



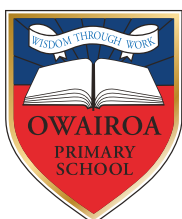
The Owairoa Primary

# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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Issue No 8, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024



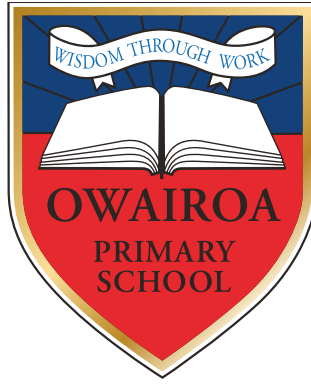
**Owairoa Primary School**, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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## Dear Parents and Caregivers

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through Term Three. With spring just around the corner, our staff and students are enjoying all of the events both inside and outside the classroom this term.

Thank you to those parents who came out to support our International Day last week. We had a fantastic turnout for what has become a memorable annual event on our school calendar. It was a proud moment for all of us as we celebrated the 63 different cultures represented at Owairoa Primary School. The day was a huge success, with students and staff alike enjoying the parade around our campus, the cultural displays as part of the concert, followed by the delicious Kiwi lunch.

Looking ahead for the remainder of Term Three, our school calendar is packed with exciting events, including the much-anticipated school production, Alice the Musical, next week. Don't miss out on watching this outstanding performance by our talented senior students. Be sure to purchase your tickets via Kindo to secure your spot in the audience.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"



- Charlotte May
- Tevita Mapili
- Murtaza Haidari
- Te Kaeo Monaghan
- Shelby Simpson
- Enaya Senarathna
- Kaylie Lange-Smith
- Heath Frigault
- Malachai Brown
- Leyton Brown
- Ayesh Imiya Mohottige

## Term Four Teacher Only Day

We have received advanced notice that the Ministry of Education has allocated us a Teacher Only Day on **Friday 25th October 2024 (Week 2 of Term Four)**.

Our Teaching Staff are looking forward to this day of professional development, where we will look at the latest curriculum updates around the Science of Learning.

Please note this date in your diary, as school will be closed for all students on this day.





# An 'Out of This World' Experience

Our Year 3 and 4 classes recently enjoyed an engaging trip to the Stardome Observatory and Planetarium on July 30th and 31st, accompanied by Parent helpers and Teachers. Learners eagerly boarded buses each day for their cosmic adventure and were divided into sessions for a varied experience.

At the Stardome, they explored fundamental astronomy concepts, including the vastness of space and the importance of earth. Interactive activities, like the Space Kahoot, helped reinforce these ideas. The Space Gallery and Exhibits captivated learners with hands-on displays that connected theory to reality. The highlight was the immersive 360-degree planetarium show, offering a stunning view of space travel.

Additionally, learners explored One Tree Hill, enjoying nature and reflecting on their surroundings. Overall, the trip successfully expanded learners' knowledge of astronomy and emphasised the significance of our planet.







## KIDS TALK ABOUT BOOKS



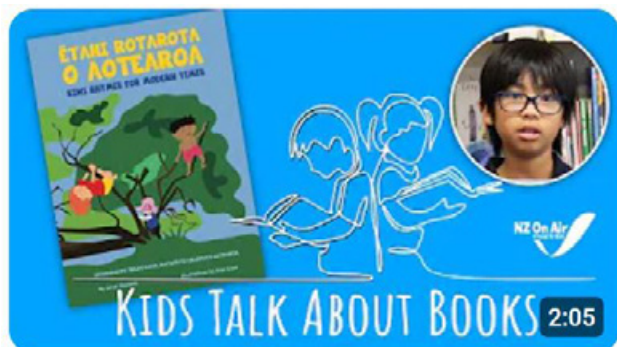
Some of our Senior Students were invited by work with Suzy Cato and share some online Book Reviews which have been uploaded to her YouTube channel – Kids Talk About Books.

"Ever read a good book and want to share the best bits about it with your friends, so they know how good the book is? That's what this channel is for! Kids talking about books they've just read and think you'll enjoy reading them too!"

