



The Owairoa Primary

School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 11, 26th November 2024

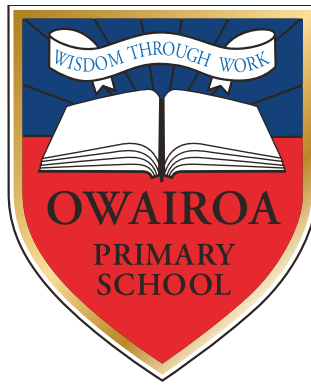


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P.,B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.

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www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we officially welcome summer, it is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through Term Four. This second half of the year seems to have flown by, and now we find ourselves in the final push of learning as we head toward the close of the 2024 school year.

The past few weeks have been filled with a wide range of activities that reflect this traditionally busy school term leading up to Christmas. From engaging classroom projects like setting up the 3D printing lab, lots of end of term assessments and a myriad of exciting interschool sporting events, our school remains full of energy and anticipation. There is still a lot more to look forward to, before we close for the end of the year on Friday 20th December at 12.30pm.

We will be celebrating the year's successes with the many concerts and prizegiving's scheduled for the coming weeks. These events provide an opportunity to recognize the wonderful learning achievements of our students. We warmly invite parents to join us at these events and to share in these celebrations. We look forward to seeing you there.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"



- Ileana Tan
- Lily Pye
- Shanglin Pan
- Zanche Louw
- Leo Kim
- Eshaya Varma
- Rylin Whittingham
- Blake Chaney
- Skyer Gunawardana
- Hiruka Gunasekara



Hats On in Term Four

Just a reminder that students need to wear their school hats to and from school, as well as during morning tea and lunch breaks. These hats give our students much needed protection from the sun's harmful rays

Hats are available online from Argyle Schoolwear www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform, with a limited number available at our school office for **\$16 each**.

Our school has a 'no hat, no play' policy, so those students not wearing a hat will need to remain in a shaded area during break times. Thank you for your cooperation with keeping our students safe in the sun during these hotter months.

Sweet and Juicy

A new garden area was established at our school around 18 months ago, in which a variety of fruit plants, shrubs and trees were planted. This year provided the first harvest of juicy strawberries from this garden.

Some of the Kaitiaki students spent a lunchtime picking these delicious treasures. The timing was just right, allowing the fruit to ripen whilst not allowing eager birds to gorge themselves. Their haul exceeded all expectations.

Once all the ripe fruit had been picked, the student pickers simultaneously tried their first freshly picked strawberries. They all agreed it was the sweetest fruit they'd ever tasted. The abundance of fruit was shared out amongst the pickers, and some was offered to Mr McIntyre as well.

The Kaitiaki are keeping a close eye on the strawberry field, ready to continue to pick the remaining fruit as it ripens.



Bringing Ideas to Life with 3D Printing



In the Middle School, we're excited to announce the recent setup of seven brand-new 3D printers, opening up a world of possibilities for our students. This new technology brings innovation right into the classroom, allowing students to turn their ideas into real prototypes and concepts that they can see, touch and improve upon.

With hands-on experiences in 3D printing, students are not only getting creative but also learning important technical skills. Through Tinkercad, an easily accessible and free online tool, they are diving into the process of designing 3D objects from scratch.

They're learning to measure with precision, visualise complicated shapes, and transform digital models into physical creations. This requires understanding exact measurements and working with various 3D shapes—skills essential in fields like engineering, architecture and product design.

As students work on their own designs, they're also gearing up for a future where their imaginations can easily become tangible products. The skills they are developing now will empower them to think like creators and innovators, prepared for a world where technology enables anyone to bring ideas to life.



Te Tai o rēhia – Kapa Haka Festival



On Tuesday 22nd October there was a very excited buzz through the Kapa Haka group as they boarded the bus heading for the Kapa Haka Festival at Bucklands Beach Intermediate.

