

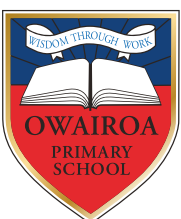
The Owairoa Primary

School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 9, 17th October 2023

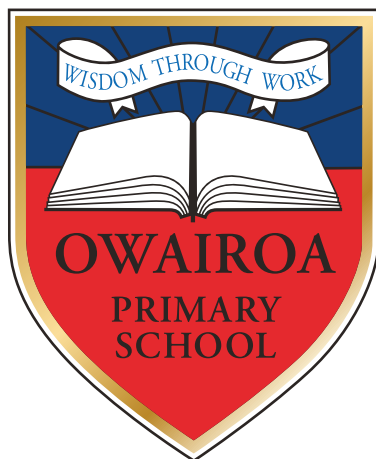


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P., B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.

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www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term Four. It is always a pleasure to welcome our students and staff back after the school holidays and see everyone filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the upcoming term.

Term Four will bring an exciting array of events planned that will continue to promote our vibrant and dynamic learning environment. From end of year concerts to academic and sporting celebrations, there is a lot to look forward to as we move through this final term of 2023.

Our classrooms are already buzzing with activity as our Staff and students put in their best efforts to prepare for the upcoming Parent Teacher Student Conferences in a few weeks' time. These conferences are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and academic journey and we look forward to working together to ensure the continued success of each student.

We are already well underway with our planning for next year. We have received our staffing and funding entitlement for 2024 and are starting to make the necessary arrangements for the new academic year. To support us with this process, it is important for us to confirm our roll numbers as closely as we can. If you know of any students wishing to enrol during 2024, and likewise, if you are planning to move out of the area and your child will no longer be attending Owairoa Primary School in 2024, please email us so we can factor this into our planning.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Leo Lee
- Rosa Cho
- Jennie Cho
- Coco Choi
- Vella Liao
- Fearne Lee

House Points Update End of Term Three



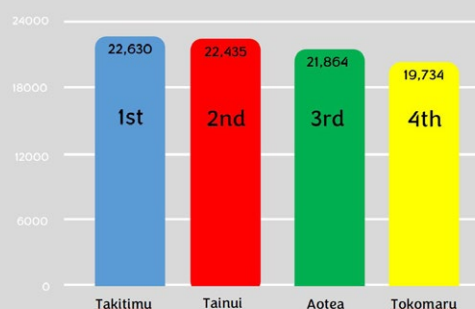
What a busy term we had with house points. Thousands of points have been given out across Term Three in class and at the gates. Look at those totals, what a wonderful bunch of learners

we have at Owairoa! Well done to Takitimu for earning the most points for Term 3. We look forward to the announcement of the 2023 House Shield at the end of Term 4!



Term Three 2023 House Points

→ update



HPPA Netball Field Day

On Thursday 14th September two of our Owairoa netball teams attended the HPPA Netball Field Day. What a day it was! Leading up to the tournament, our teams were dedicated to training, in preparation for the up-and-coming competition.

When the day finally arrived, the atmosphere at the Howick Pakuranga netball courts was buzzing, as teams gathered with excitement, ready to play. Each of our teams were faced with 6 games against other East Auckland schools throughout the day.

Our players took the court, with all their effort and energy. They conquered one game at a time and overall, won all 12 games! Our teams walked away with two first place wins and big smiles on our faces! What an achievement!

It was a positive experience for all involved, thanks to amazing parent help and positive attitudes all around. Fantastic sportsmanship, sideline support and unbeatable teamwork all played a part in the outcome of the day. Not only was our day filled with triumphs, but also endless fun, excitement unforgettable memories. Congratulations to our netball teams for their outstanding performance – you have made us all proud!



Attendance at School

The Ministry of Education continues to work with all schools in New Zealand to improve student attendance rates. The Ministry of Education has now defined regular attendance as students who attend school 90% or more.

Attendance at school is incredibly important for students, as research shows that regular attendance benefits academic achievement, engagement, the development of social skills and competencies, as well as fostering friendships and well-being.

The table from the Ministry of Education represents the impact of non-attendance during your child's time during their schooling journey. It strongly illustrates the impact of absences on your child's education.

If your child misses....	Over their 13 years of schooling, that is....
1 day every 2 weeks	Nearly 1.5 years of school missed
1 day per week	Over 2.5 years of school missed
2 days per week	Over 5 years of schooling missed
3 days per week	Nearly 8 years of schooling missed

The key message the Ministry of Education are emphasising, is that **unless your child is unwell, they should be at school every day.**

Owairoa Primary School Board News

I hope that everyone enjoyed their break over the school holidays, as the final term for the year gets underway.

