ŌWHIRO BAY NEWSLETTER

Issue #16, 17 September 2026

Notices & Upcoming Events

Yummy Apple Stickers
Thanks to everyone that has been collecting Yummy Apple stickers and bags. Can all stickers and bags please be handed in to the office by **Monday**. We are looking forward to receiving our share of sports equipment.

School Holidays
Next Friday, 25 September, is the last day of term 3. School finishes at 3pm. Term 4 starts on Monday 12 October.

New Sports Equipment
A huge ngā mihi nui to Sport, Education, Community, & Cultural Foundation (SECC) who donated us tee ball and cricket sets. This awesome equipment has been made available through the support of a grant from Air Rescue and Community Services. Kia ora rawa atu!

Weekly Events
Monday: Briefing 9am
Tuesday: Kapa Haka (starts from 2pm for seniors, 2:30pm for juniors), music lessons
Thursday: Buddy reading 1.30pm - 1.45pm
Friday: Assembly @ 2.30pm in the hall. Please join us if you are able.

Ki o rahi in the sun with Nuku Ora

A note from Vikki (our Acting Tumuaki)

Kia ora e te whānau,

Kia hari te wiki o te reo Māori! The theme of this year's Māori Language Week is Te Reo Towns. It's a good opportunity to brush up on our pronunciation of towns and suburbs that are in te reo Māori - including our own!

Did you know Ōwhiro means 'Moonless Night' - which is connected to Whiro - the first day of the lunar month. In June 2019, the tohutō (macron) was officially added to the name, changing Owhiro Bay to Ōwhiro Bay. The tohutō helps reflect correct Māori pronunciation and spelling, and supports the preservation of the stories and meaning connected to our place. Have a chat with your tamariki about the other local place names that are in te reo - or see if you can find the Māori names for other cities in NZ.

Check out this link for ways Te Whanganui-ā-Tara is celebrating te wiki o te reo Māori.

We are heading to the end of the term, and have accumulated a MASSIVE amount of lost property. We will be putting it out daily next week to help it find its home - please have a look and see if anything belongs to your child.

Cilla will be back in the office next term, I know she's excited to reconnect with you all.

Noho ora mai rā,

Vikki and the team.

School Calendar

Term	Start	End	Public Holiday & Teacher Only Days
3	Monday 20th July	Friday 25th Sept	
4	Monday 12th Oct	Friday 18th Dec	Labour Day - Monday 26th October

Parentlink

A new chairperson of Parentlink was NOT appointed at the last meeting... so we'll have to try again next term. Is it you?

The sun gods were shining on us for the Games Afternoon last Saturday. A massive thank you to Lynne and Sarah for organising - another successful Parentlink event!

All things FAIR!

🪴Start growing your seedlings ready to sell on the plant stall. Linda (Micah's mum) is managing plants again - hit her up if you need some advice on what to grow!

If you're having a clear out in the near future, we will need:

👗Good quality clothes
📚 Good quality books
🩳 Good quality kids/baby clothes
🛼 Good quality kids games

Please note - we will NOT be accepting bric-a-brac this time!

Updates on when the garage will be open to drop off your goods will come next term.

Kapa Haka Festival Photos

We've got photos from the Kapa Haka Festival on display in the office - come by and have a look!

Netball

To everyone on the Ōwhiro Bay School team, great job for the work that you did!
Netball is a hard working sport and it takes a long time to be good at it. My Mum/Rebecca was a great coach for all of us and we are so pleased to have her. Thank you Mum/Rebecca.

By Augusta

Congratulations to the Ōwhiro Bay team on a great season.

NGĀ MIHI NUI

- **A huge ngā mihi nui to everyone who volunteered as hosts for the South Coast Arts Trail and to everyone that came to see the beautiful art**
- **Lynne & the Parentlink team for a fantastic Family Fun Afternoon**
- **Everyone who supported Onesie day. $140 was raised for Wellington Free Ambulance**
- **To Mark and Matt for all your help with various jobs around our kura**

School Noticeboard

Are you enrolled to vote?

Enrol to vote by 25 October at vote.nz

Lost Property

As we head towards the end of term, there is a large amount of lost property to be claimed. Please check in the office, or on the fence if fine, so we can reunite it.

Save the Date

Save the date for community consultation on our Strategic Plan: Tuesday 20 October, 6.15pm - 7.45pm.

