

The Owairoa Primary

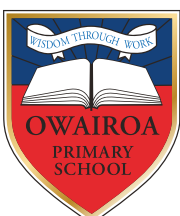
# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

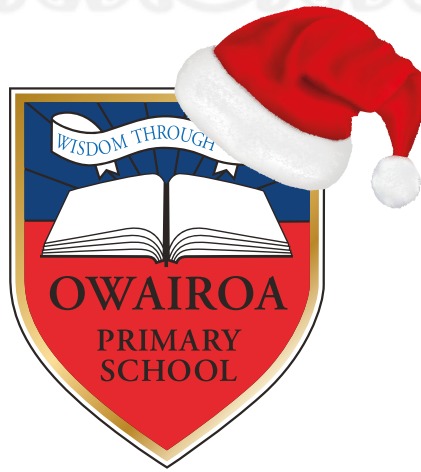
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Issue No 11, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023



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](mailto:officemanager@owairoa.school.nz)  
[www.owairoa.school.nz](http://www.owairoa.school.nz)



## Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we approach the end of another school year, on behalf of the School Board, Senior Management, and the entire staff, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holidays.

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my gratitude to the parents, students, and staff of our 'Owairoa Family', for your unwavering flexibility and resilience. Your commitment to adapting to challenges and your dedication to promoting the caring and well-being of all members of our school community are greatly appreciated.

Special thanks goes out to the parents who generously give of their time, whether in big ways or small, to support the myriad of activities that make our school the vibrant and thriving place we all love. Your contributions help to shape the special character and family atmosphere that defines our school.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your tireless efforts in delivering quality teaching programs and for the exceptional care you provide to our students. Your commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a positive learning environment is commendable.

As we approach the holiday season, I encourage each of you to take a well-deserved break with your family and friends. Cherish these moments of joy and relaxation as you recharge for the year ahead.

Looking forward, I am excited about the prospect of welcoming both new and returning staff and students back to school on Wednesday 7th February 2024. May the upcoming year be filled with continued growth, learning, and success for each member of our Owairoa Primary School 'family'.

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones. May this festive season bring you warmth, joy, and cherished moments.

*Alan McIntyre*  
**PRINCIPAL**



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"

• Abjot Mundi • Senula Gunasekara • Aston Shafraz • Roham Esmaelpour

# Farewell to Staff

We wish to acknowledge all staff leaving Owairoa at the end of the year.

