



# ŌWHANGO SCHOOL PĀNUI

The tamariki at Ōwhango School are engaged in our unique, rural environment, are individual in their learning, and strong in experience and success.

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8/2025

26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK / WHAKATAUKĪ

Nā te moa i takahi te rātā —*The rata that has been trampled on by a moa when young will never grow straight.*

## DATES TO NOTE

26 <sup>th</sup> March	Kiwi Release- Kahikatea Room
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Whakapapa Clean-Up Day
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Zero Waste Educator Here
	Y 5 & 6 Think Brain Safe Day
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Y 5 & 6 Think Brain Safe Day postponement day
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Jase Williams Evening 5:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Whakapapa Clean-Up Day postponement day
	Optional Touch Tournament
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Senior Netball Grading Day
9 <sup>th</sup> April	School Assembly 2:00
	PTA AGM 3:15
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term One
	Crazy Hair & Crazy Clothes Day

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGES

### Managing Behaviour

We have 64 students from 45 whānau at our kura and we just expect them to all get on with one another. Imagine doing this with the same number of adults, or even ten adults - there would definitely be times where disagreements and conflict would happen.

At school we have three key values. They are Participation, Achievement and Respect. In our homes we also have a set of beliefs and values that may be similar to school or could be completely different.

And in our communities our students often have another set of beliefs and values.

So, in some ways, our students need to be three people! So, at school we are aware of this and we have created a safe space where our students can just be themselves and if they're going to

make mistakes (and they will, that's part of growing up and also part of learning) they make mistakes with safe, consistent, predictable, non-judgemental and compassionate adults there to support them through this process.

## CLASSROOM KŌRERO –Kōwhai

Kia ora e te whānau,

It is hard to believe it is week 8 of term already but they say, "time flies when you are having fun" and we have been having plenty of fun with our learning in Kōwhai. Although our butterfly study has concluded, we are excited to announce we now have four pet monarch butterflies living in the swan plants outside our class. Their names are Sweetie, Jeff, Gerry-Rose and Sweetie Pie, as named by Kōwhai kids. The students eagerly observe and predict what's next for our eggs, caterpillars and chrysalis' each day. It's a delight to see their enthusiasm for the butterfly life cycle.



Molly trials WOW words on a balloon.

In Aotearoa New Zealand Histories, we have been learning about the importance of place names, whakapapa, connection, tikanga and oral storytelling in te ao Māori, and we have weaved our learning through the arts, technology and literacy. We used Donovan Bixley and Dr. Darrin

Joseph's version of 'How Māui Fished Up the North Island' to learn about a story that has been passed down for generations. We looked at some uses Māori traditionally had for bone and harakeke (flax), and then each student created a replica of Māui's hook. As story sequencing and retelling has been a focus in literacy, each student wrote their interpretation of this beautiful pūrakau (legend), using some fantastic WOW words. Te mātau (hooks) and stories are on display in class, so pop in to view them.



Connor and Janey with their mātau (hooks) and our wall display

### **Te Ika-a-Māui**

By Janey Patena-Smith

Māui sneaked into his brother's boat in the nighttime. When the brothers got to their secret fishing spot, they heard something. The four brothers found Māui with his grandma's jawbone. Māui pulled up a ginormous fish, but Māui told his brothers to not harm it, but they did. His brothers hacked and banged the enormous fish to make giant mountains and beautiful valleys. They made the splendid North Island of Aotearoa.

### **Te Ika-a-Māui**

By Quinn Hunt

Māui ran through his ginormous village. Māui hid in his brother's waka in the middle of the night. Māui's mean brothers rowed to their secret fishing spot. Māui swung his grandmother's jawbone and hooked the North Island. The brothers cut, slashed and pounded the immense fish to make mountains and rivers. New Zealand is an awesome country because Māui was so brave.

### **Te Ika-a-Māui**

By Molly Pierce

One glorious day lived Māui and his four bros. His bros wound him up. He stomped away into the night. He sneaked into their boat in the morning. It was sort of a long time before Māui got discovered. Māui caught a colossal fish. It was the North Island.

### **Te Ika-a-Māui**

By Indiana Closter

One beautiful day in the pāpākainga Māui went running to his mean brother's waka to sleep there until morning. That morning the brothers got there and squashed Māui until he said "Ouch!" They discovered Māui snuck in their boat when they got there. Māui got his nan's jawbone and threw it into the water. He heaved up the amazing North Island.

