



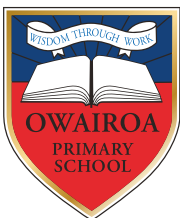
The Owairoa Primary

# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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Issue No 9, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024



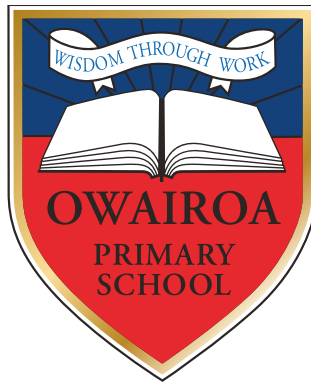
**Owairoa Primary School**, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

**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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## Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is amazing how quickly we have arrived at the end of Term Three. This term has been productive for our students at Owairoa Primary School. This newsletter is a great way to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students over the past month.

Term Three has been filled with many memorable experiences, with standout moments including our International Day celebrations and the fantastic performance of Alice the Musical. Our students have enjoyed working on their public speaking abilities in this term's speech competitions. We are also proud of the numerous sporting achievements, as our students have participated in a variety of events, demonstrating impressive teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm in both school and interschool competitions.

As the term comes to a close this Friday, the upcoming holiday break provides a well-deserved opportunity to unwind. It's a time for everyone to recharge, spend quality time with loved ones and return refreshed for the final push toward the end of the academic year. I hope you have an enjoyable break filled with relaxation and memorable moments.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"



- Liam Hanuman
- Lienke Van Vuuren
- Ashley Ng
- Knox Edwards
- Savannah Sani
- Lotomau Sani
- Vernilan Gajanthan
- Ali Haidari
- Leo Wolstencroft
- Hannah Ma
- Chaitanya Arya
- Greyson Wan
- Disas Silva
- Elain Miao
- Marky Zhang
- Romy Guo
- Primo Xu

## Summer Uniform Transition



With summer fast approaching, it is almost time for students to switch to their summer uniform options. This includes short-sleeved polo shirts, shorts for the boys and culottes for the girls. All students are required to wear black leather sandals and need to wear their official school hat, as we have a 'no hat, no play' policy during the summer months.



Full summer uniform is expected to be worn from the start of Term Four, on Monday 14th October.

Brand New uniforms items can be purchased from Argyle, our school uniform supplier, who courier items directly to your home, or 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)



# ALICE THE MUSICAL



One of the highlights of this term was the Senior School Production of Alice the Musical. In a captivating display of talent, creativity and hard work, Year 5 and 6 brought to stage this production based on the story of Alice in Wonderland. A cast of 21, with the support of an ensemble of 300 children (every Senior School classroom) performed over three nights to a sold out crowd.

It was a display of energy, teamwork, imagination, dance, song and the magic of storytelling. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Owairoa community to come together again and it was uplifting to see parents, siblings and extended whanau coming every night to support, encourage and celebrate our amazing group of performers.

It was genuinely a team effort to produce a show of this magnitude, involving 300 learners and it was reliant on the passion, creativity and dedication of everyone involved. The Property Team built parts of the set and talented Teachers and students designed and painted it. Teachers, Parents and families helped creating the backdrops and the vibrant costumes, as well as decorating the hall and the foyer. The Office and Support Team designed the programmes and tickets, advertised and sold the show. Teachers and Parents helped every night with makeup, supervision, ushering and selling refreshments. The Senior Management Team has supported the production for every step, in every possible way, including being there to encourage the performers every single night. Then it was the team running the show every night: teachers co-ordinating student stagehands and the team in charge with lighting and sound.

Every senior student had a chance to be on the stage, performing one of the nine songs of the Musical and it took hours and hours of learning and practising these. Finally, it was the fantastic effort of the main cast, a group of 21 talented children who worked for four months, sacrificing almost every lunch time over two school terms to bring to light the magical characters of Alice the Musical. And what a great job they did!