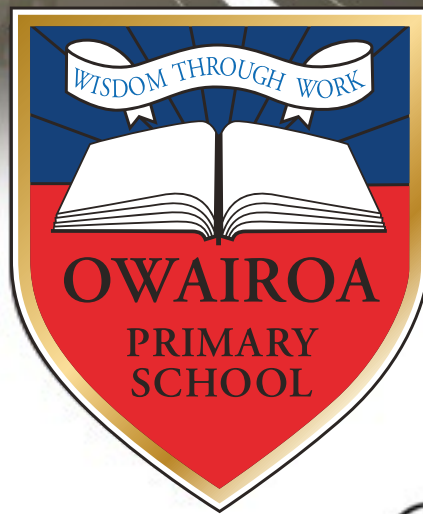
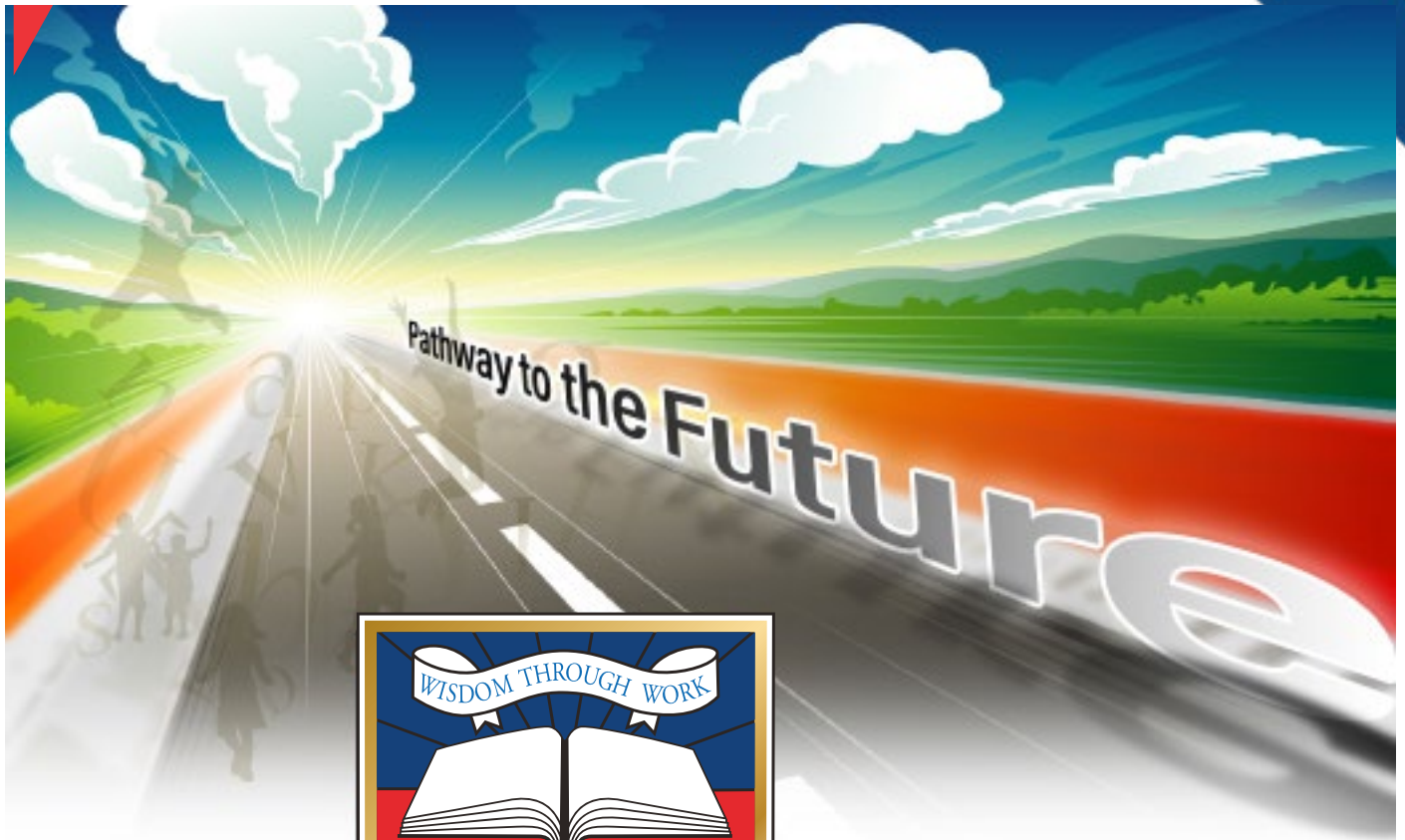
Name	Position	Reason for leaving
Christine Bull	Deputy Principal	Retiring
Siobhan Rew	Teacher	Leaving Education Service
Shari Green	Teacher	Transferring to another school
Janine Pieterse	Teacher	End of Contract
Ella Oxford	Teacher	Transferring to another school
Georgia Campbell	Teacher	End of Contract
Rosie Koloti	Teacher	Resigned
Caylor Conway	Teacher	Transferring to another school
Tineke Oed	Teacher	End of Contract
Tim Bradley	Teacher	Promotion to another school
Malia Fa'apoi	Teacher	Relocating Overseas
Mia Petford	Swimming Assistant	End of Contract



## School Resource AMNESTY

We are currently stocktaking our school resources in preparation for a quick return to study in 2024. We have a few resources that have not been returned to school. As these resources are expensive to replace, we are having an amnesty of all items e.g. library books, instructional reading books, sports uniforms etc. from now until the end of the year. Please check at home under the bed, down the back of the sofa and in your cupboards to locate any school resources and return them to school, no questions asked.





# *Farewell* to **Year 6** Students

To our Year 6 students leaving Owairoa on Wednesday 20th December, we wish you every success and happiness as you venture out onto the 'Pathway to the Future'.