### **Te Ika-a-Māui**

By Remy Pritt-Stewart

Māui was running to his little village with his dog. At night, he snuck into his brother's waka. They rowed to their special swimming spot. Māui used his grandmother's strong jawbone. He caught something! It was a humongous fish. It turned into the North Island.

Recently the school purchased a Tuff Tray which is a large, octagonal plastic tray, designed for messy and sensory play. Setting up weekly play provocations like our sandy construction site and this week's rainbow rice word search are great opportunities for learning through play. We have witnessed oral language and vocabulary development, rich social interactions, sensory needs being met, free flowing creativity and motivation for writing and storytelling.



Kotuku and Hunter develop their logging business at the tuff tray





Coby and Blake do a word search in the rainbow rice.

Our science investigations are all about Wonderful Wai. We have been exploring the water cycle, water in its different forms, water surface tension, and how important water is to human survival. Students have really enjoyed this learning, and I have been impressed with their scientific knowledge and vocabulary. Ask your tamariki about evaporation, condensation and precipitation! Our science mahi has integrated visual arts, literacy and social sciences and even P.E.



Kaiataarangi simulates precipitation using foam and dye.



Indie has fun exploring some groundwater that did not evaporate in the heat.



Lennox describes the feeling of water as a solid.

Whānau, as the weather gets cooler and wetter, it is important that all Kōwhai students please keep a dry change of clothing (including undies and socks) in their school bags please. Please also ensure they have shoes and a jersey/coat each day too so we can safely continue our outdoor learning on cooler days. We had a roaring start to the term with bringing book bags in each day, but this has slowed down, please encourage your tamariki to pop their book bags into school bags each morning as we use the contents in our classroom learning every day. Every student has heart words, a book and some basic facts problems to practice at home. Thanks for your support with this, and thanks for sharing your precious taonga, your tamariki with us!



5-year-olds hard at work!



Our WOW word balloon party.



Finding 'Wonderful Wai' in our village.

We have a number of tamariki in Kōwhai with a passion for hunting, fishing and the outdoors. We are going to explore this topic further as a whole class. If you have any hunting or fishing magazines, old children's fishing nets or other items we may be able to use during this topic, please do share them with us. We'd be very grateful.

Whaea Siobhān

#### **KIWI RELEASE- Kahikatea Room**

Kahikatea (the middle room) are away today to the Whakapapa River to help the Department of Conservation with a release of kiwi into the wild. This was a short-notice event, we just found out about it late last week, hence why you have not read anything about it in the Pānui. As we are in our local area, we did not require permission slips (and therefore were able to participate in the short time we had to organise- permission slips being a major impediment to organising trips quickly.)

Here is the planned organisation for the day:

*10:30am - meet Project Tongariro (Liz) & DOC (Clodagh) at the Whakapapa Bridge entrance to Ohinetonga Track.*

*10:45am - Kiwi general information session: taxidermy bird, eggs etc.*

*11:15am - Kiwi habitat and tracking session, where in the bush do they live? Also, attaching radio tracking transmitters to stuffed 'kiwi', ākongā (students) to hide and find.*

*12:30pm - Kai break (this possibly needs to be flexible and could held a little earlier if the kiwi arrives ahead of schedule from Maungatautari, we will be in contact with the transportation team and can bring forward to 12pm if needed)*

*1pm - Meet the kiwi.*

*... up to 2pm - Finish off the morning tracking session if the Kiwi arrive earlier.*

*2pm - Ākongā head back to the kura.*

We are planning for Rimu (the seniors) to participate in another Kiwi release day on April 10<sup>th</sup>, this will be further away, so we need permission slips for that trip. See the notice below.

#### **KIWI RELEASE- Rimu Room**

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April the senior class will be travelling to Kapoors Road entrance to the Tongariro Forest to participate in a Project Tongariro / Department of Conservation kiwi release. If we have enough parents who want to attend, we will travel in cars, otherwise we will get a bus. Please fill in the permission slip below and return it tomorrow so that planning can proceed. For more information on what will happen on this day, read the article above.

#### **YEAR 5 & 6 THINK BRAIN SAFE FARMING DAY – this coming Monday**

This Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, the year five and six students will be travelling to Taumarunui for this event. See last week's Pānui for the details. The children need to wear their school uniforms including a jersey or coat if the weather is cold, bring their lunch and water drink bottle. The organisers have also asked for parent help where needed.

**If it is postponed** (postponement day is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April) we will let you know via email once we have that information. It may be during the weekend.