Te Tai o rēhia is a festival showcasing some of the local school's Kapa Haka groups. It is a chance for students to experience the excitement of performing on stage and sharing what they have been working hard towards all year.

Our Kapa Haka group is made up of 60+ senior school students who practise hard each week. This year they performed six waiata and the Utaina haka. Being the first school to perform at the event resulted in some nerves and anxious anticipation, but once they took the stage that all disappeared and they performed with confidence and mana. The children were thrilled to perform to such a big audience and to have the support of Mr McIntyre, Mr Devery and Miss Randhawa cheering them on.

A highlight for the group was then being part of the audience and watching the older students from Bucklands Beach Intermediate and Macleans College. They were able to see where they can go if they continue their Kapa Haka journey beyond Primary School.

Mrs Taka was hoping for a slightly quieter bus ride back to school at the end of the day but that was not to be, as the excited conversations continued about what a great day they had.

Special thanks to Mr Taka for being there to support us with the guitar and the team at Bucklands Beach Intermediate for organising such a fabulous event. We are already excited to go again next year.

Generous Sports Equipment Donation



We have received an impressive donation of sporting goods from the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation, including skipping ropes, foam javelins, spikey balls, bean bags, beach balls, and flying discs.

The foundation provides sporting equipment to encourage school aged students to have active, healthy lifestyles with fun and engaging physical activities.

Follow their inspiring journey on Facebook: facebook.com/JWFYFOD and Instagram: instagram.com/jw_fyfod.

Thank you to the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation for helping our students dream big and stay active.



Ministry Advisor Visit

On Friday 8th November we welcomed Lindsay Child, our Senior Education Advisor from the Ministry of Education to our school. The visit was an opportunity for us to discuss our school's current direction and initiatives.

Lindsay met with our Senior Management Team in the boardroom, where they discussed various school matters. Following this, Lindsay enjoyed a guided tour of our new 18 classroom block, allowing her to see our newest learning environment in action. She then joined our staff for morning tea in the staffroom, which gave her a chance to meet and introduce herself to our team.

We appreciated Lindsay's visit and look forward to implementing some of the ideas we discussed.



Our Touch Rugby Journey

Our Touch Rugby Team showed impressive skill at the HPPA interschool competition held in Week 2 at Lloyd Elsmore Park, where our team competed in four pool games against local schools, successfully winning each match.



In the quarterfinals, we faced Elim School and secured a comfortable victory with strategic plays and strong teamwork. The semi-final against Star of the Sea School was a close contest, but our team held their ground to claim a narrow win, advancing to the final against our longstanding rivals, Cockle Bay School. Despite our best efforts, Cockle Bay ultimately clinched the win, leaving us proud runners-up.

Our team had a blend of new and seasoned players, each contributing their unique style. Zach Rossiter dazzled as our speedy winger, consistently pushing us forward. Max Bester excelled as the playmaker, setting up plays with precision. Grayson Bond's natural leadership kept the team focused, while Isla Aucamp provided reliable support as the link player. Camike Ferreira showed fearless defence, while Karis Gin and Mila Selwyn used their quick footwork to keep the opposition on their toes. Nathan Ward remained calm under pressure, and Charlie Yeoman brought his all-around versatility to the field. Finn Mutschel impressed with his dazzling sidesteps, leaving defenders in his wake.

With outstanding sportsmanship and enthusiasm, the players made our school proud. Thank you to the parents for your support. Though the trophy slipped away, our team left the field with big smiles and memories that will last a lifetime.



Grandparents Day Success

What a turn out and what a great day. We had Grandparents come from near (Howick Village) and far (Cambridge, Waikato), and even as far away as South Africa. to experience a little of what Owairoa has to offer the community and the learning opportunities provided at our school.

The students took on this day with gusto and brought along their Grandparents, the oldest being over 85 years old who had a "splendid time" understanding how education has changed "since their day", seeing how teachers interact with students in the modern learning era. At the last count we had over 250 Grandparents share this day at our school.