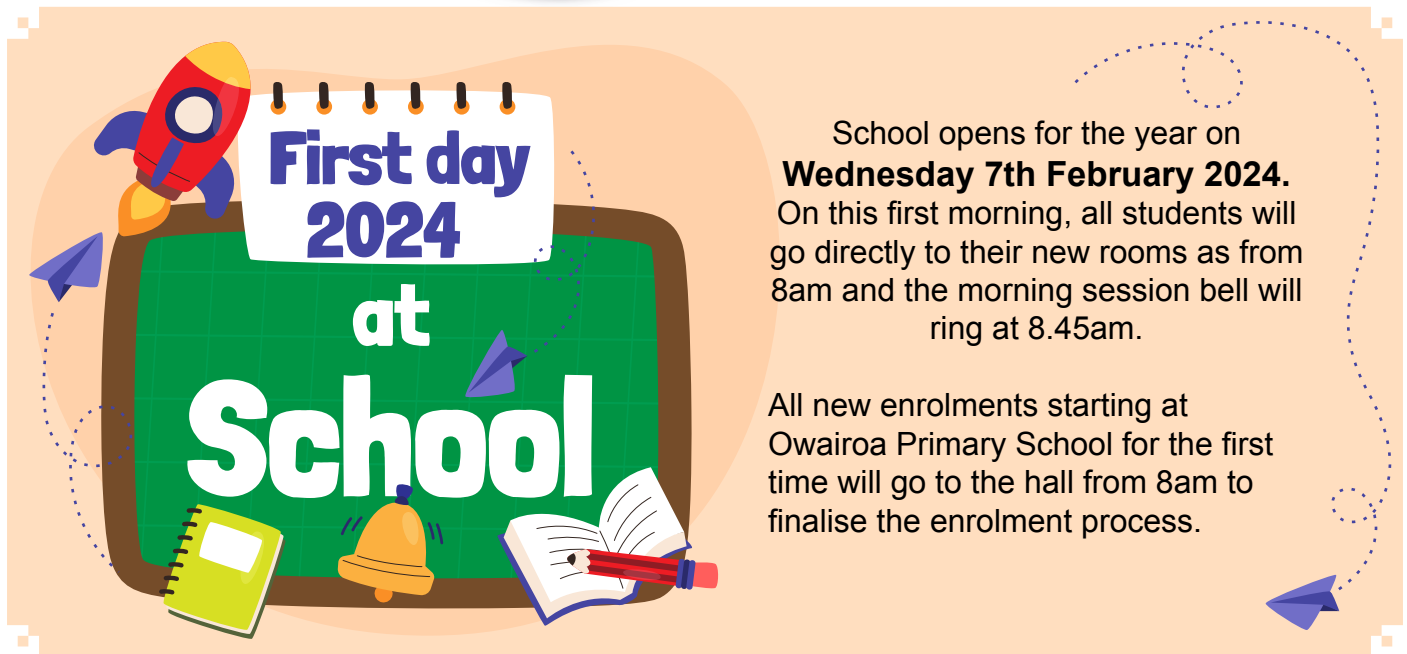
We trust that you have gained resilience, self-management and the necessary skills in your formative years of your education and will make the most of the windows of opportunity that open up for you in the years to come.

*We will miss you* 



The final day for Term Four will be on **Wednesday 20th December**, finishing at **12.30pm**. Students will need to be collected at this time and will have lunch at home on that day.

The whole school will assemble on the courts outside the Hall (weather permitting) and will be dismissed at 12.30pm from there.



School opens for the year on **Wednesday 7th February 2024**. On this first morning, all students will go directly to their new rooms as from 8am and the morning session bell will ring at 8.45am.

All new enrolments starting at Owairoa Primary School for the first time will go to the hall from 8am to finalise the enrolment process.

## 2024 Classroom Placements

Over the last few weeks our staff and Senior Management have been putting a lot of time and consideration into the student classroom placements for the 2024 academic year.

