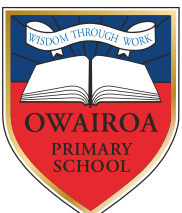


The Owairoa Primary School Scribe

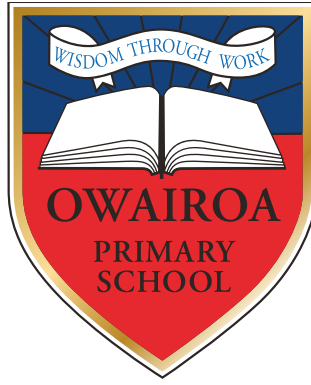
news and views from around our school

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Issue No 6, 30th July 2026



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

As the end of Term Two arrives, we have an opportunity to pause and reflect on what has been another busy and rewarding period of learning at Owairoa Primary School. The eleven-week term has been filled with academic, sporting, cultural and extracurricular experiences that have challenged our students, celebrated their strengths and helped them continue to grow.

This time of year is also marked by Matariki, a significant occasion that encourages us to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and look ahead with optimism. It is a time for reconnecting with family and friends, acknowledging achievements and considering the goals and aspirations we hold for the future.

Throughout this newsletter, we are pleased to share some of the many highlights and successes from the past few weeks. We are proud of the effort, resilience and positive attitude our students have demonstrated throughout the term and are grateful for the support of our families and staff who contribute so much to their success.

As the winter holidays begin, I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy quality time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our students back next term refreshed and ready for an exciting second half of the school year, with many new opportunities and experiences still to come.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Logan Daniel
- Julia Wang
- Zara Abbas
- Asher Anthick

SCHOOL FINISH TIME



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 will be invoiced directly from Bizzy Bodz.

Congratulations to Our Principal, Alan McIntyre MNZM

On behalf of the Owairoa Primary School Board, I would like to extend our congratulations to our Principal, Alan McIntyre, on being appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List for services to education.

This is one of New Zealand's highest civilian honours and recognises Alan's outstanding contribution to education over more than five decades. To be recognised in the King's Birthday Honours is a remarkable achievement and reflects a lifetime of service, leadership and dedication to young people, families and communities.

For our school community, this recognition is especially significant. Alan has led Owairoa Primary School since 1990 and has devoted more than 36 years of service to our school. During that time, he has guided Owairoa through tremendous growth and change, helping to shape it into the thriving, innovative and highly regarded school it is today.

Alan's vision, commitment and leadership have positively impacted generations of students, staff and families. His influence extends well beyond our school gates through his contribution to educational leadership, international education, student wellbeing initiatives and community engagement. Throughout his career, he has remained steadfast in his belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed and flourish.

While this honour recognises Alan's contribution to education across New Zealand, we are especially proud that so much of this service has been dedicated to the Owairoa community. His passion for education and commitment to our students continue to inspire those who work alongside him.

On behalf of the Board and our wider school community, we congratulate Alan on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his extraordinary service to education.

Shaun Davidson

Presiding Member

Owairoa Primary School Board




RT HON CHRISTOPHER LUXON
PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

18 May 2026

Dear Mr McIntyre

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your appointment as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of your services to education.

New Zealand has always been a place where people have selflessly served their community and country. The honour you have received is a fitting and well-deserved recognition of your own outstanding contribution.

You should rightly feel incredibly proud of all you have achieved and contributed to New Zealand, and to be recognised in this special way – it is an acknowledgement of your impact, and of those who have supported you and your work.

I hope you take the time to reflect on all that you have accomplished and given to others, and that you importantly take the opportunity to celebrate this milestone with those dearest to you.

I offer you my personal thanks for your service to New Zealand and I also thank you on behalf of the Government, my Parliamentary colleagues and all New Zealanders. Congratulations once again.