Finally, special thanks must go to Director, Mr Alex Cornea. He spent many long hours working with our students rehearsing their roles and bringing the whole show together. Mr Cornea's love for drama and his passion with helping our students shine on stage made this production an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.















# Waving the Flag at INTERNATIONAL DAY



On Wednesday 21st August Owairoa Primary School celebrated International Day. Students arrived at school dressed in their cultural attire and proudly walked to their classrooms to prepare for the day's events.

International Day commenced with a magnificent parade around the school where students walked according to the country they identified with. Senior Students were selected as banner holders to lead and support younger students along the route. Parents watched and cheered as their children marched, waving flags to accompanying music.

At the end of the Parade all 63 nationalities represented at our school assembled on the Astroturf where students joined together greetings in different languages, enjoyed a few items and speeches and sang two songs. Parents gathered around the Astroturf as flags representing an assortment of nations hung from the balustrade above, adding to the ambience of the event.

Culturally themed activities in classrooms and a concert in the hall showcasing the talent of Owairoa Students, were two of the highlights of International Day. The students aging from Years 1-6 performed culturally significant dance, poetry, musical items, and songs in front of their peers. We also had the pleasure of welcoming visiting groups from Bucklands Beach Intermediate School and Macleans College who performed for our students.

The International Day "Kiwi Lunch" was extremely popular with students of all ages. Our thanks go to the PTA and parent helpers who helped prepare and distribute the many hundreds of lunches to our students.

Thank you to everyone who helped make International Day another successful and memorable event on our school calendar for 2024





# International Day We Celebrate

In every smile, in every face,  
A world of cultures finds its place.  
From far and wide, we come to share,  
The beauty of our school, so rare.

Each flag we wave, each song we sing,  
A tale of joy and peace we bring.  
Hand in hand, we stand as one,  
Under the same, bright, shining sun.

Sixty-three cultures, side by side,  
In diversity, we take great pride.  
We dress in colours, bold and bright,  
A rainbow shining in the light.

With foods and crafts from lands afar,  
We celebrate just who we are.  
In every dance, in every cheer,  
The sounds of friendship we all hear.

For though we come from different lands,  
Together, here, as friends we stand.  
So let us cherish, let us see,  
The strength in our diversity.

On this International Day, we find,  
The world united, heart and mind.  
In every child, a future bright,  
A world of peace, in shared delight.









## Hon. David Seymour Visits Our School

Last Friday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Hon. David Seymour, Associate Education Minister, to our school. He met with our Senior Management Team to discuss a topic he is deeply passionate about—student attendance.

After the discussion, Minister Seymour toured some classrooms, engaging with students and observing life around our school campus. His visit was a great opportunity for both staff and students to learn more about the government's focus on improving school attendance.

At interval time, Minister Seymour addressed our staff, emphasizing the government's goal of having 80% of students attend school for more than 90% of each term by 2030. "To achieve this, schools need to aspire to reach an average daily attendance rate above 94%," he said.

This year, the government introduced daily attendance reporting (as shared in previous newsletters), which Seymour highlighted as a valuable tool. "High-quality attendance data is helping students, parents, and school communities identify absence, talk about the importance of school attendance, and measure positive change over time," he added.





## HPPA Netball Stars Shine

Our Year 5 and 6 students participated in the recent Interschool HPPA Netball competition. They competed in six games against other East Auckland schools in the A and B grade, over the two day tournament.

Both of our Owairoa Teams did exceptionally well and our teams were excited when it was announced that we won both grades overall, taking the two trophies.

Our students have been training since Year 4 and have shown commitment and development over the years. Our avid players showed excellent skill, stamina, fitness and speed throughout the competition.

Thank you to parents who transported and supported our teams, as well as to the coaches, Ms Kennard, Mr Basson and Mrs Byron.





