



School Newsletter #14 - August 27th 2025

Dates to remember	
Thur 28th Aug	Buses not running - am or pm
Thur 28th Aug	Skiing
Fri 29th Aug - gold coin donation	Daffodil day - mufti wear yellow clothes
Mon 1st Sept	Board meeting @ 3:30pm
Wed 3rd Sept	Hockey Tournament (for some students)
Thur 4th Sept	Skiing
Fri 5th Sept	Otago Primary Cross Country - Dunedin
Wed 10th Sept	Wilding Pines community service (William Pike)
Mon 15th Sept	ECAN visit to support Term 3 Inquiry
Tues 16th Sept	Food for Thought programme / Health Y1-Y8

Principal's Message	<i>'Mā muri ka ora a mua'</i> <i>Those who follow give life to those who lead</i>
<p>This term has seen meeting visitors popping into school and good relations being exchanged between school and the community. This is wonderful to see and to observe when children make connections with their family history in the Omarama area.</p> <p>With the weather getting warmer we are enjoying our sporting outside lessons and our sessions with Kale from Youthtown. Our students definitely enjoy their sport and are currently practicing for Term 4 athletics. Unfortunately this year, that will not be held at Twizel Area School as their school build is in the way of the field events and markings.</p> <p>Staff attended Professional development for the Teachers Only day last Wednesday. This meeting was to further unpack the new Maths curriculum and was attended by many schools in the area. We are hoping to share some of our new maths programmes with you before the end of term.</p>	

North Otago Cross Country

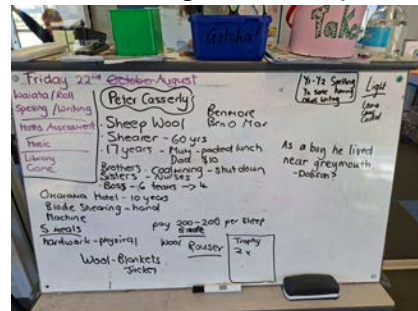
Toby & Briar

Congratulations to Toby Gloag who placed 6th in the Y6 race and to Briar McKerchar who placed 8th. Both students have been given the opportunity to attend the Otago Cross Country in Dunedin on the 5th of September.

Ahuriri sharing

Explanation Writing

As part of Ahuriri's inquiry learning, they have been drawing their interpretation of ClayCliffs and identifying relevant facts.



After Peter Casserly visited the children last Wednesday, Ahuriri class created a brainstorm to reflect everything that Peter shared with us.

As Ahuriri class is currently working on explanation writing, students wrote about significant aspects of Peter's talk. The writing was impressive.

Peter Casserly, by Louis Aubrey (Year 3)

Last Wednesday Peter Casserly came to Omarama School to talk about Omarama history and his shearing career.

When Peter Casserly was 17 years old he came to Omarama to be a shearer, but sadly he got bored and bought the pub.

He was shearing for 60 years at many places around Omarama. Then he went to a competition and he won a trophy, then he won another trophy. He was a really talented shearer.

His mum packed him some lunch and his dad gave him \$10 as he left home. They said good luck when he left home.

He owned the pub for 10 years. He was going to rent it but it was for sale so he bought it.

I enjoyed Peter coming along to school and sharing his stories.

Clay Cliffs sharing

Cooking & Research

Over the past two weeks, our students have been busy in the kitchen making their own puff pastry and sausage rolls. The week before, they worked on cupcakes and decorating skills. After cooking, everyone sat down together to share their food — and while eating, they told scary stories. Apparently, there may even be a couple of ghosts wandering around Omarama farms!



In class, we've also been exploring the history of Omarama. Students began by learning about the early Māori in the area before starting their research into local history from the 1840s through to the 1930s. We were very fortunate to have Peter Casserly and Lex Perriam visit, sharing their knowledge and stories about Omarama's past.