Yours sincerely


Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister



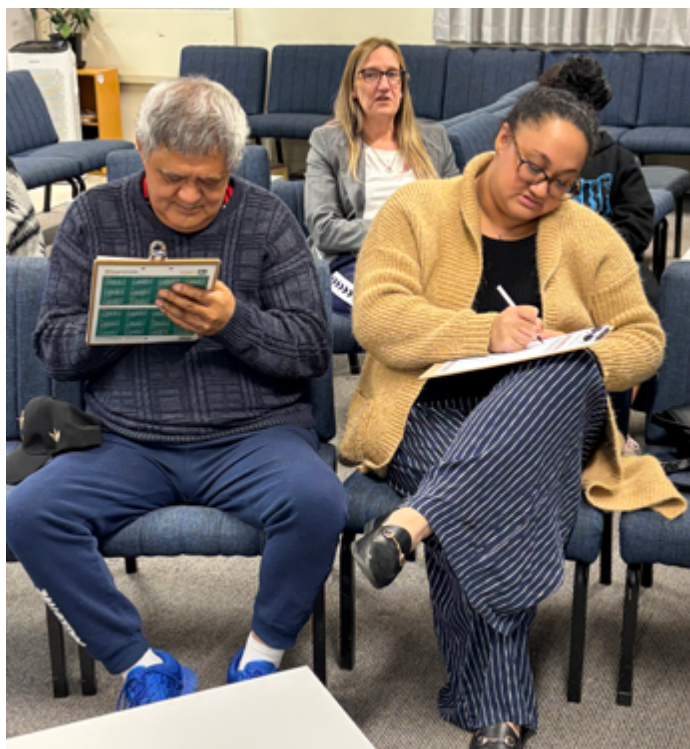
Māori Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our Māori Parents' Evening on Thursday 28 June. It was a wonderful opportunity for whānau, students and staff to come together, share ideas and strengthen our partnership in supporting the success of our tamariki.

We were privileged to welcome Whaea Tiny Drummond and Matua Hemi Raukau, who shared their knowledge, experiences and aspirations for our school and students. Their insights provided valuable encouragement and a historical perspective for all who attended.

A special thank you also goes to our student speakers, Patricia Wolken and Idris Pully, who spoke with confidence and pride. They shared their experiences and the opportunities they have been provided with, highlighting the importance of their own culture, identity and belonging as a Māori learner within our school community.

The evening was a positive and meaningful occasion, celebrating the strength of our Māori whānau and the collective commitment to ensuring our students thrive. We appreciate everyone who contributed to making the event such a success and look forward to continuing these important conversations and connections in the future.





Bridging the Years Through Reading



Year 5 and 6 students in Room M11 had a lovely opportunity to spend time with the new entrants students in Room 22, through a buddy reading session last week.

As the new students were still settling into school, some of them were feeling a little nervous around the bigger students. Room M11 wanted to show them that the senior school isn't so scary after all, so we decided to head out, choose some books and share some reading time together.

The students were buddied up and read outside in the fresh air. Our senior students did a fantastic job of reading with expression and asking thoughtful questions about the stories. The younger students were really engaged and enjoyed listening, talking and sharing ideas about the books.

It was a wonderful opportunity for both classes to get to know each other better and build positive connections across the school. Experiences like this help create a caring, supportive school community where everyone feels welcome.



Celebrating Matariki

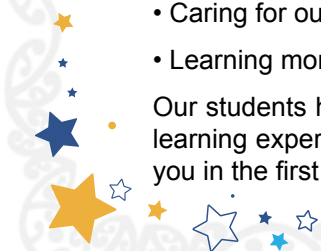
Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars that appears in the winter sky and signals the beginning of the Māori New Year. Known internationally as the Pleiades star cluster, Matariki holds special significance in New Zealand as a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and look forward to the future.

In 2026, Matariki is celebrated during the school holidays from 17th to 24th July, with the Matariki public holiday falling on Friday 17th July. It is a time when families and communities come together to remember loved ones who have passed, share stories, give thanks for the past year and set goals and aspirations for the year ahead.

There are many meaningful ways to celebrate Matariki, including:

- Sharing a special meal with family and friends
- Getting up early to look for the Matariki star cluster in the dawn sky
- Reflecting on achievements and setting goals for the future
- Planting seeds, vegetables, or native plants to represent new beginnings and growth
- Caring for our environment by planting a tree, cleaning up a local reserve, beach or waterway
- Learning more about the stories, traditions, and significance of Matariki

Our students have been exploring the meaning of Matariki through a variety of classroom activities and learning experiences. We look forward to sharing some of these special moments and celebrations with you in the first newsletter of Term Three.



