



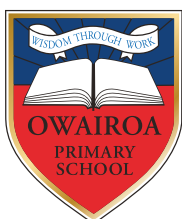
The Owairoa Primary School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 7, 4th August 2026

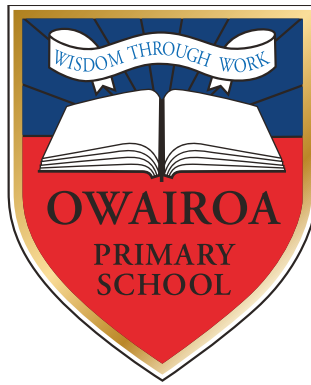


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we move into Week Three of the term already, it is wonderful to see our students continuing to embrace every opportunity to participate in the many experiences our school has to offer. Classrooms remain busy with students demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning.

Last Friday our school came together to celebrate our Commonwealth Games Day. It was fantastic to see students displaying teamwork and school spirit as they participated in a wide range of sporting activities throughout the day. We now look forward to another highlight on our school calendar, with our annual International Day celebrations taking place next Friday. This special event provides a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes our 'Owairoa Family' so unique.

During the winter months, maintaining regular attendance remains one of the most important ways to support your child's learning and wellbeing. Thank you for ensuring your child arrives at school each day ready to learn. Every day at school provides valuable opportunities for learning, friendship and personal growth, and your ongoing support plays a vital role in helping every child achieve success.

We look forward to some exciting few weeks ahead and the many memorable learning experiences still to come this term.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Nikola Neziri | • Eli van Niekerk | • Amir Abbas Safari |
| • Sadie-Marie Kinnear | • Brooke van Niekerk | • Ariellah Boban |
| • Bhavyaan Guffilla | • Charlene Yu | • Brianna Kannangara |
| • River Gibbs | • Vedi Intwala | • Maki Al-Timimi |
| • Tommy Lane | • Christian Rogers | • Trevor Paatan |
| • Shenul Goonawardane | • Desmond Rogers | • Jared Paatan |
| • Yenul Goonawardane | • Ivana Khadka | |
| • Nethul Goonawardane | • Innayat Brar | |



PIRATES, SEAGULLS AND RECYCLING FUN



Our Junior Students were treated to a fantastic live theatre performance, "Savvy and the Stolen Recycling," to learn about what materials we can recycle and how to do it correctly at school and home.

It also shared an important message about recycling. Students learned what can and cannot go into our recycling bins and why recycling correctly helps care for our environment.

The show was interactive and full of fun, students loved being involved with the characters including Savvy the Pirate and Bertie the Seagull, who teamed up on a fun-filled adventure to rescue the stolen recycling. The performers encouraged students to join in, answer questions and become part of the adventure. The students listened, they laughed and enjoyed helping save the rubbish from the wrong bins.

The performers were full of praise for our students, commenting on how fabulous, engaged and receptive they were throughout the show. We are incredibly proud of the way our junior learners participated and represented our school.

We encourage you to ask your child what they learned and have a conversation together about how your family recycles at home. It's a wonderful way to reinforce the learning and help our students become environmental experts.

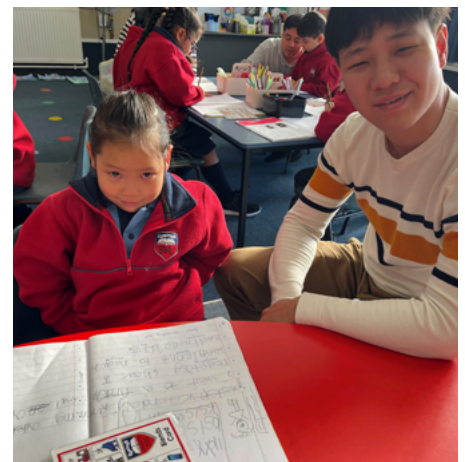


Another Successful Open Classroom Event

Our recent Open Classroom Event at the end of Term Two was a great success, welcoming our Parent community into classrooms to experience some engaging snapshots of daily life at school.

