



The Owairoa Primary

# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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Issue No 2, 15th March 2024

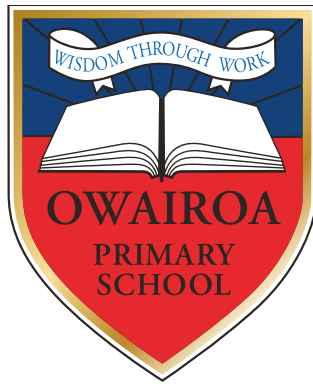


**Owairoa Primary School**, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

**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

With the 2024 academic year well underway, classroom routines are now well established, and it is pleasing to see the achievements our students and staff are making as Term One progresses.

It was nice to welcome the majority of our school families to our recent Open Home a few weeks ago. This Meet the Teacher session is an ideal opportunity for our Teachers to connect with parents as we start off the year, so your engagement with this annual event helps to reinforce the importance of collaboration between home and school.

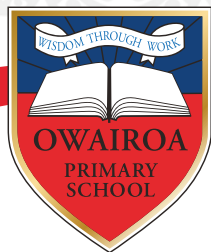
One of the keys to the success of a child's education is the school and community working together in partnership, so we strongly believe that Parents taking an active interest in their child's educational journey makes all the difference.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"

- Kenjiro Hashimoto
- Aria Manik
- Chase Canterbury-Byrne
- Nikhil Bhaskar
- Ryan Bhaskar
- Dayna-Catalena Te Puni-Ospina
- Rico Xia
- Amelia Allum
- Divanshi
- Vivian Kang
- Micaiah Rouhbakhsh Sarvari
- Bethania Rouhbakhsh Sarvari
- Mileah Cilliers
- Josheil Gerardo
- Gilbert Vosloo
- Rihaan Dahiya
- Luane Du Plessis
- Sean Chang
- Judy Hao
- Shawn Hu
- Brayden Hu





## Open Home Meet the Teacher

Thank you to those parents who joined us for our recent Open Home event on Thursday 22nd February. Your participation made our annual event a resounding success.

Our Open Home event provided an opportunity for Parents to establish a connection with your child's new teacher, become familiar with the learning environment, discuss goals for the upcoming year, and learn about new routines and expectations for your child. We are delighted to have achieved these objectives with your active involvement at our event.

Should you wish to discuss any additional educational, health, or wellbeing issues in further detail, or for any other communication needs concerning your child, you are welcome to contact your child's Teacher directly throughout the year.



## PTA Annual Meeting

Parents are invited to attend the Owairoa Parent Teacher Association (PTA) AGM wine and cheese evening on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm in the Staffroom. Come along to find out more about our PTA, connect with other parents and hear how you can be involved.

The PTA is a partnership between parents and educators who strive to enhance student learning and enrich the lives of the students within the school. They fundraise for the school and organise fun activities for the students and Owairoa community.

The PTA are seeking nominations for Co-Chairperson and Co-Secretary. These are shared roles, so you will have the support of an experienced committee member and will share the workload.

If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone else, for one of these positions, or would like to find out more about what the role entails, please email Nick (Co-Chairperson) at [PTA@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:PTA@owairoa.school.nz)





# AMNESTY FOR **MISSING** LIBRARY BOOKS

We are asking for your assistance in locating some missing school library resources.

