



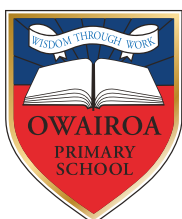
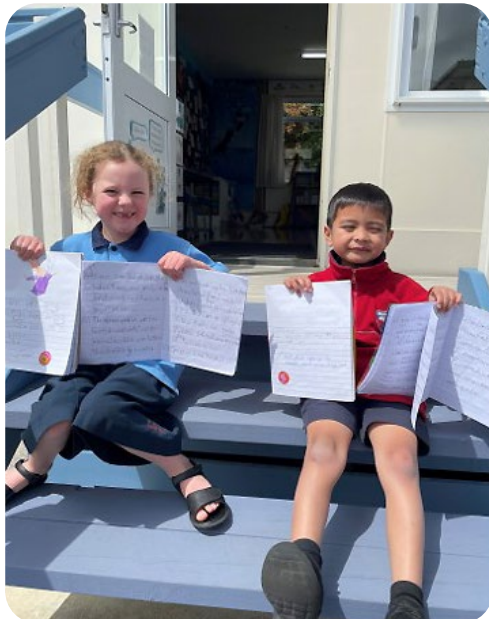
The Owairoa Primary

# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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Issue No 10, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

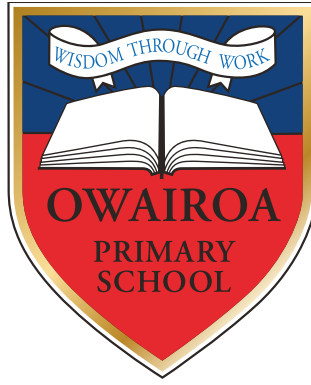


**Owairoa Primary School**, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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

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**[www.owairoa.school.nz](http://www.owairoa.school.nz)**



## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term Four. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and restful holiday break, and that your family is feeling recharged with energy and enthusiasm for the term ahead.

Term Four promises to be an action-packed time, with an array of academic and sporting events, concerts, and prizegivings on the agenda. We look forward to celebrating our students' hard work and achievements with our Owairoa 'Family'.

Classrooms are preparing for our Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences next week. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and their academic journey so far, helping to ensure they are on track to meet their goals for the year. We look forward to welcoming you and having those valuable conversations about your child's development.

Planning for 2025 is well underway, and we encourage you to notify the school if you are aware of any students wishing to enrol with us during 2025. Likewise, if your family is moving out of the area and your child will no longer be attending our school next year, please email us so we can factor this into our planning and forward the school records onto the next school.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive term ahead and to working together with you to ensure the success of your child's learning experience at our school.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"



- Rishaan Vala
- Mia Ren
- LJ Zelinka
- Dominic Goulden
- Riha Barry
- Kanon Fujita
- Jessica Green
- Gracie Pillay
- Mohammad Danesh
- Jessica Chen
- Oliver Green
- Anna Bibko
- Rececca Chen
- Artee He
- Finn Farmer

## Phonics Check Trial Underway

Our school is participating in the Ministry of Education's phonics check trial. More than 75 schools across the country have agreed to try out a new phonics check assessment in class to help make sure it is fit for purpose before it is introduced to all schools in 2025.

Students in Year 1 and 2 who have been at school for a specified number of weeks have been identified to participate in the trial. Parents of these children will be notified directly. If you have questions about the trial, please talk to your child's teacher or email [enquiries.national@education.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries.national@education.govt.nz)





## Year 4 Speakers Celebrate

On September 12th, our school held the much-anticipated Year 4 Speech Finals. Learners gathered in the hall, buzzing with excitement as they prepared to watch the finalists that had been carefully selected from the six different Year 4 classrooms.

In third place we had Ellie May with her speech titled "Why Reading is Good for You". Her speech explained how books enhance imagination and broaden knowledge. Her love for reading shone through, and many in the audience felt inspired by her words.

Second Place was taken by Charlie Williamson. She took to the stage and delivered a persuasive piece about the dangers of vaping and smoking. She shared statistics and information that highlighted the importance of making healthy choices.