Building on the success of previous events, the opportunity gave families further insight into how teaching and learning unfolds across our school. Parents observed a wide range of classroom experiences including group activities, hands-on learning and teacher-led sessions throughout the hour-long event.

Feedback has been very positive, with many Parents expressing their appreciation for the chance to see their children in action. Thank you to those parents who could attend and support this initiative.



PARENTS ARE YOU PLAYING YOUR PART?

With the winter weather here, it is a timely reminder about the importance of road safety around our school. Our students are our top priority, and we all have a joint responsibility to keep them safe and ensure that everyone arrives at school and returns home safely.

One of the ongoing concerns our school community faces is the issue of parking. Please remember that parking on yellow lines or over driveways is strictly prohibited. These regulations are in place to prevent congestion and reduce the risk of accidents on the roads and paths around our school.

We understand that finding a parking spot can sometimes be challenging, but we urge everyone to follow the rules and park safely and legally. This means avoiding parking on the yellow lines and instead using designated parking areas or finding a spot on the side streets nearby.

We also urge everyone to take extra caution when driving around the school area. By following these simple guidelines, we can all play a role in ensuring the safety of our school community.
Thank you for your co-operation.



Fancy Footwork at the Football Fun Day



Our learners recently enjoyed a fantastic Football Fun Day, where participation, teamwork, and enjoyment were the focus. We took four teams of ten players, and it was wonderful to see every learner getting involved and giving their best effort throughout the day.

Our learners demonstrated tremendous grit and pride on the field, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Just as impressive were their manners and sportsmanship, both on and off the field. They represented Owairoa with excellence, showing respect to teammates, opponents, officials, and supporters alike.

The weather certainly kept everyone guessing, providing a typical Auckland experience with sunshine, wind, rain, and then sunshine again! Despite the changing conditions, our learners remained positive and continued to play with energy and smiles on their faces.

One of the highlights of the day was seeing the confidence and teamwork of our learners continue to grow. They encouraged one another, celebrated each other's successes, and worked together to overcome challenges. These moments truly reflected our RISE values in action.

A huge thank you must go to all the parents and whānau who helped with transport, supported from the sidelines, and encouraged our learners throughout the day. Your support helps make these opportunities possible, and we greatly appreciate it.

Well done to all of our footballers for representing Owairoa Primary School so positively. We are incredibly proud of you all!



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.



Recognition Means Gold

At Owairoa Primary School, we love celebrating the positive choices our students make every day. Our House Points system has long been a favourite, rewarding students for acts of kindness, responsibility, effort and achievement, both big and small. These points contribute to each house's total, with the winning house proudly taking home the House Shield at our end-of-year Prizegiving.

Our Gold Card promotion is a prestigious award that recognises students who go above and beyond, demonstrating our school RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Self-Esteem and Excellence. Each Gold Card is worth an incredible 100 house points, making it a highly sought-after achievement across the school.

Since launching the Gold Card initiative, teachers have noticed a wonderful lift in enthusiasm and positive behaviour. Students are working hard, showing their best selves and striving to earn this special recognition.

Every Gold Card recipient also goes into a weekly prize draw, with one ultimate winner drawn each term. Congratulations to our Term 2 winner, Theo Brown from Room 2, who took home a family movie pass worth \$100.



Introducing Jayne Pollock, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist

We are so pleased to introduce another member of our group of professional healthcare providers at our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest...

Jayne Pollock is a Registered Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist with

The Psychotherapy Board of Aotearoa New Zealand. Jayne has over 20 years' experience working as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Her experience includes working for Governmental Agencies, Charitable Trusts, within the School Environment and also Private Practice.

Jayne uses a variety of therapeutic models according to the age and needs of the child. Jayne is available at Owairoa Primary School on Thursdays and can support your child with:

- * Anxiety, separation anxiety, panic attacks and social anxiety
- * Building self esteem and confidence
- * Child/young person-parent relationship difficulties
- * Adjustment problems including parental separation and immigration
- * Grief and loss
- * Behaviour problems - Bullying, Anger etc
- * Friendship issues



If you wish to discuss the possibility of your child being seen by Jayne, contact our school SENCO Sally Taka, on email sally.taka@owairoa.school.nz to discuss what support we may be able to provide.

