



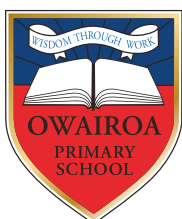
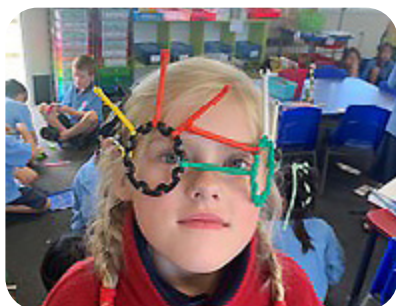
The Owairoa Primary

School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 4, 8th May 2024

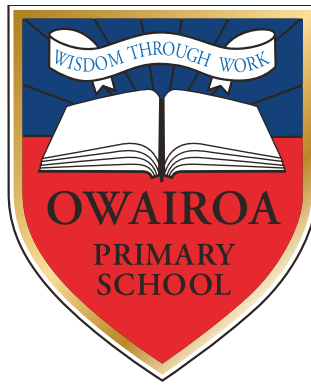


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term Two is already off to a fantastic start and it was great to see the enthusiasm and energy as students returned to their classrooms last Monday.

We have a full calendar of events planned for the next 10 weeks, filled with exciting activities, educational initiatives, and memorable experiences for our students. There continues to be occasions for you to connect with our school community and be actively involved in your child's educational journey. We are all looking forward to a busy and rewarding term ahead.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all parents to join us for our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences next week. These meetings are an invaluable opportunity for us to come together, share insights, and collaborate in supporting your child's growth and development. Your participation is essential to help foster the strong partnership between home and school, which plays a pivotal role in your child's educational success.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Liam Jones
- Ovee Belambe
- Tara Willfroth
- Gurekam Singh
- Marlie Morrow
- Arron Thushyanthan
- Olivia Wu
- Isabella Sinovcic
- Ehtaj Sroay
- Taylor Stanley
- Deim Stanley
- Sion Truong
- Ethan Wang
- Rochelle Dastoor
- Andrew He
- Devin Amarawansa
- Mason Adams
- Danee Li
- Anna Li

Senior School Students Scale New Heights

As the end of Term 1 approached, Senior School students from Teams 5 and 6 embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Extreme Edge in Panmure. Rock climbing awaited them, promising thrills, challenges, and the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones.

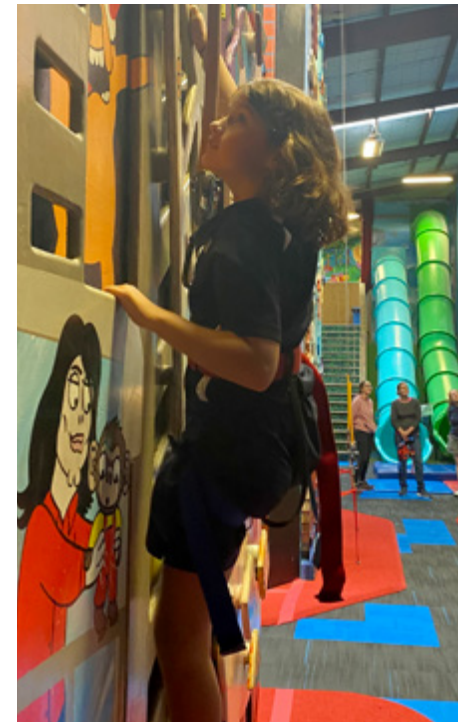
The journey began with a bus ride filled with excitement and nerves. Some students were buzzing with anticipation, while others were grappling with apprehension.

Arriving at Extreme Edge, the students were greeted by towering walls, each beckoning them to conquer it. For many, this was their first time rock climbing, and the initial moments were a mix of nerves and determination. Strapping on their harnesses, they began their ascent, supported by their peers and the encouraging atmosphere. With each step up the wall, fears were confronted, and comfort zones were left behind.

By the end of the day, exhaustion had set in, and some students even fell asleep on the bus ride home. But their faces still glowed with the satisfaction of achievement. Some had reached heights they never thought possible, while others had conquered personal fears.

The rock climbing excursion not only provided a day of adventure but had also instilled in these students a newfound confidence and resilience. Thank you to the PTA who subsidised the transport costs, and to the parents who helped out, a huge thank you too. Your support made this school trip possible and contributed to the growth and memories of our students.





Celebration of Learning - Term 1



Our Junior School were pleased to be finishing Term 1 by inviting parents from performing classes to our Celebration of Learning assembly. There was a broad range of items shown from Rooms 2, 3, 6, G1 and G4.

Room 3 showed the cultural diversity in their classroom by singing the 'Hello' song with a variety of languages from around the world including the countries of many of the learners.

