Ōwhiro Bay School Newsletter

Issue # 4
19 March 2026

Notices & Upcoming Events

Whānau Hui: 5.30pm Tonight
Our whānau hui will cover the new curriculum, lessons and assessments, with a recording available for those who cannot attend.

Rock Your Socks: Monday 23 March
Wear your brightest, boldest, mismatched socks to celebrate World Down Sydrome Day.

Wendy's Farewell
Join us on Wednesday 1 April at 2.00pm for a special assembly, followed by high tea. More details on page 2 of the newsletter.

Weekly Events
Monday: Briefing 9am
Tuesday: Kapa Haka
Thursday: Buddy reading 1.30pm - 1.45pm
Friday: Assembly @ 2.30pm in the hall. Please join us if you are able.

Te Pānui o te Tumuaki!

Kia ora e te whānau

On Monday, I had the opportunity to visit Kahutara School in the Wairarapa as part of a Professional Learning Group I am involved in with three other principals. We meet twice each term alongside our Leadership Advisor from Evaluation Associates, Ed Hodgkinson. This ongoing learning is an important way for me to stay up to date with changes across the education sector and to engage in rich conversations about leadership. It also provides a valuable chance to see other schools in action and to learn from how colleagues are approaching challenges and initiatives. I'm grateful to Vikki, our team, and the Board for supporting this mahi.

We have been preparing for our upcoming whānau hui this evening from 5:30pm. Our focus is on the expectations of the new curriculum and what your child is experiencing at school in lessons and in the assessments they encounter. Finding the optimum time for hui is always a challenge, so for tonight we are recording the session thanks to a very handy parent, Tamas Molnar! Logistically, it would be great to know if you are planning to attend in person, so please let us know via this form if you haven't already. We will see you in the Orange Room - Whanake.

Congratulations to all of the tamariki who took part in the Weetbix Tryathlon on the weekend - what a courageous bunch you are! And to Rhyan and Zeke's dad, Delaine, for representing Ōwhiro Bay (aka Wellington) in the National finals of the Manu competition in Auckland. Ka mau te wehi, Delaine! Surely it won't be long before this is an Olympic sport!

Have a fabulous weekend and enjoy the stunning weather while it lasts! Cilla and the team :-)

Term	Start	End	Public Holidays & Teacher Only Days - No School
1	Wednesday 4 Feb	Thursday 2 April	**Waitangi Day** - Friday 6 February **Staff Only Day** - Thursday 2 April **Good Friday** - Friday 3 April **Easter Monday** - Monday 6 April (in school holidays)
2	Monday 20 April	Friday 3 July	**ANZAC Day (observed)** - Monday 27 April **Kings Birthday** - Monday 1 June **Matariki** - Friday 10 July (in school holidays)
3	Monday 20 July	Friday 25 Sept	
4	Monday 12 Oct	Friday 18 Dec	**Labour Day** - Monday 26 October

Our AWA values are alive and well at Te Kura ō Ōwhiro!

Thursdays are our favourite part of the week, when we get together as a school for Buddy Reading. Our whole school, sitting together; Tuakana and Teina, in a shared activity.
We then followed on with Mahi Tākaro, where we all 'Got our Creative on!' It was lovely to see the problem solving, creativity and relationships being built in this time.
Our kura is tūmeke!

Farewell Wendy

You are all welcome to join us for a special assembly at 2.00pm on Wednesday 1 April, followed by a 'high tea' afternoon tea.
We have the cake and cupcakes sorted, so to round out a proper high tea spread, we would appreciate any contributions of afternoon tea items. These can be dropped to the staffroom on the day.
If you have any fancy plates or cakestands we can borrow, please let us know. These can be dropped to the staffroom by the 1st of April.

ParentLink

Don't forget we have our Parentlink AGM followed by a regular hui on:

Monday 23 March at 7pm - that's Monday next week!

An agenda for this hui will be landing in your inbox this week - check it out! We will be electing the Parentlink Committee members. Hope you can make it.

The stalls list for the
Whānau Picnic and Kids Market on Friday 27 March
Is filling up pretty quick! If your tamariki are unsure what to expect, come along anyway and see what others have to offer. So far we've got lots of food options, games and books for sale. It's gonna be a cracker of an evening!
BYO picnic tea and cash!

Have a great weekend e te whānau!
Hope to see you at hui on Monday,
Your Parentlink team 🙂

Enrolment Open Day

Do you know someone with a child ready to start school? We'd love to show them around during our Enrolment afternoon next week.