"KA MAHUTA A MATARIKI I TE PAE, KA MAHUTA Ō TĀTOU TŪMANAKO KI TE TAU"

Matariki celebration

A TIME TO GATHER, REMEMBER, SHARE, AND DREAM.
JOIN US AS WE HONOUR TE TAU HOU MĀORI (MAORI NEW
YEAR), REMEMBER THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, AND
WELCOME NEW BEGINNINGS BENEATH THE MATARIKI STARS.

NGĀ KAUPAPA :

- SHARED KAI
- WAKA EXPERIENCE
- LIVE PERFORMANCE
- KĒMU MĀORI
- MARKET STALLS



18

SATURDAY

9:00am - 3:30pm

JULY 2026

37 Uxbridge Road, Mellons Bay, Auckland
2014

FREE

SCAN ME !!!!



0211129529
John Dobson



0225279000
Frank Haimona

Representing Owairoa with Pride



Our girls' football teams recently competed in a two-day tournament and represented Owairoa Primary School with pride, determination and outstanding sportsmanship.

Day One proved to be one of our strongest tournament starts in many years. The A Team had an exceptional day, winning all of their games and earning a place in the top-ranked pool for Day Two. The B Team also performed well, recording a mixture of wins, draws, and losses, which secured them a place in the 12th–15th ranking pool.

With teams re-ranked according to their Day One results, Day Two provided an even tougher challenge. The A Team faced some highly skilled opposition and, despite their best efforts, narrowly lost four of their five matches. Many of these games were decided by just a single goal, demonstrating how competitive they were throughout the day. The B Team continued to battle hard, producing another mixed set of results with wins, draws, and losses against evenly matched teams.

While the final placings were impressive, Mr Rossiter and Mr Basson were most proud of was the grit, resilience, and never-give-up attitude displayed by all of our girls. Throughout the tournament, many players stepped outside of their comfort zones, showed great courage, and demonstrated some outstanding football skills and talent.

A special congratulations goes to our A Team, who finished an impressive 5th overall, and our B Team, who finished a commendable 14th place.

Well done to all of our players for the way they represented Owairoa Primary School. You should be incredibly proud of your efforts, teamwork, and determination.

Undefeated Yet Again

The boys had a great couple of days at the HPPA Under 40kg Rugby Tournament over the last two weeks. The boys played hard and the best bit was 'tackling people' (Hugh Davies) and the team work from the boys on both days. This was to be the difference as they went on to be undefeated throughout the tournament.

A huge thank you to the parents for making the time to come and support the boys as this gave them more inspiration and determination to keep developing as a team to get across the line to take out the competition and continue the Owairoa Primary School winning streak.

Well done to all the boys who participated over the tournament.



Brighter Days Ahead

On Sunday 21st June, New Zealand experienced the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year. While it may have felt like winter has only just begun, this special day marks an important turning point in nature's calendar.

The Winter Solstice occurs when the Southern Hemisphere is tilted furthest away from the sun. As a result, we receive the fewest hours of daylight for the year. In Auckland, there were just over nine and a half hours of daylight on the shortest day.



The good news is that from now on, each day will become a little longer than the one before. At first the change is hardly noticeable, but by the time spring arrives we will be enjoying much lighter mornings and longer evenings.

The solstice reminds us of the remarkable rhythms of nature. Even in the middle of winter, there are signs of renewal all around us. Trees begin preparing for new growth, spring bulbs start to emerge from the soil and birds become more active as the days gradually lengthen.

There is something positive about knowing that we are now moving towards brighter days. The extra minutes of sunshine each day encourage us to get outdoors, enjoy nature, stay active and appreciate the beauty of the changing seasons.

As we settle into winter, let's take comfort in the knowledge that every sunrise now brings us a little closer to spring and the warmer days that lie ahead.

Welcoming Education New Zealand to Owairoa



We were delighted to recently welcome representatives from Education New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao to Owairoa Primary School.

Sahinde Pala, Group GM – International & Sector Engagement, and Alana Pellow, International & Sector Engagement Lead, visited our school for the morning to learn more about our International Student Programme and the positive experiences we provide for primary-aged International Students.

During their visit, we were proud to share the many successes of our programme and the strong global reputation Owairoa has developed as a fantastic choice for international families. Our visitors were able to see first-hand the welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment that helps our International Students settle, learn and thrive during their time in New Zealand.

