

Issue No 7, 31st August 2023



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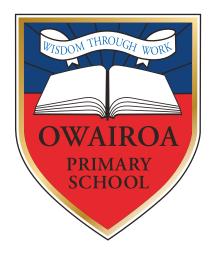








Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand. Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P.,B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mkting (CMS)., A.N.Z.E.I. Phone 0064 9 538 0060 Email officemanager@owairoa.school.nz www.owairoa.school.nz



#### **Dear Parents and Caregivers**

As we find ourselves over halfway through the journey of Term Three, it is exciting to realise that the first day of spring is just around the corner. After the many cold and rainy months of the winter season, the sight of sunshine breaking through the clouds has been a welcome change.

As the term progresses, we continue to witness the incredible achievements of our students both inside and outside the classroom. This success is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of our exceptional teaching staff. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our teachers, who exhibit a passion for fostering learning and witnessing the growth of our student learners.

In the past few weeks, our school, like many others in our local community has been grappling with the challenge of flu and cold outbreaks. Just last week, we experienced a significant absentee rate, with 111 students—nearly 13% of our school population—being unable to attend due to illness. This serves as a timely reminder to keep your children home if they display any signs of sickness and to reinforce the importance of practicing good hygiene habits to curb the spread of illness.

In brighter news, we were pleased to hear that the Ministry of Health announced the removal of the 7-day mandatory isolation for individuals with Covid-19, effective from Tuesday 15th August. This decision signifies the end of the Covid-19 restrictions that have been in place since 2020. We extend our gratitude to our incredible staff, students, and parents for consistently adhering to these measures, thus contributing to the safety and well-being of our school community over this period.

As we continue to navigate these dynamic times together, let us remember that it is a collective effort and shared commitment to making this second half of the academic year one of growth, learning, and memorable experiences for our students.



- Max Xu
- Skyler Wood
- Layla Brown
- Jackson West
- Saanvi Sachdeva
- Shivang Sachdeva
- Arshan Rahimian
- Nisini Dissanayake
- Senuja Dissanayake
- Nathan Balong-E
- Ayvah Kadyan
  - Mariam Al-Majmuei
- Julie Rutten
- Lucas Rutten
- Axyl Brown

#### **Getting Muddy at Our Local Maunga**









students attended a planting event at our local maunga, task with vigour, spurred on also by delicious smells of Öhuiarangi (Pigeon Mountain). This was our school's third time taking an active part in a project run by the Tūpuna hours of enjoyable work, a true feast was provided by Maunga Authority (TMA), which is aiming to re-establish TMA, after which students were taken across the road to the original ecology of the wetland area at the base of take a look at the site where we had planted previously. As Ōhuiarangi.

This year's planting took place around the side and back wetland to the way it was, is very evident. It is certainly of Pigeon Mountain Kindergarten, moving towards the area worth getting muddy for! where there used to be a BMX track. The planting area had been prepared with a top layer of mulch, which, together with recent rainfall, made for a huge number of worms of all shapes and sizes!

On Tuesday 18th July, a group of 27 enviro-focussed The students and parent helpers got stuck into the planting sausages being prepared on a nearby BBQ. After a few the comparison photo shows, the positive impact students from a number of local schools are having on returning the





## NED Mindset Show Inspires Owairoa Learners to Reach New Heights



Owairoa School were buzzing with excitement as the much-anticipated NED Mindset Show took centre stage. With eager eyes and hearts full of curiosity, the students were about to embark on a journey, guided by the charismatic and talented NED. The show wasn't just about yoyo tricks and skills; it was a transformative experience for all of our students who attended.

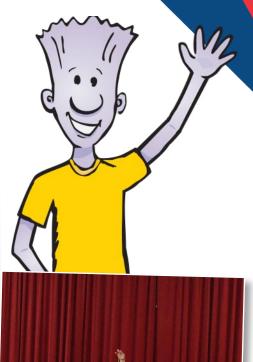
The talented presenter whisked the audience away on an incredible adventure. From scaling the treacherous heights of Mount Everest, to basking in the warmth of the Caribbean sun, and even venturing into the vast expanse of outer space, the learners were transported to places beyond their wildest dreams. But this show was more than just a visual spectacle; it was a lesson in perseverance, encouragement, and giving one's best.

