



The Owairoa Primary

School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 7, 29th July 2025

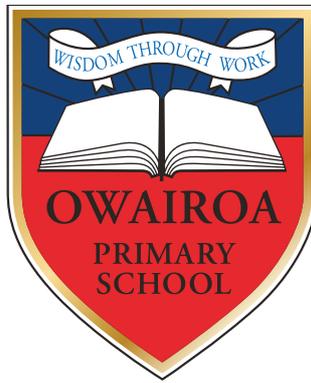


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

With Term 3 well underway, it is great to see the continued energy and engagement of our staff and students as they build upon the learning foundations established earlier in the year. Term Three is always a vital period for consolidating academic progress and we are proud of the effort and focus our learners are demonstrating across all of the year levels.

Winter always presents its own set of challenges, especially around student wellbeing and attendance. Thank you for your support in helping children arrive at school each day ready to learn. Consistent attendance plays a crucial role in educational achievement and your commitment makes a meaningful difference.

With a wide range of learning experiences, including key events like Book Week and International Day coming up in the weeks ahead, I am confident that Term 3 will be a rewarding and memorable term.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Asher Naidoo
- Amber Dhillon
- Lara Matalines
- Ezra Low
- Finley McClure
- Astrid Fischer
- Wenqi Xiao
- Mekhial Pirzada
- Rosie Lokerse
- Jagger Xie
- Camelia Cheng
- Michel Chang
- Rinka Hasegawa
- Alice Cheng
- Eddie Cheng
- Soma Sasaki
- Emma Kaida
- Hiro Kaida
- Zi Hao Li
- Kris Liu
- Bianca Karkan
- Taiming Zhang
- Mtteus Manahan
- Haru Nakanishi
- Joban Mander
- Anshi Liu
- Trisha Mular
- Chen-Fei Lin
- London Sutton
- Mia Iguin
- Sofia Praca Ramos
- Leticia Praca Ramos
- Armani Atutolu Hoeta
- Lukah Marginson
- Archie Alisangco

Owairoa Chess Chasers



On Tuesday 10th June, twelve Year 5 and 6 chess players travelled to Point View School to attend the East Auckland Interschool Chess Championship. From the start of the year these keen competitors have been practising their strategic moves during the Chess Club's weekly lunchtime meetings.

Most players had not competed in a tournament before. Students were wide-eyed in amazement as they entered the hall and saw over 100 chess boards, all set up, ready and waiting for them.

Throughout the morning bells were rung, teams gathered, and furious attacks pursued. Both disappointment and elation reigned. Owairoa players had their RISE values 'in their pockets', showed great sportsmanship, and pressed on with each game.

Competing against students of unknown levels and from different schools, provided invaluable learning about chess play. It was great to listen to the conversations between our own team players about how they had played, the skilled moves that were made in each match, and whether they lost or won their games.

Our A, B and C teams performed well. All students felt it was a fun experience and are now even more inspired to strive on in their quest for better chess.



Owairoa Primary School Board Elections 2025

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

10th September 2025

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Nominations are now open and we invite parents to stand for election to the Owairoa Primary School Board.

Nominations can be submitted via email through the Election Pilot system at www.electionpilot.nz

Nominations close on Wednesday 6th August 2025 at 12 noon.

For more information on the Board Elections, please contact our school's Board Election Co-ordinator Jane Huang on (09) 538 0060 or email jane@owairoa.school.nz

2025 Senior School Poetry Competition

The Senior School Poetry Competition was held on Tuesday 24th June. It was a great way to end a busy term and gave students the chance to showcase their speaking and presentation skills. Over the past few weeks, Year 5 and 6 students had been preparing by learning a poem off by heart and practising how to deliver it clearly and confidently.

Judging was carried out by Mrs Parkes and Mrs Humphreys, who focused on clarity, expression and overall delivery. While they made their final decisions, the audience enjoyed live piano performances from some of our students.

Congratulations to our winners and well done to all participants for the effort and confidence they showed in presenting their poems.



Year 5 Poetry Winners

1st Place – Tanzeel Jimoh

2nd Place – Miane Jooste

3rd Place – Layla Nasimi

Year 6 Poetry Winners

1st Place – Niko Sanger

2nd Place – Kayla Armstrong

3rd Place – Lily Rey



Paediatric Audiologist joins our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest

We are so excited to have Nitasha Chand-Prasad join our group of professional healthcare providers at our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest, offering further opportunities for assessment for those students with hearing concerns.