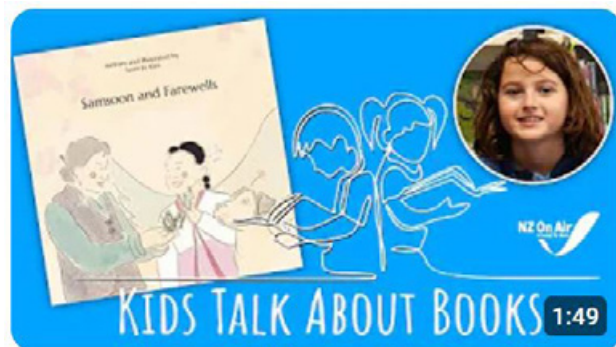
Watch the next two book reviews by our amazing young Owairoa Primary School readers here:

Holly's book review of **Samsoon and Farewells**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdedrHmHDnE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdedrHmHDnE)

Nathan's book review of **Kiwi Rhymes for Modern Times**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGN6BUKXo2U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGN6BUKXo2U)



Ētahi Rotarota o Aotearoa, Kiwi Rhymes for Modern Times - Kids Talk About Books



Samsoon and Farewells - Kids Talk About Books



## Cross Country Success at Interschool Event



We were blessed with a glorious day as our Year 4, 5, and 6 learners took part in the Interschool Cross Country event. Many of our students showed tremendous dedication, putting in countless hours of practice during the Term 2 holidays to prepare for the race.

It was heartening to see various schools come together, with each participant giving their all. The course proved to be challenging, but our learners demonstrated remarkable character and determination by persevering to the finish line—qualities that are the cornerstone of success in life.

While the thrill of competition and winning is undeniable, the true value lies in finishing the race and pushing through tough challenges. This allows us to have personal growth and resilience.

A huge thank you to all who volunteered their time to marshal the course and take care for our learners. The event was marked by nail-biting finishes and great sportsmanship. Once again Owairoa learners showed why our school is the number one school, with our display of great behaviour and manners.





# Our Visit to Ambury Farm



In Week 3, our Junior School students had the opportunity to visit Ambury Farm as part of our Term 3 inquiry of 'Changes of State'. It was a great day out filled with fun and learning. Even the weather was on our side with crisp sunny days for most classes.

The students enjoyed feeding the sheep and a few cheeky goats. They weren't so keen on holding the sheep's wool once they watched Farmer Amy shear the sheep's backside! A firm favourite was a close-up look at the farm's friendly pigs and adorable 4-day old piglets, and their neighbours the rabbit family.

They were fascinated to watch a cow being milked both by hand and machine, learning the process of milk from cow to supermarket. A few classes continued the learning process by making butter with the cream once back at school. Feeding the chickens was a highlight, and the students embraced the farm life, with a few students saying they would love to be a farmer when they grow up.

The visits with the animals concluded with a self-guided walk around the farm to see the stunning local scenery of the horse paddocks and foreshore. I am sure the students will all be asking for a return visit, especially with the lamb feeding coming up in the next few weeks.

Our Education Outside the Classroom trips could not happen without the help of our parent volunteers and financial support from the PTA, so once again thank you to those people for your support.







## Grandparents Afternoon – Save the Date

Calling all Grandparents from local, national and overseas to remind you of the most special afternoon of the year – our annual Grandparents Afternoon.

Save the date:

**Thursday 24th October 2024,  
from 1pm to 3pm.**

More details about this exciting event will be coming home in a separate notice later next week.



## Alice the Musical

Our Senior Students have been busy rehearsing and are excited to present their performance of "Alice the Musical" next week.

With limited tickets still available for each of the three performances, come along and enjoy an evening watching our talented performers on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7pm** next week in our school hall.

**Limited number of tickets left – order through KINDO now to avoid missing out.**

# OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Senior School presents

## ALICE THE MUSICAL

By Mike Smith and Keith Dawson

**3-5** September  
7:00 pm

*Limited tickets available on Kindo now*





# Movie Magic: A Night to Remember at Owairoa



Last week our school hall was transformed into a cozy cinema as families waited for the much-anticipated PTA movie night. The two sessions were an exciting experience for everyone who came along, with Despicable Me as the feature movie for the event.

As the movie started, the room was filled with the delicious aroma of popcorn, cookies, fizzy drinks, and ice blocks. Students snuggled under blankets, nestled in sleeping bags, and curled up on beanbags, creating a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

A highlight of the evening was the VIP section, where special prize winners at the 4:30pm session the Tyrrell Family and 7pm session the Daniel's Family were treated to snacks served by none other than our PTA Chairperson Nick Roberts himself!