Nicole, Charlotte, and Paige have been working on informative writing about Ngāi Tahu, helping their understanding of the iwi's history and connection to the land.

Ngāi Tahu Tribe

Ngai Tahu is a iwi/tribe of the South Island of New Zealand for hundreds of a years, Ngai Tahu people travelled through the Omarama area they used the land for hunting birds, fishing, and gathering plants the Waitaki River and nearby lakes were important for catching tuna/eels and other food

They also travelled long distances to find pounamu/greenstone and other valuable resources paths through Omarama connected the east and west coasts later when Europeans arrived the Ngai Tahu tribe traded food and goods with them but they also lost a lot of land through unfair deals.

Clay Cliffs sharing	Cooking & Research
<p>The Ngai Tahu iwi/tribe has a strong historical connection to the Omarama area in 1877 Te maiharoa a leader of the Ngai Tahu tribe, led a group to form a settlement near Omarama to assert Ngāi Tahu's claim to the interior of the South Island this settlement was called Te Ao Marama and the Place Of Light Omarama is also significant as a location for traditional Ngāi Tahu food gathering particularly along the waitaki river</p> <p>Ngāi Tahu knew Omarama as part of their ancestral lands linked to the Waitaki Valley. The name Omarama means place of light referring to the clear skies and bright sun in the area. The tribe also valued the region's natural hot springs and sheltered valleys which were useful for resting during the alpine weather. Seasonal gatherings were held here where families met, exchanged news and arranged marriages to strengthen tribal connections.</p> <p>When Europeans arrived Ngāi Tahu leaders in the Waitaki district were involved in important land sales and negotiations which later became part of the tribes Treaty of Waitangi settlement claims</p> <p>In Omarama Ngai Tahu primarily hunted kiwi and takahe for their meat and feathers kiwi were considered a delicacy with their meat reserved for chiefs and their feathers used to create treasured cloaks</p> <p><i>Charlotte Hales, Nicole McMurtrie And Paige Doree (Y7 - Y8)</i></p>	

Arrival / Departure from school	Buses / Weather Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buses - Please remember to make <u>contact</u> with Lex or Jan or school to advise if your child is not on the bus, before or after school. If the buses are not running, or running later due to <u>weather conditions</u>, I will contact you via Skool Loop as soon as I have notification from GoBUS and Lex. I will also contact you in the same way if school is having a <u>delayed start</u>. 	

Term 3 Inquiry unit	History of Omarama
Our students have become really involved in the research about our local history.	

They have been researching in groups, in small groups and as a whole class - both in Ahuriri and in Claycliffs.

We have been fortunate enough to have Peter Casserly come and share his shearing experiences with us and bring along some photos, trophies, clothing and fleece to show us.

This week we have Annabelle or Richard Subtil coming along to talk about land and the early days in Omarama. We would like to thank our community for getting behind us and supporting our research study.



William Pike Update

Community Service

Friends of School, with some wonderful help from our William Pike challengers, were busy planting to raise money for school.

We are grateful to Friends of school for the hard work they do behind the scenes to help provide amazing opportunities for our students.



Music lessons continue

Guitar & Ukulele lessons



LIGHT Value Celebrations

Congratulations to the above students for receiving LIGHT awards recently. Well deserved and great to see you all upholding our school values! Keep it up.

Maddie 20 & 30, Toni 20, Wyatt 20, James H 20.



Birthdays to celebrate this fortnight.

Happy Birthday ! Tom (10) Zaiden (7), Lucy (7), Louis (8), Zophie (9)

Headstart, Enrolments, Website, Facebook

- Headstart is on a Wednesday afternoon - 2pm - 3pm, all 4 year olds in the area are most welcome. Please contact the school if you intend on coming along.
- School Website at www.omarama.school.nz
- School Facebook page - to be launched soon
- Skool Loop app is our preferred means of fast communication or reminders.

Please **install the Skool Loop** app as we have now been using this form of communication for the past 18 months now for fast communication.