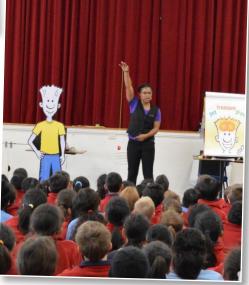
As the crowd was mesmerizing with yoyo manoeuvres, the presenter effortlessly intertwined the message of the show: "Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best." These words became a mantra, echoing through the hearts and minds of the young audience. With each gravity-defying trick, NED showed that success is born from continuous effort and the refusal to surrender to challenges.

The underlying theme of the NED Mindset Show was a reminder that obstacles are merely stepping stones on the path to achievement. NED's journey up Mount Everest symbolized the importance of setting ambitious goals and pushing beyond one's comfort zone. The tropical escapade in the Caribbean underscored the significance of supporting and motivating others, creating a sense of camaraderie and unity. Lastly, the cosmic voyage served as a reminder that the sky is not the limit – the only limits that exist are the ones we place upon ourselves.

The NED Mindset Show served as a reminder that a resilient and positive attitude can propel us to incredible heights. As the learners continue their educational journey, they carry with them the invaluable lessons learned from NED's captivating adventure.





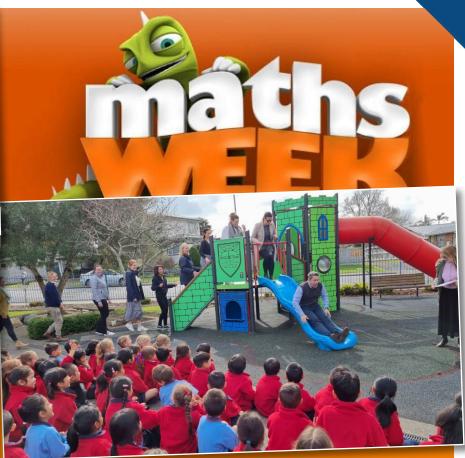






#### Counting Down to NZ Maths Week





Maths Week is a New Zealand wide event that happens once a year, with the intention of encouraging students' interest in Mathematics and showing the fun that Mathematics can provide. This year's Maths Week was held from Monday 7th to Friday 11th August.

NZ Maths Week in our Junior School was an absolute blast as our learners embarked on a series of engaging challenges and fun problem-solving activities each day. We kicked off the week with an amusing Junior School challenge, seeing how many teachers could slide down a slide in just two minutes, creating an atmosphere of laughter and excitement.

Another highlight during the week was guessing the number of marbles in Mrs Rice's jar, putting their estimation skills to the test. And what better way to celebrate birthdays than by counting how many students had birthdays in August, turning a simple task into an interesting maths exploration.

These hands-on activities not only made math enjoyable, but also honed the students' mathematical reasoning and teamwork skills. Our Junior School learners had a tremendous time during NZ Maths Week, leaving them with unforgettable memories and a newfound love for all things maths!





#### **Visiting Author Ignites Imagination**



Week 5 saw esteemed children's author, Des Hunt visit Owairoa to deliver a talk to the learners in the Middle and Senior School on building writing resilience. The former Science Teacher gave the students insight into his own childhood, highlighting the major differences between now and then; he also specified that the only constant shared between them was the presence of books.

He shared his first published works with them, an abundance of scientific textbooks, that became the scratch which required itching in the form of stories related to Science for primary school children. When attempting to have his first fictional effort published, he experienced rejection after rejection to the point where he came close to despair and ultimately giving up on his dream

He re-enacted his 'lightbulb' moment to his Owairoa audience through the use of a simple fire lighter. A quick demonstration of how to use the item left the children initially underwhelmed. The engaging writer went on to alter the purpose of the product, managing to shoot a chewing gum container the length of the hall, something which was met with a shriek of delight from students and teachers alike. It was here that he explained how he understood the chemistry behind the utensil and therefore its purpose. Like non-fiction, it was extremely useful, but not exciting. He expressed that from this moment, he finally knew how stories worked and could provide them with the spark they were missing.