A huge thank you to our dedicated PTA team for organizing such a memorable event for our Owairoa Primary School families. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we are already looking forward to another movie night later this year!







# HOMESCHOOL DESK & CHAIR SETS for Sale



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**Invest in your child's success today!** Order on Kindo - only a few sets available, for collection from our School Office.



# A Day of CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Two weeks ago our school hosted a visiting group from the Experimental Primary School of National Dong Hwa University in Taiwan. The group consisted of their Principal, ten teachers and staff members, and eighteen students. They spent a day filled with cultural exchange, sharing and friendship with us.

The day began with a warm welcome from our kapa haka group, who performed two items to greet our guests. Each visitor was then paired with one of our House Leaders, giving our students the opportunity to learn more about life in Taiwan, while also sharing what makes our school so special.

After morning tea, our guests treated us to an impressive Diablo display in the school hall. The performance was filled with impressive skills, as many of the visiting students have been practicing the art of diablo for years. Our staff and students were captivated by the display, and some were even fortunate enough to receive some hands-on experience working with the diablo after the show.

We are grateful to our friends from Taiwan for making the journey to share their talents and culture with us and received the following feedback after their visit:

*"Thank you for your school's support and assistance with our visit, which allowed us to complete this trip smoothly. We have safely returned to our hometown, Hualien. Everyone is very grateful for this visit and looks forward to more opportunities for collaboration in the future. Once again, thank you for your warm hospitality and full support."*









# Mental Health and Wellbeing



At Owairoa Primary School, we define wellbeing and mental health as nurturing our Hauora through our RISE values in an inclusive and supportive environment that empowers our Owairoa family to feel secure, take learning risks, manage emotions with positive coping mechanisms, and reach their potential.

Our school is in our second year of the Mitey programme. Mitey is a New Zealand specific approach developed by the Sir John Kirwan Foundation, and provides an evidence-based approach to teaching mental health education to our students.

The Mitey programme is built around the New Zealand curriculum and embedded into everyday learning, to ensure our students are equipped with the age-appropriate skills and knowledge they need to recognise and respond to mental health issues in both themselves and others before they enter teenage years.

## Mitey in Action:

Our students are learning how to recognise and respond to their own mental health status and those of others. Cultivating good mental health helps us cope with life's ups and downs, and to feel comfortable asking for help from others when we need it.

Our classes often blog about what they are learning as part of the Mitey Programme.

This latest blog post 'A Mitey Initiative' shares some exciting learning in Junior School over the recent weeks....

## A MITEY INITIATIVE

Mitey is an initiative to support students mental and emotional health through discussing emotions, relating to their peers and learning ways to deal with how they feel in different situations. In Team 1B we have been exploring Mitey through our students' interests, books and promoting positive interactions with one another.

In Mitey we use a range of activities and games to share experiences, act out scenarios and build our confidence when sharing our feelings. In Team 1B we have been doing activities that involve everyone!

A great activity is standing in a circle and stepping in when they agree with the question that gets called out. This is a fantastic activity which allows students to share their opinion and relate to their classmates. The questions ranged from "Do you think cats are better than dogs?" to "have you ever felt sad?". By mixing the questions from easy light-hearted questions to questions about different emotions, it allows the students to get more comfortable and encourages them to join in.

Another activity we use in Team 1B is Freeze Frames to highlight different emotions in different scenarios such as when they had to say a speech in front of everyone by themselves. Emotions are a hard topic to discuss, and it can be hard to target the emotion you are really feeling so this initiative supports learners in developing their strategies when having different feelings. Room 8 has made their own emotion cards to use as a reference and display when doing Mitey which is a fantastic tool to support learning conversations.

Mitey can also be used in most curriculum areas such as our Literacy though big books and poems, Writing, Maori and Social Sciences.