## A Quizzing Time for our Rave Readers

In Term 2, a group of avid readers formed our Rave Readers group for 2024. Since then, they have spent hours reading ten texts by some of our best New Zealand authors. After a series of quizzes on the books, two teams were chosen to represent our school at the annual Writers' Quiz.

On Friday 30th August, Owairoa's Team A and Team B were excited to attend the Writers' Quiz after months of preparation. Team A consisted of Ethan Tait, Nathan Ward and Esther Tan, and Team B of Lucia Wang, Darina Iskra and Nicole Large.

A total of 32 teams from local schools participated in the event, where students were tested on the ten books. Our Owairoa teams worked hard to tackle the questions presented by the quizmasters. Team A achieved 4th place, while Team B secured 6th place.

A special thank you to Mrs Brown and Ms Randhawa for organising the books and helping the Rave Readers to stay on track.



## HPPA Gymnastics Competition



On Friday 23rd August, our talented Year 5 and 6 gymnasts showcased their skills at the annual Howick Gymnastics Club competition.

Competing in beam, floor, and vault events, our team went head-to-head with numerous local schools.

After countless hours of practice, a huge congratulations to all our gymnasts for their stellar performances and for representing Owairoa Primary School with such enthusiasm. Your effort and perseverance were truly inspiring.





# HPPA DANCE FESTIVAL



On Thursday 29th August Sommerville Intermediate transformed into a vibrant dance hub for the annual HPPA Dance Festival. The spotlight was on our Owairoa Dance Group, a troupe of 11 performers who dazzled the audience with their electrifying performance and stylish moves.

Behind their show-stopping routines was a dedication that went beyond the stage. Our dancers poured countless hours into perfecting their performance during lunch breaks.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Muller and Mrs Minnaar for their innovative choreography and effort in preparing the dancers. A special shoutout also to Mrs Alicia Howard for the stunning costume designs, which added a visual flair to the performance, and to Miss Hewlett and Miss Haugh for their seamless behind-the-scenes coordination.

The combined efforts of all involved turned the evening into an unforgettable evening of dance.





# New Zealand Maths Week

Maths Week was established by the New Zealand Association of Mathematics Teachers (NZAMT) in 1998. It is one of the premier mathematics event in the New Zealand school calendar, with an estimated audience of more than 250,000 students, teachers and parents from around New Zealand participating in this great event each year.

This year Maths Week was in Week 5, from Monday 19 August to Friday 23 August and around our school, different activities inside and outside the classroom were completed with the children using a range of mathematical skills.

In our Junior School, daily challenges were run by Mrs Rice, encouraging students to estimate and predict. The week started on Monday with a Balloon Bonanza and challenges ranged from how many balloons could fit in a recycling bin, to how many pieces of popcorn in a container.

Junior classes participated in problem solving tasks throughout the week. Room 10 had fun with an ISTEAM egg challenge. The students worked in small groups to wrap an egg in paper to protect it from being dropped from various heights around the school. Most eggs managed to withstand the drops from lower heights, but only one egg survived the tallest drop from the staff room. Room 4 showed different ways to make combinations to 10 by using class members feet – relating to the picture book “One is a snail, 10 is a crab” by Jeff Sayre and April Pulley Sayre.

In the Middle School, Year 4 completed the Maths Week daily dollar challenges each day in exchange for house points. Our excited learners loved working with their peers to solve a range of problems. Some classes also did some out of the box problem solving.

The Middle School learners then made predictions about what the Teachers would be able to do in the Maths Week Challenge afternoon. Teachers put their physical abilities to the test on the astroturf and completed a series of challenges to the entertainment of the learners. Shoes may have come off.

The Senior School completed different activities including using the website to play the interactive learning games, to how many times can the ball go in the hoop in a minute or how many children’s feet it took to measure the length of the field.

Maths Week was another success this year, and over the course of the week, our students learnt much about prediction, actual results and different mathematical vocabulary.