Professional Connections Strengthen Our Practice

At the end of last term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Jade Tawhiti, Principal of Opaheke Primary School, to Owairoa Primary School.

Jade's visit provided a valuable opportunity for two principals to connect, share ideas and discuss a range of current issues facing education. Our conversations covered many aspects of school leadership, including systems, procedures, teaching and learning, and the opportunities and challenges that schools are currently navigating.

It was encouraging to discover how many common values, ideas and experiences we share, while also gaining fresh perspectives from one another. The exchange of practical strategies and successful initiatives reinforced the importance of principals working collaboratively and learning from each other.

Leadership can at times be a demanding role and opportunities to connect with colleagues are invaluable. By sharing our collective wisdom, experiences and best practice, we are all better equipped to provide the very best educational opportunities for the children in our care.

We thank Jade for taking the time to visit Owairoa Primary School and look forward to continuing our professional relationship in the future.

In a reply email, Jade sent the following perspective.



What a pleasure and privilege it was to connect with Mr Alan McIntyre and the entire Owairoa Primary School team. After recently congratulating Mr McIntyre on his King's Birthday honour, he kindly invited me to talk about leadership, education and Owairoa.

As an experienced principal myself, it was a privilege to spend time with Alan, a vastly experienced leader who, despite the multi-faceted demands of leadership, maintains a relentless focus on student learning.

What became evident on my walk and talk with Alan and his leadership team was that Owairoa Primary School is a place where high expectations for learning are fostered, alongside a genuine culture of care and wider sense of family. There was fun and laughter had in the staffroom at morning tea, alongside deliberate efforts to celebrate both personal and professional milestones.

What stood out most to me- and perhaps best reflects the impact of stable and experienced leadership- was the strong sense of calm, clarity and collective efficacy across the school, despite significant government-driven education change.

Thank you to Alan and his leadership team for inviting me into their kura. I look forward to inviting you to Ōpaheke School in the near future.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jade Tawhiti



Our Families, Our Stories

Celebrating our community through the
voices of our Owairoa families.



Each of our school families have a unique story to tell. These stories help shape the community that makes Owairoa Primary School the special place that it is.

We invite parents to share their experiences, personal reflections and special memories of life as part of our 'Owairoa Family'. Their authentic voices help provide us with a wonderful insight into what our school means to their families.

Today's reflection come from long time parent Margaret Savage...

Owairoa Primary School – More Than a School, It's Family

After 25 years as part of the Owairoa Primary School community, our family's journey will come to an end this year. While it is the end of a chapter, the memories, friendships, and values we have gained will stay with us forever.

Owairoa has always been more than a school – it has been a family. From the beginning, we felt welcomed and supported. The staff genuinely care about every child, helping them grow in confidence, kindness, and character.

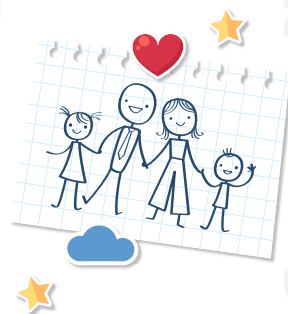
We chose Owairoa after it was recommended by a family member, and it was one of the best decisions we made. Over the years, I have watched my children grow, especially my youngest, who has flourished into a confident leader thanks to the opportunities and encouragement the school provided.

One of our favourite memories is the annual "Big Boys' Toys" event, which brought families together and created lasting memories for everyone.

To families considering Owairoa, my advice is simple: be open-minded and embrace all the opportunities the school offers.

Thank you, Owairoa Primary School, for 25 wonderful years of support, friendship, and care. You have helped shape my children into the people they are today, and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

- Margaret Savage and Family



INVESTING IN EVERY CHILD'S LEARNING

Thank you to the many families who have already paid the Owairoa Primary School annual donation of \$360. We appreciate your continued support of our school.

