

The Owairoa Primary... School Scribe

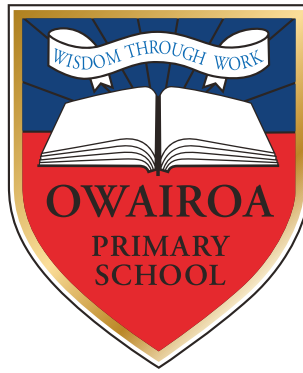
news and views from around our school

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Issue No 3, 1st April 2025



Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.
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Dear Parents and Caregivers

With the new school year well underway, our classrooms are full of energy, learning, and connection. It has been fantastic to see students settling into their routines, embracing new challenges and making the most of the opportunities that Term One has to offer.

We have enjoyed multiple events this Term already, including our Meet the Teacher evening. Our students have also been actively involved in various sporting events, while our senior students continue to develop confidence and resilience through their sailing programme. Last Friday's PTA Family Fun Night was another highlight, with an evening filled with laughter, games and great Owairoa 'Family' spirit.

With many more exciting events planned before the end of Term One, we look forward to welcoming parents into classrooms for our upcoming Open Classroom event before we close for the holidays.

Thank you for being part of our wonderful school. We look forward to sharing the rest of this term's journey with you.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Milica Disic
- Aradhya Bhandari
- Oliver McColl
- Sakeasi Tangulu
- Mila Gibson
- Penelope Wipiiti-Vaelei-Mana
- Kivain Akmeemanage
- Yu Chen
- Mia Guo
- Alessia Hilliam
- George Lin

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CURRICULUM DAY 2

School will be closed for 'Curriculum Day Two' (Teacher Only Day) on **Monday 9 June** as our staff will be participating in the second Mathematics Professional Learning and Development (PLD) session that day.

Please note this is a change from the previously advertised date of 30 May.

The Ministry of Education has introduced nationwide PLD to support the implementation of the revised Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum, so we appreciate your support keeping your children home from school on this day, as we undertake this essential professional development to enrich our mathematics teaching practices.

Making a Splash for Innovation

**THE OWAIROA
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Splash
& Dash**

**10
APRIL
THURSDAY**

FUNDRAISER

DONATE NOW

OWAIROA
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Excitement is building for our Splash and Dash event — an action-packed day happening here at Owaioa Primary School on Thursday 10th April.

The day isn't just about running and getting wet (although that's half the fun). Our students are spending the few weeks leadup rallying together, fundraising for our new initiative classroom, The Digital Dream Lab.

What is the Digital Dream Lab?

Imagine a space where creativity meets cutting-edge technology—a place where our students will experiment, explore and bring big ideas to life. Our Digital Dream Lab provides hands-on experiences with drones, robotics, virtual reality, animation, 3D printing, coding, laser engraving and sustainable technology. These tools will inspire young innovators, preparing them with real-world skills for the future.

How Can You Help?

Our students are seeking sponsorship for their Splash and Dash challenge, where they'll brave the water and race to victory, all in the name of education. By supporting them, you're not just donating—you're investing in the dreamers, creators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

- **Mark your calendars** and join us on **Thursday 10th April**, to cheer on our students and celebrate their efforts.
- **Volunteer on the day**, to help turn their dreams into reality—one splash at a time.
Sign up to help out here: <https://volunteersignup.org/WCAQ9>
- **Support our fundraiser today.** <https://owairoasplashanddash.raiseit.co.nz/>

Reporting to PARENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for early in **Term Two** on **Wednesday 14th May** and **Thursday 15th May**. Please note the school day for students will **finish early at 12.30 pm** on the **Wednesday 14th May**.

These conferences will be a chance for Students, Parents and Teachers to meet to formally discuss the learning progress, needs and wellbeing of your child.

Further details including conference bookings will be sent to you in a separate notice at the start of Term Two.

Step Inside the Classroom: Open Home Event

Have you ever wondered what a day in your child's classroom looks like? Now is your chance to experience it first hand. We are excited to invite you to our Open Classroom Event, where you can step into the heart of your child's learning journey.

This special hour-long event is an opportunity to see your child in action in an educational setting. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom and share this meaningful experience with you.