Finally, in first place, we had Eli Marais, who stepped up and delivered a speech about video games that captivated the audience as he discussed how gaming can inspire creativity and foster friendships. His confident delivery and engaging anecdotes earned him enthusiastic applause.

The Year 4 Speech Finals was a wonderful celebration of talent and creativity by our young speakers.



## The Great NZ Shake Out



On Thursday 24th October at 9.30am, our school participated in the 'New Zealand ShakeOut', our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi.

Twice a year, our school hold practice drills, so students know what to do if there is an emergency such as an earthquake. ShakeOut takes place remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake. The process is Drop, Cover and Hold.

### Drop, Cover and Hold for 30–60 seconds:

**DROP** down on your hands and knees. This protects you from falling but lets you move if you need to.

**COVER** your head and neck (or your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk (if it is within a few steps of you). If there is no shelter nearby, cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

**HOLD** on to your shelter (or your position to protect your head and neck) until the shaking stops. If the shaking shifts your shelter around, move with it.





# Conservation Week 2024



**Room 12's Hector's Dolphin focus** - During Conservation Week, Room 12 shared the book "Little Hector and the Big Idea", a story of a little Hector's Dolphin who helps to save his habitat from the fishing nets and plastic rubbish.

We learned that the Hector's Dolphin is one of the smallest dolphins in the world and that it is indigenous to Aotearoa, New Zealand. They are recognisable by the shape of their dorsal fin, which is rounded like Mickey Mouse's ear. They are on the endangered species list because they get caught in gillnets and then drown because they cannot come up to breathe air.

We found out, that plastic rubbish kills them because they eat it, thinking it's fish. The plastic stays in their stomach, and so eventually they starve. We need to protect our Hector's Dolphins by stopping trawling with gillnets and recycling our plastic.

**Room 10's Buzzing Environmental Week** - During Conservation Week, Room 10 had a fantastic time learning about honeybees. We explored what these bees look like, where they live, and how we can help protect them.

Observing our school's honeybee hives gave us a unique, real-life experience. It was exciting to see the bees in action and understand more about their busy lives in the colony

## School Garden Replenishment

With all building work around the newly refurbished Year 2 classrooms having been completed, Conservation Week was also the perfect week to replenish nearby gardens and borders. We are sure you all agree, they look fantastic!

Our school takes part in a 'Paper for Trees' programme, where we receive new plants in return for recycling our paper waste. Many of the established plants around the McIntyre Block are a result of this programme, and have grown substantially over the past two years. Most recently, the Kaitiaki added another 30 plants alongside the new block.

- Babette Maas –Enviro Lead Teacher





## Kings of the East Auckland Jungle

The pinnacle of the primary school sporting calendar rolled around again during Term 3, as the boys travelled to William Green Domain to compete in the highly contested HPPA football tournament. With a well-drilled and extremely talented squad intact, the Owairoa Lions were ready to pounce on their most recent opportunity to get their paws on some evasive silverware.

The hungry cubs hit the ground running, putting on an early display of dominance against a Howick Primary side that struggled to get out of first gear. Owairoa talisman, Jace Yip, opened the scoring with a deft finish following a maze-like run through the middle and 'fox in the box', Zach Rossiter, showed his predatory instincts by latching on to a goalkeeper error to double the lead. The writing was well and truly on the wall for the lacklustre opposition when Rossiter rattled the stanchion with a powerful strike from range to effectively end the game as a contest.

In what was tipped to be the toughest game of the day against a physical Mellons Bay team, the home supporters were rewarded with a composed, mature display of compact defending and clinical counter attacking football. The match was played at a ferocious pace with tidy finishes from Jace Yip and Charlie Yeoman comfortably swatting aside an ultimately baffled opposition.