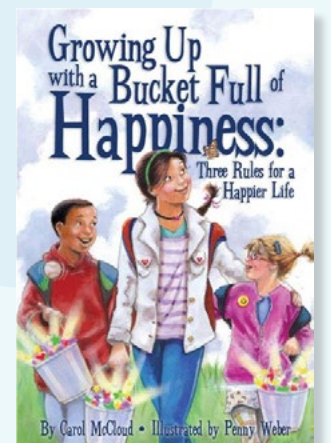
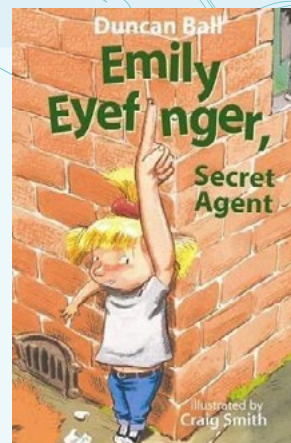
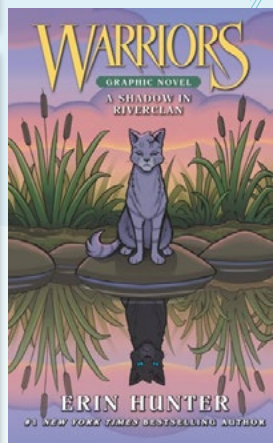
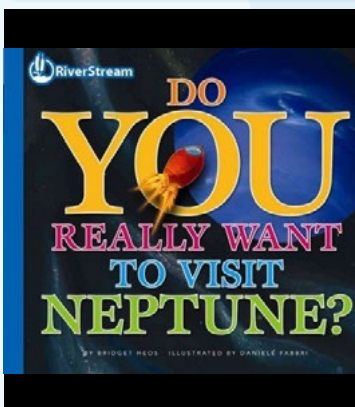
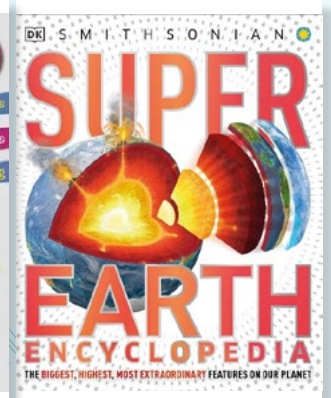
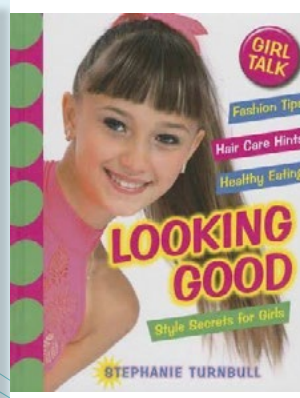
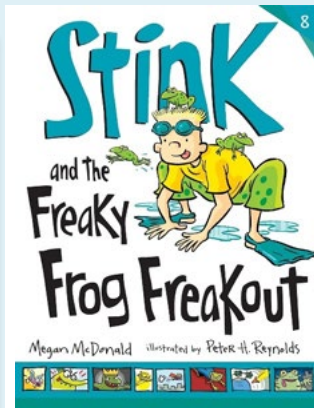
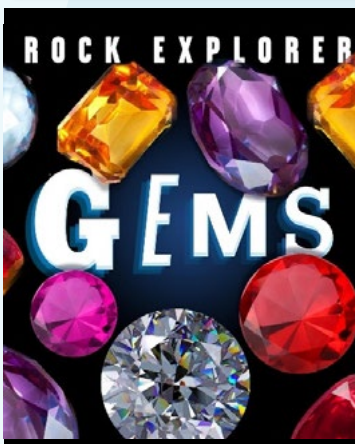
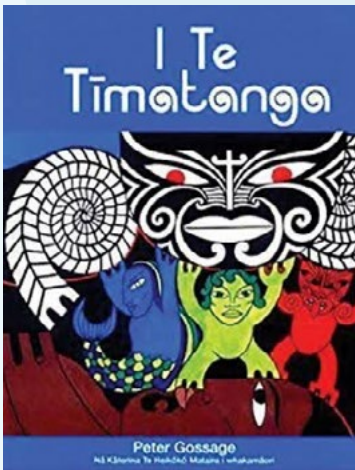
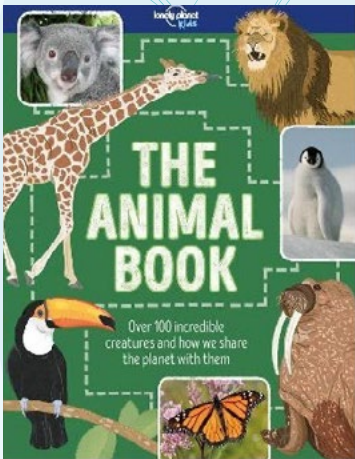
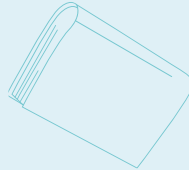
During our annual stocktake at the end of last year, several library books were unfortunately not returned. We are eager to recover these resources to ensure our library remains well-stocked for all students to enjoy.