Nitasha Chand-Prasad (MNZAS) has 21 years' experience as a paediatric audiologist and is a graduate of the Masters of Audiology (MAud) programme from The University of Auckland.

Nitasha has an independent Audiology Clinic to offer patients more choice in the field of hearing assessments and hearing aids. She is also employed as an Audiologist at Health New Zealand where she works with both adults and children who have hearing loss. In her additional role as an Advanced Audiology Practitioner, she specializes in the assessment of Paediatric patients who have multiple middle ear infections and glue ear.

She is passionate about lifting standards of hearing healthcare and helps her patients to make informed decisions on which hearing solutions will best suit their lifestyle. She expressed excitement to be able to offer her services to our school.

With a specialization in paediatric hearing assessments, Nitasha has honed a deep understanding of the unique needs and challenges that our student age groups face. Nitasha operates from The Hearing Corner www.thehearingcorner.co.nz where compassionate care meets decades of expertise on the path to better hearing health.

If you have concerns about your child's hearing ability, contact our school SENCO Sally Taka, on email sally.taka@owairoa.school.nz to discuss what support we may be able to provide.



Rotary
Club of Howick



We were delighted to receive a generous donation of hundreds of second-hand books from the Howick Rotary Club following their recent Bookarama event. This is the first time the Club has donated books to a local school and we feel incredibly fortunate to be the recipients of such a thoughtful gift. The collection includes a wide variety of titles, from colourful picture books to engaging novels, offering something for every age and reading level.

Our students are already enjoying the excitement of exploring the new additions and discovering fresh reading adventures. We are grateful to the Howick Rotary Club for their generosity and support.

Skill, Determination and School Values



Over two action-packed days at the HPPA Girls' Football Tournament, Owairoa Primary proudly fielded two teams who gave it their all both on and off the pitch. The tournament, hosted at William Green Reserve, began with a ranking round on Day One, where teams were seeded based on their win-loss records.

Our A Team faced a tough pool draw, coming up against several of the strongest teams in the competition—three of whom eventually placed in the tournament's top five. Despite the challenge, the girls fought hard in each match and held their heads high. Meanwhile, our B Team enjoyed a series of favourable results, showcasing strong teamwork and determination which allowed them to secure similar rankings to our A Team heading into Day Two.

On the second day, both teams returned with renewed energy and focus. The A Team went unbeaten, winning all of their games and finishing the day with confidence and pride. The B Team also made their mark with some standout performances and impressive wins that demonstrated their growth and resilience across the tournament.

Beyond their efforts on the field, the Owairoa girls truly embodied our school RISE values. In a heartwarming display of leadership and manaakitanga, our school was the only school to help tidying up the fields and packing away equipment. An effort noticed and appreciated by all involved.

We are incredibly proud of how our girls represented Owairoa, not just through their football, but through their character, teamwork, and commitment to excellence.



A Positive Puberty Experience



In the final week of Term 2, our Senior School students took part in the Positive Puberty Plus programme, delivered by experienced educators from Nest Consulting. This important programme supports the New Zealand Health and Physical Education Curriculum and was designed to help students understand the changes that come with puberty in a positive, age-appropriate and supportive way.

Over a series of interactive sessions, students explored topics such as body changes, self-awareness, decision making, media influences, and body confidence. The content was thoughtfully presented in both mixed and gender-specific groups to ensure students could engage meaningfully with the material relevant to them.

In the week prior to the student sessions, parents and whānau were invited to a parents-only evening. This informative session provided an overview of the student programme, a refresher on basic anatomy and physiology, and a look at the typical growth and development expected during puberty. Throughout the evening, parents also received valuable tween parenting tips and had the opportunity to ask questions.

We were proud to see our students participate with maturity, curiosity, and respect. The programme has left them feeling more informed and confident about the changes ahead—a valuable step in their journey through adolescence.

♥ Strengthening Student Opportunities Through Your Support ♥

Thank you for your payment of the Owairoa Primary School annual donation of \$360. We are aware many families are feeling financial pressure at the moment, so we are especially grateful for your support.

