

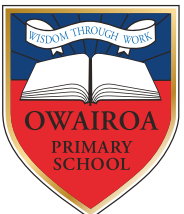
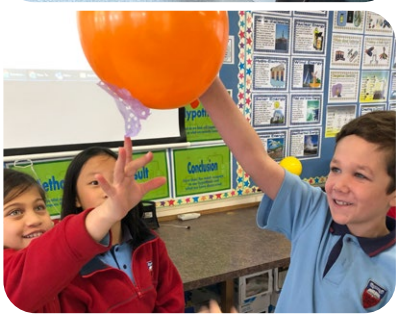
# The Owairoa Primary School Scribe



*news and views from around our school*

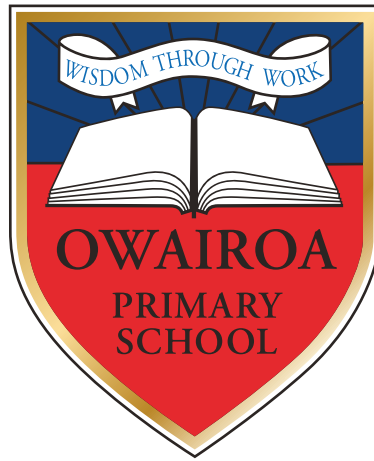
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Issue No 6, 9th August 2023



**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 Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.  
**Phone** 0064 9 538 0060 **Email** officemanager@owairoa.school.nz  
**www.owairoa.school.nz**





## Dear Parents and Caregivers

With my return to school this week, I am proud to see the Term Three accomplishments so far. I would like to pay a special thanks to Mrs Christine Bull for acting in the Principal role in my absence and for allowing our school to continue thriving while I was away.

The ongoing enthusiasm and dedication of our staff and students, as well as the support of our Parents, are all key elements to maintaining the positive learning environment here at Owairoa Primary School, something that we are all so proud of.

With the third term progressing well, we are continuing to see great progress both inside and outside the classroom, as our students participate in the many in class tuition and extra-curricular activities on offer this term. These activities not only contribute to our student's personal and social growth but also help them develop a sense of community and team spirit within our school.

Despite the cold weather at this time, our attendance rates remain commendable. Regular attendance is fundamental to academic success and your dedication to ensuring our students attend school regularly despite the seasonal challenges is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all an inspiring and fulfilling remainder of the term ahead.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"

- Dimmo Chu
- Tu Tran
- Siddarth Kampalli
- Kishil Kampalli
- Zakaria Fakir
- Zidhaan Fakir
- Haithym Fakir
- Xinyi Tan
- Raeyan Praveen
- Elijah Lu
- Louis Sumran-In
- Sienna Davies
- Arya Kumar
- Zaiden Grobler
- Thea Hart Potts
- Notus Tse
- Micah Roberts
- Abigail Alexander-Siu
- Rylan Byford
- Pia Taumoepeau-Williams
- Antony Yap
- Gemma Matthews
- Minahil Zehra
- Alison Liu
- Elise Xue
- Annie Sun
- Elize Rico
- Denize Rico
- Eva Moffitt
- Kellyn Lintern
- Riley Shortland
- Sonya Wharerau
- Hailey Selwyn
- Mson Falanitule
- Jovanie Soriano
- Anvi Rawat
- Atharv Rawat
- Andy Cantela
- Carter Borkin
- Ria Salig
- Marcus Manahan
- Kierra Taukeu
- Levi Te-Kotahi
- Alla-May Te-Kotahi
- Sebastian Slater
- Skylah Clarke

# AHOY, MATIES! 'Hooked on Reading' Success



This year to celebrate Book Week, we embarked on a swashbuckling journey with a pirate theme that captured the imaginations of our young readers. From dressing up as pirates to an array of exciting activities, it was a week filled with joy, learning and the magic of books.

Our school grounds transformed into a lively pirate haven as students and staff arrived in their finest pirate attire. From eye patches to hooks and even a parrot or two, everyone looked ready to set sail on the high seas.

Students enjoyed a variety of activities that embraced the pirate theme with classrooms that were turned into pirate learning areas, an author reading, bouncy castles and for the Juniors a special visitor and treasure hunt from the famous 'Captain Rice Bubbles'.