**Step into your child's world of learning
and experience education first hand**

THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2025

9.15am - 10.15am

We welcome your visit to see our students shine as capable leaders, independent learners, problem solvers and valued members of our school family. (No preschoolers please)

Exploring the World of Plants



This term the Junior School has been immersing itself in the fascinating world of plants as part of our Science inquiry into the Living World. The focus has been on understanding the different parts of a plant and exploring what they need to grow and flourish.

To make this learning experience even more engaging, our students have been conducting fun experiments to discover how various conditions affect plant growth. They've tested different methods of growing plants to see which is the best way.

Recently, our Year 1 and 2 students had the opportunity to visit the Botanical Gardens, where they enjoyed a hands-on experience that deepened their understanding of plant life.

The day started with eager students who were excited for the bus ride, chatting enthusiastically and full of energy. Once at the gardens, the behaviour of the students was fantastic, and they displayed great curiosity throughout the day.

The educators at the gardens were wonderful, guiding them through the different activities and making the learning experience both fun and educational. They worked closely with the garden educators, learning more about how plants grow. A favourite part of the visit was discovering the important role worms play in maintaining healthy soil. The students were excited to see these fascinating creatures in action!

Each student also had the chance to plant a pea seed, which they took home and care for. Then we explored the Potter's Children's Garden, where they completed a scavenger hunt, found tadpoles and weta, and many plants they recognised. The Edible Garden was the next stop where they learned about vegetables and herbs that can be grown at home. Some students saw vegetables they had never heard of and the biggest sunflower they had ever seen!

The trip was such a memorable day, with many students calling it "the best day ever!" We are incredibly grateful to our parent helpers, whose support made this trip possible. Everyone learned so much about what it takes to grow a healthy seed! The bus ride home was certainly a lot quieter!

This term has been a truly exciting and enriching journey for our budding botanists, and we can't wait to see how their plants continue to grow and flourish!



Game, set and ...lots of fun



In true Owairoa fashion our Junior School learners were in for a treat at the start of the year.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 classes had the privilege in participating in an introductory tennis programme "The Kids Tennis Activation", provided by the Howick Tennis Club.

The children were exposed to the basics of tennis, learning to throw and hit a ball over the net, to wait in position and to move in position in anticipation of hitting the ball. They practised the serve motion, as well as throwing a tennis ball up and hitting it over the net. Students also learned about forehand and backhand while having lots of fun running around and working with a buddy.

Thank you to our Sports Teacher Mr Basson for facilitating these lessons and to the passionate and energetic Howick Tennis Club member, Matthew Jones who was our instructor.



Improving Visibility on Elliot Street

Auckland Transport has contacted our school regarding upcoming works on Elliot Street, and have confirmed the project will be undertaken in April 2025.

Auckland Council wrote:

As part of the works, Auckland Transport is improving visibility on Elliot Street. We've received requests from residents and Owairoa Primary School, to improve driver visibility and address parking concerns on Elliot Street due to parking over berms and footpaths during school drop off and pick up.

We have reviewed the area and have decided to remove some existing yellow broken lines along Elliot Street. This will increase the number of available places to park and discourage drivers from blocking the footpath and driveways and potentially damaging berms and underground services.

We cannot remove all yellow broken lines as they are needed to prevent drivers from parking on bends and intersections and blocking drivers view of approaching vehicles.

- Removing broken yellow lines outside numbers 39 and 41 Elliot Street
- Removing broken yellow lines outside Blundell Park





Attendance Matters

One of the major initiatives of the Government is to get students to school every day that the school is officially open for instruction. In April last year, the Government announced a regular attendance target of **80 percent of students to be present for more than 90% of the term**

