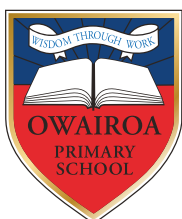
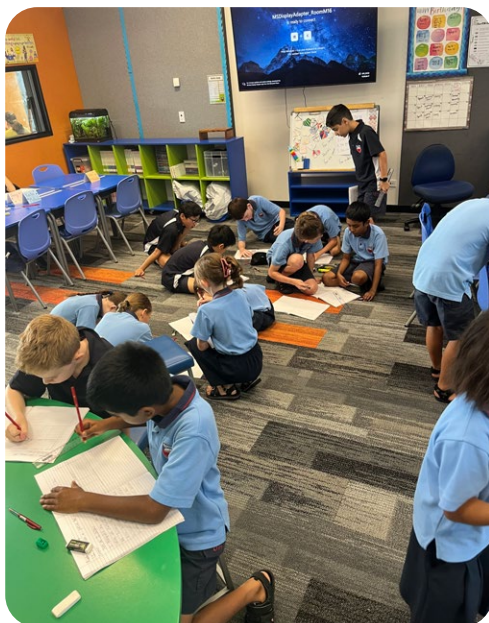


The Owairoa Primary... School Scribe

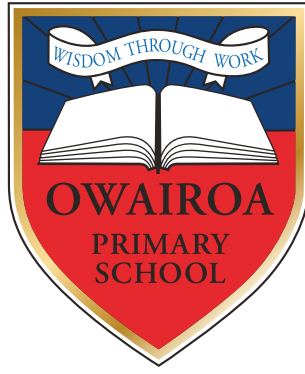
news and views from around our school

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Issue No 2, 4th March 2025



Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.
Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P., B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.
Phone 0064 9 538 0060 **Email** officemanager@owairoa.school.nz
www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term One is well underway, with students settling well into their new routines and making daily progress in their learning. It has been great to see the enthusiasm in the classroom and the positive start our staff and students have made to the year.

A highlight of the past few weeks was our Open Home event, welcoming so many families into our classrooms. This was a valuable opportunity for Parents and Teachers to connect and establish strong partnerships for the year ahead. A child's success is built on the support of both home and school, so we appreciate your involvement in their learning journey.

We look forward to a productive and rewarding term ahead.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Sophie Khan-Blanchette
- Elsie Weir-Kaifa
- Lulu Weir-Kaifa
- Malei Weir-Kaifa
- Steven Guo
- William Guo
- Ivar Tuakeu

CURRICULUM DAY ONE SCHOOL CLOSED

We will be having the first of two Government-allocated Curriculum Days on **Friday 7th March**.

School will be closed for students on this day.

On this day our staff will be undertaking professional development on the new Mathematics Curriculum that has been implemented this year.

A second Curriculum Day has been scheduled for **Friday 30th May**.

Introducing our 2025 HOUSE LEADERS

We are proud to announce our sixteen students who have been nominated and elected as House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders for 2025.

These students have been chosen for their leadership qualities, enthusiasm and commitment to representing their peers. As leaders, they will play a vital role in guiding their house teams, encouraging school spirit and setting a positive example for all students.

We look forward to seeing them take on their responsibilities with pride and dedication throughout the year.

Congratulations to our 2025 House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders:



HOUSE LEADERS

Brooke Harper Room M10
Freddie Moody Room M17

DEPUTY LEADERS

Rayna Wang Room M13
Cyril Harvey Room M16

AOTEA



HOUSE LEADERS

Camike Ferreira Room M12
Nathan Li Room M10

DEPUTY LEADERS

Holly Shaw Room M17
Fergus Main Room M17

TOKOMARU



HOUSE LEADERS

Ryleigh Zita Room M16
Connor Thompson Room M12

DEPUTY LEADERS

Quinn Story-Frayling Room 20
Elijah Koloti Room M18

TAKITIMU



HOUSE LEADERS

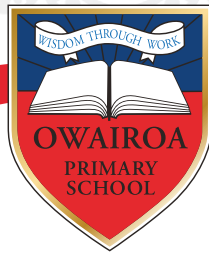
Katie Thornton Room M12
Cooper Bradley Room M17