Week	Date	What's on in Term 1	
One	4 - 6 February	4 Feb 6 Feb	**School begins** **Mihi whakatau** to welcome new students, whānau and staff **Waitangi Day** No school today
Two	9 - 13 February	11-13 Feb	Lisa and Jenn to Structured Literacy Training **Team Newsletters** come home this week.
Three	16 - 20 February	17 Feb 19 Feb	**Board of Trustees meeting** 5.30pm in the staffroom **Meet the Teacher Picnic** 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Four	23 - 27 February	23 Feb 26 Feb	**Parentlink meeting** 7pm in the staffroom **Dental unit** in until 6 March
Five	2 - 6 March	2 Mar 3 & 4 Mar	**Dental unit** in until 6 March **Dr Seuss Day** (yes it's a dress up!) **Soil to Plate** trip to the Botanical Gardens Years 0 - 2 visit on 5 March; years 3 - 6 on 4 March
Six	9 - 13 March	12 Mar 15 Mar	**3 Way Conferences** this week **Kidney Kids Day** Please bring a koha donation **Weetbix Tryathlon**
Seven	16 - 20 March	18 - 20 Mar 19 Mar	**LIFE Education van** **Whānau Hui - Curriculum updates** 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Eight	23 - 27 March	23 Mar 24 Mar 25 Mar 26 Mar 27 Mar	**Rock Your Socks Day** wear your brightest, boldest socks! **Parentlink AGM and hui** 7.00pm in the staffroom **Board of Trustees meeting** 5.30pm in the staffroom **World Maths Day** **New Entrants/Yr 1 Enrolment Open Afternoon** 2.30pm **Kids Market** 5.00pm
Nine	30 March - 2 April	1 Apr 2 Apr 2 Apr	**World Autism Day** **Wendy's farewell** **End of Term 1** **Staff only day** No School today

Ōwhiro Bay Resident's Association (ŌBRA)

ŌBRA invites you to our next community event - Play in the Bay

Community Notices

Samuel Marsden Open Day

Marsden warmly invites families of girls entering Year 7 in 2027 to their first Open Day for 2026 on Friday 20 March, 8.45am–12.00pm. Please register at www.marsden.school.nz/register
Scholarships for entry in 2027 are open. For more information and to apply, visit www.marsden.school.nz/enrolments/scholarships.

Ngā Manu
Nature Reserve

The BIG Easter Weekend!

Over $3000 of prizes to be won!

FOUR DAYS OF WHĀNAU FUN !

- Annual Easter Rock Hunt
- Easter Hub for the kids
- Face Painting
- Sausage Sizzle

ngamanu.org.nz

74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road
Waikanae

INNER CITY ART STUDIO

School Holiday Art Workshops

For kids that love art

Paint with Light Work with Cyanotype - hand painted photographic emulsion
1 day course. Teenagers Ages 13 -17 , April 7th 15th. 9am-3pm
1 day course kids Ages 8 -12, April 13th . 9am-3pm
Cost $95 materials Included

A Day of Clay Beginners Hand Building
1 day beginners clay course,ages 8-14, April 8th, 9am-3pm
A Day of Clay 2 Beginers Clay April 10th, 9 am - 3 pm.
Ages 8 -14 Cost $130 materials included
Intermediate Day of Clay April 15th 9am - 3pm
For returning students Ages 10 - 16 Cost $130

Designer Planters - working in clay with templates
1 day course, April 9th, 9am - 3pm. Ages 10-14
Cost $135 materials included

Clay Creatures - Scientifically study an insect and recreate it in clay
1 day course, April14th 9am - 3pm.
Ages 10-16 Cost $90 materials included

French Cafe and Art Scene - Drawing and inking like the masters
1 day course, April 16th, 9am - 3pm.
Ages 9 -14 Cost $95 materials and a hot chocolate included

Sculpted Animal Dish - Students learn sculpting methods
turning 2D images of an animal into a fabulous 3D ceramic animal bowl
1 day course, April 17th, Ages 11-16, 9am - 4pm, Cost $150 materials included

All bookings and enquiries
www.innercityartstudio.com, Innercityartstudio@gmail.com,
FB:@ InnercityArtStudio Insta@Innercityartstudio Ph: 0226407506

Paintings and sculpture on this poster made by kids (the turtle and clay was made by the tutor)

THE LEARNING CONNEXION
School of Creativity and Art

KIDS AUTUMN HOLIDAY ART PROGRAMME

WEEK 1: Tues 7th to Fri 10th April
WEEK 2: Mon 13th to Fri 17th April

BOOK DAY BY DAY!

TLC's Kids Art Holiday Programme is perfect for keeping kids happy and engaged, providing creative holiday fun!

BOOK NOW AT WWW.TLC.AC.NZ

YOU'RE INVITED TO

The Launch Party

19 APRIL
2-3PM

PARTY FOOD, BALLOONS, TEMP TATTOOS AND MORE!

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOP, SHOP 26, KILBIRNIE PLAZA

Easyswim believes swimming is more than just a skill - it's a life-saving, confidence-building journey that every child should have the opportunity to experience.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in lessons, bookings can be made directly through the iClassPro app. Alternatively, you can contact our Customer Services Team at book@easyswim.co.nz or 234-7946 for assistance.
Holiday courses will also be available during the second week of the school holidays (13–17 April) at Johnsonville, Newtown, and Plimmerton. These intensive block courses are a fantastic way to kick-start your swimmer's journey or help them progress more quickly in their learning.

Easyswim has also launched an exciting 2026 community goal: to see all children in Wellington able to swim 1000 metres. Swimming 1000 metres is equivalent to 70 lengths of our smaller school pools.

Our next 1KM Swim Challenge is scheduled to take place on:
Tuesday April 14th at Tawa School
Session times: 3.30, 4.15, 5.00, 5:45pm
Swimmers must book in advance, but there is no cost to participate. Those who successfully complete the 70 lengths will also receive one of our cool new 1KM ribbons.