By using a wooden ramp, marbles and magnets to create a visual metaphor for the children, the captivating author demonstrated how conflict, resolution and climax brought fictional tales to life. He concluded his seminar by illustrating how to build tension and suspense through the popping of an incredibly determined balloon, an explanation that forced the boys and girls to actively feel and experience what he was teaching them.

The last block on Wednesday turned out to be a real treat for a small number of our Senior School learners, as the inspirational educator led a hands-on workshop that allowed them to delve deeper into the creative writer's toolbox. Leaving our school with a promise of several more absorbing literary works in the pipeline, we eagerly await Des Hunt's next fictional masterpiece with great anticipation.



### **Year 4 Fieldtrip to MOTAT**



In building on their science learning of forces in the Physical World, students in Year 4 were excited to visit MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology) on Wednesday 16th August and Thursday 17th August.

MOTAT looks at science and engineering with a specific focus on forces, in a programme called 'Fantastic Flight'. It asks student to consider these questions: How does an aircraft fly? What are the forces of flight? Through their amazing displays and hands-on activities, our students were able to learn about the four forces keeping aircraft in the air and investigated the fundamentals of flying in a fun hands-on day.

We then explored more of MOTAT's amazing exhibits, from vintage cars and planes to early technological devices. The interactive displays allowed us to engage hands-on with the past, learning about New Zealand's progress.

The students were thrilled to discover the evolution of communication, witnessing how it has transformed over time. The aviation exhibit gave us a glimpse into the world of flight, sparking our curiosity about aeronautics, while the tram ride around the museum's vast grounds was a highlight, offering a glimpse of life in the past.

The trip to MOTAT was an enriching experience, providing us with insights into the development of technology and transportation. It was a fun way to learn and appreciate our heritage, leaving us with lasting memories and a greater appreciation for the innovations that have shaped our world. The day was a highlight for many students, with some proclaiming it was 'the best day ever!'.







# Teacher ONLY DAY

We have received advanced notice that the Ministry of Education has allocated us a Teacher Only Day on Monday 13 November (Week 6 of Term Four).

Our Teaching Staff are looking forward to this day of professional development, where we will spend time building awareness of and supporting the implementation of the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum.

Please note this date in your diary, as school will be closed for all students on this day.

#### Praise from our Local MP

With the recent announcement that our new 18 classroom building, the 'Alan McIntyre Centre' received first place in the Education Category at the New Zealand Institute of Architects 2023 Auckland Architecture Awards, held at the Auckland Viaduct last week, we were pleased to receive a letter of congratulations from our local MP Simeon Brown.



#### **Simeon Brown**

#### Alan McIntyre

Principal Owairoa Primary School 85 Nelson Street, Howick Auckland, 2014

22 June 2023

Dear Alan.

I am writing to congratulate you for the outstanding achievement in winning the prestigious 2023 Auckland Architecture Award for the building of the Alan McIntyre Centre in Owairoa

This remarkable award is a testament to your unwavering dedication and leadership to cultivating a creative and innovative environment within the school. Your commitment to providing a stimulating space for the students has been remarkable, and this award is a befitting recognition of your efforts.

The Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects' award designs that raises the standard of the country's architecture. Your vision to create a functional yet entertaining space has not only made a positive impact for the students' education, but also set a standard of excellence for primary schools across the region.

I would also like to acknowledge and express my gratitude to the dedication of the wider team of architects at RTA Studio who put in their time and effort into this remarkable building. Their expertise, combined with your vision, has resulted in a space that not only is consistent with the Ministry of Education requirements, but also reflects the school's ethos.

