



The Owairoa Primary

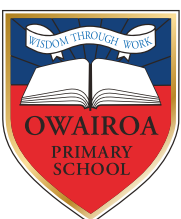
# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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Issue No 3, 10th April 2024

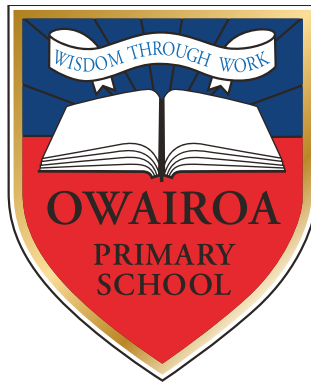


**Owairoa Primary School**, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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

**Phone** 0064 9 538 0060 **Email** officemanager@owairoa.school.nz

**www.owairoa.school.nz**



## Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we reach the end of Term One, it is certainly a time to reflect and celebrate the busy term it has been, filled with new starts, settling into sound classroom routines and our students making great strides with their learning.

Our campus continues to be abuzz with activity, with many capital works renovation projects underway. These improvements will continue to enhance the wonderful learning environment for our students. In addition to our focus on academics, we have had numerous Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) trips and sporting events throughout the term, providing valuable opportunities for experiential learning and character building.

I am delighted to see the progress our students are making in their learning journeys. Our classrooms continue to be vibrant spaces of engagement, with students showing enthusiasm both academically and socially.

I am also proud to share that we received positive feedback from the Education Review Office during their visit to our school this term. Their reassurance that we are a top-performing school is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday break. I look forward to continuing our journey together in the upcoming term.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"

- Johann Hossain
- Oktay Cicek
- Lucas Huang
- Milari Patricio
- Trisha Mular
- Andrew He
- Issei Sakai
- Mitsuki Kai



## Memorable Visit from the Minister of Education

We had the honour of hosting Hon. Erica Stanford, Minister of Education and Minister of Immigration on her first official visit to Owhairoa Primary School on Wednesday 3rd April.

During her visit, Hon. Stanford met with our Principal and Senior Leadership Team where we showcased our reputation for Excellence in Education and emphasised the strong sense of pride that permeates throughout our school, as well as the family ethos that we so proudly promote.

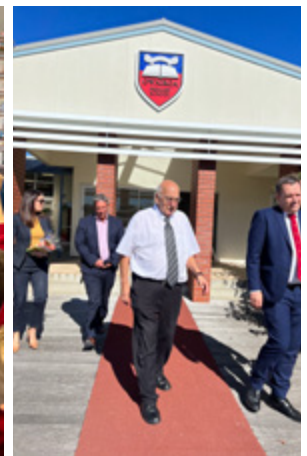
One of the highlights of the discussion was sharing about our Education Review Office (ERO)

visits and the positive outcomes that have resulted from their recent evaluation. Another key aspect we celebrated was the implementation of the 'One Hour a Day' initiative, focusing on reading, writing, and maths.

We also discussed pressing challenges facing our education system, many of which directly impact our school, including the growing demand for learning support and the strain this places on resources and staffing. Attendance rates and the shortfalls of funding for Teacher Aides were also identified as areas requiring urgent attention as well as discussing the general staffing crisis looming over the education sector.

After the formal discussions, Hon. Stanford was invited to join a tour of our school campus, where we took great pride in showing her our successful building projects, including our impressive 18 classroom block.

Hon. Stanford had the chance to participate in a science lesson with Room G6, where she eagerly looked through a microscope at plant cells, before quizzing the students on their recent learning of the Solar System.



We were pleased to receive the following letter from Hon. Erica Stanford, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to visit our school. We are grateful for her dedication to providing the best possible educational opportunities in her role as Minister of Education.

## Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education  
Minister of Immigration



8 APR 2024

Alan McIntyre  
Principal  
Owairoa Primary School

Ref: ESC1984

[Principal@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:Principal@owairoa.school.nz)

Tēnā koe Alan

I'm writing to thank you for hosting me at your school on 3 April 2024, and in particular for you and your leadership team taking the time to give me a tour of the school. I was delighted to meet with your international parent class and to see how international students enrich your school. I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak with your staff and thank them for giving up their morning teatime.

I enjoyed talking with students learning about science and was impressed with their knowledge of the solar system. It was great to see students so engaged and excited about science being taught by excellent teachers.

I also appreciate you sharing your concerns about things in the system that aren't working well, including learning support, transience and attendance, support for English language learners and attracting beginning teachers to Auckland schools.

Thank you again for a very enjoyable visit, and please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erica Stanford'.

Hon Erica Stanford  
Minister of Education



**EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE**  
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

The Education Review Office (ERO) is the New Zealand Government Department that reviews and reports on the performance schools.

ERO maintains a regular review programme to evaluate and report on the education and care of students by supporting each school in a process of continuous improvement, using a developmental evaluation that reflects individual schools' context, culture and needs.

Our ERO 'Evaluation Partner' Mr Robert Minahan has been working with our Principal, Senior Leadership Team and the School Board, undertaking a variety of observations and working with us including such things as:

- Review of our Strategic Intent Document 2024 ~ 2025
- Classroom visits
- Review of our Assessment data
- School Improvement Framework evidence
- Additional Board Assurance Statements and Self Audit checklists
- Analysis of our Annual Implementation Plan 2024
- Collaborative preparation of our School Profile Report
- Attendance review

This ongoing evaluation process is collaborative and connects with our school's strategic planning and reporting cycle as part of an ongoing improvement journey.

Our School Profile Report will become available early in Term Two

## Owairoa Girls Cricket Team Shines at Big Smash Fun Day

The Owairoa girls cricket team showcased their talent and enthusiasm at the recent Big Smash Fun Day held at Lloyd Elsmore Park. Despite the chilly and blustery conditions, punctuated by sporadic rain showers, the girls displayed remarkable resilience and spirit throughout the event.

The highlight of the day for the aspiring cricketers was the opportunity to rub shoulders with professional players who generously shared their insights and tips about the game. These interactions provided invaluable guidance and motivation for the young players as they navigated through the challenging matches. The photo below shows the Girls Cricket team with Skye Bowden from the Auckland Hearts and Marama Downes from the Northern Brave



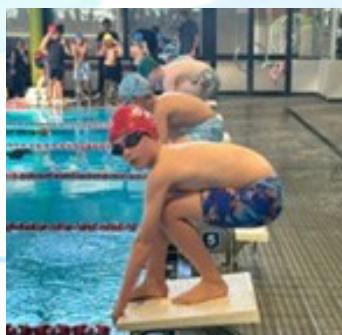
Participating in a total of four games, the Owairoa girls faced tough competition but emerged victorious in several instances, demonstrating their skill and determination on the field. The competitive nature of the games not only tested their abilities but also provided valuable learning experiences.

The Big Smash Fun Day, organised with the aim of promoting cricket among girls, served as a platform for the Owairoa team to showcase their passion for the sport while also contributing to its growth. By actively engaging in such events, these young athletes are not only honing their cricketing skills but also fostering a love for the game within their community.

As the day came to a close, the Owairoa girls left Lloyd Elsmore Park with a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie, reflecting on the memorable experiences shared and the valuable lessons learned. A special thanks to the parent helpers and supporters for help and encouragement.



## Too Hot for the Pool



The atmosphere was electric as Owairoa's young swimmers eagerly anticipated their moment to shine in the pool. The much-awaited HPPA swimming sports started off with the Championship Freestyle event. Several of our swimmers progressed to the final heats.

Following the freestyle events, our novice swimmers took to the water, once again impressing with their skill and determination. Amidst fierce competition, Owairoa proudly secured additional spots in the final heats, with a few of our swimmers getting podium spots.