In addition to the annual operational funding provided by the Ministry of Education, our school relies on two key sources of income – parent donations and International Student fees. We also receive smaller amounts through facility hire and sponsorship.

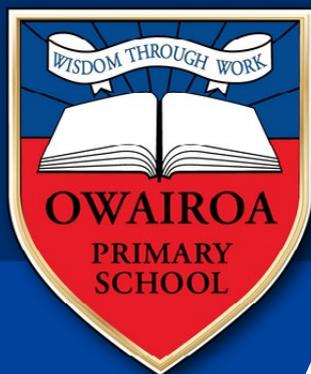
These funds enable us to provide students with enhanced resources and staffing. For example, this year we have been able to:

- staff our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest with specialist support such as Speech Language Therapist, Music Therapist, Paediatric Audiologist and a Psychotherapist
- upgrade the Dragon Playground with new equipment and shade cloths
- fund our Music Specialist and Physical Education Specialists
- support the development of our Digital Dream Lab
- Increase the supply of Support Staff
- Employ additional classroom Teachers
- Purchase new furniture to improve classroom learning spaces

Thank you again, your support expands the learning opportunities for our students.



School Board Meet the Candidates



Meet THE CANDIDATES

We warmly invite you to attend our 'Meet the Candidates' evening as part of the upcoming Primary School Board Elections 2025.



Meet the parent candidates



Ask questions and share your voice



Discover their school aspirations



Help shape our school's future

All attendees will go in the draw for a small spot prize in appreciation of your attendance. Let's work together to ensure strong and effective governance for our school. **Your voice matters. Your vote counts.**



Tuesday 12th August
7pm, School Staffroom

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

10th September 2025

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT





FENCIBLES FOOTBALL PROGRAMME SUCCESS

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the first-ever Fencibles United AFC after-school football programme at Owairoa Primary School! Over 70 children registered in Term 2, showing great potential across all three programmes.

Held one afternoon a week on school grounds, this programme gives children access to our Junior Development Programme without the need for extra travel.

The Term Three programme is underway, but there are still limited spaces still available. Visit enrolmy.com/fencibles-united-afc or contact community@fencibles.org.nz for more information.



Owairoa Soccer Stars Shine at Meadowlands



On a bright and beautiful day at Meadowlands Reserve, four mighty teams from Owairoa set off for a fun-filled day of 7-a-side soccer. Representing us were two Year 5 teams —and two Year 6 teams. With spirits as high as the sun in the sky on a perfect winters day, the Owairoa teams were ready for action.

Across the day, each team played five competitive matches against schools from across East Auckland. Our students showed great effort and determination in every game. Some matches were won, others were lost, and a few were very close. The focus of the day was on participation and enjoyment, as no scores were officially recorded.

What truly made the day special was seeing our learners, without even being asked, helping to pack up the goals at the end of the event. Talk about teamwork on and off the field!

As for behaviour, let's just say Owairoa once again lived up to its reputation as the number one school. Our students were polite, supportive, and showed sportsmanship that would make the All Whites proud.

We wrapped up the day tired, sun-kissed, and grinning from ear to ear. Same time next year? Absolutely! Bring it on!



Pataka Kai Community Pantry



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

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

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

You are of course welcome to contribute at any time throughout the year. Members of the community who are not directly involved with our school also contribute regularly. These small donations have a big impact on other people's daily lives.

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

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

You can learn more about this initiative at <https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/pataka-kai-free-pantries/>

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ON TIME FOR SCHOOL



At Owairoa Primary School, we believe every moment of learning counts. One growing concern we are currently facing is the number of students arriving late to school.

Our school day officially begins at 8.45am and it's during these first few minutes that vital learning routines, instructions and morning organisation take place. When students arrive late, they not only miss this important start to the day but often feel rushed or unsettled as they try to catch up. This can affect their focus, confidence and overall ability to make the most of the school day.

The Ministry of Education is now recording and tracking each student's daily arrival time at school. Their system highlights both lateness patterns across the country and also within individual schools.

Unfortunately, our Term One data showed that only 81% of our students were consistently at school before the morning bell. This figure has since dropped to 79% this term, meaning more than 1 in 5 students are starting their school day late.