The sheer intensity of the last game momentarily threatened to take its toll, as a plucky Star of the Sea side backed the under fire Lions into a corner, in a first half played uncomfortably close to their own goal line. When the team desperately needed a captain's performance it was 'cometh the man, cometh the hour'. Tenacious midfielder, Jace Yip, came off the bench at half time to take the game by the scruff of neck and set up a rampant Rossiter for the match-winning goal which had evaded the unlucky visitors.

With five games scheduled around one brief rest interval, fatigue was always going to be an issue with the boys paying the ultimate price against Bucklands Beach in a leggy performance which saw them lose their first game of the tournament.

Not to be deterred by a brief blip in their extremely high standards, the predatory side regained their slickness around the paddock with Ryan Healy and Max Bestor putting on a clinic of technique, as the ruthless boys blasted in ten goals to no reply against Baverstock and arch-rivals, Pigeon Mountain. Cat-like goalkeeper, Saxon Lessel, and solid centre backs, Raul Oarga and Matthew Xu, defended excellently throughout, providing a solid foundation which allowed the team to play with freedom, flair and confidence.

Finishing third in the table of twenty-one teams meant that for the second year running, Owairoa were to play for the chance to win the competition outright, this year coming up against Sunnyhills, Cockle Bay and Shelly Park. Following three tightly contested games, where the mighty Lions showed themselves to have unbelievable sportsmanship in the face of a somewhat bemusing refereeing decision, they ultimately finished the competition in second place but deserved much more.

This fantastic group of boys proved themselves to be an extremely talented set of footballers with impeccable integrity and all at Owairoa are proud of their conduct and tremendous achievement.





## Serving up Some New Techniques

We were pleased to welcome coaches from the Auckland Table Tennis Association to work with some of our Year 4, 5 and 6 classes last week with their 'Introduction to Table Tennis' lessons.

Our students had a fantastic time learning new table tennis skills, including techniques for serving, returning, and rallying. The coaches were very supportive and our students showed enthusiasm and improvement during each session.

It was a great opportunity for our learners to experience a new sport and develop their hand-eye coordination and teamwork. We look forward to more exciting sessions with Auckland Table Tennis Association in the future.





## Mural Competition Success



The Carus Commercial Painting Group recently ran two competitions for school students - one being a mural competition, where the winning entry would get their mural painted at their school.

The Group received a great response to the competition and a large number of entries were received from all across New Zealand schools, meaning there was some very tough competition for the entrants.

Last week we were excited to hear that one of our Year 6 students, Nicole Large from Room M17 won the overall competition. She entered her creative drawing featuring native New Zealand birds. She describes the meaning behind her design... "it shows four birds working together to build a nest, meaning when we work together, we can achieve goals."

Congratulations Nicole!! Her creative mural design will now be painted and displayed somewhere on our Owairoa Primary School campus, for our Owairoa community to enjoy for years to come.

## Mathex Perseverance and Accuracy are Important

On the 22nd October, Ms Findley took a team of four students Sophie, Quantong, Lucia and Marlo from M13 to represent Owairoa at the annual Mathex Competition held at Sunnyhills Primary.

Twenty-three local schools were involved in the competition this year, each representing their school with pride. The competition involved answering 25 word problems in 30 minutes; so speed and accuracy were important.

Our team had plenty of practice in the leadup to this year's competition, using our Prime books and with their participation in the Otago University Problem Solving Competition earlier in the year.

The competition hall was buzzing and the air was full of excitement as each team tried their best to answer questions correctly and quickly. What a great performance the Owairoa team put in. They were focused and team players showing great perseverance answering the questions.

Scoring 110 out of 125, we were so proud to come 5th equal this year. We congratulate Pigeon Mountain who came first with a perfect score and answering all the questions in 20 minutes, Willowbank who came second place, and Botany Downs who came third.

We also thank our support crew, the parents, for helping support our team at the event.





## South African Parents Meeting



On Thursday 19th September, we held a successful South African Parents Consultation Meeting, aimed at strengthening communication and fostering a supportive network between our school and the South African community.