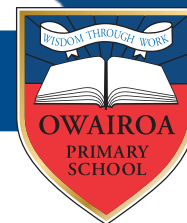
A special highlight of the visit was time spent in our International Parent Class. Sahinde and Alana enjoyed a valuable discussion with some parents of our current International Students, who shared their personal insights about their children's experiences at Owairoa and their time living in New Zealand so far.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to share our school's practice and the important role International Education plays in enriching our school community.



Attendance Update

Term 2, Week 10



Owairua 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.

Top Junior
School
Classroom



94%
ROOM 1

Top Middle
School
Classroom



85%
ROOM 24

Top Senior
School
Classroom



92%
ROOM M14

Top Year
Group



78%
Year 1

Mid-Year School Reports



Our mid-year school reports will be sent home on Friday 3rd July. These reports provide an important snapshot of your child's learning, progress and development during the first half of the school year.

We encourage parents to take time to read the report with their child and celebrate the successes, growth and effort they have demonstrated throughout the term. Positive conversations around their proudest moments and favourite learning experiences can help children build confidence and motivation.

As many families will be aware, 2026 has seen the introduction of new English and Mathematics & Statistics Curriculums across Years 0–6. Our school has been implementing these new curriculums since the beginning of the year, bringing new learning expectations, teaching approaches and assessment practices.

As a result, you may notice differences in your child's reported achievement or progress compared with previous years. These changes may reflect the new curriculum expectations for your child's year level, rather than a change in their ability or potential. It is important to remember that every child learns at their own pace, and school reports are intended to show current progress and identify next learning steps.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report, we encourage you to contact their teacher. Alongside formal assessments, teachers use a wide range of classroom observations, learning tasks, and professional judgements when evaluating student progress.

Year 3 and 4 Poetry Competition



This term our Middle School learners enthusiastically selected a poem to learn and memorise from a wide range of options. Throughout the term, they dedicated time to practicing and refining their performances, building both their confidence and presentation skills. Many students enjoyed sharing their chosen poems with family members and classmates, taking pride in showcasing their learning.

The focus of the presentations was not only on accurate recitation but also on developing effective public speaking skills. Learners worked on voice projection, maintaining eye contact, using appropriate gestures, expressing emotion and meaning through their delivery, and demonstrating a confident stance while presenting. It was wonderful to see students grow in confidence and engage their audiences through thoughtful and expressive performances.



Senior School Poetry Final

On Friday 12th June 2026, our Senior School Poetry Finals were a wonderful celebration of talent, confidence, and expression. After progressing through classroom performances and the semi-finals, our finalists presented their poems in the school hall and impressed the audience with a diverse range of selections. Students demonstrated excellent memorisation, expression, and presentation skills, making for an enjoyable and inspiring event.

The Year 5 students performed first, followed by the Year 6 students. During the intermission, the audience enjoyed musical performances by Hugh Berrington, Kylie To, Yeoul (Aloha) Kim, and Tim Ivanov, as well as a performance by the Senior School Choir. The event was presented by Miane Jooste and Anna Ho, who did a superb job guiding the finals with confidence and care.

Our judges, Ms Parkes and Ms Humphreys, had the difficult task of selecting the top three performers from each year level.

Congratulations to our winners:

Year 5

- Sophia Song – Television
- Tamu Madzima – Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf
- Maia Spinks – Daffodils

Year 6

- Ellie May – Macavity the Mystery Cat
- Stella Stratton – Television
- Tanzeel Jimoh – Television



The Senior School students were a respectful and supportive audience, and it was wonderful to welcome parents who came along to enjoy the performances. A big thank you to Ms Randhawa for organising this special event. Congratulations to everyone involved for making it such a memorable celebration of poetry.



Stop Thief – Stealing Fruit and Produce



At Owairoa, we take great pride in nurturing our established fruit trees and have plans for further plantings in our school orchard. We actively promote a garden to table programme, with many students enthusiastically involved in growing a range of citrus fruits and healthy seasonal vegetables.

Nurturing these fruit trees and vegetables is part of our life skills programme at school and encourages our students to commune with nature and care for living things by watering, fertilising, pruning, enjoying and observing the changing seasons and cycles of nature. One of the best things about having trees and plants that grow useful items, is the ability to share them.