As being one of the 5 recipients of the award for the education sector, you have continuously demonstrated your commitment as a Principal to create an environment for students to thrive and grow. I have no doubt that your innovative approach and leadership will continue to inspire the current and future students of Owairoa Primary.

Once again, I send my heartfelt congratulations to you on this significant achievement and wish you continued success in the future of the school.

Simeon Brown

Member of Parliament for Pakuranga



## Welcoming Intermediate Schools for a Glimpse of the Future

Over the past weeks, we have been fortunate to have representatives from local intermediate schools visit our Year 6 students to shed light on what lies ahead for them in their schooling journey after they graduate from Primary School later this year.

The Year 6 students learned about the core values that underpin each intermediate school, gaining an understanding of the ethos of each school. The Intermediate Schools shared their behaviour expectations, providing our students with a valuable insight into the culture of responsibility and respect that awaits them.



Our students also received an overview of the learning programmes, giving them a glimpse of the exciting opportunities, they can look forward to.

Enrolments forms for Intermediate Schools are available online on their school websites. The dates are also clearly set out on their websites.

### **Awarding Five Chrome Books**

Last Thursday we were pleased to welcome Mrs Tiana Henderson, Corps Officer from the Salvation Army East City to visit our school. At her visit, she thanked our school community for supporting the Salvation Army's recent street appeal and said the Salvation Army were so grateful for our support raising vital funds for our community ministries, helping them to help others.

Tiana was pleased to announce that as result of our school's staggering commitment to raise \$1,900, Owairoa Primary School was the winning recipient of five chrome books, which they hope, in turn, helps to make a difference to our school's journey going forward.

She extended her gratitude to all of our parents who made these donations possible. Three members then kindly presented the chrome books to some representative students, who thanked her team on behalf of our school.





### **School Contribution and Annual Payments**



Our School Board are very grateful to all those parents who have paid in full or made part payment towards their child's School Contribution. They are still anticipating the payment of the remaining 60% [\$155,940] of outstanding donations for this year. This year's donation has been set by our School Board at \$360 per student. This works out to be \$90 per term.

Our preferred method of payment for all costs is through our Kindo Online School Shop <a href="http://kindo.owairoa.school.nz/">http://kindo.owairoa.school.nz/</a>. Please remember that the donation is eligible for a tax rebate from the IRD.

Donations help to cover the costs of our Sporting Specialist Teacher, Science Laboratory Technician, Reading Recovery Specialist, Remedial Reading Specialist, Learning Assistants, Teacher Aides and resources required to deliver the New Zealand curriculum, expenses that are not covered by the funds received from the Ministry of Education.

Your donation is also important for maintaining property improvements and the facilities that we are accustomed to at our school, which really adds value to your child's education journey. If your family is finding it difficult to make payments, please see Alan McIntyre, Principal, in confidence to discuss options.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our learning community and your child's educational journey.

Jane Huang
Executive Officer-Finance



A reminder to all families to complete our enrolment process if you have a child turning 5 years old soon. It is highly valuable for us to know this information in advance, as it assists us when planning for the remainder of 2023.

We are in the process of organising our staffing and funding entitlement for 2024. To assist us to be as accurate as possible with our future numbers we would appreciate hearing from school families who have siblings that are 4 years old and will be starting school next year, who are not yet enrolled. If this applies to your situation, please come to the Office to pick up a sibling enrolment pack.

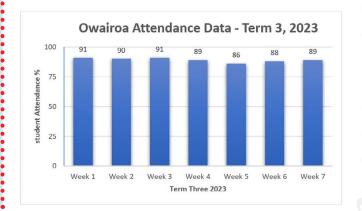
If you know of any friends or neighbours who intend to enrol at Owairoa Primary School in 2024, please ask them to contact our School Office, to find out more information and start the enrolment process.

#### **Attendance at School**

Research shows that regular attendance at school benefits a student's academic achievement, the development of their social skills and competencies, as well as assisting with formulating friendships.

The Ministry of Education benchmark for regular attendance is 70% of students attending school 90% of the time. At Owairoa Primary School we meet this target most weeks throughout the year. This week are currently at 89%.