(Please note that we were given the wrong dates for this event earlier, so some correspondence may have that mistake, the dates are definitely Monday, postponement Tuesday)

**Transportation-** please check for errors.

<b>Driver</b>	<b>Passengers</b>
Ewan	Monty, Brodie, Billie, Millie
Maree	Haylee, Charlotte, Rosa, Hinemoa, Te Hana, Olive
Tania	Harry, Jonny, Mason
Liv	Myer
Karen	Lachlan
Jahbon	Kaeylis-Rae
Need another driver	Juan, Tahu, Nico,



## INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING UPDATE

In last week's Pānui, one placing was left off- Tilia won the year 8 girls 25 metre butterfly event. We apologise for this omission.

## PYJAMA DAY



We had a wonderful response to our pj day on Friday

## WHAKAPAPA CLEAN-UP DAY- Friday

On Friday the whole school will be going to Whakapapa as part of our commitment to caring for the environment and appreciating the incredible land we live on.

The forecast is for westerlies turning southerly, chance of a shower. If the weather is unsuitable, we will postpone to Friday, 4th April. This decision will be made before 3pm Thursday.

The plan is to spend half the day collecting rubbish, hosted and guided by the staff at Whakapapa, followed by a ride on the **Sky Waka** gondola.

### The children will need to wear / bring:

- their uniform so that they are easily identified.
- including their hoodie/fleece for warmth
- good walking shoes such as trainers (**no crocs**, gumboots, jandals, or bare feet)
- a jacket in case it is windy or wet.
- a warm hat- we are in an alpine environment.
- a good-sized lunch- this is physical work.
- a drink bottle with water in it only

For safety reasons, anyone who is not prepared with the above items may have to stay at school.

## Transportation

Please check this list for errors:

Driver	Passengers
Michelle Gavegan	Lucas Oliver Zurich Soren
Michelle Ross	Ivy Gin Darcy
Hannah Lord	Jack Molly Tilia Hopaea Chanae Beau
Theresa Owen	<b>Kim Petersen</b> Charlotte Hazel Juan Monty Coby
Karen Komene	Lennox Lachlan
Emma Tylee	Sheeran Nico Billie Kotuku
Ewan Starkey	<b>Kaaryn Ward</b> Olive Quinn Azalea
Tania Bramley	Harry Mason Tahu
Dale Erueti	Rosa Indiana Millie Eric
Maree Hodges	<b>Jessie Smith</b> Haylee Te Hana Kaelyis-Rae Hayzin
Erin Wind	Libby Corbin Ainsley Blake
Dave Murphy	Daithì Òg Elliott Jonny Kyston
Mitch	Lucy Aria Kaiataarangi Hinemoa
Janeen Couper	Jackson Connor Jack
Paul Lacy	Ben Hunter Brodie
Sarah Nicholson	Harper Remy
Grace Griffin	Leiki
Jessie Smith	Back Up
<b>Not Coming / No Permission Slip</b>	Poppy Patrick Boyd Myer Lila Janey

## MOTORCYCLE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Corbin Wind who came third in the Minis Under Lights 2025 50cc Intro MX 4-7 yrs competition recently.

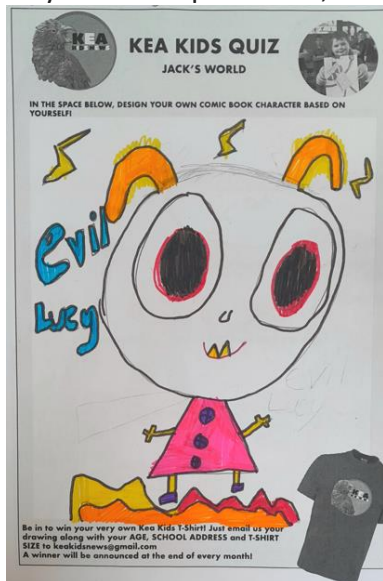


Corbin and his trophy

## KEA KIDS' WINNER

Congratulations to Lucy Atkins who won a Kea Kids News prize: a t-shirt and stickers. We learned about a kiwi kid who writes comic books based on his friends. The challenge was to

create a comic book character based on yourself. Lucy drew a super-villain, Evil Lucy!



Her winning entry



Lucy and her prize t-shirt

### EASTER PTA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We have had a good response so far thanks, but we still need a few more families on board. In case you missed in the last newsletter, The Distance Horse Riding Annual Champs are being hosted at Emma Tylee's this year on Easter Weekend 18-20 April. The PTA will be catering the event as a fundraiser (aiming to raise approx. \$5,000 for the school).

The PTA are looking for 1-2 people happy to cook and deliver breakfast and/or lunch to Emma's for 15 people on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (ingredients would be supplied). This could be changed to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> if easier for people.