These covers pictured below are some the library books that went 'missing' from our shelves last year. Each of these resources holds significant value to our library collection, with a replacement cost of \$350.

Please help by checking for these missing library books at home, and if found, please bring them back to school. No questions asked, no penalties imposed – just a simple request to recover these missing items and help replenish our shelves.

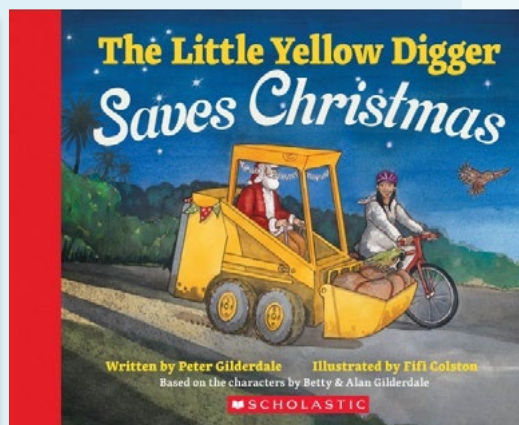
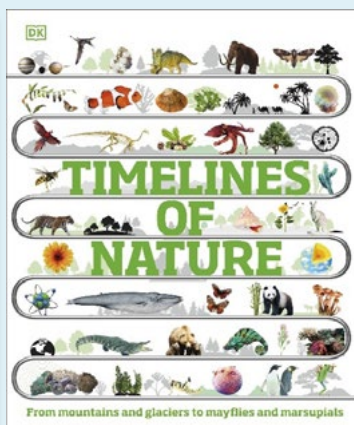
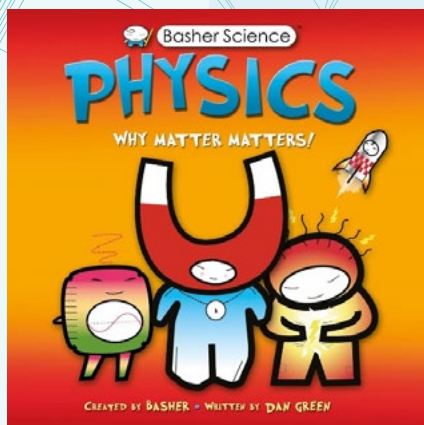
Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Together, we can ensure that our school library remains a vibrant hub of learning and exploration for all students.

*Sharleen Brown*  
Librarian





# AMNESTY FOR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS



## Batter Up

A spirited group of 24 Owairoa students eagerly participated in the HPPA Softball Fun Day. With the sun beaming down, it was a picture-perfect day for a game of softball.

Unlike traditional competitions, the focus wasn't on scores or points. Instead, the emphasis was on personal growth and development. This was the perfect environment for our players to flourish. Initially, some of our learners felt apprehensive, but as the day progressed, their confidence, skills, and techniques improved and so did their smiles.

What truly stood out, however, was the exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship displayed by our Owairoa learners. They cheered on and congratulated their opponents, embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship, even stopping to assist another teams injured player. Our learners led by example by promptly lining up to shake hands with the opposing team after each game.

Overall, it was a fantastic day of softball for our learners, filled with camaraderie, skill-building, and memorable moments.