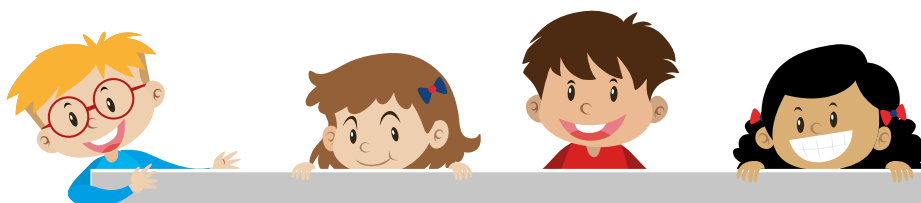
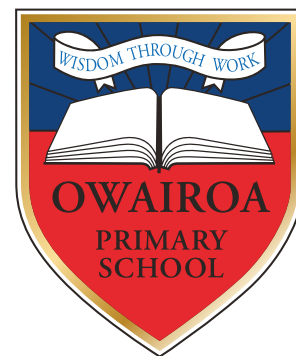
Team 1B love learning about Mitey so please feel free to ask your learner about it and find out more things they have been doing in their classes to support their emotional and mental health.





# Enrolments are Open for

# 2025



A reminder to all families to complete the enrolment process if you have a child turning 5 years old soon. It is valuable for us to know this information in advance, as it assists us when planning for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025.

We are in the process of organising our staffing and funding entitlement for 2025. To assist us to be as accurate as possible with our future numbers we would appreciate hearing from school families who have siblings that are 4 years old (who are not yet enrolled) and will be starting school next year. If this applies to your situation, please come to the Office to pick up a sibling enrolment pack.

If you know of any friends or neighbours who intend to enrol at Owairoa Primary School in 2025, please ask them to contact our School Office, to find out more information and start the enrolment process.



## Intermediate Schools Welcomed

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed representatives from the local Intermediate Schools. Their visits are designed to introduce their schools to our Year 6 students, so they can understand the upcoming schooling step after they graduate from Owairoa Primary School later this year.

The Year 6 students learned about the core values of each of the Intermediates, gaining an understanding of the ethos of each school. The Intermediate Schools shared an overview of the learning programmes and expectations, giving our students a glimpse of the exciting opportunities they can look forward to.

Enrolments forms for Intermediate Schools and enrolment date timeframes are available online on the individual school websites.





# HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



## Blake Tolson, Tainui House Leader

My name is Blake Tolson, and I am 11 years old. I am a creative and proud 2024 Tainui House Leader. Outside of school, I like playing Netball with my friends and dancing.

At Owairoa there are so many amazing opportunities such as: Kapa Haka, Kaitiaki, Librarian for Year 5's and a lot of wonderful sport teams to be a part of, just to name a few things.

My favourite memory at Owairoa was the Owairoa Obstacle Fun Run in 2022. I enjoyed raising money for the school and how all the kids got to participate in the Fun Run.

This year, my school journey has been great! I enjoy making new friends and trying new things.

My advice for Owairoa students of all ages is to listen to your teacher, try new things, follow the RISE values, take pride in everything you do this year and keep collecting House Points!

Go Tainui!



## Charlie Yeoman - Tainui House Leader

Hi, I'm Charlie and I am lucky enough to be a House Leader of the mighty Tainui. My main interest is sport, I play as many different sports as I can, and my two favourites are Cricket and Field Hockey. In my spare time, I also enjoy reading and hanging out with friends.

When I came here to Owairoa I only knew one person, but through playing at lunchtime and everyone being kind and welcoming, I've made lots of good friends. My favourite memories at Owairoa so far are the sailing trip, the Hilton Cup Netball tournament and all the Interschool sports I've been lucky enough to take part in. Thanks to the teachers who gave up many of their lunchtimes to make those activities happen.

My advice to students moving into the Senior School is to try all the different activities and opportunities the school has to offer, as you will not regret it. I hope all Tainui kids can earn heaps of House Points so we can win this year. You can earn House Points by showing good manners at whatever gate you come through in the morning or if you're bored at morning tea or lunch, pick up five pieces of rubbish and show a Duty Teacher. However, the way to earn big numbers of House Points, is by showing integrity, so always do the right thing even when no one is looking, and you will be rewarded.

I look forward to taking up as many opportunities as I can this year and hope to be a role model for my Tainui friends.



# TAINUI





# 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

### Living the Farm Experience



The birds were singing, the sky was blue and there was no sound of traffic. Rooms 11, 12 and 13 were at Ambury Farm for the day. After a long bus ride we were ready to immerse ourselves in the experience of being at a farm. It was like being in a different world. Students were taken into the cow shed to watch a huge cow produce a large bucket of milk. Starting the process took a while, but the cow blissfully munched through snacks. The milk produced was very rich and full of nutrients. She was so tame and comfortable with people, all the children were able to pat her.