In looking back over the previous three terms of this year, our school is continuing to evolve in positive ways, to meet the changing needs of the Teachers and the students they teach.

Aside from the Health and Safety portfolio which I hold on the School Board, I also have a keen interest in how the school looks outside of the classroom. Our School is very lucky to have such interesting and aesthetically pleasing outdoor spaces to play in, and we want to ensure that they continue to be a good environment for the students to play in between classes, but also further their learning in the natural environment around them.

In terms of the school's physical environment, the Ministry of Education is organising a thorough inspection of the School as part of our Te Haratau programme. This is to ensure all school buildings and other built assets meet various criteria, as well as current health and safety standards.

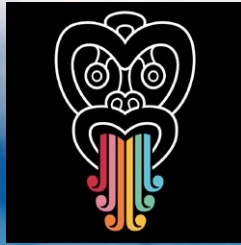
One of the recent initiatives some of us have been working on, is re-establishing a school orchard. Our previous one here at school had to be decommissioned to allow construction of the Alan McIntyre Learning Centre. In the last few weeks, a group of green fingered volunteers have been planting a variety of pip, stone and berry fruit; many of which were generously donated by Kings Plant Barn Botany. We will hopefully see them grow and flourish for many years to come. It's all part of a greater long-term plan to continue facilitating horticultural learning for the students within the school.

Also included as a part of the recent work around managing the health of the school's resident trees, has been some rationalising of the trees within our native bush walk. This is to ensure key trees within the trail are not inhibited in their growth and long-term health.

Other possible projects we have in the pipeline include reinstating our 'Owairoa Honey Factory' and also re-establishing a chicken house. More details around these and other exciting ideas and projects in the pipeline will be published in upcoming school newsletters.

Shaun Rice
Board of Trustees Member
Owairoa Primary School Board





MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK 2023



Māori Language Week is a week dedicated to the learning of Te Reo throughout Aotearoa. It was first observed in 1975. Te Reo has only been recognised as an official language of New Zealand since 1987. This year Māori Language Week was celebrated from 11th – 17th September 2023. The theme for the week this year was “Kia kaha Te Reo Māori” or “Making the Language Stronger”

Māori Language Week at Owairoa Primary School provided our learners and teachers the opportunity to engage with and experience Te Reo and Tikanga Māori through many different activities within their classroom. Students were able to learn through Literacy, Art and Environmental activities as well as waiāta (songs) and kōrero tara (myths/legends).

Many classes also researched the history of our school name “Owairoa” and the origins of our school house names. Our school house names represent four of the Great Fleet of Waka that travelled across the Pacific Ocean to Aotearoa - Tainui, Takitimu, Tokomaru and Aotea.

You can get involved in the Māori Language Movement at home too. Maybe you could challenge yourselves to learn a new word or phrase each week, practise using greetings with your family and friends or learn your own Pepeha.

Kotahi te hoe ka ū te waka ki uta

By paddling together the waka will reach land





15 SEP 2013 **Māori Language Week**

Success criteria:

- ✓ All of my letters sit on the line
- ✓ My letters are formed correctly
- ✓ I copied my teachers writing correctly

Maui and the sun were

- Maui and the Sun were arguing. They made flax ropes. They slowed the sun
- ropes They Slowed the Sun down to get more day.
- down to get more day.

fn Tino pai Lillie. He pai te tuhi.

15 SEP 2013 **Māori Language Week**

Success criteria:

- ✓ All of my letters sit on the line
- ✓ My letters are formed correctly
- ✓ I copied my teachers writing correctly

Papatuanuku and Ranginui's

- Papatuanuku and Ranginui's sons pushed them apart.
- Sons pushed them apart.

fn Ka pai Kaylen. He pai te tuhi.

15 SEP 2013 **Māori Language Week**

Success criteria:

- ✓ All of my letters sit on the line
- ✓ My letters are formed correctly
- ✓ I copied my teachers writing correctly

Maui and his brothers are

- Maui and his brothers are slowing down the sun
- slowing down the sun because the sun is setting
- because the sun is setting so fast. Maui has work to do.
- So fast. Maui has work to do.

fn Tino pai Megan. He pai te tuhi.