Year 2 have been learning about Space in Science so Room G4 shared their knowledge about the planets and showcased some of their art to go along with the facts.

Room 2 shared their fabulous orca whale artwork they had completed during Sea Week. They recited a poem to show what they had learned.

The Junior school have had a focus on sun protection during Term 1 and Room G1 covered this beautifully with their knowledge on how to protect ourselves from the sun. They all looked super cool wearing sunglasses for their dance. Room 6 have been learning new Maori vocabulary and integrated this with information about the tui bird. They made poi and performed a waiata.

The event was a celebration of their hard work and dedication throughout the term. The enthusiasm and confidence shown was outstanding especially for those learners who may never have performed in front of an audience before. Congratulations to our learners who received a Principal Certificate for showing our school RISE values.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the assembly and show their support for our students. We look forward to seeing the other classes share as the year progresses.





PTA - Beats by Bingo Event

Save the date

FRI 24 MAY

BEATS BY BINGO

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO



Guangzhou Delegation Visits Owairoa



Last week we had the honour of welcoming a delegation of Government Officials from Guangzhou, China to our school for the afternoon.

The cities of Guangzhou, Auckland and Los Angeles are part of the Tripartite Economic Alliance, which is based on existing strong sister-city relationships. It focuses on increasing trade and investment between the three cities and their surrounding areas, and strengthening political and civic engagement.

The visit was to reinforce our successful sister-school relationship with Chaotian Elementary School in Guangzhou, with the hopes of increasing engagement and collaboration between our two schools in this post-Covid era.



Pataka Kai Community Pantry

Owairoa Primary School is proud to support our community in many ways. One of our special contributions to the community is the Pataka Kai pantry located on Wellington Street, close to the pedestrian crossing entry on Wellington Street.

The Pataka Kai is a community pantry initiative where those of us who might be struggling to put food on the table can access food donations. With the cost of living and especially food constantly going up many people find themselves with little money left over to provide their families with three meals a day.

Each week a class is responsible for food donations, families will be emailed and if you are in a position to donate a food item it can be delivered to Mrs Taka's office (next to Room 4) where the Pataka Kai monitors will collect it and place it in the pantry. You are of course welcome to contribute at any time.

We ask that food donations are nonperishable and within their use by date. Other items of donation could be toothbrushes, toothpaste and sanitary items. Please do not place used clothes, books or rubbish in the Pataka Kai.

This initiative also provides positive teaching and learning for our students. It encompasses our Owairoa RISE values and helps children understand concepts around gratitude and community service.



Young Innovators Inventors Fair 2024



This Term we are encouraging our learners to become young innovators, working towards developing, creating and designing an invention or outcome that will help to solve a real-life problem. Students will be working either as a class, in small groups or individually, using a theme/inquiry that they have chosen in their classroom.

The inventions will then be proudly exhibited in our school hall at our 2024 EXPO Young Innovators: Inventors Fair on Tuesday 2nd July from 3pm - 7pm. Families will be invited to come and view the many varied and fabulous inventions on display.

A separate notice will be sent home in the coming weeks, with more information of what to expect and how you can support your child to invent a great inquiry that can solve a real-life problem.



Anzac Assembly

Lest We Forget



The final day of Term 1 saw Senior School students and staff gathering around our school's flagpole and white crosses on display. Some proudly wore a red poppy on their uniform, others were carrying hand-made poppies which they had created in class.

All were there to attend the ANZAC Day Commemoration Assembly, which is held at Owairoa Primary School annually around ANZAC day. Students had all been learning about the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and the events that took place in Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.

House Leaders respectfully led the somber event, which included the readings of a number of significant texts. They reminded the attendees of the reasons why we commemorate ANZAC Day and explained the significance of poppies. The poems "In Flanders' Fields", as well as the "For the Fallen", were listened to in respectful silence. All students had memorised the words to "The Flag", which they recited in unison. Finally, we watched as the NZ Flag was raised, which was followed by a minute's silence.

Learning about what has happened in years gone by, helps us to understand and appreciate the world that we live in presently.

Lest We Forget.