We are also looking for two more people to bake something for morning teas as part of the catering, and three to buy some ingredients for the lunches.

If you are happy to donate, please text Tania Bramley who is coordinating on 022 323 5267.

Thank you.

### Extra-Curricular Sports Notices

#### TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR HOCKEY

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Fun and Small Sticks groups Top Turf Start  
3.45pm - 4.45pm

Game 2 - 4.05pm St Paddy's vs Owango

#### TAUMARUNUI JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Semi-Finals

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Year 1/2 4:15pm Owango Shooters V Ngakonui

Year 3/4 5:45pm Owango Thunder V St Pats  
Rookies

#### NETBALL TRAINING

Year 6-8 team, training with Jahbon every  
Monday after school 3.30pm-5pm.

Year 3-5 team, training with Stacey Thursday  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> during lunchtime.

### Community Notices

**JASE WILLIAMS EVENING**- see the poster below.

**NATIONAL PARK COLOUR FUN DAY AND CUP  
CAKE COMPETITION**- see the poster below.

#### **PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING DETAILS:**

**Ōwhango School:** Uniform / stationery / sport  
fees pay to 03 0426 0141783 00

**PTA:** Fundraisers 030 426 0156205 00

#### **TERM DATES 2025**

**Term One** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
April

**Term Two** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.  
(Teacher Only Day Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June)

**Term Three** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
September

**Term Four** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday  
17<sup>th</sup> December

#### **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR:**

**Duffy Books in Schools:** W & C O'Donnell, Doyle  
Valuations, Ōwhango Motors, Awa Rere  
Hideaway, Tania and Mark Bramley.

**Fern Energy Fuel for Schools Scheme**

**Ōwhango Adventures:** Free bus use for trips



**Rimu / Senior Class Kiwi Release Permission Slip**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

My child / ren \_\_\_\_\_ may attend the Senior Class Kiwi Release Trip

**ADULT HELP**    **YES / NO** I can stay and support all day.

**TRANSPORT**    **YES / NO** I can provide smoke-free, and seat-belted transport for \_\_\_\_\_ (write number) children, in a registered and warranted vehicle that will be driven by a fully licensed driver who adheres to all traffic regulations. (Note, drivers will be paid some money to go towards their petrol costs.)

**If you are assisting with transport:** Name of driver \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSTED BY**  
**TE KAHUI AKO, TAUMARUNUI,**

**WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025, 5.30 PM**

**JASE WILLIAMS**

**WHANAU EVENT @ NGAPUWAIWAHA**

Jase Williams (Ngāti Tamaterā) is a TEDx Speaker, Keynote Speaker who has spoken at events internationally and all over New Zealand.

He is one of the leading voices in Compassionate, Equity-Centered, Relational Neuroscience Practice in Education and has shared his knowledge through an indigenous te ao Māori lens with hundreds of ECE, Schools and Support Agencies, and with thousands of educators.

We are fortunate to have Jase working in our Taumarunui community. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity.

Topics

- SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH
- UNDERSTANDING CO-REGULATION

BRING THE TAMARIKI ALONG! THERE'LL BE FUN ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED WHILE JASE SHARES HIS WHAKAARO WITH PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS. STAFF FROM OUR LOCAL KURA AND THE TAUMARUNUI YOUTH & COMMUNITY TRUST WILL BE ON HAND TO MAKE SURE THE KIDS HAVE A GREAT TIME. PLUS, THERE'LL BE SOME LIGHT KAI FOR THE WHOLE WHĀNAU TO ENJOY.

**EVENT DETAILS**

- Ngapuwaiwaha Marae
- 5.30pm - 8.00pm  
2 April 2025



# CUP CAKE Competition

Where: National Park School /Waimarino

Start: 11am- open to the Community

Date: 29th March (Colour run day)

Anyone from our community's can enter



## TO ENTER

Keen to enter our Cup Cake Decoration Competition  
Lets help our community raise funds for the School Pool...

- 4 or more cupcakes on display
- Your cupcakes are sellable to the public
- The more we make the more money we raise for our Pool upgrades



**NATIONAL PARK SCHOOL  
IS HOLDING A COLOUR FUN DAY**



**Sat - March 29th 2025  
11 -2pm @ School Hall**  
Sausage Sizzler  
Hot Drink Stand  
Create a memory!!



TICKETS  
AVAILABLE ON  
THE DAY  
INCLUDING A  
COLOUR BOMB

Ph 021 258 1979