During the event, parents heard from our Principal Alan McIntyre, Shaun Davidson the Board's Presiding Member, and Nick Roberts the Chairperson of the PTA. Our Sports Specialist Jonathan Basson also presented an overview of our sports programme.

A highlight at the evening event was the performance of students from various year levels, performing a traditional South African gumboot dance. Additionally, several students shared their experiences about coming to New Zealand and starting at our school, while Sam Wood (Year 1 Classroom Teacher) provided her perspective of moving to and teaching in New Zealand.



Parents then had the opportunity to voice their perspective and experiences about being part of our Owairoa family and share their aspirations for their children's education.

The event provided valuable insights and ideas of how we can improve to meet the needs and aspirations of parents. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event both successful and informative.



## Hats On in Term Four

Just a reminder that students need to wear their school hats to and from school, as well as during morning tea and lunch breaks. These hats give our students much needed protection from the sun's harmful rays

Hats are available online from Argyle Schoolwear [www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform), with a limited number available at our school office for **\$16 each**.

Our school has a 'no hat, no play' policy, so those students not wearing a hat will need to remain in a shaded area during break times. Thank you for your cooperation with keeping our students safe in the sun during these hotter months.



# Māori Language Week 2024

This year's Māori Language Week was celebrated from 14th – 21st September. The theme for the week this year was “Ake, Ake, Ake” or “A Forever Language”.

Māori Language Week is a week dedicated to the learning of Te Reo throughout Aotearoa. It was first observed in 1975, so next year will be the 50th anniversary of this important movement. Te Reo has only been recognised as an official language of New Zealand since 1987.

Māori Language Week at Owairoa provided our learners and Teachers the opportunity to engage with and experience Te Reo and Tikanga Māori through many different activities within their classroom. Students were able to learn through Literacy, Art and Environmental activities as well as waiāta (songs) and kōrero tara (myths/legends).

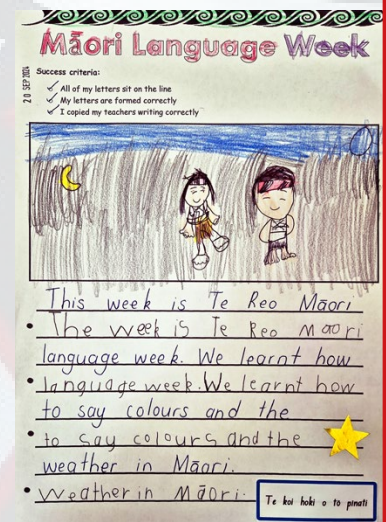
Many classes also researched the history of our school name “Owairoa” and the origin of our school house names. Our school house names represent four of the Great Fleet of Waka that travelled across the Pacific Ocean to Aotearoa, Tainui, Takitimu, Tokomaru and Aotea.

Many of our learners are able to present their own pepeha or mihi, this provides students with the opportunity to practise their speaking of Te Reo and share with others where they are from. The students enjoyed practising this throughout the week.

Being engaged in Te Reo and Tikanga Māori at Owairoa isn't only limited to Māori Language Week, it happens all the time, however the week is a great chance to really focus on it's importance to Aotearoa and everyone who lives here.

**Kotahi te hoe ka ū te waka ki uta**

**By paddling together the waka will reach land**





A smiling woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a brown turtleneck and a teal patterned scarf, stands in a classroom. She is pointing with her right hand towards a whiteboard and holding a red marker in her left hand. The whiteboard behind her has some handwritten text including 'B4', 'C3', 'E4', 'F4', and 'F4 D'.