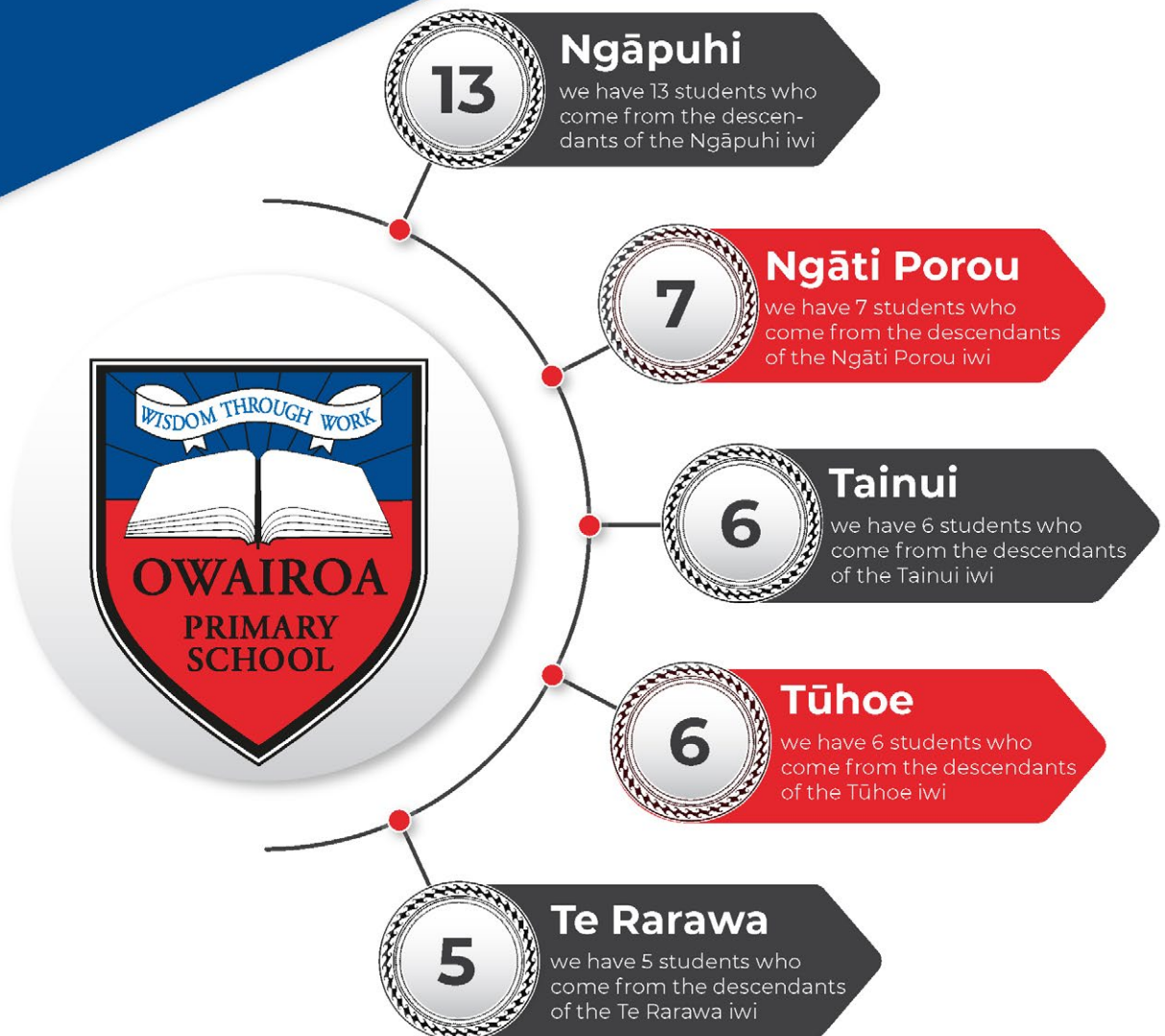
Our School Whānau

At Owairoa Primary School we currently have 893 students enrolled from 57 different cultures and backgrounds. 65 of our students identify as NZ Māori. This means 7.2% of our learners are from Māori backgrounds and we celebrate this as part of the diversity in our school.

We have Māori students who identify with iwi from all around Aotearoa, with 20 iwi being represented at our school alone. See the image below, which shares the largest 5 iwi, based on student enrolments at Owairoa Primary School in 2023.