You may have recently seen news reports highlighting the increasing financial pressures facing schools across New Zealand. While the Ministry of Education provides operational funding, it does not fully cover the cost of delivering the high-quality learning environment and opportunities that our community expects for its children. Like many schools, we rely on parent donations, alongside International Student fees, sponsorship and facility hire, to bridge this funding gap.

Every donation made by our families is invested directly back into our students. Your support has enabled us to provide opportunities and resources that would otherwise not be possible, including:

- Specialist services through our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest, including a Speech Language Therapist, Music Therapist, Paediatric Audiologist, and Registered Psychotherapist
- Additional Teacher Aides and Learning Support staff to provide targeted assistance for students
- Extra classroom teachers to support smaller class sizes and improved learning outcomes
- Specialist Teachers in Music, Science, Performing Arts and Physical Education, giving every child access to high-quality programmes
- The continued growth of our innovative Digital Dream Lab, providing future-focused learning opportunities
- Upgraded classroom furniture and learning environments that create engaging, modern spaces for students

If you have not yet made this year's school donation, we would be grateful for your support. Every contribution directly benefits our students and helps us continue providing the exceptional educational experiences that make Owairoa Primary School such a special standout place to learn.

School donations can be made through Kindo. Thank you for partnering with us to provide the very best opportunities for every child.

Should I keep my child home from school

Going to school supports your child's learning, confidence and wellbeing. But when they're not feeling well or their usual self, it can be hard to tell if they should attend. Use this guide to help you make the right decision.

Should my child stay home today?

Usually ok to attend:

- ✓ Mild cough
- ✓ Running nose
- ✓ Mild headache
- ✓ No fever
- ✓ Eating and drinking normally

If mild symptoms become worse or more frequent, keep your child at home and seek health advice.

Keep them home if they have:

- ✗ A fever
- ✗ Vomiting or diarrhoea (48hr standdown from school required)
- ✗ A sore throat that requires pain relief
- ✗ Wheezing, coughing a lot or difficulty breathing
- ✗ School sores (impetigo)
- ✗ Untreated scabies
- ✗ Tested positive for COVID-19
- ✗ Been asked to stay home by a healthcare provider



SEEKING HEALTH ADVICE

Trust your instinct, if you are worried about your child's health contact your doctor or usual healthcare provider. You can also call Healthline for free anytime on **0800 611 116**.

In an emergency, call **111**.



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THE FUN!

HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Rylee Savage, Takitimu House Leader

My name is Rylee, and I am 11 years old. I love to give any sport a go.

At Owairoa, I appreciate all the teachers who help us when we are stuck and the office staff who look after us when we are hurt.

There are many opportunities available at Owairoa. Students can take part in kapa haka, choir, dance, orchestra, and become librarians, as well as many other activities and leadership roles. There is something for everyone. Some of my favourite experiences at school have been the rock climbing and sailing trips.

The advice I would give to other students is to always do your best and never give up, even when things are difficult. Give everything a go, even if it is outside your comfort zone. Find the things you love doing and make the most of the wonderful opportunities that the school offers.

I am very grateful for the amazing support I have received at Owairoa and for all the wonderful people I have met during my time here.



Maddox Monkley, Takitimu House Leader

Hello, my name is Maddox Monkley, and I am 11 years old. I am honoured to be a House Leader for Takitimu.

Some of my hobbies include playing touch rugby during morning tea, lunchtime, and on the weekends. I also enjoy spending time with my friends.

One of my favourite memories of Owairoa is participating in ISTEAM in Years 3 and 4. I love that Owairoa provides students with many great opportunities, including sports teams, athletics, and a wide range of other activities that allow everyone to get involved and develop their talents.

I am proud to represent Takitimu and look forward to encouraging others to make the most of everything Owairoa has to offer



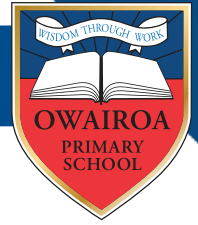
TAKITIMU





Attendance Update

Term 3, Week 2



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.