Fundraising Update



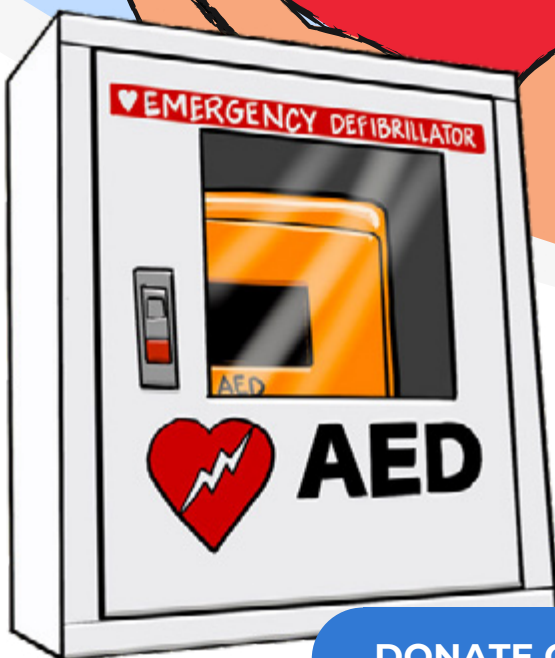
NEW UPDATE

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!



\$594
raised so far

DONATE ON KINDO NOW

Join us by protecting the hearts of the Owairoa community

“I can’t sing”

A long time ago, one of my students said to me “I can’t sing.”, and I asked them “How do you know?” He said his parents told him that, and it made me realise that we were all singers and dancers once upon a time, but we just stopped. Whether it is because of our own insecurities or others’ harsh feedback, most of us eventually decide we are not good enough to make music. Based on my study of Orff Music and Dance Education at Mozarteum in Salzburg, my goal in life is to break down this barrier and turn the people I meet back into the musicians they once were.

In our Owhiroa Primary School music specialist classes, the overriding philosophy is that everyone can enjoy making music together, no matter whether they are an absolute beginner or a professional musician. We begin by using body percussion to develop our understanding of rhythm as the fundamental element of music creation. After that, students explore percussion and melodic instruments including xylophone; metallophone; piano; marimba to compose their own music. Throughout this process, the aim is for students to compose music together with joy so that they realise how easy it is to make their own music and rhythm.

After each student has created their own short piece based on a rhythm, we end our classes by coming together and playing our pieces in sequence to enjoy each other’s creativity and see how music can be combined into an integrated piece. The goal for Term 2 is for students to form groups and create music together, with each student taking on a different role in the group. When students perform with a partner or in a small group, they develop their social skills and learn with and from each other.

The music specialist classes foster creativity and confidence through letting students express themselves freely without the fear of making mistakes. Everyone should come away feeling positive about the experience, assured about their musical abilities, and more willing to perform in a supportive environment in front of their peers. Most importantly, we aim not for perfection, but for students to enjoy creating music together. In that sense, I am proud to say that this year’s music specialist classes are a resounding success.

Mrs Mia Hirschfeld, Music Specialist







HOUSE LEADERS 2024



Congratulations to the sixteen students who were nominated and voted in as House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders for 2024. They have an important role, leading their respective school house teams and acting as positive role models for all the students.

The House Leaders for 2024 are:

<p>HOUSE LEADERS</p> <p>Nathan Ward Room M13 Karis Gin Room M12</p> <p>DEPUTY LEADERS</p> <p>Rylee Hughes Room M14 Miya Chen Room 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AOTEA </p>	<p>HOUSE LEADERS</p> <p>Jace Yip Room M14 Rubiana Gordon Room M17</p> <p>DEPUTY LEADERS</p> <p>Michael Bell Room M15 Mila Lee Room 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOKOMARU </p>
<p>HOUSE LEADERS</p> <p>Max Bester Room M12 Isla Aucamp Room M24</p> <p>DEPUTY LEADERS</p> <p>Zach Rossiter Room M13 Ariel Campbell Room M14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TAKITIMU </p>	<p>HOUSE LEADERS</p> <p>Blake Tolson Room M13 Charlie Yeoman Room M17</p> <p>DEPUTY LEADERS</p> <p>Mason van Rooyen Room M16 Cissy Guo Room M12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TAINUI </p>

Staff Spotlight



My name is Samantha Wood and I am a Year 1 Teacher in Room 3. I have been teaching for 11 years and this is my 3rd year at Owairoa Primary School.

I am originally from South Africa and have been living in New Zealand with my husband and 2 beautiful children for almost 5 years. Skyler is 5 years old and in Year 1 at Owairoa and Asher is 2 years old and attends a local early learning centre. My family is at my hearts centre, and we love spending all of our time together. I am an avid reader and I love cosying up with a cup of coffee and a good book.

I am very passionate about educating the children of our future and equipping them for success. The cultural diversity of Owairoa is what has made me love my job even more, as I am able to meet so many diverse learners and their families and get to learn about their cultures, home countries and traditions.