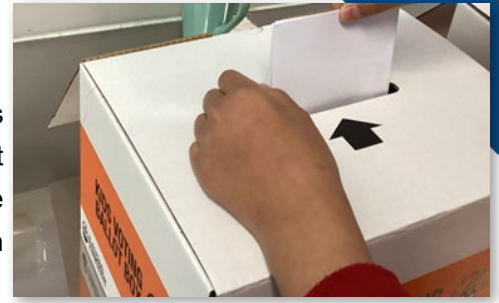
OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL LARGEST 5 IWI

Based on student enrolments in 2023



Kids Voting – Te Pōti a Ngā Tamariki

Kids Voting was a chance for our Year 5 and 6 students to take part in this year's General Election. Students vote for real candidates, on a real ballot paper using the candidates in the Pakuranga Electorate. They will compare the results of their classrooms' election with the results of the real election for 2023.

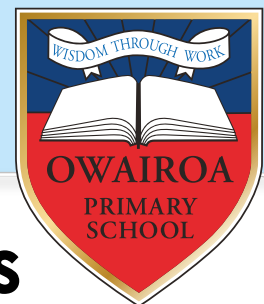


Kids Voting is designed to raise awareness among young people about New Zealand's electoral processes. Building first-hand experience of active participation increases their personal understanding, belief and confidence in electoral participation. In the classrooms students learnt what elections are, what makes a good leader, why we have elections, what electorates are and how the country is divided up and then what happens once the voting is over.

Year 6 students from M13 facilitated the process of how people vote; from the person who crosses your name off the roll, to the person who makes sure you don't talk to anyone else while voting. All students in Year 5 and 6 got to vote for the Pakuranga Electorate. M13 then did 'the big count', counting the party and electorate votes. Once all the counting is complete, the results will be made into graphs and shared with the students. The results are also sent to Wellington who will collate all the data. Once the final votes are in, later in the year, we shall compare the student's vote with what actually happened.



2024 Term dates



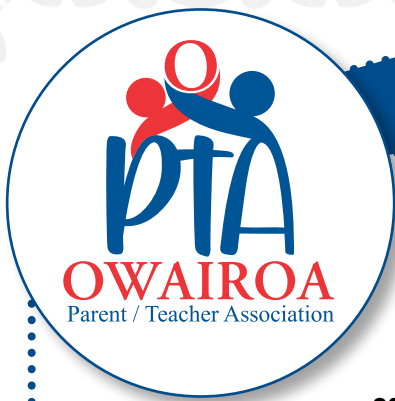
The official term dates for the 2024 Academic Year have been set and approved by our School Board as follows:

Term One: Wednesday 7 February 2024 – Friday 12 April 2024
Term Two: Monday 29 April 2024 – Friday 5 July 2024
Term Three: Monday 22 July 2024 – Friday 27 September 2024
Term Four: Monday 14 October 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024

The school will also be closed for the following public holidays:

29 March	Good Friday	3 June	King's Birthday
1 April	Easter Monday	28 June	Matariki
2 April	Easter Tuesday	28 October	Labour Day





PTA NEWS

The PTA has recently made our annual donation to the school. This year, thanks to the support of the Owaïroa community, we were proud to contribute \$39,655.00 towards activities and resources that enhance the children's learning and enjoyment.

2023 Financial Contribution towards:

Classroom Consumables: \$4,810	Team (class) Trips: \$4,375
Senior Challenge Activities: \$7,000	Year 6 Graduation Shirt subsidy: \$2,000
Young Leader's Day: \$970	iSTEAM Programme: \$5,000
Choir subsidy: \$500	New playground contribution for 2023: \$15,000

The Owaïroa Primary School PTA is excited to announce an epic day of fun and enjoyment planned for February 2024 with 'Give it a Go at Owaïroa'. Local sports clubs and kids activity and hobby groups will be participating at this event for kids and families from all over our community to come to Owaïroa and 'give it a go'.

There will be plenty happening with so many sports and activities to try! Music, a dedicated fun zone, spot prizes and raffles, baking stalls, food trucks, coffee carts and MORE.

Keep an eye on the notices and our Facebook page to learn more about the event and find out how you can help and be involved.