With an increase in the number of bugs circulating, we would like to thank Parents for remaining vigilant by keeping your children at home if they are showing cold/flu/Covid symptoms. You can report your child's absence by emailing <a href="mailto:absent@owairoa.school.nz">absent@owairoa.school.nz</a> or though the Audiri app.



### Triumph at the Inter-School Cross Country

On a crisp and chilly afternoon that seemed to be tailor-made for cross country enthusiasts, the much-anticipated inter-school cross country event took place. The air was brisk, the excitement strong, and the atmosphere electric as students from various schools gathered to participate in a test of endurance, strength, and teamwork.



The event began with a surprising twist – a quick, refreshing shower in the afternoon that set the stage for an exhilarating event. Raindrops glistened on the leaves and grass, but despite the wet terrain, the participants embraced the challenge with enthusiasm.

The unity and camaraderie displayed throughout the event was evident, as students from different schools cheered for one another. It was a heartwarming display of sportsmanship, reinforcing the idea that such events are not only about winning but also about building lasting connections and fostering a sense of community.

Our Owairoa runners proved to be exceptional contenders, leaving their mark on the competition. With determination and grit, they navigated the undulating trails, conquering the cold and challenging conditions. It was a moment of immense pride and accomplishment with a top 3 finish in the team event for our Year 5 boys, reflecting the tireless efforts put in by the athletes.

The victory however, wasn't just limited to the track, as they displayed our school's RISE values throughout the event, reinforcing why Owairoa is rightfully regarded as the Number 1 school. Our athletes not only showcased their physical prowess but also demonstrated the character and values that sets them apart.









## HOUSE LEADERS-Spotlight



#### Annabelle Hadley – Aotea Deputy House Leader

My name is Annabelle Hadley and I am a Deputy House Leader for Aotea. I am very excited to be able to have the opportunity to be a 2023 Deputy House Leader.

Owairoa is a great school; everyone is so friendly, and it is a really good place to make friends and learn. There are so many sports on offer and other activities you can do, such as dance, chess, and football. We also have had so many great events. One of my favourites was the Great Owairoa Obstacle Fun Run, I loved the waterslide at the end! At this school we are so lucky to have great learning opportunities, like ISTEAM once a week, Sports with Mr Basson, and many more too.

The advice that I would give to any student at Owairoa is to be confident and to try anything you are interested in, because the six years go by fast.



#### Max Kearney – Aotea Deputy House Leader

My name is Max Kearney and I am ten years old. I am very proud to be a Deputy House Leader in 2023 for Aotea. I love Owairoa Primary School as it is a big school and very multicultural.

I enjoy every sport including Rugby, Cricket and Basketball. I am in the school Cricket and Rugby teams and the Kapa Haka group. I hope to one day be a professional sports player.

My favourite memory since I've been at Owairoa is when we went to Athletics at Lloyd Elsmore for the Inter School Competition where I competed in the 70 & 100 meters, relay and high jump with my friends.

My advice for other students at Owairoa is to always follow the school RISE values, be a responsible student, work hard, try different things and don't get into trouble, then you will enjoy your time here.





### Our School Blogs



#### Junior Blog Learning about Forces in Full Force



The Year Two students are learning about forces, pull and push and gravity while at the same time doing what children do best: exploring toys and playing.

By designing toys that involve various forces, students are introduced to the fundamental principles of physics and begin to understand the concept of force application and its effect on movement.

Some of students in Room G6 were experimenting with marble tracks that manipulate the trajectory, speed and direction of marbles. They observed the gravity's influence on objects in motion and they refined their designs to optimise the marble's journey. Others were using a pull force to control a gliding robot they have made, while another group worked on designing and building cars that use a push force to travel.

The students enjoyed working together, exchanging ideas, thinking critically, finding solutions to problems and learning by observing the practical applications of what they have studied in Science.