DEPUTY LEADERS

Stella Tolson Room M17
Reuben Bowe-Chout Room M15

TAINUI



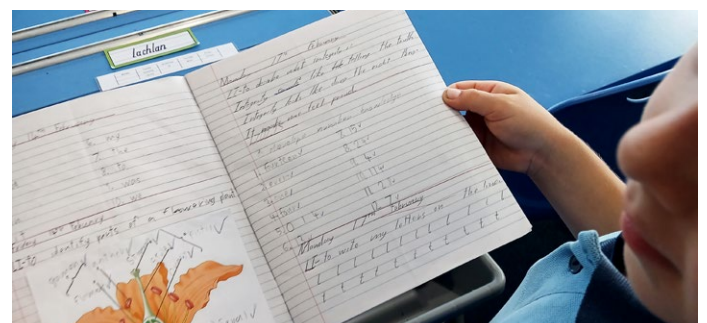


Building Strong Partnerships...

On Thursday 20th February, we were pleased to welcome so many families to our Open Home—Meet the Teacher event. This annual gathering is an important opportunity for parents to connect with their child's teacher, gain insight into the learning environment and understand the routines and classroom expectations.

During the event, parents had the chance to discuss goals for the year ahead and learn how they can support their child's learning journey. Establishing strong home-school partnerships is key to student success, so we appreciate those who took the time to engage with us.

You are welcome to contact your child's teacher directly throughout the year if you wish to discuss any additional educational, health, or wellbeing issues in further detail, or for any other communication needs concerning your child. Open communication ensures we can work together to provide the best support for your child throughout the year.



Swinging for Success: Owairoa's Softball Funday



On Wednesday 19th February, our students stepped onto the field for an exciting day of softball. The weather was warm and overcast, creating ideal conditions for a fun-filled day of learning and teamwork.

Throughout the event, we played five games, with no scores or points tallied. This supportive environment encouraged growth and development, and that's exactly what we saw. Some players started off feeling a little nervous, but as the games progressed, their confidence, skills, and techniques improved. By the final match, both teams were batting and fielding at an impressive level, leading to an exciting game.

Our Owairoa champions did us proud, showing a strong willingness to learn and incredible teamwork. What stood out most was their outstanding sportsmanship—cheering on opponents, congratulating them on great plays, and always being the first to line up for handshakes at the end of each game.

All in all, it was a fantastic day of softball, filled with fun, learning, and school spirit!



Former Owairoa Student Returns with Her Family

In a full-circle moment of global connections, Owairoa Primary School has welcomed back a very special visitor—Sooyun Choi, a former International Student from South Korea who studied here in the summer of 1997. This time she has returned as a mother, to give her own children the same enriching experience she had, all those years ago.

Sooyun's journey with Owairoa began when her parents, believing in the power of cultural immersion, sent her to New Zealand for a short-term study program. It was a bold decision at the time, but one that left a lasting impact on her life. Now, nearly three decades later, Sooyun has brought her husband Sam and two boys, Sunwoo and Sunjae back to Auckland, so they too can experience life at Owairoa Primary School.

For Sooyun, stepping back onto the school grounds was a trip down memory lane. Despite the passing years, she has found that the spirit of Owairoa remains unchanged: a place where students from all over the world feel welcomed and inspired.

Here is Sooyun's personal reflection on her journey back to Owairoa:

My experience with Owairoa Primary School is truly special.

It all began on an ordinary summer day in Seoul, South Korea, in 1996. That day, my parents came across an advertisement in a major newspaper about a summer school and homestay program in New Zealand. They firmly believed that true learning stemmed from cultural experiences. Though they had never been to New Zealand and knew little about its education system, they understood the value of cultural immersion.