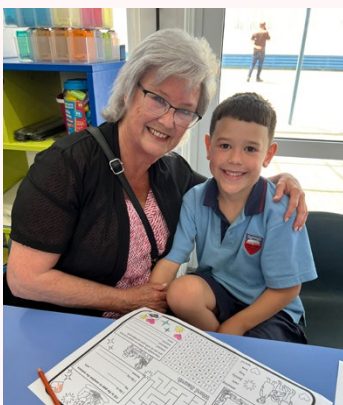
During a special concert put on especially for our Grandparents, we had 7 groups of students perform a variety of items ranging from the Kapa Haka, Sasa, two individual items (Piano and Indian Dance) to the Dance Troupe, a South African Gumboot Dance and an item from our recent school production 'Alice'. These items were very well received by the huge audience.

The highlight for many Grandparents was sharing the afternoon in their grandchild's classroom, interacting with them on their learning journey's and discussing what they were learning and why they were learning a particular topic.

After time in the classrooms, we finally came back together in the hall to share more stories over a cup of tea with a lovely afternoon tea provided by our Owairoa families.

It was a fantastic event and many commented the afternoon it was a great success. The Grandparents were also very appreciative of the wonderful afternoon tea and great effort that many went to with home baking and lovely food contributions.

A huge thank you to all of the performers, those people who helped on the day and especially thanks to those Grandparents that came along to make it such a wonderful day.





END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVING Events

To help with your calendar logistics as the next few months get busier with the upcoming Christmas season and end of year, the dates for our end of year prizegiving and concert events have been finalised as follows:

December

2 Senior Prizegiving

7pm

4 Year 3 Concert

5 Year 4 Concert

9 Year 2 Concert

10 Team 1B Concert

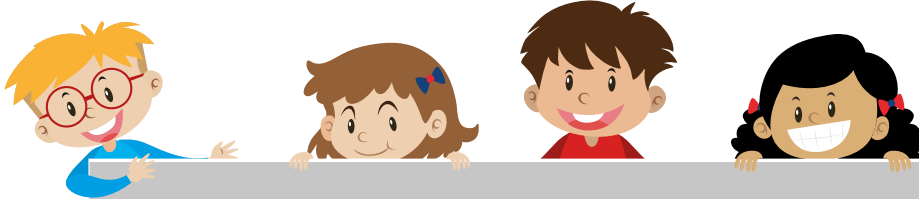
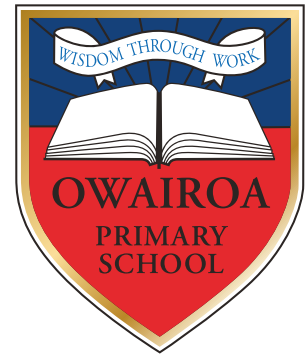
11 Team 1A Concert

12 School Service Awards



Enrolments are Open for

2025



A reminder to all families to complete the enrolment process if you have a child turning 5 years old soon. It is valuable for us to know this information in advance, as it assists us when planning for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025.

We are in the process of organising our staffing and funding entitlement for 2025. To assist us to be as accurate as possible with our future numbers we would appreciate hearing from school families who have siblings that are 4 years old (who are not yet enrolled) and will be starting school next year. If this applies to your situation, please come to the Office to pick up a sibling enrolment pack.

If you know of any friends or neighbours who intend to enrol at Owairoa Primary School in 2025, please ask them to contact our School Office, to find out more information and start the enrolment process.