Week	Date		What's on in Term 3
1	20 - 24 July	20 July	**Term 3 begins** **Mihi Whakatau 9.30am**
2	27 - 31 July	27 July 28 July 30 July 31 July	**3-Way Conferences this week** **Parentlink/Fair Meeting** 7.00pm staffroom **Road Patrol Training** 9.00am **SWIS Visit** 8.45am staffroom **Vikki at SENCO Conference**
3	3 - 7 August	3 August 4 August 5 August 7 August	**Brew & Banter** staffroom from 2.15pm **Cook Island Māori Language Week** **Board of Trustees Meeting** 5.30pm staffroom **SWIS Open Day** Year 6 visit **SWIS Open Evening** 6pm - 7.30pm **Te Haruru o te Kahui Tonga Kapa Haka Event** whole school
4	10 - 14 August	10 August 11 August 12 August	**Zealandia Mini Beasts Trip, Harakeke** **Zealandia Pests & Predators Trip, Whanake & Māhuri** **Student Council Stream Day**
5	17 - 21 August	17 August 19 August	**Tongan Language Week** **Miniball Tournament**
6	24 - 28 August	27 August 28 August	**School Photos** **Māhuri Poetry Cafe** 2.15pm in the hall **Daffodil Day** wear yellow today and bring a gold coin donation if you can
7	31 August - 4 Sept	1 Sept	**Southern Zone Swimming**
8	7 - 11 Sept	7 Sept 8 Sept 11 Sept 12 Sept 12 - 13 Sept	**Parentlink/Fair meeting** 7.00pm staffroom **Board of Trustees Meeting** 5.30pm staffroom **Onesie Day** **Parentlink Games Afternoon** 3 - 5pm **South Coast Arts Trail**
9	14 - 18 Sept	14 Sept	**Te Wiki o te Reo Māori**
10	21 - 25 Sept	25 Sept	**End of Term 3**

Join FOOS (Friends of Ōwhiro Stream), the STREAM team, S.E.A Tawatawa Reserve, Earth Science, Predator Free Wellington, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington for an afternoon of hearing tamariki voice, catchment education, building bug hotels and locating them on Ōwhiro kindergarten's map.

Community Noticeboard

After School Hockey Club (ASHC)

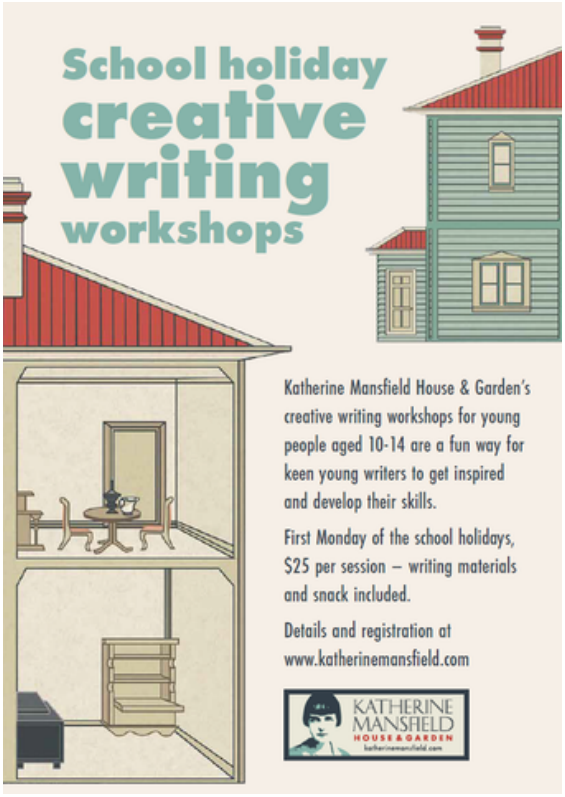
Looking for a fun and active after-school activity next term? ASHC is a great opportunity for children in Years 1-6 to learn new skills, build confidence, make friends, and enjoy hockey in a supportive environment.
Whether they're picking up a stick for the first time or already playing hockey, our experienced coaches create sessions that are fun, engaging, and suitable for all abilities.
Cost: $65 for the six-week programme
Session Times:

- **Years 1-3: 3:30pm - 4:15pm**
- **Years 4-6: 4:15pm - 5:00pm**
- **National Hockey Stadium (NHS): Mondays | 12 Oct - 23 Nov**

A great way to stay active, learn new skills, and have fun after school.

Register now: https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/register/467571
For any questions reach out to: jada@wellingtonhockey.org.nz or visit our website: After School Hockey Club | Wellington Hockey

Community Noticeboard



BIGAIR GYMSPORTS

⭐ Helping Kids Discover Just How Much They Can Achieve ⭐

At **Bigair Gym**, kids do more than learn gymnastics—they build **confidence, coordination, strength, resilience, focus and the ability to listen, respond to and apply feedback**, while learning new gym skills and achieving goals.