Class placements is very strategic and is based on a range of factors, such as:

- Friendships and compatibility with other students
- Teacher observations and judgements
- Children's response to different teaching and learning styles
- Creating a balance of ability, gender and culture
- Consideration of specific learning or behavioural needs

These draft placement combinations will continue to be tweaked over the summer break, with the confirmed class lists being available for viewing from 2pm on Teacher Only Day #2, Monday 5th February 2024, on the following classroom windows:

- Year 0, Year 1 and 2 Classes for 2024: on the window of Room 4
- Year 3 and 4 Classes for 2024: on the window of Room G1
- Year 5 and 6 Classes for 2024: on the window of Room G2

The lists will also be published on the school website at the same time [www.owairoa.school.nz](http://www.owairoa.school.nz)

We encourage Parents to be supportive and give a positive message to your children about their 2024 placement. Children often test our reaction to news to gauge how they should react. It is through your support and guidance that they feel positive, reassured and confident to meet the challenges and opportunities that the new year will bring them.



# 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 Three

Monday 22 July 2024  
Friday 27 September 2024

## Term Two

Monday 29 April 2024  
Friday 5 July 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

## School Stationery Packs

The full range of 2024 stationery packs will be available from our official school stationery supplier

**Crandall Peters Paper Plus**  
71 Picton St.  
Howick

Paper Plus is open seven days a week for your convenience.

## School Uniform

A school uniform helps students identify with their school and assists with the development of a corporate spirit and a pride in themselves and the school. It also performs a valuable role by projecting a positive image to the community. Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times

New uniform items can be purchased online from Argyle Schoolwear:

[www.argyleonline.co.nz/shop/auckland/owairoa-primary-school](http://www.argyleonline.co.nz/shop/auckland/owairoa-primary-school)

Second hand uniform items can be purchased from our PTA Second Hand Uniform Shop.

Details, including shop opening hours can be found here

[www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform/](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform/)





Many thanks to our staff and families who supported our recent Food Bank Christmas Appeal. Many tins of food were kindly received at school. We also received monetary donations via our Kindo App, which was used to purchase a range of tinned food from our local supermarket.

A large load of donated food items were then taken from our school and delivered to the local Salvation Army Food Bank, which was gratefully received.



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08 December 2023

Owairoa Primary School  
85 Nelson Street  
Howick

To Mr McIntyre, Staff and Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your donations of food that you have generously collected towards our Christmas appeal, what a blessing! You did an amazing job

At this time of year, we rely completely on donations such as yours to fund our appeal. Every year it is our mission to provide a magical Christmas for as many families as possible. Your generosity will make a big different to the lives of people within this community this Christmas.

We would not be able to support the people in our community without the assistance and generosity of our donors.

The items that you have donated will help us to continue to help people in our community.

Once again thank you for helping us serve our community.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Coward  
Community Ministries Wellbeing Worker  
Salvation Army East City Corps  
45 Wellington Street  
Howick  
Ph: 09 535 0847



## School Board Update



As the footsteps of summer quietly approach, the weather is gradually becoming warmer and drier. I hope everyone can enjoy the rare sunshine and beautiful days.

In the images, you can see the flowers and vegetables that our students and teachers planted together, have blossomed and matured. These beautiful flowers have added a charming landscape to our campus. The results of our recent gardening activities have provided students with a hands-on experience witnessing the growth process of plants, contributing to their learning and personal development.

Simultaneously, we are also in the planning for the construction of a new chicken coup, getting our beehives back up and running and installing a glass house, which are not only great educational initiatives but also a crucial avenue for instilling a sense of responsibility and team work among our students.

After a lengthy application process, we are delighted to see that the Ministry of Education has approved the school's proposal to add more cubbyholes in the Alan McIntyre Centre. The new cubbyhole additions give us much needed additional schoolbag storage for our students.

As the weather warms up, students have started enjoying swimming lessons in our school pool. Compared to schools who don't have wonderful swimming facilities like us, we are committed to providing students with the safest and most convenient swimming environment on site. This not only saves additional transportation costs but also eliminates safety concerns associated with external swimming facilities.

As we approach the final days of school before the holidays, we hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas concerts and prizegiving awards for each of the year levels.

On behalf of the School Board, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Kitty Lu*  
School Board Member  
Owairoa Primary School Board





## Finance Matters

The Owairoa Primary School Finance team would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your support during the year.