We understand that mornings can be busy, especially for families juggling work, traffic and routines. However, we kindly encourage all families to aim to have their child at school by 8.35am to allow time to settle in and be ready to start the day with their peers.

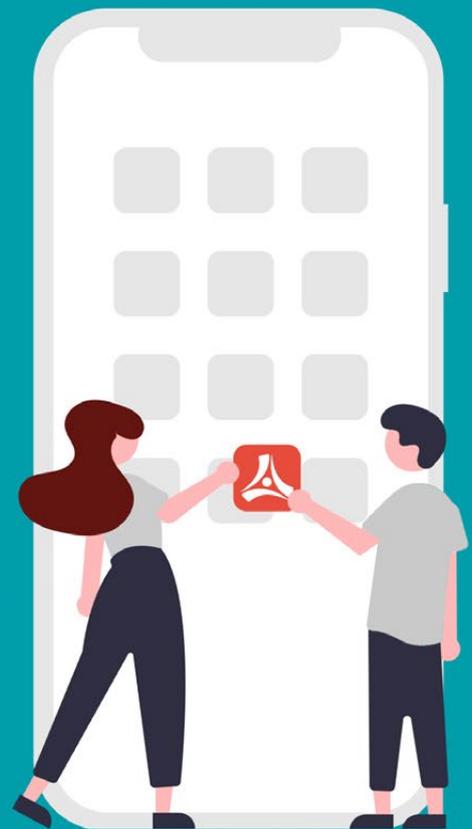
Every minute matters—not just for learning, but for building strong habits that support lifelong success. Thank you for your support in helping our students arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

Install the App in 4 easy steps!



The free Audiri school app offers parents a convenient way to stay up-to-date with the school calendar, last-minute forms, newsletters, all school communications, and even make cashless payments. With Audiri, you can get started in just a few minutes by following these simple steps:

- 1.** Open the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and search for 'Audiri'. Install the app.
- 2.** Create an account and follow the prompts. Click 'Sign up'. Enter your email address, create a password and click on 'Sign up'. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your account. Open the confirmation email and confirm your account.
- 3.** Open the app, and click 'Add/Remove'. Type your school's name and press enter.
- 4.** Tap the + icon to add. Now you can see your school, under My Schools & Services.



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WHĀNAU GET-TOGETHER

Sharing the Neurodivergent Journey

A special gathering for whānau of neurodivergent students. This is an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to come together, share experiences, and connect with one another in a warm and welcoming environment.

When: Thursday, 31 July

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Howick Library Meeting Room

(Use the door on the left inside the main entrance - look for the sign 'Whānau Get-Together'.)

☕ Enjoy a relaxed morning tea while connecting with others who share similar experiences.

💬 Share your journey, hear from others, and gain insights into challenges and successes.

📌 Information on local support services will be available.

🍷 Light refreshments provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Black light WHITE PARTY!

Our recent PTA Black Light Disco was a glowing success. Students came dressed in white, ready to shine under the black lights. The school hall was transformed into a vibrant, glowing party space, creating a fun and exciting atmosphere for all.

Thank you to our PTA for organising another fun disco event for our school community. With energetic dancing and lots of smiles, it was a night to remember.



HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Freddie Moody, House Leader – Aotea House

My name is Freddie Moody, and I am a 2025 House Leader for Aotea at Owairoa Primary School. I am proud to have this prestigious job. Throughout my school life I have been a very sporty person. My favourite sports are cricket, football, and swimming.

As House Leader I hope to be a great role model to all students across the school.

My advice for others is whilst at Owairoa try something outside of your comfort zone. You never know what you may like, it might even become your favourite sport, that's how I discovered I enjoyed cricket.



AOTEA

Quinn Story-Frayling, Deputy House Leader, Takitimu House

My name is Quinn Story-Frayling and I am 10 years old. I absolutely love netball and giving sports a go.

At Owairoa, I appreciate the awesome teachers and staff we have. I love that there are students from all over the world and that we are one big whanau.

There are lots of awesome opportunities such as Kapa Haka, Kaitiaki, Choir, Dance and Librarian just to name a few. Some of my favourite memories are of going on trips to Rock Climbing and Whitewater rafting in the Senior school.

The advice I would give to other students is to give everything a go, even if it is hard. Find things you love and make the most of the opportunities you have. Be confident of your abilities because the six years of primary school go fast.