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te Mātauranga**  
Ministry of Education

**Please contact Principal Alan McIntyre**

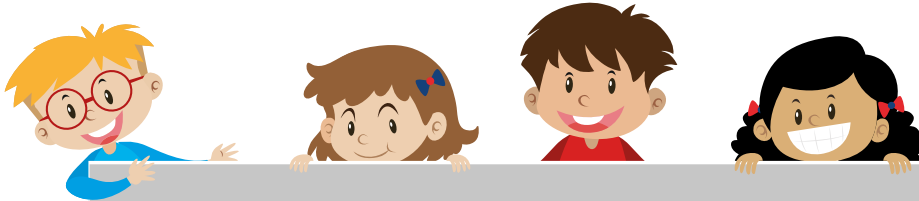
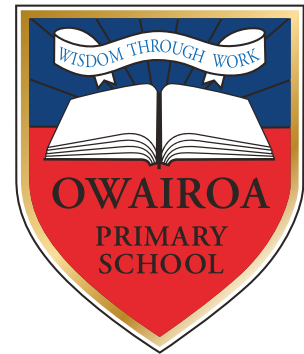
**(09) 538 0060 or [principal@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:principal@owairoa.school.nz)**

**for further information**



# 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.



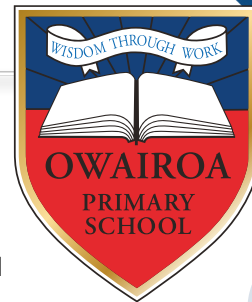
## Teacher Only Day SUCCESS

While all of our students stayed home from school last Friday, our staff came to school as usual for their much-anticipated Teacher Only Day.

This day of professional development was the second of two days allocated this year by the Ministry of Education, to provide our staff with the opportunity to grow their skills in implementing the refreshed Literacy and Mathematics Curriculum.



# Term dates **2025**



The official term dates for the 2025 Academic Year have been set and approved by our School Board as follows:

- Term One: Friday 7 February 2025 – Friday 11 April 2025
- Term Two: Monday 28 April 2025 – Friday 27 June 2025
- Term Three: Monday 14 July 2025 – Friday 19 September 2025
- Term Four: Monday 6 October 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025

The school will also be closed for the following public holidays:

- Monday 2 June – King's Birthday
- Friday 20 June – Matariki
- Monday 27 October – Labour Day

## END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVING Events

To help with your calendar logistics as the next few months get busier with the upcoming Christmas season and end of year, the dates for our end of year prizegiving and concert events have been finalised as follows:

### December

**2** Senior Prizegiving

7pm

**4** Year 3 Concert

**5** Year 4 Concert

**9** Year 2 Concert

**10** Team 1B Concert

**11** Team 1A Concert

**12** School Service Awards





# HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



## Mila Lee, Tokomaru Deputy House Leader

My name is Mila Lee, and I am 11 years old. I started at Owairoa Primary School when I was 5 and I have loved being part of our school community and am honoured to be a House Leader in 2024. I am part of the Kapa Haka group, and love performing for other schools in the East Auckland area. Outside of school, I am in a hip-hop dance group, I love playing soccer and being creative, making and drawing things.

Some of my favourite memories from school include the Fun Run and going on exciting class trips such as rock climbing, sailing and more.

I believe it is important for all students to show our schools RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Self Esteem, Excellence). My advice that I give to others is to always give things a go because you might not know how fun it is.



## Michael Bell, Tokomaru Deputy House Leader

My name is Michael Bell and I am 10 years old. I love reading, music and drama and have been swimming for a number of years. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

I love that at Owairoa Primary School, we have so many amazing teachers and staff that are all working hard to give us the very best education and opportunities that they can. There are so many fun opportunities for us to partake in such as Kapa Haka, Choir, Sports, and Kaitiaki to name a few. I am grateful for the incredible library we have here at Owairoa with such diverse literature available for our use.

My favourite memory from school was in Year One when we had the fire department come to school and were able to have a go at using the fire hose.

My advice for other students at Owairoa is to do your best at all times even if nobody is watching and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way and also to be the best you can be.



# TOKOMARU





# 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

### The busiest time of the year!



Spring is truly back and the warmer and longer days are an indication that time is racing down towards summer and the end of the year. But before we say “goodbye” to Year 2 and “hello” to Year 3, we have a busy and exciting term ahead of us, packed with more learning and fun.