As the day progressed, nine and ten-year-old swimmers showcased their talent in the Backstroke and Breaststroke events, claiming yet more podium positions for our school. However, it was the highly anticipated freestyle relays that truly stole the show. Amidst cheers and excitement, our relay teams delivered outstanding performances, with the three out of our four-team winning their heats. Unfortunately, due to time constraints we were not able to swim the final heats.

Such a successful event would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our parent helpers and staff. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the hosting school for the event and providing a platform for our learners to showcase their talents.

Ultimately, the true stars of the day were our learners, whose exceptional sportsmanship, and immaculate behaviour exemplified the values of Owairoa Primary School. Their commitment to excellence and teamwork is a testament to the spirit of R.I.S.E (Respect, Integrity, Safety, Excellence) that defines our school community and that is why we are the best school.



# Anzac Day

## OBSERVANCE

*On 25th April New Zealanders and Australians will commemorate Anzac Day to remember and pay tribute to the thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who did not return from the War.*

*"Lest we Forget" means we try to remember the sacrifice men and women have made in wars to protect their families and countries.*

*We have a Field of Remembrance set up beside the school flagpole, to honour New Zealanders who fell during the War. Placed in the field are thirty crosses that are a silent reminder of New Zealand's major contribution to freedom and the considerable sacrifice of what was then a very small nation.*

*The crosses commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice.*

*Owairoa Primary School will commemorate this important part of our New Zealand history, by holding an in-school Anzac Service for our Senior School students this Friday.*

*Poppies will continue to be available at the office counter until this Friday. All proceeds will go to the RSA.*

**"Lest we Forget"**

## Phones Away for the Day

Our School Board recently consulted with Parents regarding the implementation of the new Government regulation around the prohibition of cell phone in schools and all personal communication devices, including smart watches.

As discussed, the Government has introduced regulations that require all schools to have student phone rules in place by Term Two. The regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks.

Thank you to those parents who took the time to respond. Consultation feedback received was overwhelming in support of these new regulations.

The new "Phones away for the Day" regulation will come into effect at our school as from Monday 29th April 2024.



## Classroom Upgrade Progress



Excitement continues daily as our staff and students watch the steady progress of our Room 10-13 classroom renovation project. With each passing week, significant milestones are achieved, bringing us closer to the completion of this transformative project.

The development upgrade is progressing well, meeting the projected timeline. In the past week the aluminium joinery has been installed, marking a significant step towards modernising our learning spaces.

Behind the scenes, essential electrical services have now been connected, ensuring that our classrooms will be equipped with the latest technological advancements to support innovative teaching and learning practices.

As the project continues to unfold, rigorous council inspections are ongoing, ensuring that our renovation project adheres to the highest standards of safety and quality assurance.

The anticipated completion date is set for the end of May 2024, when we eagerly await the unveiling of our newly renovated classrooms.





# School Planning and Reporting

Under the Education and Training Act 2020, a new planning and reporting framework came into effect on 1 January 2023. The new regulations are designed to help focus schools on continuously improving their planning and reporting practices to deliver equitable and excellent outcomes for all learners.

Through consultation with our various stakeholders, we have developed the following:

- a **2 year Strategic Plan** that sets out how we will meet the primary objectives set out in the Education and Training Act 2020
- an **Annual Implementation Plan** that sets annual targets and actions for working towards our strategic goals
- an **Annual Report** that reports on our school's progress and finances.

