up



Since ancient times children have needed to learn how to measure things, and it is still an important mathematical skill our young Owaioa learners are trying to master.

Our Year 5 and 6's have been working on getting to grips with different forms of measurement, including capacity, weight, height, depth, volume, and temperature. Using many different types of fun, hands-on activities, classes have been learning the language of measurement to better equip themselves for living in our world.

Often these tasks provide visual connections and in depth understanding of the concept. A lesson might include measuring our surroundings, such as calculating the perimeter of our astroturf.

In ISTEAM accurate calculations are important in science investigations, or in the length and area of a mini house construction. Making paper plate clocks, so that we can get to grips with 5-minute intervals, has provided fun visual connections.

These essential skills are needed for our everyday tasks such as cooking or organising things in our homes, as well as checking if the shop assistant gives the correct change!

After the learning comes the much-loved phrase, 'time for morning tea'. Also, we need to know what time to turn up for our senior duty responsibilities, and of course, when is the all-important 'home time' bell?

Beat the Winter Blues

For some, the colder weather and shorter days can take a toll on their physical and mental health. In children, just as in adults, it is very common to feel a change in mood and energy levels during the winter months. Shorter days mean less sunlight, causing our internal clocks to be out. This can affect sleeping habits and energy levels. In addition, chilly temperatures often mean staying inside and swaying from regular schedules. While we can't change the season, the good news is there are things we can easily do to help minimize the effects of feeling these winter blues.

5 Tips to combat Winter blues



1. Exercise:

Keeping active either inside or outside is very important. If you can brave the outdoors, get in some daily movement outside to burn off energy.

2. Eat healthy:

A balanced diet is key in keeping a healthy body. Be sure to stay away from sweets and instead, focus on seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables.

3. See the light:

Turn on lights when getting up in the morning and keep a brightly lit home throughout the day wherever possible.

4. Stay social:

Getting out of the house. Visiting with friends and family and participating in events can help you keep socially active during the winter months.

5. Fun at home:

Rainy days are the perfect excuse for family time. Plan a movie night or work on a home project. Don't feel trapped inside, instead find ways to have fun together!



Winter Wellness

Winter wellness becomes a priority around this time, as the colder months of the year arrive.

The change of season brings a multitude of bugs and viruses, ranging from colds, the flu and stomach bugs.

Many of these bugs are highly contagious, so we ask that you be vigilant about monitoring your child's health. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home.

For student absences, please email absent@owairoa.school.nz or notify us through the Audiri App (formerly Skoolbag), stating the reason your child is away and the date/s they will not be attending school.

Should your child become unwell during the school day, our office staff will contact you to collect your child from school. Please ensure we have current mobile numbers so that we can contact you if needed.

We are beginning to see Covid cases increasing in our school community again. RAT tests are a fast way to test if your child is showing any of the symptoms of Covid-19.

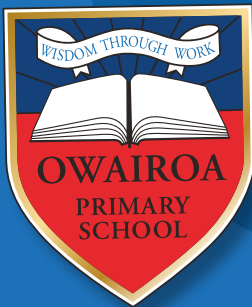
A reminder that the following Covid-19 rules are in place:



- If someone in your family has Covid, they must isolate at home for 7 days.
- Household Contacts do not need to isolate.
- All Household members are expected to do a RAT test daily for 5 days, from the date the person with Covid-19 tested positive.
- For siblings still wanting to attend school, please do a RAT test each morning before coming to school.



For more information, visit www.covid19.govt.nz



School Finish Time

The school day ends at 3pm and while we appreciate that sometimes situations arise and Parents can't be here on time, we seem to have a growing number of students arriving at the office each afternoon, with their parents running late for after school pickup.

Please ring the school office on (09) 538 0060 if you know you are held up, so we can let your child know the new pickup arrangements for that day.

Any students who are not picked up from our school office by 3.15pm are taken to our on-site after school care provider, Bizzy Bodz, who will supervise your child until you arrive. Casual rates apply and will be invoiced directly from Bizzy Bodz.

Looking ahead

- ☺ **June**
- 20 School Board Meeting 7pm
 - 22 Winter Solstice - Shortest Day
 - 23 HPPA Dance Festival
 - 27 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
 - 30 End of Term Two

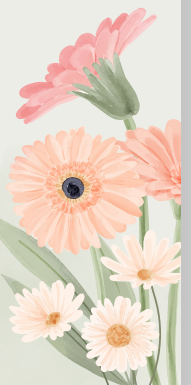
- ☺ **July**
- 17 Start of Term Three
 - 25 School Board Meeting 7pm

Whakatauki

**He kai kei aku ringa
There is food at the end of my hands**

This whakatauki signifies resilience, empowerment and hope. It refers to one's ability to use the skills and resources they have to create success.

It's about being responsible for the resources and capabilities one needs to grow and develop.



Alan McIntyre
PRINCIPAL





Before School Care: 7.00am - 8.30am
After School Care: 3.00pm - 6.00pm
School Holidays: 7.30am - 6.00pm

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