In Week 2 the Junior School will attend the MusicAI Show in the Hall, a making instruments programme that ties in with our learning about Sound in Science and our ISTEAM inquiry. Also in Week 2 we will welcome our grandparents for a Grandparents Afternoon, the perfect opportunity to share some of our learning and achievements with Nanas, Poppas, Grandmas and Grandpas. Grandparents will be treated to a wonderful concert in

the Hall, a special time to visit classrooms and a delightful afternoon tea.

In Week 3 it will be our parents’ turn to come to school for the Parent Teacher Conferences. We are looking forward to talk about our learning progress, our success, our Next Learning Steps, the things we need to continue working on and our goals for next year.

Before the end of the year we will also have our traditional Poetry Competition and the Junior School Athletics Carnival. The year will end of course with the fantastic End of Year Concerts and prizegiving.

## Middle Blog

### Exciting Learning Adventures



The start of Term 4 has been positive for our Middle School students, who have engaged in a wide variety of activities from furthering their mathematics skills to delving into the world of science.

In Mathematics, our students have been exploring geometry, focusing on the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, understanding map coordinates, and investigating symmetry. Using their knowledge of symmetry, they have created some outstanding pieces of artwork, demonstrating both their mathematical understanding and creativity.

In Science, students have been exploring the conservation of matter through the study of permanent and temporary changes. Through hands-on investigations, they are discovering how chemical reactions occur and learning about the applications of these reactions in everyday chemical processes.

Additionally, the middle school is already preparing for the end-of-year concert, where Year 3 and Year 4 students will present their musical and drama performances. With just weeks left, rehearsals are well underway, and the students are working diligently to ensure their performances reach a “super-performance” level.

Overall, the middle school has enjoyed an outstanding start to Term 4. We are excited to see what the remainder of the term holds.



## Senior Blog

### 'Water' Wonderful Trip



On their return to school, the Year 5 and 6 students were treated to an exhilarating experience to welcome the new term, as they visited Vector Wero Whitewater Park for a day that will live long in their memory.

Following a short bus ride to the Manukau-based attraction, the eager thrill seekers didn't have to wait long for the knowledgeable instructors to begin putting them through their paces. With a crash course in water safety complete, it was time to don the wetsuits and brave the low temperatures of the man-made river.

Plenty of shrill screams and uncontrollable laughs were on display, as the experienced guides put the animated tamariki through their paces in the white-water rapids. White-knuckle opportunities were aplenty as the brave boys and girls flew down sheer waterfalls, span round in rapid circles and were voluntarily dunked in the water, leaving them drenched but in high spirits! To top off this brilliant occasion, they were taught how to safely float

down the ice-cold rapids with many of our fearless learners making the decision to take the plunge!

A more serene activity followed the pulsating rafting session with our children able to choose and swap between various sizes of kayaks and paddle boards. The enthusiastic kaiako summarised how to use the equipment and was on hand to assist with their rotation, as the Owairoa students enjoyed a calm forty-five minutes on the lake. The icing on the cake arrived when Finn Butcher, New Zealand Olympic gold medalist, appeared seemingly out of nowhere to throw a Mana Wave at our incredibly excited ākonga.

The Senior School trip took place over three days and was a hugely successful affair. Mr Rossiter's detailed organisation of the event and the amazing work of the Vector Wero experts concluded in our boys and girls enjoying an incredible extra-curricular experience. We look forward to having the opportunity to visit again in the future!

## HOMework DESK & CHAIR SETS



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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.



## Looking ahead

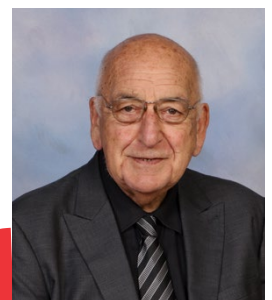
### ☺ October

- 29 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 30 Parent Teacher Conferences  
1pm-8pm. School closes as 12.30pm
- 31 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3.30pm – 6.30pm

### ☺ November

- 1 PTA Mufti Day (gold coin donation)
- 5 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 22 PTA Movie Night
- 25 Swimming programme starts
- 26 School Board Meeting 7pm

*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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