Our school hall was turned into a treasure trove of literary wonders for the week. The walls were adorned with fascinating displays showcasing the artistic flair of students and teachers alike and the floor was covered with an array of books to meet all ages. The pirate ship on stage was a favourite spot for photos and the reading corner a place to cosy up with a book.

The Pirate Parade was a highlight of the week with parents and whanau there to support our students. The beloved 'Captains Coming' game brought laughter, with the favourite being the Walk the Plank challenge. Our teachers and parent volunteer showcased their bravery and humour as they took a daring plunge into the make-believe sea. The joy and excitement were profound, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



At the heart of Book Week, the true treasure lies in nurturing a love for reading. Storytelling sessions, reading buddies and independent reading time throughout the week helped foster a deep appreciation for books. By engaging our students in the magic of reading, we hope to instil a lifelong love of learning and exploration.

A heartfelt **"thank you"** to our students, families, and staff who supported our Book Week initiative and gave their time to make this another successful event at Owairoa.









## Owairoa Dance Group Shines at HPPA Dance Festival



On Wednesday, 21st June the Owairoa dance group took centre stage at Somerville Intermediate, as they participated in the HPPA Dance Festival. With unwavering dedication and hours of practice, these talented young girls left a lasting impression, captivating the audience with their awesome performance.

For the Owairoa dance group, this event was more than just a showcase of talent—it was the culmination of months of hard work, determination, and a shared love for dance. The girls trained twice a week, honing their skills and perfecting every movement under the guidance of Miss Fa'apoi and Mrs Miller.

The HPPA Dance Festival was a celebration of talent and creativity and the Owairoa dance group certainly left a memorable mark on the audience. Their passion for dance was infectious, as they not only exhibited technical skill but also brought their unique artistic interpretations to life.

We are excited to continue our training and hope to participate in more upcoming dance events in the future.

## Junior Celebration of Learning Assembly



In Week 10, the Junior School presented their termly Celebration of Learning Assembly. Rooms 2, 3, 9, 11 and G1 shared a range of learning that they have been doing over the term from singing and poems to facts about animals.

With our focus of Term 2 being the Animal Kingdom, our learners were able to share some facts they have learned, as well as move like the animals. Over Term 2 we have been learning how to categorise, identify and describe animals while also solving problems to do with traps, endangered animals and helping our native species.

Well done to the learners that presented on this day for all the hard work you put into performing and a big congratulations to the recipients of a Principals Award. Thank you to all parents that attended this terms Sharing Assembly, we hope you enjoyed it.



## Rising to New Heights: Year 5 and 6 Learners Thrive at Hockey Fun Day

In an exciting display of talent, resilience and camaraderie, the Year 5 and 6 learners of Owairoa recently embarked on a thrilling adventure at the highly anticipated Hockey Fun Day. The event proved to be an invaluable learning experience for all, as the students showcased their remarkable growth, both as individuals and as a team.

From the very first whistle, it was evident that our students were ready to embrace the challenges that lay ahead. As the games unfolded, emotions ran high, with victories and losses weaving a tapestry of lessons that would stay with the students for years to come. However, it was not the outcome of the games alone that left an indelible mark on this event, but the exemplary sportsmanship displayed by our school.

Throughout the day, the students demonstrated outstanding behaviour, firmly adhering to our school's RISE values: Respect, Integrity, Self Esteem, and Excellence. These values shone brightly as the learners cheered for both their teammates and their opponents, recognizing the true spirit of the game lies in fair play and mutual respect.

Despite initial nerves and apprehension, our eager sportspeople quickly shed their inhibitions and embraced the challenges before them. As the day progressed, their confidence soared, and their love for the sport deepened. With each passing game, they became more skilled, more passionate, and more determined. It was truly remarkable to witness their transformation.

As the event drew to a close, it was clear that the students had experienced an unforgettable day filled with fun and excitement. Their desire to keep playing was insatiable, a testament to the joy they derived from the sport. The Hockey Fun Day had not only cultivated their athletic abilities but also instilled in them a deep appreciation for teamwork, resilience, and the power of a positive attitude.

In the end, this remarkable journey reminded us all that growth is not merely measured by wins and losses but by the valuable lessons learned and the strong team spirit that drives us forward. The Year 5 and 6 students of Owairoa have proven that they are capable of great achievements, both on and off the field, and their passion for sportsmanship will undoubtedly continue to fuel their future successes.