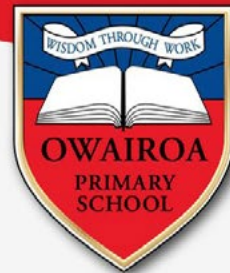


## Strategic Intent

Our 2023-2025 Strategic Intent Document (School Charter) has been approved by the School Board and is available on our school website [www.owairoa.school.nz/our-school/strategic-intent/](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/our-school/strategic-intent/)

This important document incorporates the Strategic Initiative and the Annual Plan for Owairoa Primary School for 2023. This plan has been developed to coincide with the direction and vision of the School Board. It is planned as a dynamic document, responsive to change and will be reviewed annually.

This Strategic Initiatives and Annual Plan documents how our school will manage the National Administrative Guidelines through our Policies, Annual Management Plan and Programmes of Work, including those for Curriculum, Assessment and Staff Professional Development. An ongoing programme of self-review in relation to policies, plans and programmes, including evaluation of information on student achievement will be undertaken



OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

# STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

2024 - 2025





# Construction Zone Progress

Progress is well underway for the development of our new classroom block upgrade for Rooms 10-13. This long-awaited project finally started over the Christmas holidays and is providing good entertainment for our staff and students as they eagerly watch with the project unfold.

The construction team are making steady progress, with all demolition now completed. They are working on the concrete slab foundation extensions and framing currently, as well as rewiring for the new electrical and IT connections.

The project is anticipated to take 14 weeks, with an expected move in date to the newly refurbished building in early May.



# AT Planned Minor Improvements

Auckland Transport (AT) have notified us that they will be implementing minor road improvements in Elliot Street. They will be installing 'no parking on the grass berm' signage, meaning people will not be able to park on the berm from the mid-section of Elliot Street on both sides of the road towards Wellington Street.



AT received a request to install signage to stop vehicles from parking on the grass berm outside Blundell Park Playground in Elliot Street, Howick. A Howick Local Board member has raised the request on behalf of a frustrated parent who walks their children to and from Owairoa Primary School.

These changes will encourage legal parking on Elliot Street and are scheduled to take place at the end of April 2024.







## Winner, NZ Architectural Awards

The New Zealand Institute of Architects announced our newly constructed 'Alan McIntyre Centre' a winner at the 2023 New Zealand Architecture Awards.

The 18 classroom block was nominated for the Education category, and designer RTA Studio was proudly announced as the national winner at an awards dinner held in Wellington at the end of last year.

The New Zealand Architecture Awards jury was led by 2020 Gold Medal award-winning architect Dave Strachan. The jury visited 61 short-listed projects across 13 categories.

Judges said: "On a site bordered on three sides by residential dwellings (creating more restrictive controls), the architects have, by cutting into the southwest slope, created a two-storey building, allowing more space at ground level for outdoor activities. Planning is deceptively simple, providing a variety of quiet and more active spaces. ... An extensive colour palette creates a practical, yet playful space for the young students and their very happy teachers."

Our new building has now won two prestigious titles:

- 2023 NZIA National Architecture Award – Education
- 2023 NZIA Auckland Architecture Award – Education





# New Zealand Architecture Awards

Award:

**New Zealand  
Architecture  
Award**

Presented to:

**RTA Studio**

For:

**Owairoa  
Primary School**

Year Awarded:

**2023**

Category:

**Education**

Citation:

On a site bordered on three sides by residential dwellings (creating more restrictive controls), the architects have, by cutting into the southwest slope, created a two-storey building, allowing more space at ground level for outdoor activities. Planning is deceptively simple, providing a variety of quiet and more active spaces. The treatment of the façade, utilising robust materials, varies depending on orientation, and deep, north-eastern verandahs and clerestories together with cross ventilation provide a passive response to climatic conditions.

An extensive colour palette creates a practical, yet playful space for the young students and their very happy teachers.