Thank you for taking time to read and action our financial statements and for utilising our Kindo School Online Shop to pay your school donation and other school activities fees. Your contribution is a very important component of the School Board budget and is much appreciated.

Before the year comes to a close, I wish you to note that the 2024 Kindo ezlunch service will be commencing again on Wednesday 7 February 2024.

If your family is leaving our school and moving to another school that does not use ezlunch or Kindo for school payments, you will need to close your account. If you're not sure about the new school, log in, go to My Details and click on the list of schools, scrolling to find your new school.

If your new school is NOT on the list, use the 'close account' button on that screen. You can choose to donate your balance to school or have it paid out to your nominated bank account.

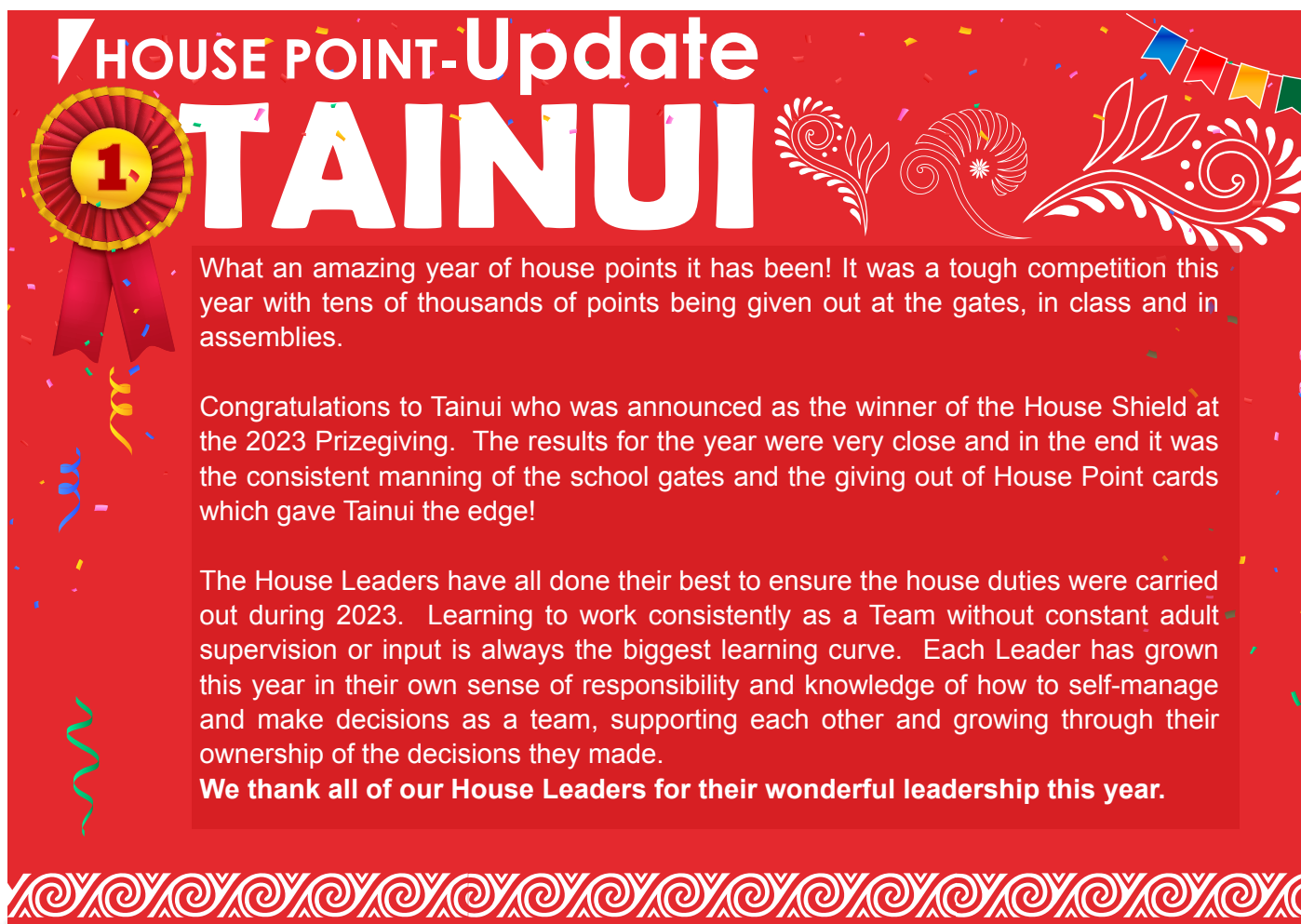
If your enquiry requires a quick response, please email me on [ExecutiveOfficer@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:ExecutiveOfficer@owairoa.school.nz) or call me on **538 0060 ext 207**.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season with best wishes for 2024.