When our vegetable and fruit crops mature, we have a designated team of students who pick the fruit and produce and distribute this to all students to taste / consume. We also contribute to our Pataka Kai [Community Foodbank] as part of our caring for the community ethos.

All of the above forms part of being a Green Gold Enviroschool and links to our school's R.I.S.E. values, which incorporates teaching students to show respect for other people's property.

You can imagine the disappointment by both students and staff to hear about and observe on our security cameras, unauthorised members of the public coming onsite, especially during the weekends, and filling up bags of citrus fruit and vegetables to take away.

Please keep an eye on the school and help us protect a positive school environment that we work so hard to provide for our wonderful students.



Proud Performance at the Hockey Field Day



Despite the overcast skies, our learners brought plenty of energy, enthusiasm, and determination to this year's Hockey Field Day at Lloyd Elsmore Park. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 learners to develop their hockey skills, work together as a team, and most importantly, have fun.

The day was split into two sessions, with our Year 5 learners taking to the turf in the morning and our Year 6 learners competing in the afternoon. Owairoa proudly entered two teams at each year level, ensuring all learners had plenty of opportunities to participate and enjoy the experience.

From the first whistle to the final game, our players were highly engaged and determined. It was fantastic to see them playing some lovely hockey and demonstrating some incredible skills throughout the day. Whether it was dribbling through defenders, making accurate passes, or defending strongly, our learners showed just how much they had learned.

What stood out most was their teamwork and positive attitude. Learners encouraged one another, celebrated each other's successes, and never gave up, even when games became challenging. Their 'never say die' attitude was evident throughout the day and is something they should be incredibly proud of.

As the day progressed, confidence continued to grow, and it was wonderful to see our learners applying their skills while demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and respect towards teammates, opponents, and officials.

A huge thank you to the wonderful parents who supported us with transport and team management. Your help made it possible for all four teams to participate, and your encouragement from the sidelines was greatly appreciated by both learners and staff.

Hockey Field Day was another fantastic success, filled with fun, learning, teamwork, and memorable moments. We are incredibly proud of the way our learners represented Owairoa and look forward to seeing their continued growth and passion for sport.



HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Aio Onkoba – Tokomaru House Leader

My name is Aio Onkoba and I'm 10 years old. I love netball, football, and lots of other sports!

One of my favourite memories at Owairoa has been making heaps of friends from different backgrounds and countries, building connections, and sharing fun moments with them.

I also love the phenomenal variety of opportunities at Owairoa. Some of my favourites are Kapa Haka, Choir, Librarian, Netball, Football, Fruit Picking, and Kaitiaki, and that's just a few of the amazing sports, activities, and leadership roles available.

I am proud to be part of the Owairoa whānau and thankful for all the memories and experiences I have had.



Connor King – Tokomaru House Leader

My name is Connor King, and I am 11 years old. I am in Room M13, and I am proud to be a Tokomaru House Leader for 2026.

I love playing video games such as Minecraft and Amanda the Adventurer. Besides gaming, I also enjoy writing horror stories.

One of the best things about Owairoa is that students can spend up to seven years here. In my case, I have been at Owairoa for all seven years, which has allowed me to get to know the school and the many teachers and staff who make it such a great place to be.

There are many opportunities available to students, with a wide range of activities, sports, and leadership roles that allow everyone to get involved and discover their strengths.

For the next House Leader who reads this, always remember that no matter what house you belong to, how old you are, or what challenges you face, we are all House Leaders. Stick by your decisions, value your friendships, and remember that if problems arise, there are always people willing to help.

My advice for being a House Leader is to look for the positives, not the negatives, in every situation. Always show your RISE values, both inside and outside of school, and be the best role model 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 School Blog - Beats, Brushstrokes and Big Discoveries



This term the Junior School has been busy exploring, creating, experimenting, and having fun while learning across Music, Art, and Science.

Our budding musicians have loved taking part in music lessons. We have been learning how to use our singing voices with confidence, practising good posture, and working together as a class. Students have enjoyed exploring different sounds, discovering the difference between high and low notes, loud and quiet music, and fast and slow tempos. Through songs, movement, and instruments, they have also been learning to keep a steady beat. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they sing and perform alongside their friends.