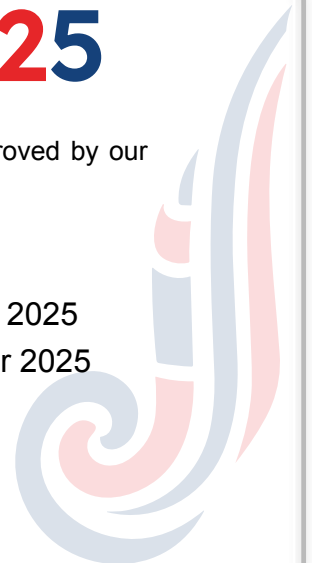
Term dates 2025

The official term dates for the 2025 Academic Year have been set and approved by our School Board as follows:

- Term One: Friday 7 February 2025 – Friday 11 April 2025
- Term Two: Monday 28 April 2025 – Friday 27 June 2025
- Term Three: Monday 14 July 2025 – Friday 19 September 2025
- Term Four: Monday 6 October 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025

The school will also be closed for the following public holidays:

- Monday 2 June – King's Birthday
- Friday 20 June – Matariki
- Monday 27 October – Labour Day



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Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Please contact Principal Alan McIntyre

(09) 538 0060 or principal@owairoa.school.nz

for further information



A Splashing Success at Wero Whitewater Park

Our Senior School's recent trip to Wero Whitewater Park in Manukau was a true adventure, taking nearly 100 enthusiastic learners each day over three days of rafting, kayaking, and paddleboarding. With nervous excitement buzzing on the bus rides, our students were in for a thrilling day of water sports.

The activities were designed to test skills and courage as students encountered rapids and various water obstacles, making each turn on the course an exhilarating challenge. Even the cold water couldn't dampen spirits—every splash was met with laughter and cheers.

The staff at Wero Whitewater Park were outstanding, guiding our students to ensure that safety was a top priority, while allowing everyone to fully enjoy the experience. Their clear instructions and encouragement were invaluable, especially for some of our more hesitant adventurers who were tackling these activities for the first time.

The weather provided a bit of everything, from bright sun to overcast, windy conditions, adding to the unpredictability and excitement of the day. Despite the brisk temperatures of the water, every student seemed ready to brave it, and by the end of each day, everyone was tired but smiling. The day flew by as our students navigated the course, working together, cheering each other on, and creating unforgettable memories.

The trip to Wero was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The combination of physical challenge, teamwork, and support from the Wero staff left our students with a real sense of achievement and confidence. As we headed back to school each day, it was clear that this adventure would be a highlight of the year!



HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Mason van Rooyen, Tainui Deputy House Leader

Hi, I am Mason Van Rooyen and I am a Tainui Deputy House Leader for 2024. I love Ferrari and Formula 1.

Owairoa is a great school with many opportunities such as Sports, Drama, Kaitiaki and Mediators to name a few. The students are kind and friendly. My favourite school memory is of ISTEAM with Ms Sealy in Year 4. We were creative and had lots of fun.

I have made some wonderful friends at the school and had awesome teachers that have helped me. I am especially grateful for their help with Maths and motivating me to achieve to my potential.

My advice for students is to never give up or quit even if things get hard.



Cissy Guo, Tainui Deputy House Leader

My name is Cissy Guo, and I am Room M12. I'm currently 10 years old. I love Owairoa because there are a lot of opportunities in Sports, monitor roles, Kapa Haka, Drama to name a few.

My best memories at Owairoa are of going rock climbing, which I loved doing. My learning journey is going very well, and I am happy so far. My teachers have supported me and helped me take risks with my learning.

The advice that I would give other students is to try everything even if it is hard and give everything a go. Find things that you love and do them! Also remember to follow each RISE value even when nobody is watching.

I love to make new friends and look forward to meeting you around our school.



TAINUI

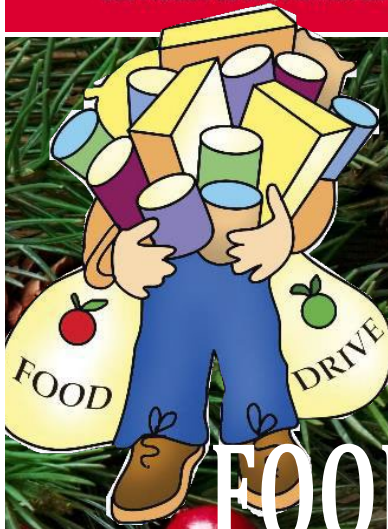


OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Principal: Mr Alan McIntyre J.P.B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip.Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.