President:



Convenor:



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New Zealand  
Institute of  
Architects**

**Resene**  
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**APL**  
WINDOW SOLUTIONS



## Within School Leaders

Our school is a member of the Bucklands Beach Kahui Ako Community of Learning which is a partnership with six other schools namely Macleans College, Bucklands Beach Intermediate, Bucklands Beach Primary, Mellons Bay Primary, Macleans Primary and Pigeon Mountain Primary.

As part of this arrangement, our school is fortunate to have been allocated funding for four Within School Leaders. The purpose of the Within School Teacher (WST) initiative is to promote best teaching practice and strengthen the use of an inquiry approach to teaching and learning in our school.

Our Within School Teachers draw on a range of professional resources and adapt what they do to meet students' needs and strengths and work directly with other teachers (including those from our Community of Learning) to help identify and respond to challenges in practice and at the same time supporting our Kahui Ako objectives.

Over the next few newsletters, we will highlight the different themes that our four Within School Leaders are working on this year.



BUCKLANDS BEACH  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Pigeon Mountain  
Primary School

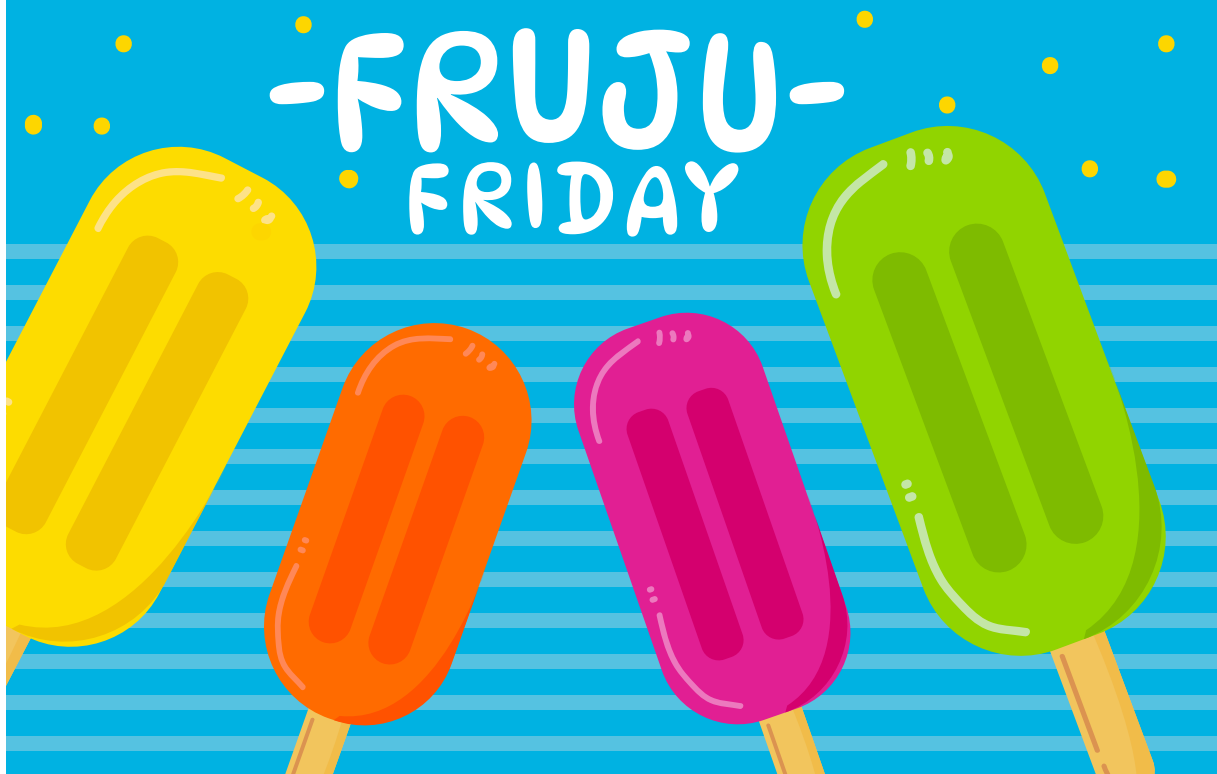


## Fruju Friday

Last Friday saw the first of our Fruju Friday's for the year. Many students and Parents were eager to line up to get their frozen treats, to help celebrate the end of a successful first week back at school.