In Art, students stepped into the colourful world of Pablo Picasso and Cubism. Using watercolours, crayons, and lots of

imagination, they created vibrant artworks inspired by Picasso's unique style. They explored geometric shapes such as circles, triangles, and squares to create fascinating animal masterpieces. Along the way, students learned about warm and cool colours and how artists use colour to create different moods and feelings. Their finished pieces are bright, bold, and full of personality!

Science has been full of hands-on investigations and exciting discoveries. Children became young scientists as they explored different materials and their properties. They observed, compared, and tested a variety of everyday objects, learning to describe what they noticed using new scientific vocabulary. One of the highlights was investigating which materials make the best insulators. Our learners wrapped bottles in different materials and made predictions before testing which one would keep water warm for the longest time. There was lots of discussion, careful observation, and excitement as they compared their results.

It has been fantastic to see so much curiosity, creativity, and teamwork throughout the term. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm our students bring to their learning each day and look forward to many more exciting discoveries next term!

Middle School Blog - Celebrating Samoan Language Week



From Monday 1st June to Friday 5th June, our Middle School celebrated Samoan Language Week with lots of learning, teamwork, and creativity. It was a wonderful chance for learners to explore Samoan language, culture, and traditions while showing respect for the rich heritage of Samoa.

One of the highlights of the week was a classroom scavenger hunt. Learners worked in teams to search for facts and answers to the questions on their puzzle pieces. This activity encouraged everyone to think carefully, communicate clearly, and work together. Once they had found all the answers, the teams collaborated to put the pieces together and build a large class puzzle. This was a great way to strengthen teamwork, problem-solving, and knowledge of Samoa.

Learners also explored the importance of Samoan language week and why it matters to celebrate languages and cultures in our school community. They learned that language is a powerful way to connect with identity, family, and heritage. Throughout the week, learners showed curiosity and respect as they discovered more about Samoa's people, customs, and values.

In addition to their language learning, learners created a beautiful siapo turtle collage. Inspired by traditional Samoan art, the collage gave learners the chance to be creative while learning about cultural patterns and designs. The finished artwork was colourful, meaningful, and a lovely celebration of Samoan culture.

Overall, Samoan Language Week was a special time of learning, creativity, and connection. Our learners showed great enthusiasm and pride as they celebrated the beauty of Samoan culture.

Senior School Blog

Celebrating Culture Through Creativity



The Senior School has been celebrating Samoan Language Week through a variety of learning experiences that help students to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of Samoan culture and traditions.

In M16, students have been exploring traditional Siapo patterns and their cultural significance. They have been practising their designs, which will later be incorporated into an art piece. This learning has encouraged creativity while introducing students to an important Samoan art form.

Students in M15 have been creating turtle-inspired artwork as part of their celebration of Samoan Language Week. Through this activity, they have been learning about cultural symbols and expressing their understanding through art.

Meanwhile, M14 students have been learning about the significance of Samoan Language Week and why it is important to celebrate and preserve Samoan language, culture, and identity. Through class discussions and activities, they have developed a greater appreciation for the contributions of Samoan people to New Zealand society.

Samoan Language Week has provided valuable opportunities for students to learn about and celebrate Samoan culture. These experiences help foster respect, cultural understanding, and an appreciation of the diverse communities that make up our school and wider community.

Looking ahead

☺ July

- 3 PTA Mufti Day
- 3 Last day of Term Two
- School Reports go home
- 18 Matariki
- 20 First day of Term Three
- 28 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 31 Commonwealth Games Day

☺ August

- 20 International Day



ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

With an increase in the number of bugs circulating, we would like to thank Parents for remaining vigilant by keeping your children at home if they are showing cold/flu/Covid symptoms.

You can report your child's absence by emailing absent@owairoa.school.nz



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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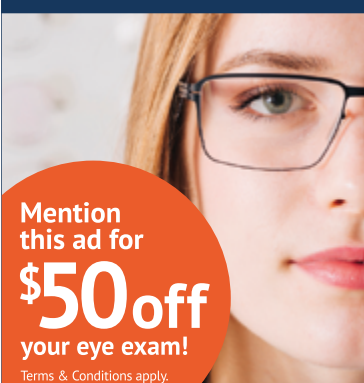
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