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CHRISTMAS ACCESSORY DAY FOOD BANK DONATION

Dear Parents / Guardians,

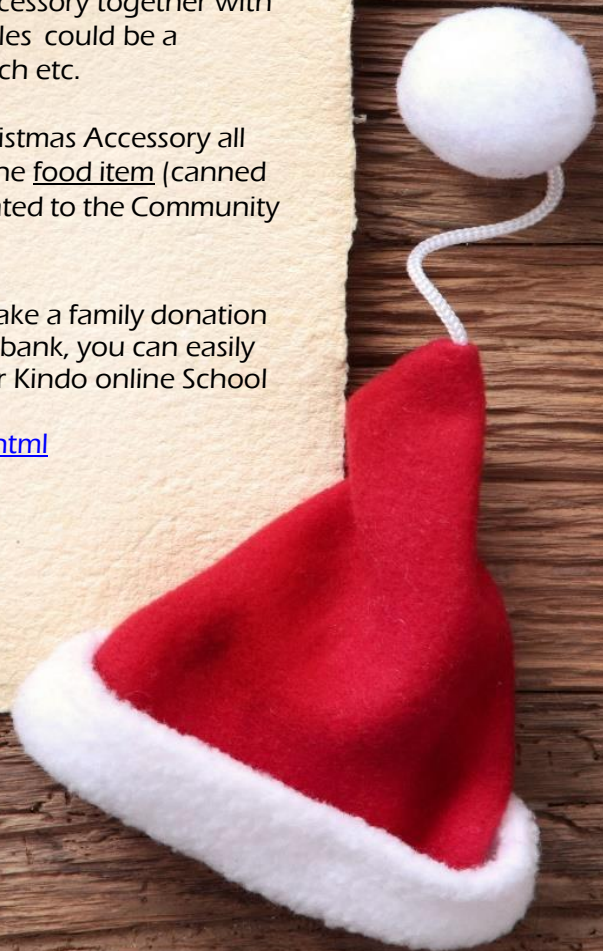
On Wednesday 11th December we will celebrate "Christmas Accessory Day". All students have the option of wearing some form of Christmas Accessory together with their normal school uniform. Examples could be a Christmas hat, necklace, lights, brooch etc.

For the privilege of wearing the Christmas Accessory all students are asked to bring along one food item (canned or sealed packet) which will be donated to the Community Food Bank.

Alternatively, if you would like to make a family donation to purchase food items for the Foodbank, you can easily make your contribution through our Kindo online School Shop on the following link
<https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/index.html>

Merry Christmas
Kind regards

Alan McIntyre
PRINCIPAL



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 Blog Sleepy Bear's Adventures



Sleepy Bear is a coveted member of the Junior School and is an adorable plush toy that has quickly become a symbol of achievement and teamwork for the Year 0-2 students.

Each week, during our Monday assemblies the classes have the chance to compete for this cozy companion. The class that demonstrates the best behaviour, participation and respect during assembly time get to take Sleepy Bear back to their class for the week!

Sleepy Bear has a keen eye for learners achieving their R.I.S.E values and enjoys the chance to check out the different learning going on during his stay as he makes his way around the Junior School.

Room 9 were beautifully behaved during our assembly and won the opportunity to have Sleepy Bear for the week and they could not wait! When Sleepy Bear made it back to Room 9 the learners shared a bunch of ideas of things we could do with him, including... writing about his appearance, taking him fruit picking with us, letting him play on the playground, writing a creative story about a Sleep Bear adventure and getting some well-deserved snuggles from him too.