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 - Matariki Magic in Year 1



There has been plenty of excitement in our Year 1 classrooms as we celebrated Matariki, the Māori New Year. Matariki is a special time to remember those who have passed, celebrate the present with whānau and friends, and look ahead with hope for the future. Marked by the appearance of the Matariki star cluster in the winter sky, it is an important part of New Zealand's cultural heritage.

Our learners explored Matariki through stories, art, writing, mathematics and hands-on learning, discovering the significance of this special celebration—and becoming rather good at spotting stars!

Little Kiwi's Matariki certainly kept everyone busy! Room 1 created adorable Little Kiwi artwork. Room 2 made beautiful kiwi art, practised retelling the story in the correct order, and helped Little Kiwi find all of the forest creatures by following directions during Maths. Room 4 used the story to inspire colourful chalk pastel night-sky artwork and developed their writing skills using Skills Flow and Disappearing Definitions to explain what Matariki is and why it is celebrated.

After reading *The Seven Kites of Matariki*, Room 3 designed vibrant kites that looked ready to take flight across the playground! The story also sparked discussions about celebrating Matariki with whānau and friends. Room 3 continued the adventure with *Flit the Fantail's Matariki Map*, creating artwork while learning the names of the Matariki stars and what each one represents.

Room 1 also explored the significance of taonga in Māori culture. They learned about the koru, symbolising new beginnings and growth, and the pikorua, representing the strength of whānau and connection. Using air-dry clay, students crafted their own taonga, which they will soon paint before proudly displaying and sharing their creations.

From kites and kiwis to stars and storytelling, our Year 1 learners embraced Matariki with creativity and curiosity. We are so proud of the way they celebrated this special time while growing their reading, writing, maths and art skills.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Middle School Blog - Welcome Back to Term 3

It has been wonderful to see everyone in the Middle School, back after the holiday break! The classrooms have quickly filled with smiling faces, lots of stories about holiday adventures, and plenty of excitement as we begin another busy term together.

The first couple of days have been all about settling back into our classroom routines. Learners have been working hard to remember expectations, reconnecting with their classmates, and getting back into their learning with positive attitudes.



We have also been excited to welcome a new group of International Learners in the Middle School, alongside some familiar faces who have returned to continue their learning with us. It has been lovely seeing everyone make new friendships, help each other feel welcome, and share a little about themselves. Our classrooms are richer because of the different cultures, experiences, and perspectives each learner brings, and we are looking forward to learning from one another throughout the term.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with new learning, fun experiences, and plenty of opportunities for everyone to grow. Here's to a fantastic Term 3!

Senior School Blog - Out of This World Learning



The Senior School Science programme has been exploring an engaging Earth and Space unit this semester, where students have been developing their understanding of the solar system and how scientific knowledge of space has changed and evolved over time. Students have shown strong curiosity and engagement as they investigate big ideas about the universe beyond our planet.

A key focus of the unit has been scientific models and how they help us to visualise and understand complex concepts such as the scale of space. Students have been learning how models, along with advances in tools and technology, have helped scientists build a clearer understanding of our solar system over time.

Students have particularly enjoyed hands-on learning experiences, including acting out the solar system to demonstrate planetary movement and exploring the vast distances between Earth and other planets. These activities have helped bring abstract concepts to life in meaningful and memorable ways.

Students have also had opportunities to reflect on their learning creatively through diagrams, art pieces, and visual displays, allowing them to consolidate their understanding in different ways.

Overall, the Earth and Space unit has provided valuable opportunities for students to explore scientific concepts in an engaging and accessible way, building both their knowledge and enthusiasm for Science.

Looking ahead

☺ August

- 10 Maths Week
- 12 Year 5/6 Speech Competition
- 14 PTA Parent Night
- 17 Tongan Language Week
- 20 International Day
- 25 School Board Meeting 6.30pm
- 27 Pasifika Cultural Evening

☺ September

- 1 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 2 Parent Teacher Conferences 1pm - 8pm.
Students dismissed 12.30pm
- 3 Parent Teacher Conferences
3.30pm - 6.30pm
- 25 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

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