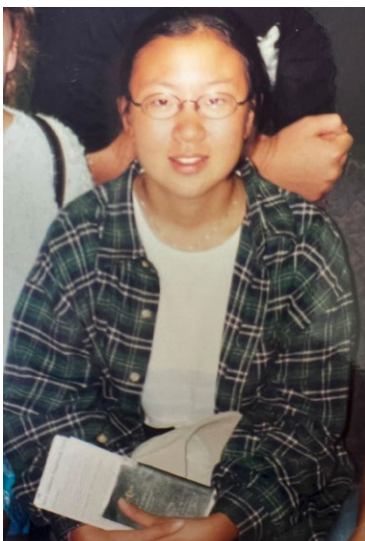
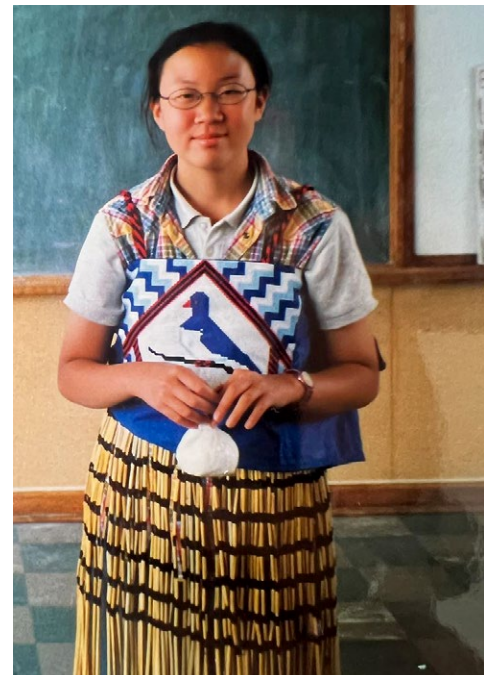
At the time, a guardian visa was not required, so I embarked on the journey alone, accompanied by a group of other Korean students whose parents likely shared the same belief. I was the brave one.

Now, 29 years later, I have returned to Owairoa with my own two children and my husband, my life's partner. At first, my husband found my story unbelievable. Many people asked, Do you really remember so much from 30 years ago? But I was resolute and certain.

I am deeply grateful to Owairoa Primary School, Principal Alan McIntyre, and the wonderful staff for fostering such a warm, inclusive, and strong community to this day. Although my stay this time is brief, I hope it marks the beginning of a bright future—not just for my children, but for the next generation as well.

Once an Owairoa student, always part of the Owairoa family.

Sooyun Choi, South Korea



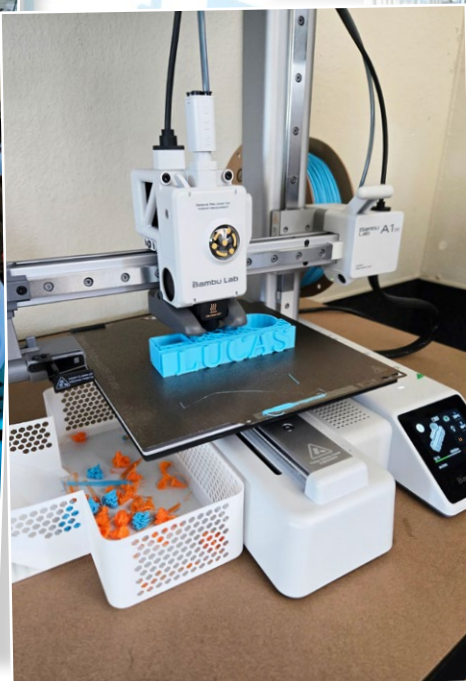
Digital Dream Lab Up and Running

The new Digital Dream Lab has quickly become an exciting and inventive space where learners are fully engaged in exploring technology. One of the most exciting aspects has been seeing their ideas come to life through 3D printing. As they design and print their creations, they are developing a deeper understanding of how technology can be used to solve real-world problems.

A key focus has been learning how to manipulate 3D objects online. Learners are developing the skills to combine shapes, punch through them, and rotate them on multiple axis to fit specific design purposes. This hands-on experience is not only boosting their creativity but also strengthening their spatial awareness and problem-solving skills. Additionally, it is improving their understanding of measurement in millimetres, as precise measurements are essential for successful 3D printing. They are learning to carefully adjust dimensions to ensure their designs fit together correctly, reinforcing the importance of accuracy in real-world applications..

At the same time, learners are gaining an understanding of how 3D printers work, from the digital design process to the mechanics of printing itself. They are becoming familiar with the expectations and rules of the Digital Dream Lab, ensuring that they use the space and its resources responsibly.

A highlight for many has been the excitement of logging in each afternoon using their ID cards. This small ritual has helped create a sense of ownership and belonging, making the Digital Dream Lab a place where learners feel motivated and inspired to explore, create, and innovate.



Save the Date – Owairoa Splash and Dash is Coming

Get ready for the most exciting event of the school year and mark your calendars for Thursday 10th April, because the 'Owairoa Splash and Dash' is coming like a tsunami.

This exciting fundraiser will be packed with fun, laughter and a little friendly competition—all in support of our school. Where else would you get a chance to squirt water at the Principal? More details will be heading your way soon, but for now, lock in the date and get ready to dive into the action.