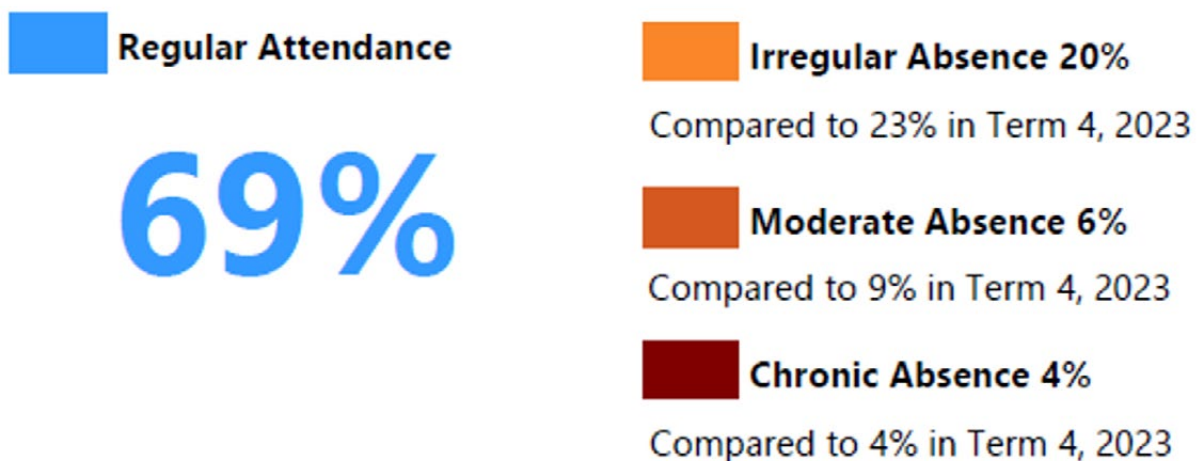
Four **Student Attendance Categories** have been developed to help you understand how frequently your child attends school.

Student Categories	Student with	Equivalent to
Regular attendance	over 90% attendance	missing fewer than 5 days across a term
Irregular absence	more than 80% and up to 90% attendance	absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term
Moderate absence	more than 70% and up to 80% attendance	absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term
Chronic absence	70% attendance or less	absent for 15 days or more across a school term

These categories give you a way to monitor the progress you are making in supporting your child to attend regularly. Your child's school report will now include a section on their attendance during the term.

I wish to share with you a snapshot of our school wide data on school attendance and getting to school on time.

Number of students who attended our school regularly in Term 4, 2024



The following were the main reasons given for absence in Term 4

- (M) Illness / Medical Absence 45%**
- (G) Holiday 25%**
- (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 16%**
- (T) Unexplained / Trivial 11%**
- (J) Justified (other) 2%**

The Government also collect data on the percentage of students who arrive at school, ready to start their learning on time each day.

In Term 4, 2024 **79%** of our students arrived at school on time.

I am challenging you to get your child to school every school day and to get them to school on time.

WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE?

Smashing It

The Owairoa girls' cricket team had a great time at the Big Smash Fun Day at Lloyd Elmore Park a few weeks ago. The sun was shining, and it was the perfect day for cricket.



Girls' cricket at Owairoa has grown a lot. In 2024, we had just one team, but in 2025, we took three teams. It's fantastic to see so many sports people keen to get involved.

One of the best parts of the day was meeting professional players who shared tips and advice. This was a great experience for our girls and gave them extra motivation for their games.

The teams played four matches against strong opponents and won several games, showing great skill and determination. Each game challenged them, but they learned a lot along the way.

The Big Smash Fun Day helps encourage more girls to play cricket, and our school was proud to be part of it. Events like this help young players develop their skills and love for the game.

At the end of the day, the Owairoa girls left with smiles, new friendships, and a sense of achievement. A big thank you to the parents and supporters who helped make the day a success!



A Successful Parenting Talk

Parenting
Place

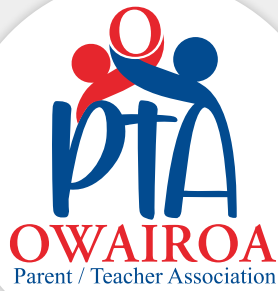
Mā tāua, oti atu ai

Earlier this month, our school community came together for an evening hosted by the PTA, featuring a special Parenting Talk by Jenny Hale from The Parenting Place. The event was a success, with parents leaving inspired and equipped with practical techniques to use in their daily lives.

During the evening, Jenny acknowledged the challenges of parenting and emphasised the importance of building resilience in children. She shared valuable insights on how helping kids to navigate adversity builds their confidence, emotional well-being and a strong mindset.

For those wanting to learn more about raising resilient children, Jenny's book is available at local bookstores. Additional parenting courses can be accessed through The Parenting Place.

Thank you to our PTA for organizing such an informative event for our school community.



NEWS

The PTA were thrilled to host the 'Friday Family Fun Night' last week on Friday 28th March, from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. This event welcomed the whole community into our school to enjoy a range of entertainment, fun activities, epic raffles and plenty of laughter.