A copy of these documents can be found on our school website. [www.owairoa.school.nz/our-school](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/our-school)



OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

2024 - 2025

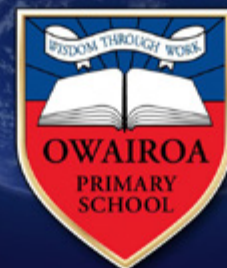


OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



2024



## ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2022

## AED Fundraiser



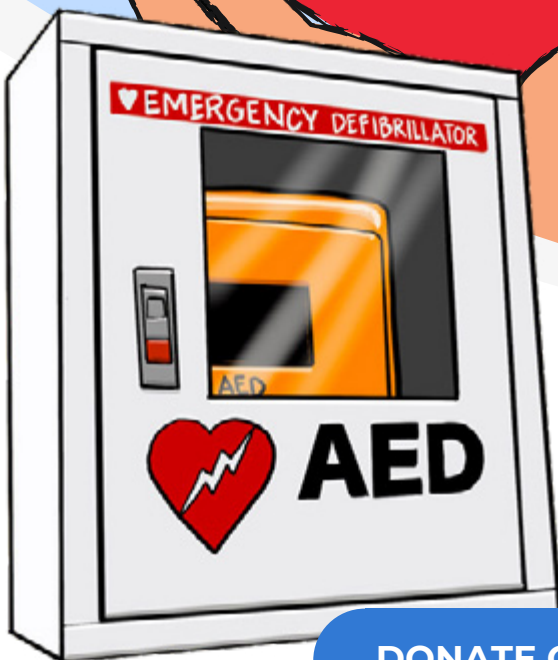
# NEW UPDATE

We are seeking your help to **raise funds via Kindo** to install an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** at our Nelson Street gate.

This emergency medical device **will cost \$2,978.50** and **will be available 24 hours** for anyone in our community to respond to cases of sudden cardiac emergency.

Please donate via Kindo for this great cause.

We are on a mission to make our school and local community as safe as possible, and we need your help!



**\$227**  
raised so far

**DONATE ON KINDO NOW**

Join us by protecting the hearts of the Owairoa community

# School Board News

The year is off to a great start. We have welcomed our new Deputy Principal, Mr Shane Devery who has come to us with a wealth of experience from other schools, including as a DP. He is already making an impact within the Senior Leadership Team and around the school. If you see him around, I'm sure he'll be happy to chat about his new role.

The remedial works on Block 2 have started. Unfortunately, as is normal with these types of projects, it's running behind schedule. We're looking forward to when our teachers and students can get into this upgraded space.

We were absolutely delighted in the recent PTA Give it a Go Day. We are so proud of the PTA and their efforts to think of new and exciting things. This was a wonderful day which was a great way to connect with the community. The range of clubs on offer was incredible, with kids getting to really try out some neat things. Our teachers, PTA and parents put together some of the highlights of the day in the Haunted House, Tombola and bouncy castles. Thanks to all our volunteers for helping make this day such a success and in particular to our wonderful PTA.

Our new Strategic Plan brings our vision to life; to lead children along the pathway which prepares them for the future and challenges them to continually strive for new horizons. This updated version focusses on our three goals, which are:

- 1. Responsive Curriculum**
- 2. Professional Capability**
- 3. Community Connections**

If you would like to learn more about the plan, you can read it in full here:

<https://www.owairoa.school.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Strategic-Plan-Initiatives-2024-2025.pdf>

We have had a change in our School Board. To ensure we have continuity and continue to grow the capability on our Board, we have elected a new Presiding Member (commonly known as the Chairperson) Shaun Davidson. Shaun brings a wealth of skills in people management, strategy and problem solving and we're excited to have him in this role. Emma Nasimi is now the Deputy Presiding Member. We also welcome a new Staff Representative to our Board, Sally Taka. She is already contributing greatly by bringing her breadth of experience alongside her deep empathy and understanding of people.

Wishing you all a fantastic end of term as we mourn less sunshine but look forward to winter sports starting.



# Staff Spotlight



**Debbie Job**

Year 5 and 6

My name is Debbie Job and I have the pleasure of teaching the Year 5 and 6 students. With 14 years of teaching experience, I'm proud to have spent the past two years at Owairoa Primary School.