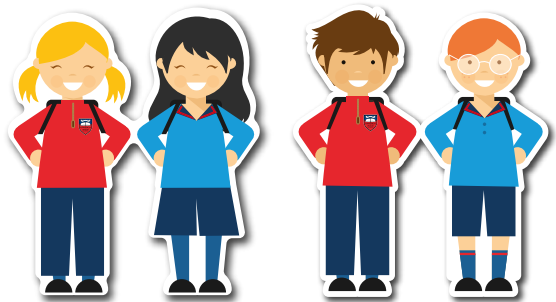


Samantha Wood

Year 1

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 shoes 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, open on Thursday afternoons from 2.45pm to 3.15pm and Friday mornings from 8.30am to 8.45am.

For more information on both of these options, please head to our school website

www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform

CLOSED for *Teacher Only Day*

Just a reminder that **school will be closed on Friday 31st May** for a Teacher Only Day. School is also closed on the following **Monday 3rd June** for Kings Birthday public holiday.

Our Teacher Only Day will allow time for teaching staff to access and become conversant with the new online Curriculum Hub and to make a start with the planning and implementation of the new Structured Literacy approach, just announced by the government.

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

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle was the theme of the entertaining Food Scrap show the Junior School had the privilege of watching during Week 10 of Term 1. The show was aimed at educating the learners about the new Food Scrap bins that have been rolling out in our community and all-over New Zealand, where Auckland Council want our rukenga kai to turn into clean energy and liquid fertiliser to grow more kai. The Junior School enjoyed learning about reducing our food waste and recycling to ensure our landfills are used for the correct purpose.

Freddy the Food Scrap fairy went on a journey to locate a missing sandwich that had been dumped into the incorrect bin and found its way to the landfill. Her adventure was filled with thrills, excitement and in the end, friendship. Through this story, the learners were able to learn what goes into each bin and how to sort out the different items. The learners participated in the show by identifying the different items that needed to either be recycled, reused or placed into the Food Scrap bin.

Owairoa became a Green Gold Enviro School in 2016 and we endeavour to educate our tamariki about reducing waste, reusing items and recycling different materials. This will be leading into our ISTEAM and Science programme where we will be exploring the Material World. We as a team, empower the learners to be Tidy Kiwi's by picking up litter around our school, having a waste-free lunch and keeping their classrooms clean by using our recycling bins

Middle Blog

Planet Earth and Beyond



Learners in the Middle School have been enjoying getting underway with their ISTEAM learning. Our science focus for Terms 1 & 2 is Planet Earth and Beyond.

All classes have been learning about the Sun, the Moon, other planets, tides, gravity, seasons and solar eclipses. Next term, they will focus on rocks. Many classes have taken their science learning into their ISTEAM projects.

Room M3 have created informational posters about the planets in our Solar System. They have also been developing Google Slides presentations around their chosen planet, which have been presented to the class. Mrs Leslie worked with the learners on their oral language in preparation for sharing in front of their classmates.

Room M2 has been exploring the concept of 'space junk' in many ways. They have explored many shared texts around this concept, as well as written creative haiku's around the space junk problem.

Room M2 worked with Miss Hewlett to develop an eye-catching diorama of the space junk issue. These started with creating paper mâché representations of Earth. The final pieces are still in progress!

Senior Blog

Kura Kino Kē! Cool Schools!



In the Senior School we will be running a Peer Mediation Programme done through The Peace Foundation. This programme promotes peaceful conflict resolution in primary schools throughout Aotearoa. This will help our children build positive, caring, and safe relationships with others, especially in times of conflict during morning tea and lunch times.

There are some very excited Year 6's who will be part of this programme, beginning Term 2. These children will support the duty teachers and help our students manage everyday issues that come up in the playground.

When this programme is implemented, many schools experience a reduction in conflict and an increase in students understanding that some behaviours are not acceptable. This aligns with all the Key Competencies, especially Managing Self and Relating to Others.

Training started in Week 9 and was completed in Week 10. These children will be getting a badge and a jacket to make them stand out in the crowd. We also have the Mediation Tardis where the mediators will make their base.

We can't wait to start, and the children are raring to go.

Reporting to Parents

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for

**Wednesday 15th May and
Thursday 16th May.**

Please note the school day for **students will finish early at 12.30 pm on the Wednesday.**

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.

A separate notice has been sent home with booking details. For further assistance with your booking, please contact our School Office.



Looking ahead

☺ May

15 Parent Teacher Conferences 1-8pm.
Students dismissed at 12.30pm

16 Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30-6.30pm

17 Photolife Class and Portrait photos

20 Photolife Class, Portrait and Team photos

20 Winter Uniform Transition Begins

21 Photolife Sibling photos

22 National Simultaneous Storytelling 2pm

24 PTA Beats by Bingo

28 School Board Meeting 7pm

☺ 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

Enrol via our website or pop into our programme
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For all questions or queries please contact our office or the programme

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