I am grateful for the incredible support I have been given in my time at Owairoa Primary School, and the great people I have met.



TAKITIMU

Winter Wellness

Winter wellness becomes a priority during the colder months. The change of season brings a multitude of bugs and viruses, ranging from colds, the flu and stomach bugs.

Many of these bugs are highly contagious, so we ask that you be vigilant about monitoring your child's health. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home.

For student absences, please email absent@owairoa.school.nz or notify us through the Audiri App, stating the reason your child is away and the date/s they will not be attending school.

Should your child become unwell during the school day, our office staff will contact you to collect your child from school. Please ensure we have current mobile numbers so that we can contact you if needed.



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 School Blog - Manawatia a Matriki!



The learners in Year 2 celebrated Matariki, through new learning about the special occasion, the cultural significance of the celebrations and by adding to their Te Reo vocabulary.

We read lots of Matariki stories and legends and we learned about all the individual stars in the cluster. Children talked about their families and how they celebrate Matariki or other special events, about traditions and special kai shared with the whanau.

We have explored Matariki through Art and children practised drawing koru patterns, they learned about the meaning behind special Maori patterns and drew symbols representing the connections between the stars and our environment. We had lots of fun learning and performing the Matariki Macarena, the

best way to remember the names of the seven stars.

Matariki is a time for new beginnings, and we took the opportunity to reflect on our learning so far and to set goals for the rest of the year. Learners have discussed and written about what they would like to achieve in terms of learning and what are some of their physical and social goals (being fit and healthy, making new friends, showing care and kindness towards others).

Learning about and celebrating Matariki was one of the highlights of the term for our students in Year 2. Happy Matariki!

Middle School Blog - Mitey Learning in Year 3



As part of the Mitey program, Middle School students have been looking at, recognising and understanding that everyone has different personalities and feelings.

Year 3 have been focusing on friendships and more importantly how to be a good friend. They have explored how positive friendships make people feel included and when others may feel lonely or excluded.

Learners have been working using quality picture books to investigate character traits and actions. Reading the story, 'Colour The Stars by Dawn McMillan, Ngaere Roberts', the students recognised that the power of a good friendship can change lives.

Room 23 then wrote about friendship and went on to create wonderful recipes for friendship soup! Those special ingredients such as kindness, respect and trust certainly make a difference.

Senior School Blog - Kites, Culture, and Collaboration



The Senior School celebrated Matariki with a week full of reflection, creativity and connection. Across Years 5 and 6, learners explored the meaning of the Māori New Year: a time to remember those who came before us, celebrate the present, and set intentions for the future.

In M16, we expressed these themes through a large collaborative artwork. Every student contributed, carefully planning and working together to bring the piece to life. It was a powerful way to finish off Term 2 with teamwork, creativity, and shared purpose.

We also created origami kites, connecting to the tradition of flying kites during Matariki to honour loved ones who have passed and to send our goals into the sky. Each learner explored different Māori patterns and symbols, decorating their kite with traditional designs.

Both the collaborative piece and the kites are now proudly displayed outside M16, bringing colour, culture, and creativity to our space. This project gave students the chance to reflect, share ideas, and take pride in a meaningful celebration.

Matariki reminded us of the importance of coming together, the perfect way to close out a busy and successful Term 2.

Looking ahead

☺ July

31 Music Festival 12.30 – 6.30pm

☺ August

- 1 HPPA Rugby
- 6 School Board nominations close
- 7 Year 5/6 Speech Finals
- 11 Junior Maths Week
- 11 HPPA Speech Finals
- 12 School Board Meet the Candidates
7.30pm
- 13 International Day
- 19 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 20 HPPA Netball Funday
- 21 South Asian Parents Evening
- 25 Book Week
- 26 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 29 Writers Quiz

☺ September

- 10 School Board Elections
- 19 End of Term Three



Honey for Sale

The bees in our Owairoa Honey Factory have been hard at work and we are excited to announce we have some fresh school honey available for purchase.

A limited number of our very special 'Owairoa Multi Floral Honey' is now on sale at our school office for just **\$14 per pot.**

Get in quick to secure your very own pot of Owairoa gold today.

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
 WINZ subsidies are available

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

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