# The Perfect Way to Spend a Crisp Winter's Day

On the 14th of June, twenty-eight Owairoa students embarked on an exciting tree planting adventure. Supported by seven dedicated parent helpers, we set off on a bus led by Mrs Maas and our Trees for Survival Co-ordinator, Linzi Hughes. Our destination? A stunning rural property on the Clevedon-Kawakawa Road.

Despite starting out as one of the coldest days of the year so far, the chilled morning-air quickly gave way to brilliant blue skies, adding to the students' excitement to get to work. Our task was to plant the native trees we had been growing at our school from seedlings since October 2022, along the steep banks of a gentle brook, which will help to stabilise the soil and protect the waterway. Each plant was carefully placed into the earth, as students embraced the role of being local Kaitiaki.

Throughout the event, two friendly labradors accompanied us, faithfully sticking by our side as we hiked up and down the bank. Their presence definitely adding an extra layer of joy to the day!

The lunch provided to us after the planting was eagerly received and replenished energy levels for the rest of the day's activities. We were given a tour around the sprawling grounds of the property, where we saw the positive impact prior Trees for Survival planting efforts had made to soil erosion.

A small forested area was explored, with information shared about the owner's pest control efforts. In addition, students learned about the owners' off-grid lifestyle and how solar panels collect energy.

In total, we planted 728 native trees and left the site with a great sense of accomplishment, knowing that our efforts would contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our natural environment.





## Owairoa Primary School Board News

Following the recent weather events in Auckland and as part of our commitment to health and safety, we have recently engaged expert advice regarding the condition of the school's trees. The feedback from the experts was that overall, the trees on the school grounds are in good health. In addition to this, it was recommended and agreed that the school implement a tree management program, which involves ongoing maintenance and monitoring.

As some of you may have already seen, the new security fence project has been completed. This project was undertaken to maintain the safety of the children near the carpark.

The planning process is well underway to upgrade Block Three, containing Rooms 10-13 as part of the Ministry of Education Capital Works programme. This exciting project will involve the redesign and reconstruction of the classroom spaces to transform them into modern, warm, dry and light learning spaces.

Policy update: The Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023 came into effect in New Zealand schools in February 2023. The new rules ensure the safety and well-being of staff and students when faced with student distress and the use of physical restraint and outlines a practical approach to recognising and understanding distress. As a school, we take this responsibility very seriously and are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all our staff and students. Our policy is available on SchoolDocs for your perusal.

**Shaun Davidson**  
**Deputy Presiding Member,**  
**Owairoa Primary School Board**





## Recognising our Local Heroes

Last year, Trees for Survival received funding support from Matariki Tu Rākau, which is part of the One Billion Trees programme. The grant provided funds to plant living memorials that honour members of communities, our local unsung heroes.

In response to our recommendation, at our recent Trees for Survival planting day an inscribed Matariki Tu Rākau plaque was presented to David and Beth Small with the inscription: "David and Beth Small - Exemplary service to Owairoa Primary School." The plaque will be mounted on the entrance gate to the Clevedon property where we planted, in recognition of their efforts.

Dave and Beth Small have been volunteers at our school for numerous years. They have been involved with many environmental projects, where they have been sharing their expertise and providing hands-on guidance to our Kaitiaki.

In particular during the Trees for Survival seedling bagging times, their patience and ways of working with our young Enviro enthusiasts, has meant that the job was always done correctly. Having Dave and Beth come along on many of our planting days meant that there were extra experienced hands to assist with the task.

Another area they have been actively involved in, is our Chinese Garden, with ex-Owairoa Primary School Property Manager Dave being involved with the original design for the garden. We continue to regularly see them arrive at school, to take care of some of the maintenance in this special area.

They are part of our school whānau and thoroughly deserved to be recognised for their countless hours of volunteering at our school. We extend our warm appreciation to our local heroes.



## Gratitude from the Hawkes Bay

We received a lovely message of thanks from Eskdale School in Napier, after sending them a package full of heartfelt messages from our staff and students following the devastation they faced during Cyclone Gabrielle earlier this year.



**Thank You  
From Eskdale School**



*We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your support to our school, students and community after Cyclone Gabrielle devastated our school and community. It has been humbling to receive this level of support for our school community. Your contribution has allowed us to provide activities to look after the well-being and mana of our tamariki throughout this extremely disruptive time. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.*

**Tristan Cheer,  
Principal,  
Eskdale School, Napier**



## Watch Out Zoo, Here We Come!

During Term 2 the Year 3 students were lucky enough to visit the Auckland Zoo. The trip left learners with some unforgettable memories and some exciting new learning about some rare New Zealand animals.