We look forward to meeting up with you again next year.

*Jane Huang*

**Executive Officer – Finance / Human Resource Manager**



### HOUSE POINT-Update

# TAINUI

What an amazing year of house points it has been! It was a tough competition this year with tens of thousands of points being given out at the gates, in class and in assemblies.

Congratulations to Tainui who was announced as the winner of the House Shield at the 2023 Prizegiving. The results for the year were very close and in the end it was the consistent manning of the school gates and the giving out of House Point cards which gave Tainui the edge!

The House Leaders have all done their best to ensure the house duties were carried out during 2023. Learning to work consistently as a Team without constant adult supervision or input is always the biggest learning curve. Each Leader has grown this year in their own sense of responsibility and knowledge of how to self-manage and make decisions as a team, supporting each other and growing through their ownership of the decisions they made.

**We thank all of our House Leaders for their wonderful leadership this year.**

## Interschool Athletics

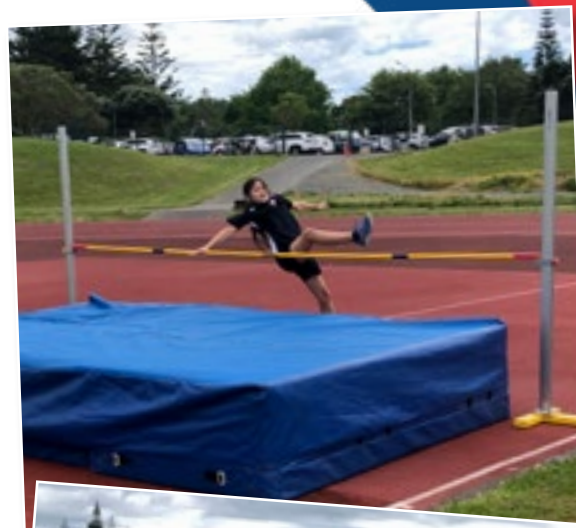
On Friday 17th October fifty three Owairoa athletes were buzzing with excitement as the bus headed for the Howick and Pakuranga Athletics Club at Lloyd Elmore. The athletes were competing in a number of track and field events ranging from 800m to 70m sprints, long jump, high jump and shot put.

For many of our athletes it was their first time competing against other schools and we came up against some strong competition. Being the first to arrive, we positioned our gazebo right by the finish line for running and in front of the highly competitive long jump pit.

When the children were not competing in their event they were full of support and encouragement for their friends and school mates. Owairoa athletes received a number of places in many of the events and returned to the bus exhausted but happy.

The highlight of the day was definitely the relay races. Owairoa made the finals in five out of the six events. As our athletes raced around the track the chant could be heard. This seemed to boost the speed of our final runners as they whizzed past us to the finish line.

Our children were as always impeccably well behaved and displayed excellent manners and sportsmanship for the entirety of the day. Many thanks to Mr Basson and his team for the organisation and coaching of our team of athletes. Many of the children are already talking about and looking forward to next years competition.



# MOTAT Toy Workshop

This term the Senior School were lucky enough to have facilitators from MOTAT bring their equipment, expertise and...TOYS to support their science topic of 'forces'.

Both students and teachers enjoyed exploring past must have toys such as chatter-rings and Kendama. It was a day filled with nostalgia and innovation, as the MOTAT staff took our students on a journey back in time to explore the fascinating world of vintage toys. From the classic skip-its to the whimsical jack-in-the-box, the students had a hands-on experience with toys from the past, uncovering the secrets of their construction and mechanisms.

