

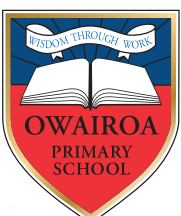
The Owairoa Primary

School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 4, 12th May 2026

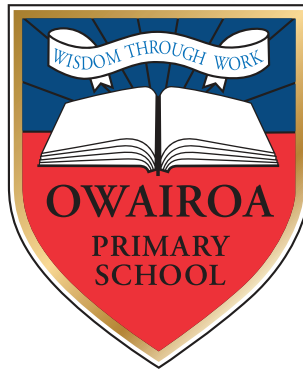


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

With Term Two well underway, it was great to see the enthusiasm and energy as staff and students returned to their classrooms, ready for another exciting term of learning.

The term ahead promises to be a busy and rewarding one, with a wide range of educational programmes, sporting events, cultural activities and special occasions planned over the coming weeks.

Thank you to those Parents who attended our Parent Teacher Student Conferences last week. These meetings are an important chance for teachers, students and families to work together in supporting individual learning goals and celebrating progress made so far this year. Strong partnerships between home and school continue to play a significant role in student success and we greatly value your ongoing support and involvement in your child's educational journey.



WELCOME

to our Owairoa "family"

- Vinny Gaston
- Nathan van Jaarsveld
- Georgia MacDonald
- Richie Claydon
- Laura Yang
- Scott Lucas
- Emma Winterton
- Mihlan Kerr
- Cherrie Tian
- Vancessa Drugan
- Cortez Harris
- Bethany Ting
- Lilly Van Rooyen
- Anaira Malhotra
- Lucas Bezuidenhout
- Nevangi Fernandopulle
- Isaiah OBrien
- Raghav Deshpande
- Rumi Deshpande
- Boson Clarke
- Joy Hu
- Yethum Muthuwadura
- Manouchehr Zarif
- Dinya Silva
- Amy Li
- Kiaan Sandhu
- Ashvir Singh
- Ari Adni
- Sione Fotu

Think Pink, Stand Together

On Friday 15th May, Owairoa Primary School will be proudly taking part in Pink Shirt Day, a day that encourages us all to Speak Up, Stand Together and Stop Bullying.

Students and Staff are invited to come dressed in pink for the day, with pink clothes, shoes, tutus, hair accessories... the brighter, the better. Each class will also be holding a fun competition to find the "pinkest" person.

Pink Shirt Day is all about celebrating kindness, inclusion and respect, while helping create a school where everyone feels safe, valued and welcome.

We look forward to seeing our school turned pink for this important cause.

#PINKSHIRTDAY
**Speak UP
STAND
TOGETHER
STOP BULLYING**

KŌRERO MAI, KŌRERO ATU
MAURI TŪ, MAURI ORA

Celebrating Positive Choices

Excitement continues to grow around our popular Gold Card House Points promotion, with students across the school striving to demonstrate our Owairoa RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Self-Esteem, and Excellence.

Each Gold Card awarded recognises students who show outstanding effort, positive behaviour, kindness, leadership or excellence in their learning. With every Gold Card worth 100 house points, students are highly motivated to make positive choices every day.

All Gold Card recipients are entered into our weekly prize draws, with one lucky student selected as the term winner. Congratulations to our Term One Gold Card winner, Isabella Veamatahau from Room 7!

Well done Isabella, and congratulations to all of our Gold Card recipients who continue to make Owairoa Primary School such a positive and respectful place to learn.



Karate Success

Congratulations to Year 4 student Oneli Soysa on her outstanding achievements in karate.

During the recent school holidays, Oneli competed in the Australian Open Karate Tournament, where she performed exceptionally well, winning a Bronze Medal in Kata and a Silver Medal in Kumite in the 8-9 years category.

Her success continued last week at the New Zealand Open Tournament, where she achieved a Gold Medal in Kumite and a Silver Medal in Kata in her division.

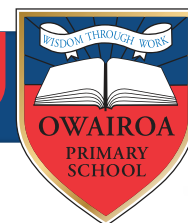


Oneli has been training in karate for the past four years and regularly competes in tournaments across both New Zealand and Australia. She is currently working at a Blue Belt level and is a wonderful example of dedication, perseverance, and sporting excellence.



Attendance Update

Term 2, Week 3



Owairoa Primary School's attendance target is for 80% of our students to attend school regularly (that is to attend more than 90% of the time) which equates to 5 days or less absence each term.