This regular Friday event is held during Term One and Term Four, helping to support the PTA's fundraising efforts. Fruju's are available in a range of exciting flavours for \$2, and lemonade ice blocks are just \$1 each.

The PTA are always happy to welcome more helpers, so if you are able to volunteer 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon to help sell ice blocks, please contact [pta@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:pta@owairoa.school.nz)





# Principal Colleague's Message Goes Viral

A Principal colleague who has worked in the profession for more than 50 years recently shared the following letter with his school community at the start of this year.

These words of wisdom went viral around the world, defining the role that both parents and teachers play, along with his reminder to parents that education starts at home.

School is about to start for 2024, so I am asking you to please sit down with your tamariki for just 5 minutes and explain that being very tall, short, chubby, skinny, black or white is no joke, and that you should not tease other kids if you think they are one of those!

That there is nothing wrong with wearing the same shoes every day, or in fact wearing no shoes at all!

Explain to them that a used backpack, or brown paper bag carry the same dreams, and do the same job as a new one.

Teach them not to exclude someone because they are "different" or do not have the same opportunities as others. Explain that teasing hurts...and that they go to school to LEARN, NOT to compete.

**YOU AND I HAVE THE SAME VALUE! EDUCATION STARTS AT HOME...**

It's **\*AT HOME\*** that tamariki should learn to say:

- Good morning
- Good afternoon
- Good evening
- Please
- With your permission
- Sorry
- Forgive me
- Thank you very much
- Thank you
- I was wrong

It's **\*AT HOME\*** that we also learn to:

- Be honest
- Be punctual
- Do not insult
- Be polite
- Respect everyone: friends, colleagues, elders, teachers, authorities

Still **\*AT HOME\*** we learn to:

- Eat everything
- Do not talk with your mouth full
- Have personal hygiene
- Don't throw litter on the ground
- Help parents with their daily chores
- Don't take what doesn't belong to you
- Be content with what you have
- Work honestly to earn a living
- Dress with modesty

**\*AT HOME\*** we still learn to:

- Get organized
- Take care of your belongings
- Do not touch other people's belongings
- Respect the rules,
- Speak your mother tongue(s), master your culture and spirituality

Because **\*AT SCHOOL\*** teachers should teach:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- Art and Music
- Well Being
- Support their growth of self esteem
- Confidence - Be proud of who they are.

And only reinforce what the tamariki have learned **\*AT HOME\*!!!**

Because it is from what we have learned **\*AT HOME\*** that the individual will be respected, that he will respect life.

- **Pat Newman**, Principal



# School Blog Update



Make sure you go online to our school website, to keep up to date with our school blogs.

These are a great way for our junior, middle and senior school teams to share highlights of the learning journey throughout the school year.

## Junior Blog Splish, Splosh, Splash!



What a fantastic term it has been for swimming in the Junior School.

Our learners are excited each week to cool down in the pool after a hot day of playing on the playground. As lessons have been taking place, it has been great to see individuals give different things a go as their water confidence increases and they become more daring.

Each week, we have been learning about the water and how to get in and out of the pool safely. Although they may prefer to see who can make the biggest splash, each learner has shown great enthusiasm and excitement about being back in the water and developing their swimming skills.

We are also very lucky and thankful to have Miss Sotutu to support our learners in the pool. With her ability to encourage and develop water confidence, many learners show a greater enjoyment towards their swimming. Her warm smile and water knowledge ease any uncertainties or nerves as the children develop in their self-esteem, knowing that they will have a fun swimming lesson.

As there are many beaches around Howick and in our Auckland community, this is a great opportunity to discuss water safety and what to do if we get in trouble when we are in the water.