#### Middle Blog Middle School Maths Week



During Week 4 of Term 3 the Middle School was buzzing with the excitement created by Maths Week. NZ Maths Week is a week dedicated to the many skills and strategies associated with the teaching and learning of Maths.

Over the course of the week, students throughout the school participated in daily challenges during their scheduled Maths learning time. The learners took part in hands on challenges where teachers could be seen participating and getting involved.

To end the celebrations, on Friday the Middle School gathered on the astroturf and took part in fun activities where winners were awarded prizes and teachers got up to all sorts of antics, including students estimating how long they thought it would take for the Middle School teachers to get through a hulahoop with their arms linked.

Well done Middle School on completing the NZ Maths Week challenges and a huge thank you to the teachers for providing fun and entertainment, while at the same time teaching Maths!!

Senior Blog
Games That
Form Friendships

In the Senior School, International Students have been arriving and leaving, over the past school weeks. Learners have been working alongside each other on their Reading, Writing and Maths. Playing together has become a noticeable theme during break times.

Witnessing students getting along, even though they don't know each other, is no more evident than on the Senior School Astroturf. Here, ball games are played with passionate enthusiasm. Lively shouts, in all languages represented, can be heard as players run up and down, using a set of rudimentary rules for their sport.



Whether it be using a handball, basketball, rugby ball or soccer ball, set games are being played across and in between this desirable space. Confusing as it may seem to bystanders, everyone playing knows exactly what is going on. Well, most of the time.

Any bells sending off players due to rain are met with reluctant sighs. The eager students wait impatiently undercover for the rain to pass, sprinting back onto the turf once play is resumed.

One can only wonder what memories are being made, and what positive thoughts might be recalled in the future. Coaching about collaboration, communication, and how to get along with others from different countries, are sure lessons being learnt.

#### **Photolife Ordering**

Just a reminder, this year photographs will be available for you to view and order Online with PhotoLife Studios.

Look out for your Child's Photo Keycode that will be EMAILED to you soon. This Keycode will display all the photographs of your child. It is then an easy process for you to shop Online and purchase the photographs you want.

Orders placed before the Free Delivery Expiry Date will be bulk printed and delivered to the school for your child to bring home. Any orders placed after the Free Delivery Expiry Date will be sent directly to your specified delivery address and will incur a \$8.00 Postage & Packing charge. You will see this message when you go Online to view and order your photographs.





## Looking ahead

#### September

- 1 First day of Spring
- 3 Father's Day
- 8 PTA School Disco
- 14 PTA Mufti Day 19 School Board
  - Meeting 7pm
- 22 End of Term Three 24 Daylight Savings
  - starts 3am

#### October

- 9 Term Four Starts 25 Parent Teacher
- Conferences
  Parent Teacher
  Conferences
- Oecember
  - 20 End of Term Four



#### **Jewellery at School**

In the past few weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing jewellery items to school. Jewellery can be easily lost or damaged while at school. Items such as rings, necklaces and dangly earrings

may also cause injury to the wearer or other students, so for safety and security reasons, these are not to be worn. The school accepts no responsibility in the case of loss, damage or injury.

As part of our acceptable uniform guidelines, students may wear:

- one small earring stud per ear
- a watch (with smartphone capabilities turned off if applicable)
- a medical identification tag, as required
- a necklace of religious or cultural significance (to be worn underneath clothing)

The Principal must be approached if an exemption is sought for religious or cultural reasons.

## Whakatauki

Mauri tū, mauri ora
An active soul is a healthy soul

This whakatauki encourages people to be active participants in a project or initiative, or to celebrate people's involvement and participation in an activity.

With kind regards, Alan McIntyre PRINCIPAL





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

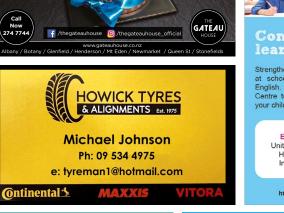
School Holidays: 7.30am - 6.00pm

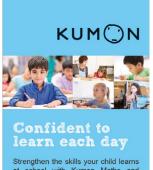
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