After the milking students were taken into the shearing shed where they were introduced to dried sheep poo, with some hilarity. Many children were brave enough to hold and even smell the poo. They also got to feel newly shorn wool and were amazed at how soft it was. They were also given the opportunity to dive down a shute, as the sheep themselves do.

My favourite part of the day and no doubt many of the students' was doing the route around the animals and being able to pat and feed them. The students were able to touch huge horses and see the new calves. Goats hoisted themselves up on the fences waiting for food and took it gently from those brave enough to feed them.

The most enchanting were the new lambs with their tiny "mews" and the frantic wiggling of their tails when they thought they would be fed by their mothers.

Another highlight was the piglets, only a day old. The wrinkles in their ears were smoothing out as the day went on. We were told they would be twice the size in another 24 hours. Feeding the chickens and experiencing them pecking their hands was another thing students talked about.

It was a quiet bus home as many little learners fell asleep. The fresh air, the walking and all the new experiences had tired them out. The trip was an invaluable insight into farming life, and one our learners will never forget. For a day, we were transported into a different world!

## Middle Blog

### Mathematical Moments



On Friday 16th August our Year 3 and 4 learners joined forces with their Teachers for a series of exhilarating mathematical challenges. The atmosphere on the astro turf was electric, with everyone eager to showcase their estimation skills.

The first challenge involved estimating how many colourful balls could fit into Mr Howard's car. With bright, curious eyes, learners peered into the car's interior, making their guesses based on its size and shape. Some of the learners thought it could hold a mountain of balls, while others made more conservative guesses. It was a fantastic exercise in making thoughtful estimations!

Next, they tackled the challenge of estimating how many steps the teachers could take from one side of the astro turf fence to

the other. Watching them stride, the learners counted the steps in their heads and compared their estimates. It was an insightful way to understand measurement and distances better.

The final challenge was a real highlight: estimating how many hoops the teachers could shoot in one minute. Learners held their breaths as the teachers aimed and shot, marveling at their skills. To add to the excitement, they also estimated how many times their teacher could bounce a basketball in one minute. With a flurry of dribbles, they watched as their teachers showed off their impressive bouncing abilities.

Overall, it was a fantastic time filled with fun, learning, and friendly competition!



## Senior Blog

# International Day



What an amazing day. This was my first time experiencing International Day (Miss Johnson, Room M11), as for many students too. It was so colourful and vibrant - a real celebration of cultures.

The students have put in a lot of time and effort into their clothes. Traditional items right through to hand made outfits made this day exceptional. The children took pride in representing their country. The parade was an inspiring sight around the school. We thank all those parents who came to support the school.

It would be hard to beat the parade, however the concert was also outstanding. After auditions, the Teachers had a hard job of selecting students. Many students have been practicing for the past 3-4 weeks to make sure they were successful on the stage. We have very talented students here at Owairoa Primary School.

Some of our students had the following responses:

"Everyone looked beautiful"

"International Day was lots of fun, the concert was great"

"I enjoyed the activities in class"

I will also take this opportunity to thank all the teachers involved, not just the Senior School. Without everyone doing their part, the whole event would not happen. As in the words of Helen Keller - "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



## Looking ahead

### ☺ August

29 HPPA Dance Festival

30 Writers Quiz

### ☺ September

3 Alice the Musical, 7pm

4 Alice the Musical, 7pm

5 Alice the Musical, 7pm

13 PTA Disco

19 South African Parents Meeting 7pm

24 School Board Meeting 7pm

25 PTA Mufti Day

27 End of Term Three

### ☺ October

14 Term Four begins

14 Full Summer Uniform

## HEALTH WARNING

# CHICKENPOX

A number of students are currently absent from school with Chickenpox.

Chickenpox often starts without the classic rash, with a fever, headache, sore throat, or stomach ache. These symptoms may last for a few days, with the fever in the (38.3°–38.8°C) range. The red, itchy skin rash usually starts on the stomach or back and face.

Chickenpox is infectious from 1 to 2 days before the rash starts. It stops being infectious when all the blisters have crusted over. This happens usually 5 to 6 days after the start of the rash.

**Please be vigilant and look out for symptoms.**



*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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