Omarama School Newsletter 9th Nov 2026

👩‍🏫 Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou,

As we approach the end of another busy school year we are carrying out formal assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. This will enable us to prepare for end of year reporting.

Camp is fast approaching and we are looking forward to spending a couple of nights in Geraldine and the surrounding areas. With having many 5 year olds, we have asked those parents to accompany their children on camp and unfortunately this does not leave much accommodation space for additional parents.

We hope you like the idea of having an end of year school picnic this year, where students and their families can attend and interact with some of our newer families. It is also wonderful to see our new families becoming actively involved in school - Board, FOS, fundraiser, working bees, parent helper or transport. We truly appreciate this, because in a small rural school every family simply needs to be involved for the benefit of our students.

Ngā mihi,
Alison Holden

📈🌟 School Camp - Wed 2nd Dec to Fri 4th Dec

Permission forms and payment

Please return your permission form with payment asap please, so that we can finalise and pay for our camp accommodation, activities and food. Please call the office if you wish to make weekly payments over the next 4 weeks.

We will be staying at the Farmyard Animal Park, where our students will sleep in cabins with their classmates and an adult for supervision.

I am just finalising arrangements and student numbers, then I will be able to send the full details out next week.

This will include:

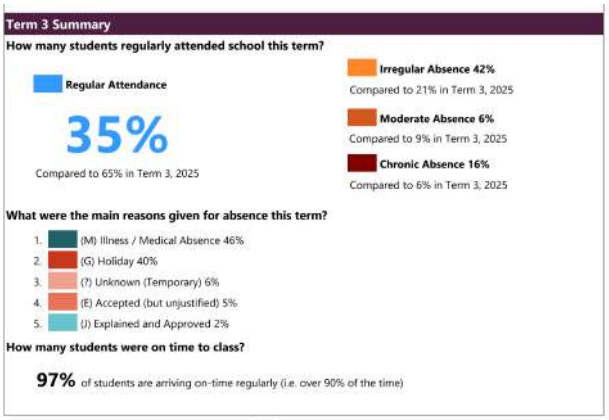
- Gear list
- Camp Itinerary
- Cabin groupings
- Menu
- Transportation list
- Parent helpers list
- Permission slips + request for updated medical information

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🎯 Attendance - Focus Areas

- ⏰ Please ensure your child arrives to school on time for an 8:55 start
- 📖 Please allow time for your child to unpack and have a short play before the bell
- 📞 Please communicate any absences promptly via our Skool Loop app

Due to the vast amount of sickness in term, regular attendance was only 35%. This result is our worst in many many years and not favorable with the MOE. However we do not want sick children at school, so it is what it is and we know we don't experience truancy.



🧭 Senior Athletics + North Otago Athletics

Our seniors had a great day up at Twizel participating in the senior sports day and competing against Waitaki Valley, Duntroon and Twizel Area School students. Unfortunately this year we did not do so well, despite our daily training for all events. Our students are much smaller in stature than many of the competitors, although they display engagement, perseverance and enjoyment.

Congratulations to Briar McKerchar who came 2nd in the 800m and
Gray Warnock who came 2nd equal with a boy from WVS in the 80m sprint.

Briar then went on to compete at North Otago in the 800m and came 6th in her Y7/8 race. Times were only recorded for the top 3. Congratulations for that super achievement Briar. Great representation of Omarama School spirit!





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Sewing Club

Taylor McGifford is still working on the arrangements for the sewing club, however our thinking is that this may have to be scaled back to a day for ClayCliffs and a half day event for Ahuriri - due to time constraints and the term simply slipping by.

End of Year School Picnic Fun day



This year we have decided to hold an end of year fun day for our students and their families. Everyone is invited to celebrate another year of successful learning.

When: Fri 11th Dec **Where:** Ruataniwha Lagoon - Twizel **Time:** 10:30 - 2pm

Activities: Swimming, Kayaking, Playground and BBQ lunch

In order to hold this event we would need to ensure we had adequate parent support, so I will send a more detailed notice in December

School Values to Celebrate - Congratulations to these Ahuriri students







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🎈 Birthdays - Congratulations to Ted Brosnahan who has turned 6.