Term 4 Gym Class bookings open Monday 14 Sept, and Bigair Gyms Holiday Programme is open for bookings NOW!

Bigair Gym Classes include **Gymnastics** (for Preschoolers & 5yrs+), **Trampolining, Tumbling, Cheerleading & Free Running** (like parkour, with flips!), with options for all ages and abilities.

Holiday Programme: Full & half-day sessions available.

Give your child the chance to stay active, build confidence and discover what they can achieve!

⭐ **Book online today at www.bigairgym.co.nz** — classes available at Bigair Tawa, Owhiro Bay & Kapiti.

Hit/Catch & Throw!

We are looking for children who would like to play Softball.
Trainings are Thursdays at Wakefield Park, 4.15-5.15pm. Games are played 9am on Saturdays.

Teams we have are:

- Tinytots - mixed played at Wakefield park from 4.15pm-5.00pm on a Thursday
- Under 7 - mixed
- Under 9 - mixed
- Under 11 Boys and Girls
- Under 13 Boys and Girls

If you are interested or need further information, please contact us at islandbaysc@gmail.com
Or register on our website https://www.sporty.co.nz/islandbaysoftball
Season starts 30 October.

THE CIRCUS HUB

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Tired of hearing "I'm bored" in the school holidays?
Send them to the circus!

Our School Holiday Programme for ages 5+ is packed with circus skills, games, creativity, movement, and fun. Children can try aerials, acrobatics, juggling, balancing, and more, all while building confidence, making friends, and discovering what they're capable of.

No circus experience required — just energy, curiosity, and a willingness to have a go.

HOW TO BOOK

- Contact us on **info@circus.org.nz**
- Book online at **www.circus.org.nz**

Bookings are essential - please book a spot before 5pm the previous day

- Learn exciting circus skills like aerials, tumbling, juggling &more...
- Build confidence and coordination
- Make new friends and have a blast!
- Expert instruction from experienced circus trainers
- A fun, inclusive environment for all skill levels

What parents need to know

Next available dates
- 29 Sep - 1 Oct
- 6 - 8 Oct

Times
- running time - 9am-3pm
- drop off from - 8:30am
- pick up by - 3.30pm

Cost
- daily cost $76 per child

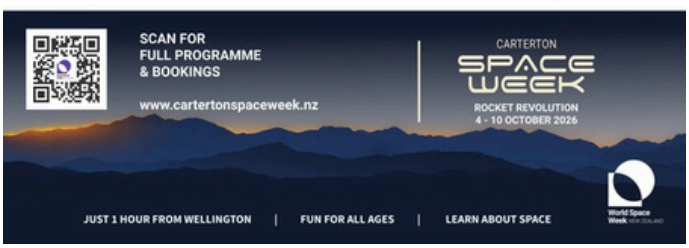
What to wear
- Comfortable stretchy clothes
- No zips, buttons, buckles or loose/hanging jewellery

What to bring
- packed lunch
- a snack
- water bottle (plastic or metal with sealable top)
- sun hat and sunblock
- warm layer (for a Wellington summer!)

Where to find us:
- Te Whaea complex
- 11 Hutchison Road
- Newtown, Wellington 6021

Drive past the Te Whaea main entrance on Hutchison Rd or from the lower entrance which is off Hall Street.

Community Noticeboard



South Wellington Intermediate School

New International Students Arriving Feb: We Need Host Families Now!

We are excited to welcome a new group of international students to SWIS arriving this coming February! To ensure everything is ready for their arrival, we are seeking local host families to sign up today.

You do not need to have a child currently attending SWIS to host! We welcome anyone in our wider community who is caring, supportive, and excited to open their home to a visiting student.
Hosting is a rewarding experience for the whole household - it is a fantastic opportunity to share our kiwi culture, learn about another, and build global connections.

Host Family Details:
Duration: Short-term stays, typically 2 to 6 weeks starting in February.
Requirements: A private bedroom (with heating), three daily meals, and access to bathroom and laundry facilities.
Host Allowance: Families receive $450 per week to cover expenses.

Help us give our visiting students an unforgettable welcome!

Ready to sign up? Head over to our website at https://www.swis.school.nz/international-students/homestay/ to learn more about the program and submit your online application.
For questions, please reach out to our International Student Coordinator at international@swis.school.nz.