End of Year PRIZEGIVING EVENTS

To help with your calendar logistics as the next few months get busier with the upcoming Christmas season and end of year, the dates for our end of year prizegiving and concert events have been finalised as follows:

November

- 27 Junior Concert A (Rooms 1, 5, 6, 8, G3, G5)
- 28 Junior Concert B (Rooms 2, 3, 9, G6, G1, 20)
- 29 Year 3 Concert
- 30 Junior Concert C (Rooms 4, 7, G2, G4, 21 22)

December

- 4 Year 4 Concert
- 6 Team 5 Concert
- 8 Team 6 Concert
- 11 Senior Prizegiving 7pm
- 13 School Service Awards

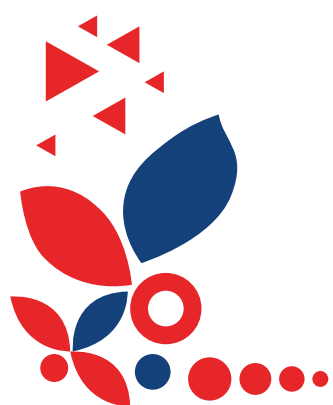
Upcoming Teacher **ONLY** DAY



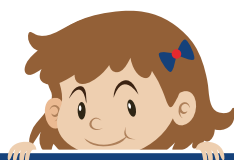
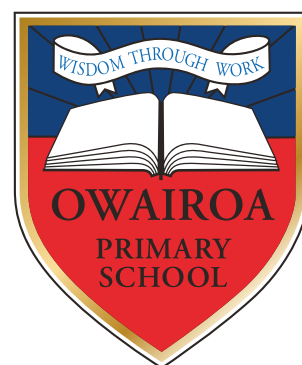
The Ministry of Education has allocated us a Teacher Only Day on **Monday 13 November** (Week 6 of Term Four.) Our school will be closed for all students on this day.

Over the course of the day, our Teaching Staff will spend time understanding, preparing for and supporting the implementation of changes across The New Zealand Curriculum refresh.

This day is designed to provide our staff with dedicated time to unpack and gain an understanding of the Common Practice Model and how it will be implemented in our school. The Common Practice Model focuses on how literacy, communication and maths is taught, supporting students with their progress across the curriculum.



Enrolments are Open for **2024**



Parents are encouraged to pre-enrol their children now for late 2023 and 2024 enrolments. If you know any families in zone who are wanting to have a child start this year or during 2024, please encourage them to make contact with our school, to aid in our planning for 2024.

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING ASSEMBLY

Junior School students were excited to finish last term off with another Celebration of Learning assembly, where Rooms 4, 7, 22, G2 and G4 shared a range of learning that they have been doing over course of Term Three.

The sharing assembly provided an opportunity for our Junior School students to showcase their hard work and achievements in front of their parents and classmates.

Well done to the learners that presented on this day for all the hard work you put into performing and a big congratulations to those students who received a Principals Award. Thank you to all parents who showed their support for our students by attending this terms Sharing Assembly. We hope you enjoyed it.



HOUSE LEADERS-Spotlight



Grace Koloti – Takitimu Deputy House Leader

My name is Gracie Koloti and I am currently 10 years old. I enjoy playing sports such as netball. I aim for excellence in all my learning and Deputy House Leader duties. I show integrity inside and outside of school. I try my best in all situations.

At Owairoa we have lots of different opportunities like Choir, Kapa Haka, Kaitiaki and many more! At school it is our job to make learning as enjoyable and fun as we can. As a Deputy House Leader this year, I hope for everyone to show the school RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Self-esteem, Excellence) in all areas of the school. I love helping students across all year groups.

Throughout my amazing journey with Owairoa, I have been grateful for learning new things, making many friends, achieving goals and becoming a House Leader. Remember to NEVER GIVE UP! I am grateful for Owairoa making me who I am today.



Isaac Ho – Takitimu Deputy House Leader

My name is Isaac Ho and I am ten years old. I enjoy many sports such as basketball, football and badminton. I like to create things, draw, and practise parkour. In the future, I want to be a firefighter.

I like Owairoa because it is filled with helpful and kind teachers. It offers many sports teams and has a big library. This year I hope to join the football team. I enjoy many subjects such as ISTEAM, Maths and Writing. Throughout my school journey I am proud to have improved my Writing and Reading. One of my favourite memories of being at school was last year when we had the fun run.

I am grateful for this chance to be a Deputy House Leader and will work hard to be a good role model. My advice to others is to try your best and do anything and everything you want because your journey at Owairoa will be gone before you know it.



TAKITIMU





Junior Blog

“Kia kaha Te Reo Māori” Making the Language Stronger



Māori Language Week, known as “Te Wiki o te Reo Māori” in Te Reo Māori, is an annual event in New Zealand that celebrates and promotes Māori language and culture. This week-long celebration, typically held in September has fallen upon us. To honour this special event many classes participated in meaningful Te Reo Māori activities.