The PTA would like to express their gratitude to our sponsors for their generous contributions, which make events like these possible. Thank you for supporting our school and community!

More feedback about the successful 'Family Fun Night' event will be shared in our next school newsletter.

In other PTA news, our students had a blast during the recent mufti day, celebrating in style and enjoying the break from their usual uniforms. The PTA were pleased to raise \$992 from this event, which went to help support the Friday Family Fun Nights activities.

And finally, just a reminder, if you would like to know what exciting PTA events are coming up in Term 2, please come along to our PTA AGM meeting tonight, Tuesday 1st April, at 7.30pm in the school staffroom.



A Winning Mural Comes to Life



Our school welcomed renowned graffiti artist Jonny 4Higher to transform the end of Room 18 into a breathtaking mural by former student, Nicole Large, who won the Carus Commercial Painting Group's Mural Competition last year.

The nationwide competition invited school students from across New Zealand to submit their creative mural designs, with the winning entry earning the honour of being painted at their school.

Nicole, who was a Year 6 student in Room M17 at the time, wowed the judges with her beautifully detailed design featuring native New Zealand birds. Her concept carries a powerful message about teamwork and unity. "It shows four birds working together to build a nest, meaning when we work together, we can achieve goals," she explained.

The transformation of her design from paper to wall has been an exciting journey for our staff and students, watching the artist bring her vision to life.

Reflecting on the experience, Nicole shared, "I was really happy with the end result. It's exactly like my drawing and looks amazing. I hope lots of other kids can be inspired and enjoy the new artwork."

The artist also spoke highly of the project, stating, "It was with great pleasure to come to Owairoa Primary School to paint this mural... well-kept grounds, friendly staff, and polite students made for a great environment to work in. The design was created by a student and very cleverly depicted different native birds collaborating to build a nest, a lovely way to illustrate teamwork in a localised way."

Congratulations to Nicole for her achievement! We are proud to have her artwork as part of our school's environment, and we extend our thanks to the Carus Commercial Painting Group and graffiti artist Jonny 4Higher for making this opportunity possible.

To see more incredible work by the artist who brought Nicole's vision to life, visit www.graffitimurals.co.nz



HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Rayna Wang, Aotea Deputy House Leader

My name is Rayna Wang, and I'm 11 years old. I am very excited and proud to be the deputy House Leader for Aotea. My favourite sport is rhythmic gymnastics. I love most of the sports our school provides and enjoy giving any sport a go, even if I'm not good at it. I believe trying different sports is important.

I'm excited to be a House Leader because I get to set an example for the younger students. I think the R.I.S.E. values are important because everyone should be respected, especially our amazing teachers and staff.

There are so many amazing opportunities at our school, such as dance, choir, Kaitiaki, gymnastics, hockey, and much more. My favourite subjects are Sport, Maths, and Spelling.

Some of my favourite memories from Owairoa are going on school trips. My favourite trips have been sailing and rock climbing in the Senior school and visiting MOTAT in Year 4.

This year, I believe we can all be the best we can be and work hard to achieve our goals. We can show R.I.S.E. and be dedicated to being great Owairoa students. My advice is to work hard and have fun. Hopefully, this year, Aotea can win the house shield. Go Aotea!



Cyril Harvey, Aotea Deputy House Leader

My name is Cyril Harvey, and I'm 10 years old. I love sailing and gymnastics, and I'm always willing to give most sports a go.

At Owairoa, I appreciate the caring staff and teachers. I love how people from around the world come together at Owairoa, creating one big whānau. There are lots of opportunities at Owairoa, such as Kapa Haka, Kaitiaki, Mediator, House Leader, and more. One of my favourite memories at Owairoa so far was going rock climbing in Year 5.

My advice to anyone coming to Owairoa is to give everything a go, even if you're not sure about it. Also always show the R.I.S.E. values. I am extremely grateful for all the support and care I receive.



AOTEA





Junior Blog - Full Steam Ahead



What a busy term and how much learning we did already! As we are getting closer to the end of Term 1, it is time to stop for a second and reflect on the fantastic start to the new year. What did we achieve so far?

We got to meet our new Teachers and classmates, we made new friends and our parents were invited to meet the Teachers during the Open Home event.

We are doing phonics, reading and writing everyday and our structured literacy programme helps us to become fantastic readers and writers. We are working in our new Maths Workbooks and we learned about number bonds, number stories and picture stories that can help us to solve addition and subtraction problems.