That's a Six!!



The bus was buzzing with excitement as 24 learners made their way to the Howick and Pakuranga Cricket Club grounds at Lloyd Elsmore Park. These students took to the field for a vibrant girls' cricket day against neighbouring schools. With clear skies overhead and the sun shining brightly, it was the perfect setting for a day of sport, teamwork, and fun.

The school proudly entered four teams—two made up of enthusiastic Year 4–5 players and two from the confident Year 6 group. Across the day, each team played four games, showing determination, growing skills, and fantastic sportsmanship.

From powerful hits to impressive catches, every match was filled with energy and encouragement. Cheers echoed across the pitch as teammates supported one another and celebrated every run and wicket. The Owairoa teams were all new to cricket, so their participation and enthusiasm were even more impressive. The progress they made in training for this event showed clearly on the day. We are extremely proud of the girls for going out of their comfort zone to try something new!

One Year 4-5 standout team had an exceptional day, finishing undefeated. They showcased excellent teamwork and a positive attitude throughout their matches. Their achievement was a highlight, but the true success of the day was the enjoyment shared by all. Perhaps this opportunity has sparked a love of cricket in some of the girls.



HPPA Swimming



The atmosphere was electric as Owairoa School's young swimmers eagerly anticipated their moment to shine at the interschool swimming competition. Competing against nine other East Auckland primary schools, our learners stepped up to the challenge with determination, resilience, and outstanding sportsmanship. The event kicked off with the division 1 and 2 Freestyle, where a few swimmers advanced to the final heats. These were followed by the breaststroke and backstroke events.

While our swimmers tried their hardest and pushed themselves in every event, the competition was incredibly fierce this year. We are thrilled to celebrate Maia, who delivered a standout performance to finish 3rd in the breaststroke. Although we did not secure other placements, the effort and grit shown by the entire team were truly commendable. The day concluded with the freestyle relays, where our teams pushed themselves hard amidst cheers and chants of encouragement.

Ultimately, the true stars were our learners, whose impeccable manners and teamwork exemplified the spirit of R.I.S.E values. Such a successful event would not have been possible without the support of our parent helpers, dedicated staff, and the hosting school. We are proud of our swimmers and look forward to more opportunities to demonstrate our OPS spirit in future competitions.





Hats On for Sun Safety

Our Year 1 Hat Parade was a wonderful celebration of creativity, learning and Sun Smart thinking.

As part of their Term One Inquiry, students explored how hats help protect us from the sun. Using their ISTEAM skills, they tested different materials, designed their own creations and made hats that were both fun and practical.

The parade was full of smiles and colour, as students proudly showed off their hats to Parents, Grandparents and other students. It was fantastic to see so many families come along to support the event, many even wearing hats themselves to help promote our sun safety message.

A big thank you to our Year 1 Teachers and Parent Helpers for supporting our students with their amazing creations.





Winter Wellness

As we enter Term 2 our thoughts turn to Winter Wellness and how we can all support students and their families to stay well and stay in school. Here are some top tips sent to our school for your guidance:

Ensure good ventilation: Good ventilation helps remove virus and bacterial particles in the air. It is recommended you let in fresh air every day. A partly opened window (~5cm) open for most of the day will enable flushing out of bacteria and viruses, and exchange with fresh outside air. Alternatively, open windows and/or doors for at least 15 minutes as often as possible, if it is safe to do so, to exchange the stale rebreathed air with fresh outside air.

Remind everyone to cover coughs and sneezes: Some infectious diseases can be transferred in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Encouraging people to cover their coughs and sneezes can help prevent illnesses spreading to other people.

Encourage everyone to keep their hands clean: Washing or sanitising your hands is one of the easiest ways to keep yourself and others safe. By keeping your hands clean, you can prevent the spread of illness.

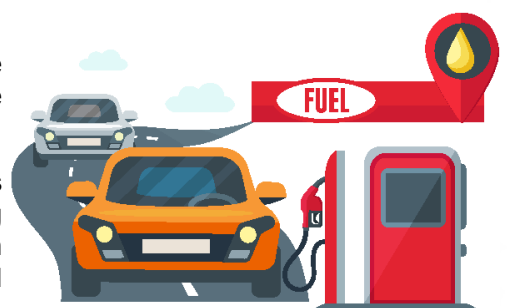
Maintain rigorous cleaning and disinfection practices: Some infectious diseases and illnesses can be spread by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated by an infected person. Maintaining rigorous cleaning and disinfection practices is the best way to stop diseases spreading in this way.