One of the most captivating highlights of our visits was witnessing the incredible vitality of the lions. Their energy was contagious as they skilfully bounded around their enclosure and climbed high into the trees. We were told that they enjoy watching the other creatures from their vantage point high in the treetops. They also enjoyed watching us! It was intimidating to be in the presence of such powerful creatures, and we were thrilled to see them so lively and active.

As we continued our zoo adventures, we were lucky enough to come across one of the tigers. One was perched gracefully on the bridge above the walkway, seeming to be observing us just as much as we were observing it. The proximity of the tiger left us both thrilled and slightly apprehensive, but we were grateful to have seen it up close. Aside from the heart-stopping encounters with the big cats, we were extremely lucky with the weather on both days as the sun came out, allowing us to experience all the enclosures in a dry state.

But perhaps the most extraordinary moment of all was seeing the whio, a rare and endangered species of duck, in its natural habitat. Throughout the term, we had been learning about these beautiful creatures and their significance in preserving New Zealand's biodiversity. Our learning paid off as we witnessed the birds in their natural environment. Learners were overhead informing parents of how they ducks could hide amongst the rocks with their dark blue feathers, how the fast flowing water would be clean as they were an indicator species and what we needed to do to help to save their environment.

The Year 3 trip to the Auckland Zoo left us with plenty of great memories, some new learning about our native species and things that we can do to help look after the unique environments around New Zealand.





# Pushing the Boundaries of Engineering Skills in Senior School Students



In an effort to foster innovation, teamwork and problem-solving abilities among Senior School students, the ePro8 engineering challenge was recently held over the span of two days. This exhilarating event, featuring seven select teams, provided an opportunity for students to showcase their prowess in various areas of ISTEAM and problem-solving. Organised internally, the competition aims to identify the top two teams who would then represent Owairoa at the ePro8 Interschool Competition.

The event commenced on the first day with teams familiarising themselves with the specialised equipment required for the challenge. This practice session allowed participants to gain hands-on experience and develop a comprehensive understanding of the tools at their disposal. It was an essential step that ensured each team was prepared for the intense competition that awaited them the following day.

On day two, the stakes were high, the top two teams had the chance to secure positions in the interschool competition. The competitive event encompassed a wide range of challenges, pushing participants to employ their teamwork, building, mathematics, engineering, and problem-solving abilities to their fullest extent. Congratulations to all the participants of the internal competition.

On June 22, the two teams who qualified headed off to Farm Cove Intermediate to compete against other local schools. After an exhilarating display of talent, one Owairoa team emerged victorious! Their success, once again brought glory to Owairoa but it also secured their place in the highly anticipated final Auckland-wide competition, scheduled to take place in September. Watch this space!





## Poetic Skills on Show

The Senior School Poetry Competition was held on Wednesday 28th June. This much anticipated event provided the perfect close to a busy term of learning. Over several weeks, students had been memorising a poem of their choice, practising within class their stance, expression, voice projection and overall presentation of rhyme and verse.

Mrs Bull and Mrs Humphreys took on the skilful but challenging task of judging the range of presentation skills, settling finally on the necessity for balance within oral language delivery. Whilst the judges deliberated, fellow students and parents attending were entertained with stunning live violin and piano performances.

Congratulations go to our winners, but also to all Year 5 and 6 learners who challenged themselves, speaking out their poems, prompt-free!



### Year 5 Poetry Competition Winners

- 1st – Blake Tolson
- 2nd – Nathan Ward
- 3rd – Rubiana Gordon



### Year 6 Poetry Competition Winners

- 1st – Annabelle Hadley
- 2nd – Jack Mills
- 3rd – Cherry Hua

## Positive Puberty Plus

At the end of Term 2 our Year 5 and 6 students took part in the 'Positive Puberty Plus' programme, which was provided by experienced staff from Nest Consulting, and forms part of the New Zealand Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

In an age-appropriate manner, students were educated about the human anatomy and physiological changes they will be experiencing during puberty. Topics that were discussed included: the changing body, sense of self, decision making, understanding media influences and body confidence.

Some of the information was shared in a mixed group setting, but the boys and girls also had separate sessions to ensure they were comfortable with what was being discussed. Many questions arose throughout the day, and these were answered by the experienced consultants.