📌 Community Consultation for School Strategic Planning

We are due to consult and write a new Strategic Plan which will be in place from 2027 - 2029. In week 6 (Nov 16th - Nov 19th) we will be sending home a short questionnaire for you to complete in order to help shape our new Strategic Plan and direction of Omarama School.

This consultation will be via a paper survey rather than a face to face meeting, due to the timing of strategic planning this round.

It is very important that you have your say and contribute to the future success of Omarama School so I urge you to complete this form in the period allocated.

📌 Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property accumulating, most of which is unnamed so impossible for us to return to rightful owners. Therefore we would appreciate you calling in to school and taking a look though the lost property box.

With the cost of uniforms these days, it is important for clothing to be returned to their rightful owners. Please come along and check out this clothing haul.

🎯 Thank you messages

Friends of School
A very special thank you to the FOS team for their latest fundraiser where they made and supplied lunch to a local 4WD group for 2 days. I am sure these lunches were very much appreciated and enjoyed by the group.

Working Bee
Another very big shout out to thank those of you who showed up last Saturday to help tidy up the school grounds. They were definitely looking rather untidy and it was great to finally get those shade sails up.

Also wonderful to see some of our newer families getting involved. Thanks to Steph and Zane, Cody, Micayla, Jemma, Travis and Jo and Ange. It was a busy couple of hours and it was good to tackle this prior to pet day and voting day, where many people will pass through our school grounds.

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Pet Day Reflection

A very big thank you to Jo Golder and Jacob Hannagan for organising pet day. This day is becoming an annual event and with ideas circulating to make it even bigger!

We would also like to thank all the supporters that make pet day possible:

The Veterinary Center, 4 Square, Bx Meats, FMG & Omarama Fire Brigade











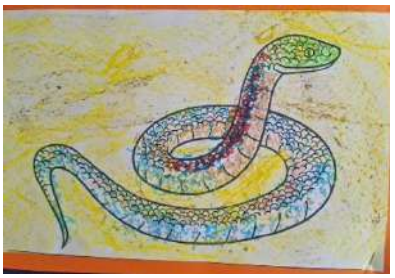
Classroom Learning – Ahuriri

In preparation for pet day, Ahiriri engaged in some animal artwork to display while people view the indoor pets.

As well as completing a colouring in activity we learnt about the artwork of George Seurat, a French artist who was famous for his dotted artwork, known as Pointiliism.

Ahuriri enjoyed learning about him, trialling some art styles and watching some video clips about this man.

I hope you got to view and appreciate this artwork and maybe get a little inspired yourself when you see what these juniors have accomplished.





Classroom Learning - Claycliffs

Election fever in Omarama

The campaign is on! Students have formed five parties — Clean Skys, Up Kiwi Innovation, Care for Fair, The Really Fun Party and the Cooks and Books Party — chosen their ministers, and spent the last couple of weeks designing posters and billboards to win over voters.

The posters went on display at Pet Day on Friday, and parents and whānau got the chance to cast a party vote of their own. Thank you to everyone who had their say.

Some of the policies on offer:

- ***Clean Skys are promising a new sports area with new equipment, and a safer playground and looking after disabled students.***
- ***Up Kiwi Innovation are running on "less chaos, more focus" — a new tech block, more art, whiter whiteboards, every pencil sharpened, and a bold pledge to unban YouTube.***
- ***Care for Fair are campaigning for a new pool at Clay Cliffs, showers in every changing room, a mini farm and a yearly trip to a dairy farm.***

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- ***The Cooks and Books Party want new cooking equipment and a school cafeteria "Cook it, look it, book it!"***
- ***The Really Fun Party plan to upgrade the pool and add a second storey to the playhouse.***

Students will hold their own election day in a couple of weeks, with a secret ballot just like the real thing. Watch this space for the results, hopeful no over hang.



Upcoming Dates

Wed 11th Nov	Playgroup visiting school
Thur 12th Nov	Ki O Rahi Funday in Oamaru - some Claycliffs students
Thur 19th Nov	Rippa Rugby - some Claycliffs students
Fri 20th Nov	School Closed - Teachers only day in Tekapo
2nd - 4th Dec	Whole School camp at Geraldine Farmyard Park
Fri 11th Dec	End of Year whole school picnic day at the lagoon
Wed 16th Dec	Last day of term 4 + End of year assembly
Term 1 2027	School begins Monday 1st February

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