Knowing if a child is well enough to be at school: Some mild symptoms can be caused by a condition or reaction rather than an infectious illness. A child with these symptoms is likely to still be able to attend school. However, if a child is too unwell to learn or they have an infectious illness that could spread easily to others, they need to be kept at home away from school so they can recover or get health advice or care.

Fuel Response Plan

The Government released a new Fuel Response Plan aligned with the National Fuel Plan that provides Response Phases to help manage the impact on fuel distribution across New Zealand.

The Ministry of Education has communicated with schools that Ministers have been clear that a priority is maintaining onsite classroom learning through all phases. Schools remain open for onsite learning as normal, with any change an absolute last resort. Student attendance, achievement and safety remain the priorities.



EYE ON NATURE School Trip

A Year 4 class was fortunate enough to have had an exciting day at the Eye on Nature Programme! They were very lucky to take part in a variety of hands on activities that helped them learn more about the environment and how they could protect it in their everyday lives.

The first stop was the Honey Bee Station – Beez Thingz. Here, they learned all about honey bees, why they are so important for pollination, what is affecting their survival, and how we can help protect them. One of the highlights at this station was getting to try on real beekeeping safety suits. This gave the learners a fantastic insight into what it feels like to be a beekeeper.

Next, they went on a nature walk where they completed a scavenger hunt. The learners had to carefully search for different items on their lists, which encouraged teamwork and lots of thoughtful discussions. This part of the day was a real highlight, as they all took time to slow down, be quiet, and listen to the sounds of nature around us. Many learners especially loved hearing the beautiful song of the tūī.

The third station was an Auckland Zoo talk. Here, the learners explored a range of fossils and listened to a fascinating story about a Pāua/ shell that was found in New Zealand many years ago. They were amazed by how old it was and enjoyed being able to handle and closely observe the fossils while learning where they were discovered.

Finally, the learners visited the Tread Lightly tent, where they learned about recycling, why it is so important, and how they can make better choices when disposing of waste. The learners left with lots of ideas about how they could help care for our environment.

The bus ride home was much quieter than the journey there. After such a busy and exciting day, everyone was feeling tired but happy, reflecting on a wonderful learning experience!





Anzac Assembly

Lest We Forget



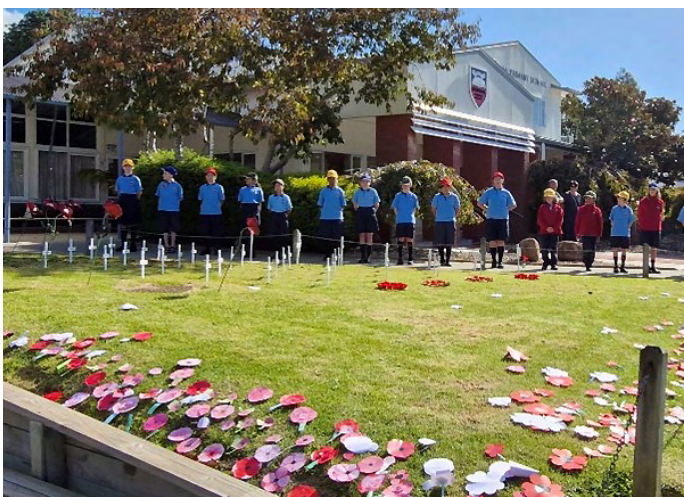
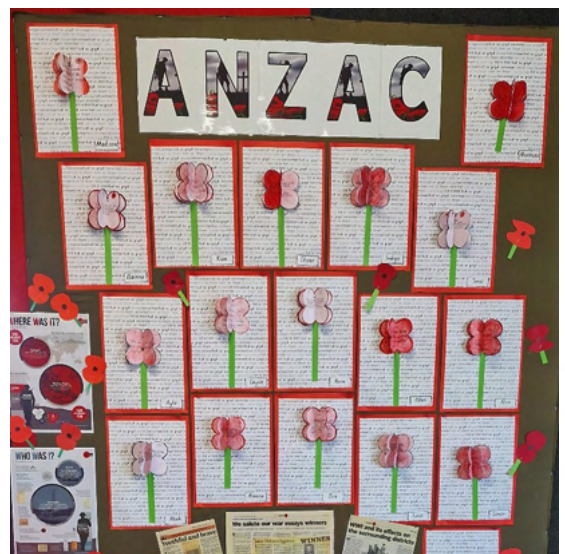
Our Senior School students and staff gathered around our school's flagpole and the white crosses on display for a few weeks. Some proudly wore a red poppy on their uniform, others were carrying hand-made poppies which they had created in class.