Prior to the day, some students (and parents) had been a bit apprehensive and nervous when the word 'Puberty' was mentioned. However, at the completion of the sessions, all agreed that having received information about the changes they will be experiencing during Puberty, was a very positive experience.





## Cooking Up Manu Treats



At the start of Term 2, the Kaitiaki group decided to explore ways in which they could support our feathered friends that visit the Chinese Garden. They came up with a creative solution to provide tasty treats for the many manu (birds) that call the garden their home.

The Senior Students had noticed that the birds had less food to forage for, especially during the colder months. To help them out, these thoughtful students decided they wanted to refill empty coconut shells with nutritious treats. They looked up recipes that would be suitable for the birds and set to work during their lunchtimes, acting as aspiring bird-food chefs.

Armed with their newfound recipes, the students began mixing ingredients that at times also seemed fit for human consumption. Their concoctions included: oats, peanut butter, wild bird seeds, and shredded coconut, creating a nutritious blend that they hoped the birds would love.

Through this initiative, the students have developed a deeper understanding of the importance of conservation and have gained a greater appreciation for nature and its inhabitants. By cooking up these bird treats with passion and care, they have shown how small actions can make a big difference in supporting local wildlife. The photos allow for a closer look at their bird-friendly cooking initiatives!



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# HOUSE LEADERS-**Spotlight**



## **Ella Chapman – Tokomaru House Leader**

My name is Ella Chapman and I am currently 10 years old. I am creative and helpful, and I enjoy doing gymnastics. I like to take pride in my work and at playtimes I enjoy chatting to my friends.

I love Owairoa because there are so many opportunities like Kapa Haka, Choir, Kaitiaki and more. My favourite memory at Owairoa is of when I went rock climbing and everyone was singing on the bus. It made me laugh! My advice for other students is to always follow the RISE values even when no one is watching and to be the best you can be.

My schooling journey has been really good so far. I love making new friends, and being the best, I can be! My advice to Tokomaru house members is to work hard and get those house points so we can win this year. Go Tokomaru!



## **Luka Bowe-Chout – Tokomaru House Leader**

My name is Luka Bowe-Chout and I am 10 years old. I enjoy participating in most sports such as swimming, soccer and netball.

I love Owairoa Primary School because there are so many learning possibilities. At Owairoa there are a variety of opportunities for new learning for Year 5/6 students such as being a Librarian, Mediator, Kaitiaki and Kapa Haka member. Or you could do a sport. Last year I really enjoyed the Hockey Fun Day and the Obstacle Fun Run.

My advice for other students is to just give things a go even if you feel a bit nervous and if you don't make the team at least you tried. Students should always follow the school's RISE (Respect, Integrity, Self Esteem, Excellence) values. If someone is on their own and has no one to play with, ask them if they want to play with you. For my educational journey so far, I am grateful for my teachers and my friends.



# TOKOMARU







### Junior Blog

## Together Is a Wonderful Place to Be...



For quite some time, the classrooms in the G block have been empty, patiently awaiting the arrival of students who would fill them with their presence and learning.

The silence of these classrooms broken, only by the soft murmurs and faint hum of learning from the year two classes, G1 and G2. But finally, Room 10, 11, 12 and 13 have moved in. The year 2 students are now all together at last, and the G-block has become much noisier! There are voices that carry excitement, more footsteps heard on the deck and more chatter between friends at lunch eating. We love to call it our place for learning, as it's known as the 'Great-block'.

A note of appreciation goes out to the Property Team for lifting and transporting all the furniture and resources. Also, a huge thank you to the Year 2 teachers who moved. They brought colour to these classrooms which were blank canvases. They put up educational displays and colourful artwork of past lessons to quickly create a vibrant atmosphere of learning for their students. Their quick work made the transition seamless.

The big move has taught us that the true essence of a classroom lies in the students and teachers - they give it their energy, ideas and enthusiasm, bringing the room to life.

### Middle Blog

## Celebrating Maori New Year



Students in Year 4 returned to school this term with smiling faces, eager to learn about the celebration of Matariki, the Māori New Year.

Matariki is a special occasion in the New Zealand calendar which marks the start of the Māori New Year. Signified by the Matariki cluster of stars that appear in the early morning sky in New Zealand during the mid-winter months, this is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead.