THE OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL



-FRUJU- FRIDAY

\$2

Last Friday saw the first of our Fruju Friday's for the year. Many students and Parents were eager to line up to get their frozen treats, to help celebrate the end of another successful week at school.

This regular Friday event is held during Term One and Term Four, helping to support the PTA's fundraising efforts. Fruju's are available in a range of exciting flavours for \$2, and lemonade ice blocks are just \$1 each.

The PTA are always happy to welcome more helpers, so if you are able to volunteer 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon to help sell ice blocks, please contact pta@owairoa.school.nz



Raising confident, resilient kids



DATE:
7pm, Thursday
6 March 2025

VENUE:
Owairoa Primary School
85s Nelson Street,
Howick

Tickets available on
Kindo for school families.
Community tickets and
all other enquiries email
PTA@owairoa.school.nz

We can't control life, but we can
control the way we *respond* to it

This talk sheds light on the struggles that can hold our kids back, while offering parenting tools to make the most of character-growth moments.

Relatable and inspiring, you'll come away with the injection of hope you need to raise confident and resilient kids.

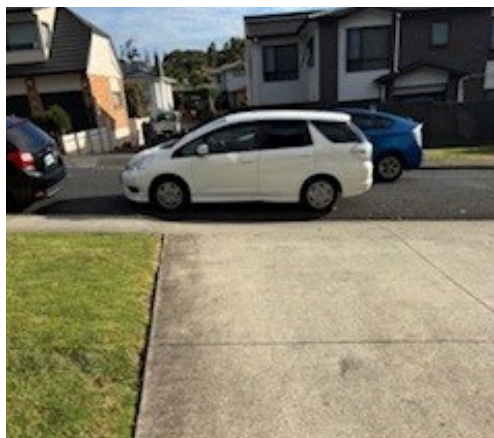


Jenny Hale, Senior Parent Coach

Jenny Hale has been part of the Parenting Place team for over two decades. Her lifelong passion is helping families find solutions to everyday parenting challenges. Jenny's wisdom and insights fill the pages of her transformative parenting handbook, *Kind, Firm, Calm*.



Inconsiderate Parking



We have received the following communication from an Owairoa neighbour, who requested we share their ongoing concern parking over driveways around our school community

Since the new school year has begun, we have seen an increase in the number of parents parking vehicles over private driveways as they drop their children off at school. Attached are photos of two recent events. There have been a number of others that we have not photographed.

I note another of our neighbours has had to place her own "No Parking" sign outside her address due to the inconsiderate parking by parents from your school. Another has resorted to using his own wheel-clamp to get the message through.

Previous complaints about parking have had temporary impacts, but there seems to be a belief by some that they "are only going to be a few minutes" and therefore no harm is caused. Our neighbourhood is a mixture of ages and includes many people who need to travel to work in the mornings. Their travel is delayed by these inconsiderate actions of parents who seem reluctant to travel a few more metres up the road to find a legitimate park.

Please remember that parking laws apply to you, even if it is "only for a few minutes"

Cycling and Scootering to School

At our school, student safety is our top priority. While local police guidelines allow children aged 10 and over to cycle to school independently, our School Board discourages this due to the busy and potentially hazardous roads surrounding our school.

Only Year 6 students are permitted to ride a cycle to and from school and they must have written parental permission before applying to the Deputy Principal for authority to ride their bikes. Students with permission must place their cycles in the cycle stands beside Room 1.

Ensuring our students arrive safely each day is a shared responsibility, so we encourage families to consider alternative transport options that minimise risk.

For those who choose to accompany their child on a scooter to and from school, please be aware that scooters are not permitted to be ridden within the school grounds for health and safety reasons. As we do not have a designated storage area for scooters during the school day, they will need to be taken home after drop-off.

We appreciate your support in prioritising student safety and working with us to ensure a secure and smooth start and end to each school day.



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

New Year, New Friends, New Adventures



The first few weeks of 2025 have been all about students making friendships, fostering relationships with their teachers, learning new routines and having fun as we go. Settling into school can take some time, but it can also be a really exciting part of the year. The Junior School has eased into the routines of coming into their classrooms independently, setting themselves up for the day and managing themselves throughout the day. Children have begun with the Home Learning programme whereby they are reading daily and being introduced to new and exciting vocabulary based on our BSLA narrative story book.