I was born in South Africa and in 2019, my family and I embarked on a new adventure, immigrating to New Zealand. As a Christian, I find strength and guidance in my faith. I'm happily married with two teenage sons who keep life exciting. We're all outdoor enthusiasts, finding thrills in dirt biking and enjoying time at the beach. During quieter moments, I unwind with a good book, lose myself in movies and cherish peaceful walks with our two little dogs.

Teaching, for me, is about making a meaningful difference in children's lives. I strive to uncover the unique potential within each student and foster an environment where learning is not just engaging but also fun. Respect and kindness are at the forefront of my interactions with them. Nothing beats the satisfaction of watching their faces light up with excitement when they finally grasp a new concept. It's those moments of discovery and growth that fuel my passion for education.



## Reporting to Parents

Parent Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for early in Term Two on **Wednesday 15th May and Thursday 16th May**. Please note the school day for students will finish early at 12.30 pm on the **Wednesday 15th May**.

These conferences will be a chance for Students, Parents and Teachers to meet to formally discuss the learning progress, needs and wellbeing of your child.

Further details including conference bookings will be sent to you in a separate notice at the start of Term Two.



## PTA AGM

Thank you to those parents who attended our PTA Wine and Cheese evening and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 26th March. The evening provided a great opportunity for us to discuss the role of the PTA within our school community, as well as the many benefits of joining and supporting our efforts.

During the event, we had discussed the functions of the PTA and the various ways parents can get involved to support our fundraising initiatives. We also enjoyed games, prizes and great conversations. It was a fun night for all who participated.

The Owaïroa Primary School PTA team comprises dedicated parents who generously volunteer their time and energy to enhance the experiences of our students. They are passionate about supporting our school and working collaboratively to achieve our shared goals. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm.

We are pleased to announce the newly elected members of our PTA committee:

**Chairperson: Nick Roberts**

**Secretary: Esther Gilchrist**

**Treasurer: Dana Williams**

We congratulate them on their appointments and look forward to their valuable contributions in leading our PTA forward for the year ahead.

Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 7th May at 7:30 pm in the Staffroom**. We encourage all parents to attend and actively participate as we discuss upcoming events and initiatives to support our students and school community.



# GIVE IT A GO!

On Saturday 24th February, the sun shone as the Owairoa Primary School PTA ran their first Give it a Go Day.

The premise of this day was to make accessible all the amazing sports groups and hobby organisations in our local area, to families, not only in our school whanau, but to the wider Howick community.

There were 23 clubs that came along and showcased their activities, alongside a fun zone, spookers room, cake room and sausage sizzles.

The feedback from these clubs and parent helpers on the day and those who attended the exciting event was mostly positive, saying that it was a well organised event, the kids all seemed to have a great time, and that some of clubs got sign ups on the day.

At the end of the day once all expenses had been paid, the PTA made a profit of over \$14,000. These funds have gone towards the 2024 contribution to the school playground.

Watch this space for exciting PTA events coming over the next few months. If you are interested in getting involved in the school PTA please email [pta@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:pta@owairoa.school.nz)











## Junior Blog Learning in Science



Is it rocky? Is it the smallest? Is it the largest? Is it one of the gas giants? Extremely cold or extremely hot? If you want an answer to these questions or any other questions you might have about the planets in our solar system you need to ask the Year 2 learners.

Our focus in Science this term was the Sun and our Solar System and the students were fascinated and deeply engaged in learning. It was extremely rewarding to observe the student's eagerness to discover the mysteries and the enormity of space.

The students are now better prepared to understand the importance of our star the sun and the way it influences life on earth, they can explain the succession of the seasons and how day and night happen, how they can use the sun's position in the sky to measure time and can talk about the conditions that made life on earth possible.

Their vocabulary include now words like orbit, rotation, tilted, gravity, and many other interesting topic related terms.