Room 9 did all those things with Sleepy Bear and had a hard goodbye at the end of the week after all the quality time they received from the bear during his stay! I wonder who will get him next?...

Middle Blog Girls in Training



At the start of Term 4, our Year 3 and 4 girls were bursting with excitement as they joined a group of learners trialing for the 2025 Girls' Football Team. This opportunity was met with enthusiasm, showing a keen interest in sports across our Middle School. For many, this was their first experience of team trials.

After weeks of dedication and hard work, a development squad was selected, marking the beginning of an exciting journey. The squad is now training under the expert guidance of Amy Edwards-Maas, a respected football coach from Bucklands Beach Football Club. Her knowledge and encouragement are proving invaluable as the team hones their skills and builds confidence.

We are thrilled to see these young athletes flourishing, not just in their football abilities but also in their teamwork and resilience. With a promising start, 2025 looks set to be an outstanding year for girls' football at Owairoa. Watch this space as these talented players prepare to shine on the pitch.

Senior Blog

Interschool Athletics



Last Wednesday saw Owairoa visit Lloyd Elsmore Athletics Club for the annual East Auckland HPPA Athletics Tournament. With local rivals Cockle Bay appearing strong and last year's standout school, Wakaaranga always ready to raise the bar, our well-drilled students arrived determined to compete and give it their all.

Despite the weather threatening once or twice to ruin an enjoyable occasion, our boys and girls rose to the challenges in front of them and personified our school RISE values in exemplary fashion throughout the event.

Their unwavering effort and dedication led to significant successes, reflecting the hard work they have put into their training leading up to the competition. The spirit of sportsmanship was palpable for the duration, with participants encouraging and supporting each other throughout the day, as well as setting an excellent example to the other visiting school children.

One of the standout highlights of the day was the exceptional performance by our Year 5 girls' relay team. They delivered faultless performances in both heats, decisively outpacing the competition to enjoy comprehensive victories and be crowned overall winners.

As is the standard for the magnificent students of Owairoa, their exemplary conduct was second to none. The day was filled with remarkable individual and team achievements with everyone involved enjoying a truly positive experience. The tamariki we took to represent Owairoa made us proud and we look forward to the same again next year.



Conference Success

What a great turnout we had at our recent Parent Teacher Student Conferences. This was such a positive experience for the 854 interviews that were conducted, with 95% of our Owairoa families taking advantage of this opportunity to discuss, view, interact and enjoying hearing about student achievements with their learning. You certainly empowered the students by supporting and celebrating their learning and giving them a voice as they discussed their educational journey with you.



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A GIFT SOLUTION

LOST PROPERTY

All un-named lost property will be displayed for students and parents to come and view in the last week of the school year, **Monday 16th - Thursday 19th December, from 8:20am-3:15pm**. The Lost Property collection is located outside of **Room 9**.

Parents are welcome to come and view the collection of lost property items. Students will also be taken view the items with their classes, to try and identify missing items.

Any items that are not collected will be dealt with accordingly and we will start with empty boxes in the new year.



Looking ahead

☺ November

- 27 Final Launchpad Concert
- 28 Parent Helpers Morning Tea 10.30am
- 28 Year 6 BBI Orientation 9am
- 29 Fruju Friday

☺ December

- 2 Senior Prizegiving 7.30pm
- 3 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 4 Year 3 Concert 1.30pm
- 5 Year 4 Concert 1.30pm
- 6 Fruju Friday
- 9 Year 2 Concert 1.30pm
- 10 Year 1B Concert 1.30pm
- 11 Year 1A Concert 1.30pm
- 12 Junior Athletics Carnival
- 12 School Service Awards 1pm
- 13 Year 6 Fun Day
- 13 Fruju Friday
- 16 Middle School Athletics Carnival
- 17 School Board Meeting 6pm
- 20 School closes for Term 4 at 12.30pm



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.

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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