All were there to attend the ANZAC Day Commemoration Assembly, which is held annually around ANZAC day. Students had all been learning about the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and the events that took place in Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.

House Leaders respectfully led the event, which included the readings of a number of significant texts. They reminded the attendees of the reasons why we commemorate ANZAC Day and explained the significance of poppies. The poems "In Flanders' Fields", as well as the "For the Fallen", were listened to in respectful silence. All students had memorised the words to "The Flag", which they recited in unison. Finally, we watched as the NZ Flag was raised, which was followed by a minute's silence.

Learning about what has happened in years gone by, helps us to understand and appreciate the world that we live in presently.

Lest We Forget.



Senior School Rock Climbing Adventure



During Weeks 1 and 2 of this term, our senior school students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a rock climbing experience at Extreme Edge.

It was incredibly pleasing to see every student step outside of their comfort zone and give climbing a go. For some, this meant overcoming nerves and facing their fears, while others confidently scaled the walls, racing to the top like seasoned climbers. Regardless of ability, each student showed determination, courage, and a willingness to challenge themselves.

One of the highlights of the trip was seeing students interact with and support peers they may not usually work with. The encouragement, teamwork, and positive energy on display were fantastic and truly reflected our school values in action.

A big thank you must go to our parent helpers, whose support throughout the trip was invaluable. Their assistance with supervision and organisation helped ensure the experience ran smoothly and safely for everyone involved.

The bus rides added to the fun, with plenty of chatter and singing on the way there, followed by a much quieter, sleepier journey home after a full and active day!

Experiences like this are what our students look forward to, and it was wonderful to see them embrace the challenge with such enthusiasm and positivity.





HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Caleb Wee, Tainui House Leader

My name is Caleb Wee, and I am 10 years old. I love spending time with my family and taking care of my dog, Churros. I take pride in my work and put in a lot of effort to make it the best it can be.

I love Owairoa because everyone is so friendly, and it's an amazing place to make friends and learn, all while having fun! There are so many extraordinary opportunities, such as kapa haka, choir, dance, and Kaitiaki—and that's only a few!

My favourite memory at Owairoa was the trip to the Stardome. I really enjoyed learning about all the planets.

During my time at Owairoa, I have been treated with nothing but kindness, and I couldn't be more grateful for the friends I have made here, as well as the superb teachers and staff who have supported me through different stages of my learning.

My advice to other students is to always try your best, follow the RISE values, try everything you're interested in, and most importantly, have fun—because one day you're in Year 1, and the next you're suddenly in Year 6. Go Tainui!



Stella Collings, Tainui Deputy House Leader

My name is Stella Collings, and I am 10 years old. I enjoy playing football, singing, and learning the violin.

At Owairoa, I appreciate all the wonderful teachers and staff we have to help us with our learning journey. I also love the fact that we have a variety of students from all cultures and backgrounds. This helps us learn and understand more about each other.

Some of the opportunities that we have at Owairoa are; Kaitiaki, Choir, Orchestra, Librarian, fruit picking, football, and trees for survival. I always enjoy representing my awesome school!

A few of my most magical memories at Owairoa have been the play I performed for the end of year concert in Year 4, and the time in ISTEAM when my friend Ellie and I created a building made entirely from toothpicks, marshmallows, and gummies. Another activity I enjoyed doing was sailing. My friend Oshadhee and I were capsized into the icy water!

The advice I would give to other Owairoa students is make the most of the opportunities that come your way, and you'll have an amazing time at this fabulous school. And Tainui, let's keep earning house points, so that we can win the house shield!

Owairoa is an awesome place to begin your journey through life, and I am so grateful that I got to come here and be a part of this ever-growing whanau of amazing people.



TAINUI



School Blog Update



Junior Blog

The junior school students enjoyed learning about ANZAC Day. This national day of remembrance in New Zealand and Australia takes place on 25 April and commemorates all those who served in wars.