## Senior School Speech Finals

On Thursday, 22nd August, our Senior School hosted the much-anticipated Speech Final, centered around the theme of "Unity." After weeks of preparation, every student had the opportunity to present their speech in class, and from there, a few were selected to advance to the next round. Fourteen finalists were then chosen to compete in the grand finale.

The event was full of talent, with each student confidently addressing the theme of unity in their own unique way. After much deliberation, the judges announced the winners:

**Charlie Yeoman - 1st place**, with his insightful speech on the Olympics.

**Hugo Scordino - 2nd place**, with his thought-provoking speech on the importance of not littering.

**Blake Tolson - 3rd place**, with her inspiring speech on teamwork.

The event was made even more special by the musical contributions from our talented students. Tang Tang and Lucas Lin provided beautiful piano music as guests arrived. During the judges' deliberation, Sophie Li and Junyi Luo treated the audience to a delightful musical interlude.

Congratulations to all the finalists and a big thank you to everyone who participated in and supported this event. It was a memorable day that highlighted the hard work, creativity, and unity of our students.



## netsafe Presentation: Wellbeing and Balance



With school holidays right around the corner, it's a great time to consider how you can support your children to maintain a healthy balance between their online and offline time. Netsafe is here to support you with a free presentation for parents focused on Wellbeing & Balance.

The Netsafe Education team will share practical tips, tools, and advice on managing screen time, supporting your child's online wellbeing and what to do if your child encounters online harm.

You can register for this free webinar by following this link:

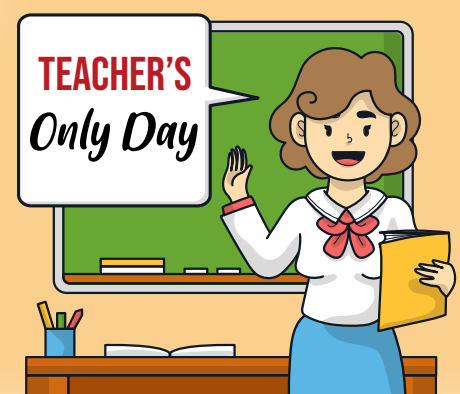
[https://netsafe-org-nz.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qqDubqaqT2y5Gmw4uJE0Nw](https://netsafe-org-nz.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qqDubqaqT2y5Gmw4uJE0Nw)

## Term Four Teacher Only Day

Just a reminder 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.





## School Contribution and Annual Payments

The School Board is very grateful to all those parents who have paid in full or made partial payments toward their child/children's school contribution. We are still anticipating the payment of outstanding of the remaining 45% (\$110,404) of donations for this year.

This year's donation has been set at \$360 per child by the School Board, which works out to \$90 per term.

Our preferred method of payment for all costs is through our Kindo Online School Shop. Please use the link Kindo Owairoa Online Shop to register if you haven't already done so. Please remember that the donation is eligible for a tax rebate from the IRD.

Donations help cover the costs of our Sporting Specialist Teacher, Music Specialist Teacher, Science Laboratory Technician, Reading Recovery Specialist, Remedial Reading Specialist, Learning Assistants and resources required to deliver the New Zealand curriculum that are not covered by the funds received from the Ministry of Education.

Your donation is vital for maintaining property improvements and the facilities we are accustomed to at our school, which greatly enhances your child's educational journey. If your family is finding it difficult to make payments, please see our Principal confidentially to discuss options. Thank you for your continued financial support of our learning community and your child's educational journey.