To top up the excitement of learning, in Term One we were lucky enough to have 29 days in February. Yes, it was a Leap Year. If you don't know what it means and why we have leap years ask a Year 2 student. I am sure that they will be happy to explain.

## Middle Blog Seas the Day! Adventures in Sea Week



From 2nd to the 10th March, Middle School embarked on an exciting journey into the depths of the ocean with our Sea Week celebration! Sea Week provides an opportunity for us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics, and inhabitants better.

This year's theme was "Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au – I am the sea, the sea is me". Middle School were well prepared with activities centred around marine life.

One of the highlights was creating underwater silhouettes of their favourite sea creatures. Learners crafted stunning artwork using pastel, dye, and paint. Learners put their creativity to work by designing a sea-themed bulletin board in the shared space outside M8. With vibrant colour and sea animal designs, the shared space transformed into an underwater paradise, captivating the attention of everyone who passed by.

Some Middle School learners explored the tales of Tangaroa and then crafted their own narratives and character descriptions. As they read their stories aloud, it was clear that Sea Week had sparked their imagination and ignited a passion for the ocean. Through these activities, learners gained a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the sea, and the creatures that call it home. M5 did research about their favourite sea creatures and published the report on a flip chart.

Sea Week at Owairoa Primary School was an enriching experience that widened our understanding of the ocean's importance in our lives. Through engaging activities in Writing, Maths, Art, Reading, and ISTEAM, we not only learned about the diverse marine life but also developed a sense of responsibility towards our oceans

## Senior Blog

# Welcome to Sea Week

This year's theme was – “Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au – I am the sea, the sea is me”



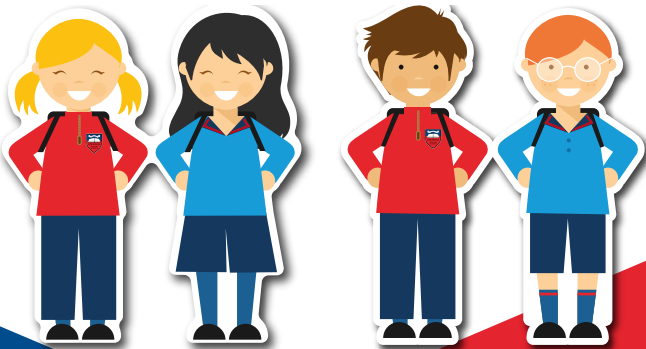
Over the last two weeks, we have been delving into our oceans (virtually of course), exploring the incredible Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, without getting your feet wet.

This video featuring Steve and Riley Hattaway from Young Ocean Explorer shows incredible footage of the ocean right on our doorstep.

<https://www.youngoceanexplorers.com/yoe/video/996166153015#cplayer>

There was a lot of discussion about how things have changed over time. As well as wonder and awe at seeing these animals in their natural habitat.

Our learners got creative and arty with Orca's, and we also learnt how the Water cycle affects the ocean.



## Uniform Transition

As the cooler weather arrives, it is almost time for students to switch to their winter uniform options. This includes long-sleeved polo shirts, socks with black leather and the option of wearing the long pants. The wearing of the school hat is relaxed during Term Two and Three during the winter months.

A two week transition period will start from Monday 20th May. Full winter uniform is expected to be worn as from Tuesday 4th June (the first day back after Kings Birthday Weekend).

Brand new uniform items can be purchased from Argyle, our school uniform supplier, who courier items directly to your home. Alternatively, 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](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform)



## Looking ahead

### ☺ April

- 11 Junior Celebration of Learning Assembly 9am
- 12 ANZAC Day Service – Senior Students
- 12 End of Term Two
- 29 Start of Term Three
- 30 School Board Meeting 7pm

### ☺ May

- 7 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 20 Winter Uniform Transition Begins
- 15 Parent Teacher Conferences 1-8pm. Students dismissed at 12.30pm
- 16 Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30-6.30pm

### ☺ July

- 5 End of Term Two

*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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