MOTAT brought an assortment of toys that once brought joy to generations. These retro playthings served as more than mere entertainment. They were a window into the craftsmanship and ingenuity of a bygone era. The students were introduced to the art of toy-making, learning about the materials and techniques used in creating these toys of yesteryears.

Students had the chance to explore the movement and physics behind both olden and modern-day toys. What set this experience apart was the students' opportunity to combine their newfound knowledge with their ISTEAM projects. The seniors delved into a creative process that combined concepts from science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to design and construct their own toys. The inspiration drawn from the vintage toys was evident in their innovative ideas.

The workshop not only ignited the spark of curiosity but also fostered a love for tinkering and inventing. It encouraged the students to think critically, problem-solve, and collaborate as they worked on their designs.

In the spirit of learning and fun, the day spent with MOTAT was not only a celebration of history but a source of inspiration for the future. The impact of this workshop on the students will undoubtedly resonate for years to come, as they take their newfound knowledge and innovative ideas forward in their academic journeys.



## New Zealand's Christmas Tree

The blazing red flowers of pōhutukawa around Christmas time have earned this tree the title of New Zealand's Christmas tree.

Pōhutukawa hold a prominent place in Maori mythology. Legends tell of the young Maori warrior, Tawhaki and his attempt to find help in heaven to avenge his father's death. He subsequently fell to earth and the crimson flowers are said to represent his blood.

Possibly the most famous pōhutukawa in Maori legend is a small, wind-beaten tree clinging to the cliff face near Cape Reinga. The 800-year-old tree is reputed to guard the entrance to a sacred cave through which disembodied spirits pass on their way to the next world.

When you walk by the school, you may wish to view our magnificent Pohutukawa, flowering in all its splendour.



Our student enjoy singing about the Pohutukawa Tree each year, with many parents enjoying hearing this popular song being sung at various concerts this year.

### ***Pohutukawa Tree***

*I am a Pohutukawa seed, plant me in the ground and water me.*

*Plenty of sunshine is what I need, then guess what you will see?*

*Out will shoot a tiny twig and it will continue to grow so big, beautiful flowers of whero,  
the native tree of Aotearoa.*

*Pohutukawa tree, Pohutukawa tree, New Zealand's Christmas tree, you fill my heart with aroha,  
the native tree of Aotearoa.*

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE HOWICK SANTA PARADE



Owairoa Primary School made a grand entrance into the Annual Howick Santa Parade on Sunday 10th December 2023, which turned out to be a spectacular success! This iconic East Auckland event marked its 70th year and our school was there to make it even more memorable.

In an exciting turn of events, our school float clinched the first-place trophy, showcasing the creativity and teamwork of our students and parents.

The day was a Pirate extravaganza, as 116 students, 14 staff and 15 enthusiastic parents participated in the parade, all proudly adorned in pirate costumes. The sea of pirate hats and waving school flags added a vibrant touch to the iconic event, creating a festive atmosphere that resonated with the local community audience.

The choice of a pirate theme cleverly tied in with our book week theme from earlier this year,

bringing literature to life in a fun and interactive way. Captain Rossiter, our fearless leader for the day, expertly directed the students, ensuring a seamless and spirited parade experience.

Special thanks to Kirsty Rice and Nick Roberts, whose work in front of and behind the scenes made our entry into this year's parade a reality. We also extend our gratitude to Kirsty, Nick and their team of helpers for the incredible effort they put into crafting our show-stopping float.

The day was not only about winning accolades but also about fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among our students and parents. Smiles were abundant as we paraded through the streets, delighting onlookers and spreading joy to all who lined the route.

As we wrapped up this year's parade festivities, plans are already in motion for our 2024 Santa Parade entry, promising an even more exciting, continuing to showcase the wonderful spirit that defines our school.





## Teachers Triumph Against Students on the Netball Court

In an event that will undoubtedly be etched into the memories of our students for years to come, the Annual Teachers vs Students Netball game took centre stage during lunchtime last week, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition and unforgettable moments.