*Jane Huang*

Executive Officer-Finance



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 final two book reviews by our amazing young Owairoa Primary School readers here:

**Mila's book review of Tui in a Kowhai:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGiLPLhMqVY>

**Lilian's book review of Mumapalooza:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re\\_wZCG1YIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re_wZCG1YIs)



Mumapalooza - Kids Talk About Books |  
Book Review | Sarina Dickson & Ant Sang



Tui in a Kowhai - Kids Talk About Books



## 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:

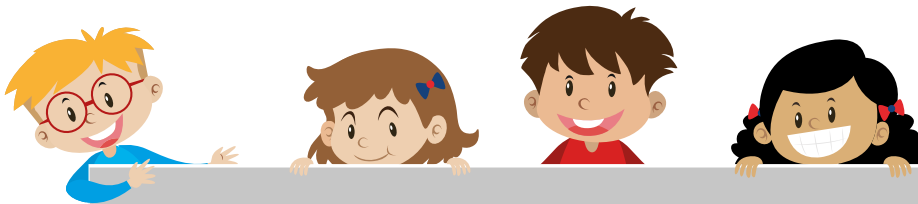
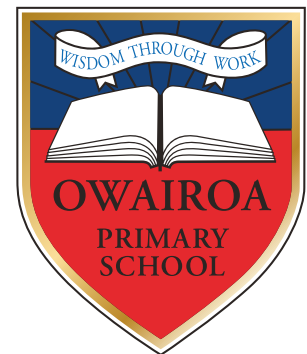
**Thursday 24th October 2024,  
from 1pm to 3pm.**

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



## 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 Owaioa Primary School in 2025, please ask them to contact our School Office, to find out more information and start the enrolment process.



# HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



## Rubi Gordon, Tokomaru House Leader

My name is Rubi Gordon, and I am 11 years old. I love dancing, reading and writing.

At Owairoa I appreciate all the amazing opportunities that this school has to offer, a few are Kapa haka, Kaitiaki, Choir and Dance. I also love the amazing teachers and resources we have.

Some of my advice to other students would be to try everything, even if it seems difficult. Some of my favourite memories at Owairoa are Market Day and making people aware of plastic pollution with our plastic art.

I am extremely grateful for the support I have had on my educational journey throughout Owairoa Primary School, and all the friendly, and kind people I have met.



## TOKOMARU

## Max Bester, Takitimu House Leader

My name is Max Bester, and I am 11 years old. I am from South Africa and have lived in New Zealand for 4 and a half years. I love to play sports such as Rugby, Soccer and Cricket and have had the privilege of being in the school teams for the last two years. I am very kind, helpful and always motivated when it comes to reaching my goals. I enjoy spending time with my friends and family and my dog, Rassie.

I love being a part of the Owairoa community as there are lots of activities and opportunities you can be a part of no matter your personality such as Sports, Kapa Haka and Kaitiaki. One of my favourite activities is team sports and how we work together to uphold the Owairoa values. I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Cricket team who has made it to the finals for the last two years, the Rugby team since Year 4 which has had great success and last year our Netball team won the tournament. My highlight was being honoured with the BAAS Rugby Cup at the end of Year 5.

Throughout my primary school journey, I am grateful for making good friends, learning new things and achieving my goals on and off the sports field. I am very grateful to be a Takitimu House Leader and excited to lead by example through the Owairoa RISE values to show others how to be respectful, have good morals, believe in themselves and to always try their best.



## TAKITIMU



# 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

### BSLA Journey in the Junior School



The Junior School have begun their exciting structured Literacy journey with the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). BSLA aims to support children's early reading, writing and oral language success.

It includes the systematic teaching of critical phonological awareness skills and letter sound knowledge skills through fun, games-based activities, activities making explicit links to the reading and spelling context, and structured small group reading sessions using the new Ready to Read - Phonics Plus early readers series. In addition, the approach includes explicit teaching in vocabulary skills and in building children's oral narrative and listening comprehension skills through quality children's story books'

A whānau workshop was held in Term 3 for all Year 0-2 Parents. There were over 70 parents in attendance. The teachers were able to show the various resources used, what the approach looks like in the classroom, how whānau can help at home and display the different picture books and ready to read readers that will be sent home. There have been several parents that have approached the teachers and have said they have really enjoyed the new learning their children are doing at school and have loved the suggestions from the whānau home learning sheets on how they can help at home.