Remember to swim between the flags near the lifeguards and always have an adult to supervise, no matter how confident you may be. If you are on a boat pulling up the next biggest fish in history, wear a life jacket.

As we make the most of the school pool before the weather gets colder, Mr McCallum and his crew are getting ready to spend their winter days chasing the ducks away from their newfound lake.

## Middle Blog Celebrating Chinese New Year



Year 3 have been busy learning all about the Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year is an annual celebration of new beginnings, happiness, and family reunions. It is one of the most important festivals in Chinese culture.

Learners in M6 got creative with Chinese calligraphy, and practised writing "Happy New Year". M4 enjoyed an informative video about the different Chinese zodiac animals and their symbolic meanings. M5 got creative and made their own pop-up Chinese greeting cards. M7 had fun learning origami and crafted their very own dragon fortune tellers. In addition to these engaging activities, learners participated in many whole class discussions to enhance their knowledge about the traditional Chinese culture.

Learners across Middle School unleashed their imagination, drawing vibrant dragons, symbols of good luck and using origami techniques to create paper dragons. Adding to the excitement, International Students eagerly shared their cultural knowledge and traditions. Some even wore their red tang suits on the special occasion. In addition to cultural exploration, Year 3 learners also engaged in learning basic Chinese commands. Through fun and engaging activities, the learners practised phrases such as hello (ni hao) and thank you (xièxie).

Many books were shared about the Chinese New Year, learning about the traditions, customs, and symbols. Inspired by the stories they read, learners then made their own paper lanterns using symbolic colours and designs. Year 3 were captivated by the colourful descriptions of the dragons, significance of the red envelope and mouth-watering delicacies enjoyed during family reunions.

This week-long celebration of the Chinese New Year was a time of discovery and creativity where every activity brought new insights and joyous experiences. It was a week filled with fun learning and a shared sense of connection as the school community came together to embrace the Chinese New Year celebrations!



## Senior Blog

# Lunar New Year



The beginning of the 2024 school year coincided with the celebration of the Lunar New Year. As part of the 12 year cycle, this year saw the return of the Year of the Dragon. Those born this year, or in 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940 or 1928 are said to be charismatic, intelligent, confident, powerful and are naturally lucky and gifted, and tend to do everything to the best of their ability with high standards.

Across the Senior school, classes have learned more about the Lunar New Year and undertaken a variety of learning to mark the occasion. With a great opportunity to create some wonderful art, here are some examples: Some classes constructed lucky red envelopes. These often contain financial gifts that, when passed to others, are said to bring prosperity.

Another art activity was the constructing of dragon puppets. This involved colouring the head and tail of a template which were then connected by a piece of folded paper that springs inwards and outwards (much like an accordion). Two sticks were attached, and when moved, create the appearance of a Chinese dragon, similar to those that dance in parades.

One lucky class was taught how to make geometric Chinese patterns by the International Students, which can be seen in the accompanying picture. I think we can all agree they look amazing. The final mention is for the beautiful close-ups of a dragon eye completed in pastel.

The Lunar New Year was also celebrated outside of school. There were many community initiatives with one of the most well-known and popular being the Lantern Festival. Those students who attended shared how mesmerising all the lanterns were. The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations and provides an opportunity for people to remember those who they loved, that have now passed, while bringing hope to the year ahead.

Come next year, the Lunar New Year will be marked with the Year of the Snake.



## Looking ahead

### ☺ March

- 19 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 22 Fruju Friday
- 25 Senior Rock Climbing (first session)
- 26 PTA Annual Meeting 7.30pm
- 29 Good Friday – school closed

### ☺ April

- 1 Easter Monday – school closed
- 2 Easter Tuesday - school closed
- 3 ANZAC Poppies on sale
- 3 Senior Rock Climbing (last session)
- 7 Daylight Savings Ends
- 11 PTA Mufti Day
- 12 End of Term One
- 29 Start of Term Two

## 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.



*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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