We read beautiful ANZAC poems, such as “Red Poppy” and listened to interesting stories, such as “ANZAC Ted” and “This is Where I Stand.” Many classes created amazing artwork centred around ANZAC Ted or the red poppy flower and proudly shared their creations at our last junior school assembly. These art activities gave students the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills, boost creativity and expression, as well as incorporate the skills they have learned with Mrs Coetzee, our Art specialist. While completing their poppy art, Room 8 blended colours to create a magnificent sunset and explored mixed media – visual art that combined crayon, marker and dye.

We were very lucky to have Kay Goulden (Dominic’s nana) visit our junior school assembly to share the fascinating story of Josip Sunjič. Josip (known as Joe) was Dominic’s great, great, great uncle who fought in the war. Both students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed looking at the photos and listening to the information that Kay shared about this hero’s life.



RED POPPY

*Red poppy what do you say?
Please wear me on ANZAC Day.
Red poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell.
Red poppy what should we know?
That peace on Earth should
Grow, grow, grow!*

Middle Blog

We are MITEY in the Middle School



Our Middle School learners in Years 3 and 4 have been proudly celebrating success through our certificate presentations, recognising the wide range of achievements and positive behaviours shown across the school. These certificates highlight not only academic progress but also the everyday choices students make that contribute to a safe, caring, and positive learning environment. It has been a pleasure to acknowledge the effort, perseverance, and growth our learners continue to demonstrate.

Central to these celebrations are our RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Self-esteem, and Excellence. Students recognised for Respect show kindness, listen to others, and contribute positively to classroom and playground communities. Integrity is demonstrated through honesty, responsibility, and making the right choices even when it is challenging. Self-esteem is seen in learners who are developing confidence, embracing challenges, and believing in their ability to succeed. Excellence is reflected in those who strive for their personal best, take pride in their learning, and show determination to improve.

Alongside our RISE values, our certificate celebrations also connect to the Mitey wellbeing programme, supporting both Year 3 and Year 4 learners in developing social and emotional skills. Year 3 students are learning to identify and name their emotions, recognise how feelings can change, and use strategies such as breathing, asking for help, and talking to trusted adults to manage challenges. They are also building early skills in friendship, sharing, and empathy. Year 4 students build on this foundation by strengthening their emotional regulation, developing resilience, and learning how to solve problems and manage conflict in positive ways. They are also beginning to take greater responsibility for their actions and show understanding of different perspectives.

These combined learning experiences help our students grow not only as learners but as kind, confident, and capable people. The certificates are a meaningful way to celebrate the visible impact of RISE values and Mitey learning in everyday school life. We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 3 and 4 students continue to show progress, support one another, and contribute positively to our Middle School community. We look forward to their continued growth.

Senior Blog

Lest We Forget: Our ANZAC Day Learning Journey

This week, the senior students have been learning about ANZAC Day and what it means for New Zealand and Australia. ANZAC Day is a special time when we remember the soldiers who went to war and showed bravery, courage, and sacrifice.

On Thursday afternoon, the senior school held a respectful ANZAC service. Our House Leaders did an amazing job leading the ceremony. They spoke clearly and showed great leadership while helping us all understand the importance of the day.

During the service, we all stood together and recited The Flag and The Ode (The Fallen). We also listened carefully and showed respect as we remembered those who served our country.

Here are some important facts we learned about ANZAC Day:

- ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
- ANZAC Day is remembered on April 25th every year
- It marks the day soldiers landed at Gallipoli in 1915 during World War I
- Many soldiers showed bravery, even in very difficult conditions
- The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance
- People attend dawn services to honour the soldiers

ANZAC Day helps us remember the past and be thankful for the peace we have today. It reminds us to show respect, kindness, and courage in our own lives.

We are proud of how our students showed respect during the service and how much they have learned about this important day.

Lest we forget.



Looking ahead



☺ May

14 Middle School Observatory Trip

15 Pink Shirt Day

Middle School Observatory Trip

HPPA Dodgeball Tournament

19 School Board Meeting 6.30pm

20 HPPA Girls Football

22 HPPA Rugby

PTA Disco

27 HPPA Girls Football

28 Parent Cultural Evening

☺ June

1 Kings Birthday – School Closed

2 Samoan Language Week

PTA Meeting 7.30pm

3 HPPA Hockey Fieldday

4 Year 3/4 Poetry Competition

5 HPPA Rugby

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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