Learners are loving the new Ready to Read - Phonic Plus books, the quality, shared picture books and the new Literacy games that consolidate the learning that has happening during the week. They are learning new skills like segmenting, blending, identifying phonemes and blends and gaining new English and Te Reo vocabulary.

The Junior School is very excited to continue our journey and see our students thrive in Literacy.

Link to parent website: <https://www.betterstartapproach.com/families>

## Middle Blog

### Off They Go!



On Monday 16th September, the annual Owairoa Sprints took place at the Howick Domain. Learners from Years 3-6 opted in to the event earlier in the term. The excitement levels were through the roof the morning of.

When they arrived at the Domain, the eager sprinters were keen to just get going but had to wait until lanes were organised. Each learner competed in a heat and those fortunate to be the top 3 of each heat went through to the semi-finals. We loved seeing our school RISE values in action as they cheered on their classmates and celebrated their placings.

As the final drew near, our sprinters became nervous but eager to race. BANG! Off went the clapper for the first final. BANG! BANG! BANG! Went Mr Basson's clapper over and over until all races had a top 4, who will now represent Owairoa at the Interschools Competition in a few weeks time.

Congratulations to all those who partook in the 2024 Sprints event!



## Senior Blog

### Team 5 is Looking MITEY Fine



As we hurtle our way through another jam-packed term at New Zealand's number one primary school, Team 5 has been sure to build on last year's introduction to Sir John Kirwan's mental health program, MITEY.

With more than half of New Zealand's young people suffering from anxiety or depression before reaching adulthood, we understand the importance of being at the forefront of mental health advocacy and providing our tamariki with some of the tools they require to become resilient, confident rangatahi.

Mrs Minnaar may be new to Owairoa, but she has certainly hit the ground running when it comes to assisting her learners with creating a more positive internal monologue. While using the movie *Inside Out* to engage the students, the class explored the talents and capabilities that are unique to each of them.

Mrs Minnaar further developed this concept through sharing a sophisticated picture book entitled, *The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be*. The exposure to a text filled with empowering vocabulary inspired the creative children to produce reverse poetry, a concept that highlights how something can begin in a negative fashion, but is ultimately transformed into a work of affirmation when considered from a different perspective.

Pertinent opportunities for growth have also been on offer in Room M15, as Mrs Job focused on the importance of kindness and how powerful or damaging our own words can be to others. To add context to this notion, the inquisitive ākonga produced a guideline which will certainly aid them in thinking before they speak: If the person the comment is aimed at cannot change the focal point of the comment for the better – wearing glasses for example – then the words should not be spoken. This particular emphasis was a strand taken from the umbrella of teamwork; creating a strong, supportive network of peers within a classroom, who can and ought to raise each other's spirits, rather than tear them down.

MITEY is making waves across Aotearoa and for all the right reasons. We at Owairoa fully support what Sir John Kirwan has set out to do and will continue to push forwards with building positive mental health in the wonderful students at our school.

Pictured: Keira from Room M16 created a personality island to illustrate her unique attributes



## Looking ahead

### ☺ September

27 End of Term Three

### ☺ October

14 Start of Term Four

14 Full Summer Uniform

15 PTA Meeting 7.30pm

16 Senior School to Vector Wero  
Whitewater Park

17 Senior School to Vector Wero  
Whitewater Park

18 Senior School to Vector Wero  
Whitewater Park

22 Kapa Haka performance at BBI

23 Pasifika Parents Meeting 7.30pm

24 Grandparents Day 1pm

25 Teacher Only Day

28 Labour Day – School Closed

29 School Board Meeting 7pm

30 Parent Teacher Conferences 1-8pm

31 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3.30-6.30pm



## Daylight Savings Starts

Daylight savings starts on **Sunday 29th September at 2am**. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour.



*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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WINZ subsidies are available

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

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**FULTON SWIM SCHOOL**



**Torrens Rd, Burswood**



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