Students in Room M2 enjoyed creating beautiful kites as part of their Matariki studies, while the other Year 4 students decorated stars and learned more about the stories and traditions connected to this event.

Dancing the Matariki macarena was another favourite activity for all and proved a great way for our tamariki to remember the names of the seven stars: Matariki, Pōhutukawa, Tupuānuku, Tupuārangi, Waitī, Waitā, and Ururangi.

### Senior Blog

## Poets Line Up To Shine



In the Senior School throughout Term 2, there existed groups of excited learners who had chosen a poem to showcase for the Senior School Poetry Competition. Teachers, parents and of course classmates, all supported our students to present their memorised poem. They were hoping, or not, to make it through to class and then Senior School finals.

Across the top floor of the Alan McIntyre Centre, in classes and in shared spaces, seniors could be heard practising their oral language skills. To their delight, most found it was easier than they expected it to be.

Who thought verse could be so much fun? Being able to choose from a wide range of poetry: modern, historic, humorous, or serious, all helped to personalise the endeavour. This meant there was something for everyone. The range of titles included: Macavity – The Mystery Cat, Socks, The Tyger, Pure Imagination, When the World Turned Upside Down, Moa, The Sea is a Hungry Dog, Sick, Daffodils, The Dragon Who Ate our School, On the Ning Nang Nong, Lion, and Gran Can You Rap?

The day finally arrived (Wednesday 28th June, to be precise). Our nervous poets were ready. The judges and audience were in the hall, ready and waiting. With live piano and violin pieces to entertain and this stunning lineup of brave and skilled young learners, in that moment, there was no other place to be!



# What is a Digital Footprint?

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**YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT IS THE TRAIL OF 'ELECTRONIC BREADCRUMBS' YOU LEAVE BEHIND YOU AS YOU USE THE INTERNET AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO MANAGE IT CAREFULLY**

It can include the websites you visit, the photos you upload and your interactions with other people on social networks.

A common comparison is the footprints you leave behind you when walk along a beach – every step you take leaves an impression on the sandy surface that allows another person to see the marks that your activity has made and offers the possibility for them to follow your trail.

Unlike a beach footprint which will eventually fade away, the internet – and any electronic 'event' in general – doesn't work the same way. It's safe to assume that anything you do, publish or post online may be there permanently and won't be 'washed away'.

The information you share online can be used to build up a picture of you as a person and your activities and interests. It's important to think about who can see that information, and to remember that even if you have tight privacy settings, others can copy the content and pass it on for the wider world.

In short, it pays to think before you put any kind of information online. Once you post something online, you lose control of that content – it can be copied, shared and quickly attract unwelcome attention.

## Tips for protecting your digital footprint

There are a few tips you can take to protect your digital footprint:

- Value your personal information
- Be cautious about what you publish and where you share
- Think about your online privacy and review platform settings
- Manage your reputation – evaluate what the impact could be when publishing a photo, status update, comment or review before you post it
- Stop and think about the effect it could have on you and those around you longer term

For more information on this please visit <https://netsafe.org.nz/digital-footprint/>



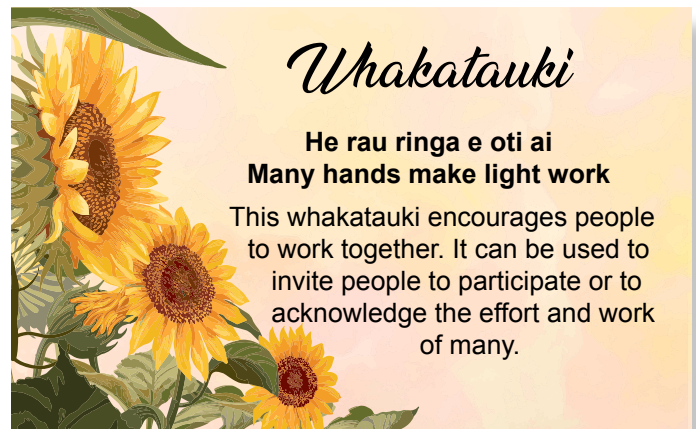
## Looking ahead

### ☺ August

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 22 | School Board Meeting 7pm |
| 24 | International Day        |
| 29 | PTA Meeting 7.30pm       |

### September

- |     |                 |
|-----|-----------------|
| ☺ 3 | Fathers Day     |
| 22  | End of Term Two |



*Alan McIntyre*  
PRINCIPAL







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