In Science we learned about plants, the parts of a plant and their function, we know what a plant needs to thrive and we are growing our own radish and pea plants. To complement our learning the whole Junior school went on an unforgettable trip to the Botanic Gardens.

On top of all these we had swimming lessons, we had assemblies, we learned new songs, we listened to stories, we did Art and worked on ISTEAM projects. Wow!

We are looking forward to what of the rest of the term and year will bring, and we are getting really excited about the big Owiwoa Splash and Dash fundraising event. Go Team 2!

Middle Blog - Sea Week at School



Sea Week is a special event celebrated in primary schools across New Zealand to encourage students to learn about and appreciate the ocean. It is an opportunity to explore marine life, understand the importance of protecting our seas, and develop a sense of responsibility for the environment.

In Year 3 we embraced Sea Week through poetry and art activities focused on sea creatures. In Room 23 we wrote creative poems inspired by the ocean, describing the beauty of marine life and the mystery of the deep sea. Some students wrote about majestic whales, while others described the playful movements of dolphins or the beauty of stingray. These poems helped us express our thoughts and feelings about the ocean in a unique and imaginative way.

Alongside Room 23's poetry, Room M9 created sea-themed artwork. We made underwater scenes, crafting colourful jellyfish out of paper. We added faces to our jellyfish – look at all the lovely smiles! These art projects allowed us to bring the ocean to life in our classroom.

Sea Week was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about marine life while expressing our creativity. It reminded us of the importance of looking after the ocean and the creatures that call it home. We all had a great time celebrating the sea through writing and art!

Senior Blog - Smooth Sailing



Ahoy there! This week the Year 5 and 6 students became the captains of their own miniature ships as they set off to the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club located at Little Bucklands Beach for a jam-packed day of knot tying, sail measuring and boat steering!

For every class, the full-on day was divided into two main events. Half the day was spent rotating around one of the yacht club clubrooms and gaining a hands-on insight into the key components of sailing, and the second half was spent giving it a go!

Inside the clubroom, students got stuck into mastering complicated knot tying techniques, preparing and testing different pulley systems, experimenting with tin foil boats and weights, and measuring the perimeter of different boat sails. With short rotations the students were able to gain valuable knowledge about the ins and outs of sailing while giving everything a try!

The students then headed outside to meet the highly experienced instructors who guided them through a careful sailing tutorial, ensured that all safety guidelines were covered in detail, and got them out on the water in pairs. Year 5 and 6 students had the time of their lives steering the Optimist boats with the constant guidance and words of advice of the instructors, who were watching closely from nearby motorboats. After nearly two hours spent on the water the students still did not want to come back to shore!

The Senior School trip took place over three days and was a hugely successful affair. Mr Rossiter's detailed organisation of the event and the amazing work of the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club experts concluded in our students enjoying an incredible extra-curricular experience. We're already looking forward to having the opportunity to visit again in the future!

Looking ahead

☺ April

- 1 PTA AGM Meeting 7.30pm
- 2 Senior School Sailing
- 3 Open Classrooms 9.15am – 10.15am
- 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- 9 Senior ANZAC Service 1.30pm
- 10 Splash and Dash Fundraising Event
- 11 End of Term One
- 28 Term Two Starts

☺ May

- 13 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 14 Parent Teacher Conferences 1-8pm.
School closes at 12.30pm
- 15 Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30pm – 6.30pm
- 19 Winter Uniform transition begins

☺ June

- 9 Curriculum Day Two – school closed
- 27 End of Term Two



Anzac Day OBSERVANCE

On 25th April New Zealanders and Australians will commemorate Anzac Day to remember and pay tribute to the thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who did not return from the War.

“Lest we Forget” means we try to remember the sacrifice men and women have made in wars to protect their families and countries.

We have a Field of Remembrance set up beside the school flagpole, to honour New Zealanders who fell during the War. Placed in the field are thirty crosses that are a silent reminder of New Zealand’s major contribution to freedom and the considerable sacrifice of what was then a very small nation.

The crosses commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Owairoa Primary School will commemorate this important part of our New Zealand history, by holding an in-school Anzac Service for our Senior School students this Friday.

*Poppies will continue to be available at the office counter until this Friday.
All proceeds will go to the RSA.*

“Lest we Forget”



*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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