The court was alive with energy as both sides engaged in a spirited match, leaving our umpires working hard to keep up with the action. The game remained neck and neck for a significant duration, with impressive plays and strategic moves keeping everyone on the edge of their seats.

However, the teachers' determination, combined strength and a notable height difference ultimately proved to be the winning combination. In the end, the teachers emerged victorious with a final score of 11-5. It was a hard-fought battle, and both teams showcased commendable sportsmanship throughout the game.

Special thanks to Mr Basson for organizing this thrilling match that allowed both staff and students to participate and enjoy the excitement.



## School Blog Update



### Junior School Blog Celebration of Success



As 2023 draws to a close, we celebrate this year's learning with our End of Year Concerts! Our learners braved the stage to show off their songs, dances and plays with confidence and style.

It was fantastic to see the learners trying their best and presenting such high-quality learning. It was great to see even the learners that have been at school for less than a term joined in.

This year has been a busy year full of great celebrations such as our International Day, Book Week, Maths Week and many more. It has been a privilege to see our Junior Learners grow from strength to strength this year and make such great progress in their learning.

Good luck to all the Year 1's going to Year 2 next year and to our Year 2's going off to the Middle School in Year 3. Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you back at school in 2024.

### Middle School Blog Out With A Bang



We know the way in Year 3 as the learners sang and danced to the beat of the drums to open our end-of-year concert.

Our spirits were high as we rode in the waka during M4's "E Waka Eke Noa," play, as the water and sky passed in the night. Room M7 then had the "Best Dance Ever," by kicking up their heels beautifully to the music. We then had room M9's "Class Poem," where they reflected on their excellent learning throughout the year, reading their term-by-term poems with expression and clarity.

Disco lights were shining in room M5 as they showed us what it was like to live at the "YMCA" with a spectacular version of the dance. As the concert continued with fantastic dancing, we had room M6's beautiful rendition of "Tūtira mai ngā iwi," along with a tremendous poi demonstration.

The finale was a fabulous drum demonstration called "Stomp," by room M8! The end-of-the-year concert sure went out with a "Bang!"

### Senior School Blog McIntyre Centre Market Days



Up in the top block, on three separate Fridays, you will find a flurry of market activity. In the weeks prior, during ISTEAM days, learners let their creative imagination run wild. Becoming a stallholder is part of the excitement. Constructing signage, painted cardboard mini games, lucky dip activities, or even dreaming up brand names, is so much fun.

Like most design processes, students build on what has gone before. Plans change mid construction and often students model their ideas on ones they have seen previously. As the excitement mounts plain paper \$1 money is handed out. Valueless, yet highly valued when there's shopping to be done! One class hosts the market, the other two become customers.

The buying spree begins. There might be origami delights, bookmarks, handmade paper sporting collections, original artwork set to print, guessing games, written stories, stickers, or even mini ball games with prizes to win.

Now, you never quite know what will be on offer until the actual day arrives. So, when you hear the market date has been set, best not be absent from school! Be there to enjoy this blossoming Senior School Owairoa tradition, a market trend in the making





M E R R Y

*Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

Warm wishes and  
a safe holiday  
for the  
Festive Season



With kind regards

*Alan McIntyre*

PRINCIPAL





# Bizzy Bodz

**Before School Care: 7.00am - 8.30am**

**After School Care: 3.00pm - 6.00pm**

**School Holidays: 7.30am - 6.00pm**

Enrol via our website or pop into our programme  
WINZ subsidies are available

For all questions or queries please contact our office or the programme

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**DEREK BARWOOD**  
ORTHODONTIST

B.D.S., M.D.S.(OTAGO).

Specialist Orthodontics for Children and Adults

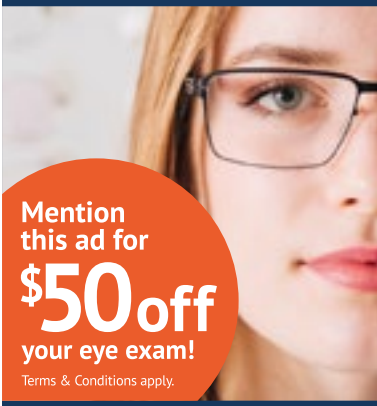
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