This Summer has provided us with the perfect weather to allow the learners to enjoy our Swimming programme which is supported by our swimming assistant, Ms Petford. The students have been learning how to enter and exit the pool safely by using the ladder. Swimming provides a full-body workout, improving strength, flexibility, and endurance. It helps develop cardiovascular health, increases muscle tone, and enhances coordination and balance. It is

great to see the enthusiasm and excitement each week for swimming as the learners develop their skills and confidence in the water. These lessons will continue until the end of the term.

The Dragon Playground and field has been bustling areas of joyous laughter and games. Learners have been responsible for bringing their hats every day to enjoy our wonderful playground. We have seen climbing, sliding, problem solving, running and many collaborative games between new friends. Our sandpit area has been opened and the learners have enjoyed open-ended play and the opportunity to be creative with sand while working alongside their friends.

Middle Blog

A Splash-Tastic Start



With the start of a new school year, we're making a splash—swimming is back! The sunny weather has been perfect for enjoying the pool while building our water confidence and improving our swimming skills.

In Room 23, we've been practicing floating, refining our strokes, and gaining the courage to push ourselves further in the water. It's incredible to see everyone's enthusiasm, and the progress has been amazing! Whether it's kicking, gliding, or perfecting breathing techniques, our swimmers are giving it their all.

We're also incredibly lucky to have Mia supporting our learners, making each session even more fun and rewarding. Swimming isn't just about learning strokes—it's about building confidence, resilience, and a love for the water.

We can't wait to keep diving into new challenges and celebrating our progress. Bring on more sunshine and more swimming fun!

Senior Blog

Year of the Snake



Learners in Room M16 embraced the excitement of the new school year by immersing themselves in the traditions of the Lunar New Year, and welcoming the Year of the Snake with a collaborative class art project. According to the Chinese zodiac, the Year of the Snake symbolises wisdom, resilience, and adaptability - qualities that the M16 students embodied throughout the creative process.

As they collaborated with new peers they strategised how to bring their vision to life, carefully selecting the best colours to make the snake art truly stand out. The class engaged in thoughtful discussions about each key element of the piece before breaking into smaller groups to put their creative ideas into action.

Not only did this project unify the students, fostering teamwork and a sense of community in M16, it also provided a valuable learning experience about Chinese celebrations and an opportunity for students to share their own memories of Lunar New Years spent with close family and friends.

The art is now displayed just outside of M16 for the students to enjoy, and to represent the first whole class project that the learners participated in for the new school year.

Looking ahead

☺ March

- 4 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 5 Year 2 Botanic Gardens Trip
- 6 Year 1 Botanic Gardens Trip
- 6 PTA Parent Talk – Raising Resilient Kids
- 6 HPPA Girls Cricket
- 7 Curriculum Day 1 – School closed
- 12 Launchpad programme starts
- 14 PTA Mufti Day
- 14 PTA Fruju Friday
- 17 Splash and Dash campaign launch
- 18 Senior School Sailing
- 19 Senior School Sailing
- 19 HPPA Cricket
- 20 Senior School Sailing
- 21 Senior School Sailing
- 22 Senior School Sailing
- 25 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 28 PTA Friday Fun Night

☺ April

- 1 PTA AGM 7.30pm
- 2 Senior School Sailing
- 3 Open Classroom 9.15am – 10.15am
- 11 End of Term One

End of Day Reminder

The school day ends at **3pm** and while we appreciate that sometimes situations arise and Parents can't be here on time, we seem to have a growing number of students arriving at the office each afternoon, with their parents running late for after school pickup.

Please ring the school office on **(09) 538 0060** if you know you are held up, so we can let your child know the new pickup arrangements for that day.

Any students who are not picked up from our school office by **3.15pm** are taken to our on-site after school care provider, Bizzy Bodz, who will supervise your child until you arrive. Casual rates apply and you will be invoiced directly from Bizzy Bodz.

OWAIROA PTA MEETING



Parents are invited to attend the Owairoa Parent Teacher Association (PTA) AGM evening on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Staffroom. Come along to find out more about our PTA, connect with other parents and hear how you can be involved.

The PTA is a partnership between Parents and Teachers. They fundraise for the school and organise fun activities for the students and our Owairoa community.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Nick Roberts, Chairperson, Owairoa PTA



**TUES
1st April**



7:30PM



**STAFF
ROOM**

*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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