In the Junior School some classes learnt new waiata (songs) and completed counting, animals and matching body parts activities in Te Reo. Some classes even practiced drawing Kōwhaiwhai patterns and learnt about their meanings.

But best of all was the Māori Language Scavenger hunt. Mrs Rice organised this activity for the Junior School to promote asking and answering in Te Reo. Each class was given a set of entry forms and went to the class windows written on the sheet. Teachers asked students “He aha tēnei?” (What is this). Students replied with “he....” and identified the pictured kai (food) in the window and circled it on their answer sheet. Entry forms were put into a box and Mrs Rice gave out some prizes.

To make your Te Reo Māori stronger, you can learn some of the vocabulary that we learnt about.

He aha tēnei	What is this?
Kāreti	carrot
Panana	banana
Kumara	kūmara
Āporo	apple
Pī	pea
Rōpere	strawberry
Karaka	orange

Middle Blog

I.S.T.E.A.M



At Owairoa Primary School we value the idea of developing problem-solving skills in all our learners. Problem solving and teamwork are essential in society and the best way to grow these important fundamental skills is through relevant and fun activities in our ISTEAM sessions.

Here at Owairoa ISTEAM (Inquiry, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) has a day dedicated to it each week throughout the school where students follow the process of design, create, test and modify their creations. Teachers integrate this into other curriculum areas to promote and develop key understandings.

This week has been Māori Language Week and the learners in Room M1 have been learning about important Harakeke (flax) and what it was used for. They celebrated Māori Language Week by reading, writing and creating Art based around Maui and the Sun. For their ISTEAM day they designed and created a net that could have been used to slow the sun’s journey across the sky using modern day materials. This process developed the children’s key competencies at the same time as having great fun and making a great mess!

Senior Blog

Fun on a Friday

Senior School learners look forward to Friday afternoons. It’s not just because the weekend is on its way ... it’s because after a busy learning week, there is an opportunity to get outside and enjoy some sport.

On fine Friday afternoons, mixed groups from across all year five and six classes get to play alongside their friends and make new acquaintances from other classes. Earlier in Term 3, learners were able to select their top three choices from a list of different sports: football for boys/girls, table tennis, rounders/softball, tennis, netball, jump jam, rugby and scooter games.

Playing your favourite sport or giving an unfamiliar one a go is a big part of the afternoon. From the top of the Alan McIntyre Centre all the way to the Howick Domain, ample space is provided for each group. This feast of sporting fun means that learners are sent off home, having worked hard and played hard, to enjoy their well-deserved weekend.



School Uniforms

Brand New uniforms items can be purchased from Argyle, our school uniform supplier, who courier items directly to your home, or you can purchase second hand items from our PTA Uniform Shop. For more information on both of these options, please head to our school website

www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform

Our PTA **Second Hand Uniform Shop** has a good range of second hand uniform items currently in stock, available for purchase.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is located in the

foyer entrance of the Hall, and is open during term time as follows:

* **Thursday afternoon 2:45pm - 3:15pm**

* **Friday morning 8:30am – 8:45am**

Cash only please, there is no EFTPOS facility for second hand uniform purchases.

The PTA greatly appreciates uniform donations. If you have any unwanted uniform items in reasonable condition, please donate by leaving at the school office, or drop to the uniform shop during opening hours.



Looking ahead

☺ October

- 17 Kapa Haka Festival at BBI
- 17 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 19 NZ Shake Out 9.30am
- 20 Fruju Friday
- 23 Labour Day – School closed for public holiday
- 24 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences 1-8pm. **School closes at 12.30pm**
- 26 Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30 – 6.30pm
- 27 Fruju Friday

☺ November

- 3 Share a Hobby or Skill Day
- 3 PTA Pizza Lunch
- 3 Fruju Friday
- 13 Teacher Only Day – school closed

☺ December

- 20 End of Term Four

SCHOOL HEALTH UPDATE

48 hour Stand Down

Following a case of vomiting or diarrhoea, your child must be symptom free for 48 hours before they can return to school.

This follows Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand directives and ensures students are well again before returning to school, to avoid sharing illnesses with others.



Whakatauki

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi
With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive

This whakatauki talks about community, collaboration and a strength-based approach. It acknowledges that everybody has something to offer and by working together we can all flourish.

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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